

STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE

10x02 - "Brave New World."

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
Fragments and Omens, by J Noah Kym

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 INSERT

A symbol fills the screen - Bajoran ideograms arranged into a distinctive logo that appears flashy but trustworthy. Beneath is a subheading in English: BAJORAN NEWS NETWORK.

VOICEOVER

And now, we return to the Bajoran
News Network's special broadcast:
The 2378 Apex Chair Election.

The logo SWOOPS forward to fill the screen, dissolving as it goes, and revealing...

2 INT. NEWS STUDIO

A female Bajoran newsreader, TIANA, sat at a desk, looking directly into camera. The news show set combines classic Bajoran architecture with modern Federation technology.

TIANA

Hello, and welcome back to BNN's
exclusive coverage of the Vedek
Assembly's election of a new Kai.
I'm Tiana Feen, and over the next
few hours I'll lead you through
all the news surrounding the day's
events, and explore just why these
could be the most controversial
kai elections in recent memory.

ANGLE to reveal a large screen beside Tiana, showing vedeks BELLIS and SOLIS (both 8x20 "Twist of Faith")...

TIANA

We have exclusive interviews with
the figures at the centre of that
controversy, courtesy of our own
intrepid reporter Teris Juze, plus
conversations with Bajor's most
esteemed political and religious
commentators, live in the studio.

3 ANGLE - ON MONITOR

Watching this show play out on a station wall monitor...

 TIANA (screen)
 Make sure to keep your screens
 tuned to BNN as we bring you every
 exciting development.

WIDEN to reveal...

4 INT. DS9 - QUARK'S BAR

RO at the bar, unimpressed, watching on the bar screen. The show continues in the background as she speaks...

 RO
 Eugh. That's the signal for me to
 be on my way, I think.

QUARK appears as if by magic, never mind the other officers and civilians also watching the news or trying to order...

 QUARK
 No, you're going already?

 RO
 I don't want to hear politicians
 bark at each other, thank you. I
 have real work to do.

Ro turns on her stool - revealing the metallic supports around her legs. She reaches for a walking stick, struggles to manoeuvre off the stool onto her feet.

Quark quickly dashes around the bar to her side...

 QUARK
 (tentative)
 Do you need a hand?

 RO
 No. Stay there. I can handle it.

He steps back, lets her struggle, caught between offering sympathy and knowing he could be killed for it...

QUARK

Well... it's nice you could come.

Seeing his earnestness, she softens just a little...

RO

Thanks, Quark. I'll see you later.

She sets off slowly but steadily across the bar towards the exit. Steps gingerly over the threshold and out onto the Promenade, head held high, daring anyone to challenge her.

Quark watches her go, worried for her. With a sad sigh, he grabs a tray of drinks and heads out to serve...

5 EXT. DEEP SPACE NINE - ESTABLISHING

Standard establishing shot...

6 INT. DS9 - TURBOLIFT

Half a dozen passengers - two Starfleet officers, two Bajoran civilians, one random alien, and Captain KIRA.

The lift stops, the door opens, everyone but Kira gets out. The Bajorans nod their acknowledgements to Kira as they go. She nods back politely, then looks up --

-- and sees VAUGHN waiting to board. They pass, he enters, the door closes and the lift begins moving again...

KIRA

Morning, Commander. Heading to Ops?

VAUGHN

Certainly am. How's the election?

KIRA

Oh, I don't know. I'm not totally happy with either of the choices. Still, at least they're not Yevir.

VAUGHN

(wry smile)

Not like you to hold a grudge, Captain.

An unimpressed grunt from Kira. It's very much like her.

KIRA

See you on the *Nile* later?

VAUGHN

...why?

KIRA

You're coming down to Bajor,
aren't you? We're all going down
to Benjamin's for the party.

A blank look from Vaughn...

KIRA (cont)

For Rebecca's first birthday.

Vaughn actually knew this all along, but had been wanting
to avoid the subject. Now he fakes realisation...

VAUGHN

Ah. Well, that's kind of you to
offer, Captain, but I'll have to
politely decline.

KIRA

Why?

VAUGHN

I already spoke to Dax, I know
she's going too. Someone has to
stay and run the station.

KIRA

I'm leaving Ro in charge.

VAUGHN

Are you sure she's up to it?

KIRA

She only has to sit there and
keep everyone doing their jobs.
Besides, it'll be good for her.
She needs to start getting back
into the swing of things.

VAUGHN

Well... I suppose that's true.
Still, I'd really rather stay
here.

KIRA

Elias... what is it? What's the
problem?

He pauses, trying to figure out something to say that she
will believe...

VAUGHN

I just feel... out of place.
Like an intruder. It would be
inappropriate.

KIRA

Rubbish. It's been two years -
you're one of the family now.
I'm not taking no for an answer.

The turbolift comes to a stop and the door opens onto the
Promenade. Kira steps out -- but turns back to Vaughn...

KIRA

Pad B, ten-hundred hours.
(jokingly harsh)
Be there.

With a smile, she walks off onto the Promenade. The doors
close, leaving Vaughn inside the turbolift alone.

He is definitely not happy about this...

BLACK OUT:

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

7 EXT. BAJOR - ESTABLISHING - DAY

A sunny day in Bajor's countryside...

8 INT. SISKO'S HOUSE - KITCHEN

SISKO stirs the contents of a large pot on an old-fashioned range. In his element, humming a happy tune. He leans in to sniff - satisfied, he puts the lid back on and turns...

...to see half-prepared food, containers, bowls and plates everywhere. Like he's catering for a hundred. He pulls off his apron, throws it over a chair, walks through into...

LIVING ROOM

It's set up for a party in here too, with extra chairs, and the big screen from the office set up on the mantelpiece, not yet switched on. Sisko surveys the room, pleased.

He turns towards the bedroom, gently opening the door...

SISKO

Kas? Sweetie?

BEDROOM

KASIDY sits in a chair by the window, the baby held to her chest, and slowly feeding her from a small plastic bowl...

SISKO

They'll be here soon.

KASIDY

Don't blame me. Blame this greedy daughter of yours.

Sisko approaches, leans down close to the baby...

SISKO

Is that true, Rebecca Jae Sisko?
Are you a greedy girl?

Rebecca finishes her current mouthful, smiles up at her daddy, and BELCHES in his face...

SISKO
Charming. Whenever you're ready.

Sisko places a gentle kiss on the baby's head, heads out...

9 EXT. SISKO'S HOUSE - DAY

Sisko steps onto the front porch, looks down the path...

...where transporters deposit KIRA, VAUGHN, BASHIR, DAX and NOG, all in civvies. They walk towards the house - Sisko welcomes them all with a smile or a warm touch...

SISKO
Nerys! I'm so glad you could come.

KIRA
Wouldn't miss it for the world.
(to the others)
Would we?

DAX
Of course not. So where's the
birthday girl?

SISKO
Kasidy's giving her her lunch. Go
on inside, all of you.

Last in line, Vaughn nods acknowledgement, but cold and unfriendly. Sisko nods uncertainly back, not wanting to make a scene, and Vaughn enters the house...

10 INT. SISKO'S HOUSE

The group spreads out as Sisko closes the door behind them. Kasidy is just emerging from the bedroom with Rebecca on her hip. Kira goes to her for a friendly half-hug...

KIRA
Oh, here she is! Happy birthday,
Rebecca. How does it feel to be a
whole one year old?

Rebecca stares back at her, bemused...

KIRA
She's ecstatic.

BASHIR
She's one, Nerys. All she knows is
there's lots of people in her house.

DAX
Stop being such a party pooper.

Sisko looks across the room -- to where Vaughn has passed through into the kitchen without a word to anyone. Vaughn opens the back door, gently steps out onto the deck...

11 EXT. SISKO'S HOUSE - DAY

...and emerges onto the rear veranda - where OPAKA sits in a deck chair, gazing contentedly out at the fields. Vaughn steps closer, not wanting to disturb her...

VAUGHN
Sulan?

Opaka turns her head, pleasantly surprised to see him...

OPAKA
Elias! Please forgive me, I didn't
realise you'd arrived.

He comes closer, crouches down by her chair...

VAUGHN
Don't apologise. It's easy to get
distracted, looking out at all
that. You have a beautiful world,
Sulan.

OPAKA
It's always a joy to see how well
the land healed from the wounds of
the Occupation. We should all hope
to heal so completely.

Vaughn nods, somewhat solemnly. Things on his mind...

12 **EXT. FOUNDERS' WORLD - DAY**

By contrast, the Founders' planet is dry and barren. PAN across the empty stone floor... and we gradually come upon TARAN'ATAR gazing out at this sight, quietly stunned...

TARAN'ATAR

I don't understand. This is not possible. The Link is forever...

ODO stands behind him, sharing the view with sadness.,,

ODO

They knew it wasn't. That was the problem. Why are you here?

Taran'atar turns to Odo, suddenly remembering he is dealing with a Founder. He snaps to attention, eyes lowered...

TARAN'ATAR

Founder. I returned to Dominion space in order to report on my activities in the Alpha Quadrant.

ODO

(intrigued)

I didn't order you to do that... yet you came anyway. I suppose that's... progress. Well, make your report. What was so vitally important that you had to come all this way to tell me about it?

Taran'atar hesitates, wondering how to start. He is rather relieved to be interrupted by another transporter signal, which deposits WEYOUN. The Vorta immediately bows to Odo...

WEYOUN

Founder. My soldiers noticed an unauthorised transport to the surface. I wanted to check that everything was alright.

ODO

Yes, Weyoun, I am fine, thank you. It's just Taran'atar.

Weyoun only just notices Taran'atar is there...

WEYOUN

First! This is unacceptable! Transport to the surface is forbidden!

ODO

It's alright, Weyoun. Vannis contacted me in advance. I gave her my permission.

Weyoun pauses to process that, a little put out. He looks Taran'atar up and down - what's so special about him?

WEYOUN

I see. Forgive me, Founder. I must have missed that... update... to your orders.

That's verging on cheeky. Odo is amused. Weyoun straightens to give his own report. Taran'atar lets him...

WEYOUN (cont)

The mission you assigned me is completed, Founder. The, um... object in question is suitably concealed and a continuous security presence in place.

Odo receives the report with solemnity. This is not a comfortable subject for anyone involved.

ODO

Thank you, Weyoun. How many others know about this?

WEYOUN

Only you, Vannis and myself. All other Vorta were told only what they needed to know to complete the mission, and any Jem'Hadar who came into contact were eliminated.

ODO

(appalled)

What? You killed them?

WEYOUN
Yes, Founder.
(a touch worried)
You did say that secrecy was our
primary concern, did you not? Did
I misinterpret you?

Odo is shocked, caught off guard. He can't answer...

LAAS (o.s.)
Well, Odo? Answer him.

They all turn -- LAAS has stepped up onto the islet too. He is amused at this opportunity to push Odo's buttons...

LAAS (cont)
Isn't the secret that the Founders
have a god of their own, worth the
death of some meaningless monoforms?

Off everyone's reactions to that - Odo's shame, Weyoun's shock, Laas's smugness, Taran'atar's intrigue...

13 EXT. DEEP SPACE NINE - ESTABLISHING

Just to bring us home...

14 INT. DS9 - KIRA'S OFFICE

Ro sits at the desk with a padd. The door opens, she looks up -- ETANA stands in the doorway, staring calmly at her.

Ro stares back. *Maybe if I don't move, she won't see me.*

Etana haughtily folds her arms. *I'm not going anywhere.*

RO
You're going to make me get up,
aren't you?

ETANA
Yep.

Etana walks to the couch area, places a small device on the deck, taps a few keys, stands back...

...and the device REPLICATES an exercise frame, featuring weights, massage table and more. Ro remains unimpressed...

RO
I'm busy, Kol. I don't have time for this.

ETANA
Sure you do. In fact, since I have official authority from Captain Kira and Doctor Bashir, you have all the time in the world.

RO
You think I'm going to humiliate myself for your entertainment, in front of the whole of Ops?

ETANA
Nobody can see you. They're all busy watching the elections. And you've got to run out of excuses sometime.

After a moment's more grumping, Ro finally puts aside her padd, begins to get up. Etana goes to her, gently assists her out of the seat and towards the exercise frame...

RO
You're a slave driver, you know?

ETANA
I'm a nurse.

RO
Same difference.

15 INT. SISKO'S HOUSE

Kira and Sisko are in the kitchen - he putting finishing touches to lunch, she collecting plates and dishes...

KIRA
I don't think I'm gonna need to eat again for a month after we get through all this lot.

SISKO

Nonsense. Put some meat on your bones. You're too skinny, Nerys.

KIRA

Rebecca's beautiful, by the way. She looks just like you.

SISKO

Kasidy says the same thing, but I don't see it. She's growing so fast, Nerys. So many of the things that daunted me when Jake was a baby don't even faze me this time. But I'd completely forgotten how fast they grow as people. I see her changing every day. Every day.

KIRA

Well, she's sure gonna change today. She's gonna put on twice her body weight.

They carry their loads out of the kitchen, and into...

LIVING ROOM

...where the gang sit comfortably, chatting. Opaka shares a couch with Vaughn. Nog perches on the arm of an armchair, holding Rebecca and making funny faces for the young girl's entertainment. Rebecca is not overly impressed.

The screen over the fireplace is showing the BNN broadcast, but nobody is really paying attention to it.

Kira and Sisko place the food and bowls onto a table to the side, laying things out for a buffet...

KIRA

Lunch is ready. Everyone serve yourselves - we're not your slaves.

Sisko and Kira head back into the kitchen for another load. Nog hands Rebecca back to Kasidy, then eagerly gets up to be first in line for food...

VAUGHN

Can I get you anything, Sulan?

OPAKA

Oh, perhaps just some salad. Thank
you, Elias.

Vaughn join the queue at the buffet table. Kira and Sisko
are still adding more food to the table. Everyone is happy,
mingling, chatting amiably, having a nice time...

DAX

This is an amazing spread, Ben.

NOG

(only half joking)

Could use some tube grubs...

Sisko directly hands him a bowl - tube grubs. Nog grins,
genuinely grateful...

NOG

You're the perfect host, Captain.

VAUGHN

(the tiniest edge)

Yes... and so much to celebrate.
Rebecca's birthday... the new
kai... the Gratitude Festival,
Unity Day coming up soon... and of
course Ha'mara. And all honouring
you. You must be so proud.

Nobody else seems to have noticed, but Sisko has definitely
grasped Vaughn's subtext. The two exchange a bitter look
among the happy crowd, then Vaughn turns away...

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

16 INT. NEWS STUDIO

The news broadcast continues, as newsreader Tiana speaks...

TIANA

Bajor has not had a Kai for over
two years, since the mysterious
disappearance of Winn Adami...

17 INT. SISKO'S HOUSE

The group continues to mingle and chat, gathering food,
etc. Opaka leans forward to pay attention to the TV...

TIANA (screen)

Numerous books and reports have
been written on the many wild
theories regarding Winn's fate.

The screen shows stock images of WINN, regal and pompous...

TIANA (screen, v.o.)

Many more about Winn's predecessor
Opaka Sulan. Interest in the former
kai's life has increased since her
unexpected return from the Gamma
Quadrant just over a year ago.

Now stock images of Opaka, humble and ordinary. She purses,
embarrassed. Vaughn offers an encouraging smile...

OPAKA

I have no problem with people
listening to my words. But
"celebrity" is not exactly the way
I wanted to go.

VAUGHN

Don't worry about it. An old Earth
writer once said, "The only thing
worse than being talked about, is
not being talked about."

Opaka smiles a little. They turn back to the screen...

TIANA (screen)

Opaka's refusal to return to the
Apex Chair - usually a lifetime
appointment - is only one of many
reasons why Bajor has gone without
a kai for so long.

(background)

No-one could have failed to notice
the rise of the Ohalavaru...

JAKE (o.s)

Hello hello? Anybody in?

JAKE enters through the back door, RENA with him...

SISKO

Jake-o! Grab yourself a plate and
dig in.

JAKE

Hey, dad. Kas. Nerys... Nog! You
made it!

Kasidy hugs Rena in welcome, while Jake goes to Nog. They
are about to do the bro-hug, but Jake stops and shudders...

JAKE

Oh! Nog, you've got... grubs in
your teeth...

NOG

Oh, you hew-mons. You're all
insectophobes.

Nog forces a hug on him anyway. Dax is next in line...

DAX

Gods, Jake - are you still
growing? Stop it at once.

TIANA (screen)

The two leading candidates upon
whom the Vedeks are currently
voting are Bellis Nemani...

The news show now has stock images of BELLIS...

TIANA (v.o.)

...a long-serving community leader who emerged as the most outspoken anti-Ohalavar voice after Vedek Yevir's departure for Cardassia... and Solis Tendren, the leader of the Ohalavaru movement itself.

The program now changes to stock images of SOLIS...

TIANA

(continuing,
background)

With me to discuss the merits of these two polar opposites are renowned political commentators...

...but we're focusing on KIRA as she watches the show...

KIRA

See - this is my problem. Our only choices are a narrow-minded demagogue, and a man who doesn't even believe the Prophets are gods at all. Surely there has to be a happy middle ground somewhere.

DAX

You could always vote for Eran... he seemed like a nice enough guy.

SISKU

The public doesn't vote for the Kai, Dax. Only the vedeks vote.

NOG

Then what's the point of them promoting themselves to the public for the last two months?

JAKE

So that members of congregations can lobby their vedeks for who they want them to vote for.

NOG
Can they vote for themselves?

KIRA
They're not supposed to. But it
wouldn't surprise me if some of
them did.

OPAKA
Tendren warned me the Assembly had
fallen into political manoeuvring.
I just hope these elections will
put an end to such nonsense.

18 **INT. NEWS STUDIO**

Tiana moderates two contentious Bajoran COMMENTATORS...

COMMENTATOR 1
Solis is completely inappropriate
for Bajor at this time. What we
need is a kai who will bring
everyone together, not fracture
the religious community even more.

COMMENTATOR 2
You're naive if you think Bellis
isn't just as divisive a force in
the Assembly as Solis - more so.

COMMENTATOR 1
Solis's niece was a member of the
reviled *Pagh-Wraith* cult! The same
people who willingly followed the
demon Dukat. These are not the
people we want in charge of
Bajor's spiritual life.

COMMENTATOR 2
Do we condemn every person who
ever fell under Dukat's spell?
Then we condemn half of Bajor with
them. Besides, no kai is in charge
of Bajor. That to me betrays a
fundamental misunderstanding of a
kai's role in Bajoran society.

19 **INT. SISKO'S HOUSE**

As they watch, disappointed, Opaka especially...

SISKO
Keep hoping, Sulan.

He gets up to go back to the kitchen. Dax watches him go...

KITCHEN

Dax has followed Sisko into the kitchen, hoping for a semi-private chat. Dax hesitates, a little nervous. Looks around herself... They talk while Sisko prepares more food...

DAX
Ben... I just wanted you to know -
I went ahead and did it. I put in
a transfer request.

SISKO
Wow... are you sure? I mean...
(grin)
...it's a big step.

DAX
Oh, let's not get into that whole
mess again. Yes. I think it's the
right thing to do.

SISKO
Have you heard back yet?

DAX
Not yet.

SISKO
Well, you're Dax. How could they
say no?

DAX
I hope you're right.
(beat)
Ben... do you think I'm doing the
right thing?

SISKO

Not for me to say, old man. But I know you can handle anything life throws at you. And I know I'm going to miss you. You've been with me in one form or another for...

(calculates)

...twenty-five years.

DAX

You've changed a lot in that time too.

SISKO

Haven't I? What does Julian think?

Guiltily, Dax looks through the partition -- and sees Bashir, unaware, happily eating and watching TV...

20 **EXT. FOUNDERS' WORLD - DAY**

As Laas confronts Odo, Weyoun and Taran'atar...

ODO

You know it's not that simple, Laas. So I don't appreciate you coming here just to stir up trouble.

LAAS

How could I resist the chance to see the family all together again?

TARAN'ATAR

Founders, forgive my presumption. But when you speak of a god of the Founders, are you referring to the Progenitor?

ODO

How can you possibly know...?

TARAN'ATAR

I visited the Founder imprisoned by the Federation. She too spoke of the Progenitor. She said that it was the One True God.

ODO

Well, I certainly can't deny that the Progenitor existed... but I don't believe it was a god. But then I never believed the Founders were gods either.

TARAN'ATAR

I too have come to redefine many things during my time away.

ODO

Unfortunately, the Progenitor is dead. It was killed by an ancient race called the Ascendants.

TARAN'ATAR

(pensive)

And when the Founders discovered they had lost their god, they felt... adrift. Abandoned. And so they went out into the galaxy, to search for meaning.

LAAS

(deadpan)

You're oddly philosophical for a born and bred killer.

ODO

(back on topic)

Regardless, the end result is that the Founders are gone. And Laas and I are the only Changelings left to run the entire Dominion.

WEYOUN

A task at which you have of course excelled, Founder.

ODO

Thank you for the ego boost, Weyoun, but I'm afraid you're only being polite. The truth is, I'm barely keeping them from falling apart altogether.

Laas sighs - he has had this argument with Odo many times.
Weyoun and Taran'atar exchange an uncomfortable glance...

LAAS

You're wasting your time, Odo.
This is the perfect opportunity to
do just what I suggested all along
- find the rest of the Hundred and
create a new Link.

ODO

Laas, I've told you I'm not just
going to abandon the Dominion. For
better or worse, we're responsible
for those races now. We can't just
let them fend for themselves.

LAAS

Why not? You wanted freedom for
those races, didn't you? That's
what you've argued for years.

ODO

Now is not the time. If they knew
the Founders were gone, they'd see
it as an opportunity to rebel. The
bloodshed would be enormous.

TARAN'ATAR

If they defy the Dominion, then
they should die.

WEYOUN

The Founder has ordered otherwise,
First.

TARAN'ATAR

So I have seen for myself. I still
do not understand why.

ODO

The Vorta are getting suspicious.
They're starting to notice that
Laas and I are the only Founders
they've seen in months. And they
already distrusted me anyway.

LAAS

How perceptive of them.

ODO

(ignoring Laas)

Weyoun and Vannis are the only ones who know the truth. And I can't answer every question. It's too much, even for a Changeling's natural tendency towards order. So... I've been delegating.

TARAN'ATAR

(puts it together)

Leading to the other Vorta trying to guess the Founders' wishes. And the Jem'Hadar fighting over their interpretations. I understand. To choose between two gods... is not easy.

ODO

Which is exactly why I'm trying to rein the Jem'Hadar in. They need a stricter hand than ever. Until I can figure out a more long-term solution.

LAAS

And what would that be, Odo?

ODO

(sad sigh)

I have no idea.

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

21 INT. NEWS STUDIO - INTERVIEW SUITE

Roving reporter TERIS JUZE (seen 9x05 / 9x06) sits in a nice chair opposite Vedek BELLIS, interviewing him...

TERIS

Vedek Bellis, you've been labelled a hypocrite for rejecting the Ohalavaru, even while embracing the larger community of the Federation. How do you respond?

BELLIS

I am happy to be a member of the Federation. But in such a vast collection of worlds, we are in danger of losing ourselves if we don't hold fast to what makes us uniquely Bajoran - namely, our faith. What has sustained us for millennia is too important to throw away, especially now.

CUT TO a separate clip, of Teris interviewing SOLIS...

TERIS

Vedek Solis, how do you respond to the claims that recognising the Ohalavaru in the Assembly will result in more conservative voices being suppressed?

SOLIS

The Ohalavaru have no interest in restricting anyone's freedoms. Why would we? The entire issue between us is the freedom to worship as we wish. And I would say that the fact an Ohalavar such as myself is even a candidate for such an exalted position after only two years is a clear sign that the people of Bajor are eager for a new spirituality.

22 **INT. NEWS STUDIO**

Back to the main studio, with Tiana speaking to camera...

TIANA

Teris also managed to speak with
Vedek Yevir Linjarin on Cardassia,
shortly after the incident at the
Andak reclamation project. The
former favourite for kai had this
to say regarding his candidacy...

23 **EXT. CARDASSIA - DAY**

Just a plain background is fine, as if YE VIR were standing
against one of the prefab walls at Andak (as in 9x05)...

YE VIR

Well that's very flattering,
Teris, but I have no intention of
running for kai again. I find my
work here on Cardassia far too
important and fulfilling to even
think of abandoning it. But I
would like to say, as regards the
Ohalavaru, that my opinions have
been tempered of late. I've seen
too much to discount anything...
and I know in my *pagh* that every-
thing happens for a reason.

He smiles with a gentle and humble air...

24 **INT. SISCO'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM**

KIRA, however, is less than impressed. She, Sisko, Bashir
and Dax are watching and eating. Vaughn stands apart...

KIRA

I see he hasn't completely changed
his tune. He still jumped at the
chance for a little publicity.

SISCO

(gently chiding)

In a good cause, Nerys.

On the TV, we're back on Tiana in the studio...

TIANA (screen)

First Minister Asarem's office offered a prepared statement that she was looking forward to a good relationship with whoever should win. BNN also reached out to the Emissary Benjamin Sisko, and to Captain Kira Nerys, the senior-most Bajoran officer in Starfleet, but both declined to comment.

SISKO

You refused to give an opinion?
I'm impressed, Nerys.

KIRA

(wry grin)

It wasn't easy.

Kasidy is sitting nearby, bouncing Rebecca gently on her knee. She sniffs the baby gently...

KASIDY

Oops, somebody needs changing.

BASHIR

(innocent)

Not me.

KASIDY

Thank you, Julian. That puts my mind at ease.

(to Rebecca)

Come on, you. There's a nice clean diaper in the other room with your name on it. Literally.

She gets up and carries the baby towards the bedroom...

KIRA

Here, let me help you.

The two women enter the bedroom...

25 **INT. SISCO'S HOUSE - BEDROOM**

...where Kasidy walks to the changing table and lays Rebecca down gently. Kira approaches tentatively, not wanting to intrude where it might be inappropriate.

Kasidy begins removing Rebecca's diaper, cooing smiles at the baby girl, while the baby babbles back...

KASIDY

That's a good girl, Rebecca.

Always so happy and smiley.

(re diaper)

Oh, that's not too bad. Nerys,
would you pass me the towels? Just
there, by the window.

Kira spots a small box of moist towels, grabs them, hands them to Kasidy. While Kasidy continues to wipe and change Rebecca, she sees Kira's amused smirk...

KASIDY

What?

KIRA

It's just funny seeing you all...
mother-y.

KASIDY

Why? You've done it yourself.

KIRA

I may have given birth... but I
never really got the chance to be
a mother.

KASIDY

Do you want to be?

KIRA

Oh, Prophets, I don't know. There
always seems to be too much going
on for anything like that.

KASIDY

You find time.

KASIDY (cont)

(beat)

Oh, speaking of which, did I tell you? I've been thinking I should go back to work again.

KIRA

Back to cargo hauling?

KASIDY

Just part time. A couple of runs a month. The Commerce Authority is always happy for experienced ship captains. Maybe help out with the shipments to Cardassia?

KIRA

What about Rebecca?

KASIDY

Believe me, I have no shortage of babysitting offers. Every woman in the village would kill for the chance to sit for the Emissary's baby. But I was thinking of leaving her with Rena and Jake a couple of days. Let them get to know their baby sister.

KIRA

Sounds nice.

KASIDY

Rena's wonderful with her. I think she's getting a bit broody. I can already see that panicked look in Jake's eyes.

(chuckle at
the thought)

Besides, Ben's here.

KIRA

Kas... can I ask you something?

KASIDY

Of course.

KIRA

Well... what does Ben actually do
all day?

Now they both LAUGH out loud. By this time, Rebecca's new
diaper is done. Kasidy hefts her up, testing that the
diaper is snug. Kasidy and Kira both sit on the bed...

KIRA (cont)

I have a hard time picturing him
with nothing to do.

KASIDY

He takes care of Rebecca, he
gardens, he cooks... but mostly he
just thinks.

KIRA

About what?

KASIDY

Damned if I know. The meaning of
life, I guess. What it all means.
I keep telling him, people have
been trying to figure that one out
for billions of years.

(smirk)

When I want to really get under
his skin, I tell him he's turning
into his father. The aging
patriarch pottering around his
kingdom, ruling with an iron fist.

KIRA

(slightly
apprehensive)

Does he? Rule with an iron fist?

KASIDY

(realises her
mistake)

Oh Nerys, no. Ben's a wonderful
father. But I always knew that.
Still, sometimes I do have to
wonder where his head's at...

26 **INT. SISKO'S HOUSE - KITCHEN**

Vaughn has taken a few plates and bowls back to the kitchen in an attempt to tidy up. He finds a spare spot of counter top, delicately balances them in the space, turns back --

-- and STARTS in surprise as he realises Sisko has quietly followed him into the kitchen.

He immediately turns back around, forcibly tidying the plates and cutlery...

SISKO
(gently)
Elias... we need to talk.

VAUGHN
No, we really don't.

SISKO
(steps closer)
Well, we're going to. We can't go on like this if we're going to work together.

Vaughn finally turns back to him, jaw set and angry. They keep their voices quiet, not wanting to be overheard...

VAUGHN
I see where Lieutenant Dax learned her bad attitude to command.

SISKO
Actually, I probably learned it from her. And I'm still your superior officer, Commander.

VAUGHN
No you're not. Kira is. And you made me lie to her face.

SISKO
It was necessary. You just have to trust me on that.

VAUGHN

I don't trust you. I used to - we had a connection, I thought. You and me. We'd been through the same things. Partners killed, raising our children alone. Fate swept us both towards Bajor, gave us a new lease on life. I came to you for advice. And then you betrayed me.

SISKO

Sometimes a commander has to make decisions he doesn't like to win the war.

Vaughn SLAMS down an empty plate on the counter...

VAUGHN

We are not at war!

He instantly knows that was too loud...

LIVING ROOM

Dax, Bashir and Nog exchange uncomfortable glances, having overheard. None of them say anything, just avert their eyes and pretend nothing is wrong...

KITCHEN

Sisko grits his teeth, trying to maintain his temper...

SISKO

Actually, Elias, yes we are. But that's not even the point. You were in covert ops. Haven't you made decisions you hated, to get the outcome you wanted?

VAUGHN

Of course I have! But those decisions don't usually screw over your own side!

SISKO

I know Nerys. If I'd told her why I asked you to go with her to the other universe, she would have tried to find the other me. And when she failed, she would have tried to become their Emissary herself. She wouldn't have wanted to, but she would have done it, to stop Iliana. I couldn't let her do that. She's needed here. So are you. More than either of you know.

VAUGHN

(sneer)

You're just making this up as you go along.

SISKO

(patiently)

The Prophets showed me --

VAUGHN

(interrupting)

There are no such things as Prophets! There are no such things as prophecies! Don't you get that? It's all bullshit!

Vaughn looks past Sisko's shoulder, and his breath catches.

Kira and Kasidy are standing in the doorway to the kitchen, having just emerged from the bedroom. Kasidy is holding Rebecca at her hip. Kira is gaping at Vaughn, shocked and horrified. Personally hurt. They heard it all...

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

27 INT. SISKI'S HOUSE - KITCHEN

Vaughn rubs his face in shame. Sisko grabs his arm roughly, DRAGS him to the back door.

Kasidy puts an arm round Kira, gently leads her back to the living room... but sends a furious glare towards Sisko.

28 EXT. SISKI'S HOUSE - DAY

Sisko drags Vaughn down the steps to the grass, across to the large tree in the garden. He is furious...

SISKI

Okay, I let you hit me one time because you needed to get it out of your system, and we were both out of uniform. Hell, I probably even deserved it. But you do not come into my house and insult me and my friends. Is that clear?

VAUGHN

I never wanted to be --

SISKI

Is that clear, Commander?!

Vaughn bites his tongue, fighting between anger and duty...

VAUGHN

It's clear. You're right. I will apologise to Kira and Kasidy both.

SISKI

Good.

VAUGHN

But the point stands. This belief in the omniscience of your Prophets is no good reason to lie to your friends and comrades.

SISKO

You don't have to subscribe to the religious interpretation to accept that the wormhole aliens might have a wider view of things. Isn't it smart to use every resource at your disposal to win a conflict?

VAUGHN

(grits teeth)

Once again, we are not at war.

SISKO

It's coming, like it or not. I feel it. I see it every time I close...

VAUGHN

(mocking)

See what?

SISKO

What will happen if I don't do these things. All the bodies, Elias. All burning.

Vaughn pauses for a second, disquieted by the image...

VAUGHN

That doesn't make sense. How can they show you what might happen?

SISKO

What do you mean?

VAUGHN

Everything Starfleet scientists, researchers - even the idiots from Temporal Investigations - every conclusion they come to says that, yes, the wormhole aliens may see anywhere in our time. But only our timeline. There's no evidence that they can cross over to observe or affect other quantum realities. They don't know what might happen, only what will happen.

SISKO
That used to be true.

VAUGHN
What changed?

SISKO
I explained it to them.

Off Vaughn's wary expression...

29 INT. DS9 - KIRA'S OFFICE

RO is in the midst of her exercises, uniform down to the undershirt. In a quad frame, slowly flexing each leg in turn against a small weight. ETANA spots and supports...

ETANA
How come you're not watching the elections with everyone else?

RO
Why should I care who's in charge of a religion I don't follow? None of my business.

ETANA
That's a bit naive, Laren.

RO
What do you mean?

ETANA
Well, I may be a nurse now --

RO
Slave driver.

ETANA
(right over her)
-- shut up. But I still put my security head on from time to time, and I can't help thinking that the threat you dismiss as irrelevant is the one that'll get you when you're not looking.

RO
You think the church is a threat?

ETANA
I think it's worth paying
attention to as a driving force
in Bajoran society. Remember the
Ohalavaru's protest in the shrine?

RO
You could be right.

ETANA
I'm always right.

30 **EXT. SISKO'S HOUSE - DAY**

Sisko and Vaughn now sit on the ground, beneath the tree,
both a bit calmer. Sisko gives a sad chuckle...

SISKO
Me and my damn baseball metaphors.

Off Vaughn's questioning look...

SISKO (cont)
When I first met the Prophets -
the wormhole aliens - I explained
linear time to them with baseball.
How when you throw the ball, any
one of a million different things
could happen, and there's no way
to know in advance what it'll be.

VAUGHN
Okay. And?

SISKO
Well, then they wanted to know,
what if you threw wild instead of
straight down the fair. I tried to
explain how one tiny, seemingly
insignificant detail, like a
sudden gust of wind, can affect
everything that comes after,
changing your whole future.

SISKO (cont)

At first they refused to believe me. They insisted what happens, happens - "it is one's existence" - and that's all there is to it. But I kept trying, telling them stories and fables and metaphors, until eventually they got it.

VAUGHN

And so they set this whole plan in motion based on intel you gave them.

SISKO

Starting with the Orb of Souls calling to Kai Dava centuries ago.

VAUGHN

So this really is all your fault.

SISKO

Do you think I don't know that? Do you think I'm not aware every single second, every time I look at you or Nerys or Jake or... hell, even Rena!

VAUGHN

Rena?

SISKO

Yes. She's involved in this somehow, although I haven't the tiniest idea how.

VAUGHN

I thought you said you saw it all.

SISKO

I know there is a plan. But I don't know what it is. It's more like intuition - just hunches, really - that let me know when I'm on the right path.

Vaughn thinks about that a moment... then gets up to stand.

VAUGHN

I refuse to believe that. There is no pre-destination - nothing is foretold. It's just somebody looking back at what, from their perspective, has already happened. I might as well tell you what I had for dinner last night - it's about as divinely inspired. It doesn't mean we "have" to do anything. Our decisions are still our own... and you made yours.

Vaughn turns and walks back into the house. Sisko is left alone under the tree, wondering what to do now...

ETANA (v.o.)

How's the pain?

31 **INT. DS9 - KIRA'S OFFICE**

Ro and Etana have just ended their exercise. Ro mops her face and arms with a towel, Etana fetches her supports for her. While they work to reattach them...

RO

It's a real treat. Like being kissed by baby *utoxa*.

ETANA

(exasperated)

Laren...

RO

Okay, okay... it's a little bit better. I actually slept through the night last night.

ETANA

Good. Do you need any more pain killers?

RO

No, I think I'm good.

A beat.

ETANA

Why do you always have to fight me
so hard, Laren?

RO

(sigh)

I don't even know half the time.
It's practically habit at this
point. I just expect to disagree
with everyone.

ETANA

You ever think about confounding
those expectations?

RO

I don't think I'm genetically
capable of that.

ETANA

This is something you can't fight,
Laren. Your life is different now.

RO

You think I don't know that?

ETANA

Oh, I know you do. But you haven't
accepted it yet. Not really. You
keep trying to carry on like
nothing's changed. But even after
you get these things off once and
for all, there's no going back.
You can't just forget this ever
happened to you. Accept it, deal
with it... then you can move on.

RO

You transferring to counsellor
now? Going for the trifecta?

ETANA

I'm doing the same job I always
have - friend.

Ro ponders what Etana has said...

Where we left it. Weyoun and Taran'atar stand at attention, while Laas strolls self-righteously around the islet...

LAAS

So. Now that we've had the latest instalment of "The Follies of Odo," I believe there was a report to be made?

ODO

(realising)

Taran'atar. I'm sorry. Please, go ahead.

TARAN'ATAR

(snaps to
attention)

Founder. The crew of Deep Space Nine recently became entwined in a complex plot involving individuals from an alternate quantum dimension already known to them. I myself was inadvertently caught up in these events, which resulted in my visiting that dimension for a period of several days.

ODO

I see. Captain Kira ordered you to accompany her?

TARAN'ATAR

(awkward)

No.

ODO

Then why did you go?

TARAN'ATAR

(hesitant)

I... came under the control of another. A former agent of the Cardassian Obsidian Order.

ODO
The Obsidian Order?
(growl)
Garak.

TARAN'ATAR
No, Founder. The individual's name
was Iliana Ghemor.

ODO
Ghemor?
(remembering)
Tekeny's daughter?

TARAN'ATAR
Yes, Founder. She had perfected a
method of overriding a Jem'Hadar's
natural loyalty to the Founders,
and replacing it with a compulsion
to follow her instead. I was
helpless to refuse.

ODO
Then how are you here now?

TARAN'ATAR
Because the only way to break
Agent Ghemor's control over me...
was to free me from all control.
Including that of the Founders.

ODO
Then... you no longer need to
follow my orders?

TARAN'ATAR
Correct, Founder. Just as you
desired.

Odo pauses to consider the truth of that...

...pointedly evading the smug I-told-you-so look from Laas.

Taran'atar is fully expecting to be punished...

Weyoun is just very confused about the whole thing...

ODO
Is that... everything?

Taran'atar cannot refuse a direct question. Well, he *could*, but he doesn't want to. Well, he *does* want to, but...

TARAN'ATAR
No, Founder. There is more.

ODO
Go on...

TARAN'ATAR
In my confusion between your wishes and the coercion of the other, I... lashed out. People were injured.

Odo feels the horror coming...

ODO
Who?

TARAN'ATAR
The chief of security, Ro Laren.
And... and Captain Kira.
(beat)
I killed her.

On Odo's reaction...

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

33 QUICK FLASHES

-- Taran'atar, at the far end of the corridor, glaring into camera. His hand is out, as if having cast his knife...

-- PAN down to the chest of our POV - where Taran'atar's knife is buried up to the hilt in our chest...

34 A KNIFE

in someone's hand, glinting in bright sunlight

35 KIRA

flinches at the memory

36 INT. SISCO'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

The knife is in Bashir's hand, as he carries it back from the kitchen. He brings it to the table...

...and the extravagant BIRTHDAY CAKE with one big candle. Kasidy holding Rebecca, with the rest all gathered close.

Kira is half a step back. She takes a deep breath, steadies her nerves, calms herself...

KASIDY

Three... two... one... blow!

On the countdown, they all make a show of blowing out the single candle on Rebecca's behalf, followed by a CHEER.

...except VAUGHN, who stands between kitchen and living room, too uncomfortable to join the party so directly. He watches with a reserved smile, but then he looks over --

-- to Opaka, who is watching from a distance, beaming wide to see the ceremony. Opaka looks back, and her welcoming, unjudging smile gives him a measure of forgiveness.

Bashir cuts the cake...

BASHIR
Okay, who gets the first slice?

NOG
Me!

BASHIR
Lieutenant Bottomless Pit it is.

Bashir hands Nog the first piece. As he cuts another...

BASHIR
What about you, Ezri?

DAX
Maybe I can make room if I remove
my symbiont for a while... It's
okay if it's for cake, right?

BASHIR
Here.

And he shoves a piece right into her mouth. She giggles a
protest through the cake. Bashir grins back at her, but as
he turns away, a guilty look passes over Dax's face.

RENA
Um... everyone?

They turn to Rena, standing by the TV screen...

RENA (cont)
Looks like the results are in.

TIANA (screen)
And we go live now to Solis
Tendren's acceptance speech as the
new Kai of Bajor.

JAKE
Yes!

Opaka smiles warmly, satisfied. Kira is a little more
ambivalent. The rest of the room is politely celebratory.
The TV image changes to Solis, stood at a podium with
microphones and cameras (like Yevir at the end of 8x03)...

SOLIS (screen)
Thank you, thank you all. I am
very humbled by the trust that the
Vedek Assembly has placed in me
today. And I promise to lead
Bajor's spiritual community in
unity, faith and fellowship.
Specifically, I would like to
thank Kira Nerys for opening the
truths of Ohalu to us all...

On Kira, still not entirely sure about all this...

SOLIS (screen)
Opaka Sulan for her kind words and
encouragements, without which I may
never have set foot on this path...

On Opaka, smiling demurely with quiet pride...

SOLIS (screen)
I would also like to reassure
Vedek Bellis, and all who opposed
my election, that the rise of an
Ohalavar to the position of Kai
does not mean that traditional
Bajoran worship is gone. Only that
there are now more possibilities
open to us all. I hope to prove to
Bajor that all spiritualities can
live in harmony and peace.

Vaughn is considering Solis's words, about harmony...

LAAS (v.o.)
We are at war with ourselves...

37 EXT. FOUNDERS' WORLD - DAY

Odo stands alone, working to process what Taran'atar told
him. Nerys... how could she be dead? It's not possible...

LAAS (cont)
...an entire empire resting on
Odo's every word... and his pet
rock murders his one true love.

Taran'atar is now on his knees, head bowed, awaiting his fate. Weyoun steps forward, as a Vorta commanding his Jem'Hadar. Odo remains too stunned to move...

WEYOUN

First. Your orders were to obey Captain Kira as if she were the Founder himself.

TARAN'ATAR

Yes.

WEYOUN

She was your Vorta.

TARAN'ATAR

Yes.

WEYOUN

You know the consequences of a Jem'Hadar attacking a Vorta.

TARAN'ATAR

I do.

WEYOUN

And what do you have to say?

Taran'atar looks up, tries to make eye contact with Odo...

TARAN'ATAR

I accept your punishment.

Odo slowly raises his eyes to meet Taran'atar's, and the blind fury is starting to take over...

38 INT. SISKO'S HOUSE - KITCHEN

Kira stands by the kitchen window, washing dishes the old fashioned way. Basic manual labour to distract herself...

VAUGHN (o.s.)

I owe you an apology for before.

She turns to see -- Vaughn, standing nervous. He doesn't want her angry, her trust and friendship mean a lot.

Kira looks at him, patiently and calmly waiting. Vaughn sees that he is not getting off easily...

VAUGHN (cont)

I was angry, I blurted it out, and I shouldn't have. I'm sorry if I hurt you. I sincerely apologise.

KIRA

(gently)

Elias... I'm not blind. Is this to do with what you asked me in the other universe? About whether I thought Ben had changed?

VAUGHN

It's just... he keeps talking to me about Prophets and prophecies and "this is how it's supposed to be." I have a hard time taking it seriously. The Federation believes in solving our own problems - through learning and diplomacy. Not in waiting for some allegedly higher being to solve them for us.

KIRA

Well... isn't that interesting.

VAUGHN

What?

KIRA

You're still talking about Bajor and the Federation as two separate entities. Aren't we all supposed to be one and the same now?

VAUGHN

Not the same, no. But... I take your point.

KIRA

Bajor isn't the only Federation world with a religious culture, either, is it?

KIRA (cont)

There's Andor, the Brikari, the Damiani... and I'm only at the beginning of the alphabet.

VAUGHN

Alright. I suppose what I should have said is that humans don't believe in a god.

KIRA

What about Captain Gold of the *Da Vinci*? He's religious, isn't he? Jewish, I think he called it.

VAUGHN

(a bit harassed)

Okay. Okay. I'm sorry.

KIRA

And isn't his wife a priest for that religion? What's it called - a rabbit?

VAUGHN

A rabbi.

KIRA

I'm not trying to make you feel bad, Elias. I guess my point is just that, believe it or not, I actually agree with Solis on this one. Being a spiritual person isn't an us-or-them kind of thing.

VAUGHN

I know that. I do. And that's not even what this is about. I'm not anti-religion - I get along well with you, and Sulan and I...

(not ready

for that yet)

But he keeps pushing me to see it from his point of view.

(beat)

And I don't.

39 INT. DS9 - RO'S QUARTERS

Last seen in 9x24. Ro enters, still with her supports and walking stick. She grimaces against the pain, but refusing to give in to it. She makes it into her small bathroom.

BATHROOM

She looks in the mirror - tired, in pain. Opens a cabinet, pulls a hypospray. Pushes it to her neck, injects herself, breathes deeply as the painkillers spread through her body.

In the mirror again...

RO
It's a new world.

40 EXT. FOUNDERS' WORLD - DAY

On TARAN'ATAR, as he awaits his fate...

LAAS
Well, Odo? Aren't you going to do anything?

On LAAS, having great fun taunting Odo...

LAAS (cont)
Here you are, trying to change the Jem'Hadar for the better, make them peaceful and docile, and the one you trust most of all betrays you in the worst possible way.

On WEYOUN as he steps behind Taran'atar, unsheathes the Jem'Hadar's knife, offers it out...

...to ODO. He stares, as if not sure what to do with it. But after a moment... he takes the knife from Weyoun.

LAAS (cont)
Don't you love her? Shouldn't she be avenged? Doesn't she deserve that? Or is your precious vision of the future for the Dominion worth more than your lover's life?

Odo stands immobile, very aware of the knife in his hand, and on the verge of giving in to the anger.

Taran'atar kneels on the ground, accepting his death with calm. It is the order of things...

VAUGHN (v.o.)
I'm actually glad I came...

41 EXT. SISKO'S HOUSE - EVENING

The rear veranda, looking out over the woods and fields. The sun is dimming, casting an early evening glow. The large tree waves in a gentle breeze.

Opaka and Vaughn stand together, looking out...

VAUGHN (cont)
...despite everything. It was nice to do something so... normal. I missed too many of Prynn's birthday parties when she was a child.

OPAKA
(reassuring)
You're there for her now. And I'm glad I had the chance to be here too. I must leave soon.

VAUGHN
Leave?
(beat; quieter)
You mean leave Bajor, don't you?

Opaka sees Vaughn's downcast face - she reaches out to him, comforting...

OPAKA
We already discussed this, Elias. Bajor must forge closer ties with the Eav'oq, and I am by far the best candidate. I would have gone already, but I wanted to be sure that Bajor's own *pagh* was in safe hands before I left.

VAUGHN
And now you're sure?

OPAKA
Oh yes. Quite sure. I don't believe for a moment that the arguing is over, but as long as everyone keeps talking, everything will work out.

Vaughn quietly ponders that for a moment...

VAUGHN
When do you leave?

OPAKA
I'll return to Ashalla tonight, and begin putting my affairs in order tomorrow.

She looks out across the fields with a sad smile...

OPAKA (cont)
I'll be sorry to leave Bajor again so soon after my return. But I know it's the right thing to do. More than that - it's necessary. A vital piece of the puzzle. At our age, it's good to feel useful.

VAUGHN
Yes. It is.

On Vaughn's sad, pensive face...

FADE OUT:

END OF SHOW