

STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE

8x10 - "Divided We Fall."

Screenplay by Martyn Dunn

Based on the graphic novel

Star Trek: Divided We Fall
by John Ordover and David Mack

And incorporating elements from

"Reflections"
by LA Graf, as printed in the anthology
Star Trek: Deep Space Nine: The Lives of Dax

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. DEEP SPACE NINE - ESTABLISHING

Focusing on the habitat ring, and a suggestion of night-time if possible.

2 INT. DS9 - DAX'S QUARTERS

Dark lighting as DAX and BASHIR lie in bed together. Bashir is asleep, his back to turned to Dax. She is awake, in her nightclothes, watching him sleep. There is tension - they had yet another fight.

DAX (v.o.)

I'm a Starfleet counsellor, with more than three-hundred years' experience to draw from. I know every little thing that can go wrong in a relationship. I know how fragile they can be.

She rolls onto her back, sighs in exasperation. Annoyed at herself as much as anything else.

DAX (v.o.)

After all that time, you'd think I would also know how to avoid the potholes in the road. But I just seem to keep on falling into them. "Stop acting like a child." What was I thinking? Julian has every right to be mad at me.

She gently gets out of bed, making sure not to disturb him. She walks over to the window, looks out at the stars...

DAX (v.o.)

I guess you never get too old to say the wrong thing. And love never gets any simpler.

She wanders around the room a little, sees the small clay busts she made of her old hosts. She grabs a robe and huddles into it...

DAX (v.o.)
But it really seems like lately,
we keep finding more and more
things to fight over.

She sits forlornly in the chair by her desk. Just as she does, a bleep goes off on the console. Surprised, she hits a key and a text message pops up on the screen.

INSERT - SCREEN

PRIORITY ONE MESSAGE FOR LT EZRI DAX

BACK TO SCENE

Intrigued, Dax hits more keys. An official looking report is displayed, featuring the prominent headline...

INSERT - SCREEN

EMINENT SCIENTIST DR LENARA KAHN
ABDUCTED ON TRILL HOMEWORLD

BACK TO SCENE

DAX
Lenara... ?

The official report is replaced by a more informal note, which says...

INSERT - SCREEN

EZRI DAX. IF YOU WANT DR KAHN
RETURNED ALIVE, YOU WILL FOLLOW
THESE INSTRUCTIONS EXACTLY

BACK TO SCENE

Dax's eyes widen as she realises - this is a ransom note.

FLASHBACK - 4x06 "REJOINED"

As Jadzia Dax and Lenara Kahn, the reincarnation of Dax's ex-wife, give in to their suppressed feelings and kiss...

CUT TO:

3 INT. DS9 - HABITAT RING CORRIDOR

Still in her night clothes and robe, Dax RUNS full pelt and barefoot through the corridor. It is quiet, night shift.

A pair of EXTRAS step out of a junction - Dax nearly runs them over. They stagger out of the way as she barrels on.

DAX
Out of the way!
(after-thought)
Sorry!

She jumps into a turbolift and the doors close behind her.

4 INT. DS9 - MAIN OPS CENTRE

Night shift, dimmed lights, skeleton crew. Before the turbolift has fully risen into place, Dax is already running off it and towards Kira's office. The few crew present react with surprise, but she ignores them.

5 INT. DS9 - KIRA'S OFFICE

RO looks like she got out of bed in a hurry too, her uniform stripped down to the vest and leggings. KIRA is fully dressed - she hasn't even been to bed yet.

They are already mid-conversation as the door OPENS and Dax rushes in, interrupting them...

DAX
Colonel! We have an emergency!
Lenara Kahn --

RO
-- has been abducted, and the kidnappers have stated that unless you arrive, alone, at the Tenaran Ice Cliffs on Trill in six hours with five kilograms of weapons-grade protomatter, Doctor Kahn will die.

DAX
(caught off guard)
How... ?

RO
The message was encrypted with an
expired Starfleet security code.
It sent up a red flag the second
it came in.

Dax catches her breath as she realises they are already on
top of the situation.

DAX
Is the message true?

KIRA
Yes, we confirmed it with Trill
planetary security. So now, the
only question is --

DAX
(resigned)
-- whether Lenara's life is worth
handing over the protomatter.

KIRA
No. The question is, whether we
can get you to Trill in time to
save her.

Dax smiles with relief at Kira's understanding. But then
her fear for Lenara takes over again...

BLACK OUT:

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

6 EXT. SPACE - DEFIANT

The *Defiant* warps through space towards Trill.

 VAUGHN (v.o.)
Commander's log, USS *Defiant*.
Elias Vaughn recording. We're
three hours out from the Trill
homeworld. With Doctor Kahn's life
at stake, Lieutenant Dax is
extremely... anxious.

7 INT. DEFIANT - MAIN BRIDGE

VAUGHN is in the command chair, TENMEI at helm, BOWERS at tactical, extras filling other seats...

 VAUGHN (v.o.)
I think the Lieutenant's residual
feelings for Doctor Kahn have been
a source of some distress for
Doctor Bashir. The more time I
spend with them both, the more I
wonder if I was ever so young.

8 INT. DEFIANT - DAX AND BASHIR'S QUARTERS

Dax and Bashir standing, both back in uniform, still tense.
It's one of those arguments where every word blows things
further out of context from what they meant to say...

 DAX
Can't we go any faster?

 BASHIR
Ezri, we're doing warp eight. Much
faster and the ship'll fly apart.
What's really bothering you?

 DAX
Love! It's just so damn annoying.

BASHIR

Really.

DAX

I didn't mean you, Julian.

BASHIR

Oh, so when you think of love, you don't think of me?

DAX

That's not what I was saying!

BASHIR

I see you've got your former career as a counsellor completely out of your system.

DAX

Well, this isn't exactly how I expected my first mission as the *Defiant's* first officer to go, either. I don't think Vaughn even wants me on the bridge.

BASHIR

Well, you're upset. We both know you can be a little... rash... when you're upset.

DAX

Julian, this is no time for one of your jealous snits. I haven't even thought about Lenara since I - since Jadzia married Worf. But now her life is in danger because of me. Because of our past together. Of course I've got to do whatever I can to help her.

Bashir is a bit chastised. Dax is exasperated, worried...

DAX

Whenever I think I've got the past locked away and under control, it reaches out and grabs me again.

9 **INT. CAVE SET - VILLAIN'S LAIR**

LENARA KAHN is gagged and tied to a chair, looking slightly roughed up but not too badly, but still quite scared by whatever is going on here.

A hand GRABS her shoulder, moves in closer to her face, brushes her hair, uncomfortably familiar. A MAN leans in close, face still in shadow, and whispers into her ear...

MAN

(whispering)

Your lost love is on her way to
save you, Doctor Kahn. How
unfortunate that she'll arrive
just a little too late...

He suddenly INJECTS her neck with a non-Starfleet hypospray or syringe.

She tries to pull away from it, but can't. She doesn't pass out - in fact she is wild-eyed with panic...

10 **INT. DEFIANT - DAX AND BASHIR'S QUARTERS**

Where we were, arguing with Dax and Bashir...

DAX

Julian, I'm about to beam down
into a hostile environment with a
dangerous, not to mention illegal,
material to risk my life for a
woman I haven't seen in years.

BASHIR

But who you still love.

DAX

I suppose so, yes, a part of me
does still love Kahn. Not that I
realised it until this situation
came up. But do you really
begrudge me that? Haven't you got
ex-girlfriends? Should I throw a
fit if Sarina showed up again?

BASHIR

Ezri, my feelings for you are stronger than they ever were for Sarina, for anyone. And I do know that coming to terms with all those lives inside you is hard. It would be nice, though, if our relationship could be about me once in a while, instead of some past life of yours.

He is ashamed of that the moment he says it. He slumps and takes a seat on a bunk. She is pretty astonished too.

DAX

Are you kidding me? What was all that stuff about saving the galaxy single-handed, about hiding who you really are? That sure as hell wasn't about me.

BASHIR

You're right, I'm sorry, I'm sorry. I shouldn't have said that.
(annoyed at
himself)

Maybe you were right before. Maybe I do have the emotional maturity of a four-year-old. But it can be hard, Ezri... sharing my life with someone who's already sharing hers with so many other people.

DAX

(quietly)

How many lives is too many? How many loves is too many, Julian?

He can't answer that...

11 INT. CAVE SET - VILLAIN'S LAIR

One of the bad guys, JULL, is reporting in to the main bad guy, who has his back to us in shadow, still unidentified. A pained MOANING sound is in the background.

JULL

Do you really think Starfleet will hand us something as dangerous as protomatter to ransom one woman?

MAN

Of course not, Jull. They'll try to trick us with some kind of fake. But it doesn't matter. I'm not interested in protomatter. I'm only interested in Dax.

Panning across the room, we see the source of the moaning is Kahn. She writhes with cramps, sweating, pale, obviously in great physical distress but still tied to the chair...

12 **EXT. SPACE - TRILL HOMEWORLD**

The *Defiant* is in orbit of the purple-watered planet...

13 **INT. DEFIANT - MAIN BRIDGE**

TENMEI

Entering orbit of Trill homeworld now, sir.

VAUGHN

Thank you, Ensign. Vaughn to Nog - are you ready?

14 **INT. DEFIANT - TRANSPORTER ROOM**

NOG is behind the transporter control as SHAR, Bashir, Dax, Bowers and two security, all in thick padded cold-weather uniforms, step up onto the transporter pad. Shar carries a cylindrical container, a foot long, that glows from within.

NOG

Nearly, sir. Do you have any idea how much latinum we could get for five kilos of fake protomatter?

SHAR

When we return, I'll make another batch if you'd like.

DAX
Don't encourage him, Shar.
(nod to Nog)
Nog, energise.

He does, they all BEAM OUT, and Nog hits the comm panel...

NOG
They're on their way. I'm tracking
them and I'll keep you informed.

15 **EXT. TENARAN ICE CLIFFS - DAY**

VAUGHN (comm)
Acknowledged, Lieutenant.

Bashir and Shar stand on a bluff amid a light snowstorm. Their hair WHIPS in the wind, their breath visible. They watch a small figure in the valley below. On the opposite side, they see three other figures - Bowers and security.

ON DAX

Carrying the container, Dax trudges warily through the snow. A short way away, she sees a SHAPE half-buried in the snow. She steps cautiously towards it and realises - it's LENARA, unconscious. Terrified for her, she rushes forward.

DAX
Lenara! Lenara...!

Dax desperately drags Lenara out of the snow and towards a rock face for shelter. Behind her, unnoticed, other SHAPES begin to emerge from hiding under the snow cover.

Above them, Shar notices the movement - armed figures in white masked camouflage suits beginning to surround Dax.

SHAR
Sir! Movement on her left flank!

BASHIR
Bashir to security! Cover her!

Phaser FIRE comes from above, pinning the raiders but not hitting them. Dax barely notices - she is helping Lenara...

16 **INT. DEFIANT - MAIN BRIDGE (INTERCUT)**

BASHIR (comm)
Bashir to *Defiant*! We're under
attack.

VAUGHN
Get them out of there, Mister Nog.

NOG (comm)
I can't get a lock! Something's
blocking the transport scanner.

17 **EXT. TENARAN ICE CLIFFS - DAY (INTERCUT)**

Bashir and Shar are rushing to join the fray in the valley
as security continues to FIRE from above. Dax finally
realises the trouble she is in, pulls out a small pocket
phaser and FIRES, taking out one of the raiders herself.

18 **INT. DEFIANT - MAIN BRIDGE (INTERCUT)**

Vaughn is out of his seat, looking over Tenmei's shoulder
at conn to check the readouts on her panel. She glances at
him in worry, her loathing of him forgotten for a second...

VAUGHN
Nog - what's the closest point to
the away team that you can get a
lock on?

19 **EXT. TENARAN ICE CLIFFS - DAY (INTERCUT)**

One of the raiders FIRES on the snow just by Bashir and
Shar, who are THROWN into the air by the BURST of snow.
Bashir twists with the fall and manages to get off a shot
with his phaser, scoring a hit on one of the raiders.

NOG (comm, v.o.)
Three-point-one-five kilometres.

VAUGHN (comm, v.o.)
Vaughn to security. Launch *Sagan*
and Chaffee. Get down there and
get our people out.

20 **EXT. SPACE - DEFIANT (INTERCUT)**

The *Defiant's* two tiny shuttlecraft launch from its ventral hatch and angle DOWN towards the planet...

21 **EXT. TENARAN ICE CLIFFS - DAY (INTERCUT)**

Bashir and Shar are back on their feet, firing back on the raiders, who are still attacking them and returning fire.

 SECURITY (comm)
Shuttlecraft *Chaffee* to away team!
Do you copy?

 BASHIR
Affirmative! This is Bashir!

 SECURITY (comm)
Hang on, sir. The cavalry's on its
way. ETA thirty seconds.

 BASHIR
Acknowledged.

TRANSPORTER effects begin to form over the two raiders who are already down...

 BASHIR
They're transporting! How?

 SHAR
Those devices on their belts -
they must cut through the jammers.

 BASHIR
Can't let them escape! This could
be our only chance to find out
who's behind this!

He RUNS for them in the hope of catching one, but doesn't make it in time. One by one, the raiders BEAM away.

Behind Bashir, one last raider fires and HITS Dax as she tries to protect Lenara. Her cry alerts Bashir, but too late - the raider grabs Dax and BEAMS away with her.

Nearby, the shuttle lands in a CLOUD of snow and armed security guards pile out of the hatch.

But Bashir just looks horrified - Dax is gone.

22 **INT. CAVE SET - VILLAIN'S LAIR**

The raider BEAMS into the cave with Dax. She slumps to her hands and knees, recovering from the phaser shot.

 MAN (o.s.)
Hello, Dax. Ezri... that's your
first name now, isn't it?

She looks up as the man approaches, and we see at last that it is VERAD (2x04 "Invasive Procedures"), the man who tried to steal the Dax symbiont from Jadzia.

No longer the mild-mannered secretary, now he has gone all bad-ass paramilitary freedom fighter. Intense, passionate, driven, and perhaps a little crazy.

 DAX
Verad. Just can't take no for an
answer, can you?

 VERAD
Oh, don't worry. I'm not looking
to steal the Dax symbiont. Not
anymore. There would be no point.
Because soon, all of the alien
worms will be dead. And for the
first time in millennia, Trill
will be free.

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

23 INT. CAVE SET - VERAD'S LAIR

Dax is now in Kahn's place, tied to the chair, although more securely than Kahn was, and one of Verad's minions holds a gun on her. She is defiant, refusing to budge.

Verad approaches with a DEVICE he fits around her head, similar to the Romulan mind-scanners. He also INJECTS her with the same drug he used on Kahn...

DAX

What have you done to me, Verad?

VERAD

I've set you free, Miss Tigan. In return, I need you to cooperate while I take what I need from Dax. It won't take Starfleet long to find you, and the drugs will begin their work soon. So I'm going to skip the pleasantries and set the device to maximum power.

He moves a control on the mind-scanner - it hums to life.

24 INT. DEFIANT - SICKBAY

Bashir, assisted by nurse RICHTER (human female), removes the Kahn symbiont from Lenara's body and delicately moves it to a portable symbiont pod (as in 8x05 "Reflections").

He hates having to do this, it's like a defeat to him, but there is nothing else he can do. While Richter secures the pod, Bashir returns to Lenara and pulls the surgical sheet over her face. She's gone.

25 INT. DEFIANT - MAIN ENGINEERING

Nog and Shar are working at a couple of consoles as various extras work the background. This is Nog's room now, and he is trying to project confidence. The doors open - Vaughn ENTERS, all business. Nog and Shar turn to report to him.

VAUGHN

Lieutenant, Ensign. What have you got for me?

NOG

I'm afraid we don't have much to work with, sir.

SHAR

The devices the kidnappers wore appeared to be signal enhancers, keyed to a certain transporter frequency. The computer was able to record that frequency, but not the destination.

VAUGHN

And how does that help us?

NOG

Well, we're trying to track who uses that frequency so that we can trace their location.

SHAR

The results should be coming in right now.

Shar turns to check the panel he was working on, but sags.

SHAR (cont)

Sorry, sir. That's the sequence for the Trill Global Transport Network. There's about a million transport sites with that code.

VAUGHN

Damn. What else can we do?

NOG

Well... doesn't the network keep transport pattern logs? Couldn't we track this specific transport by looking for pattern matches?

SHAR

There'd be millions of separate records to check through. I don't think the *Defiant* has the computer processing power.

NOG

(grinning)

You'd be right, if we hadn't just completed six weeks of upgrades.

VAUGHN

Alright, gentlemen. Get to it.

Vaughn has been proudly watching these two young officers, barely a quarter his age, work through the problem. He leaves; Nog and Shar return to work, newly energised...

26 INT. CAVE SET - VERAD'S LAIR

Dax is still immobilised, a little more uncomfortable but still lucid. Verad prowls around, passionately preaching.

DAX

What have you got against the symbionts, all of a sudden? You used to want one so desperately, you were willing to kill for it.

VERAD

Ah, but that's what they want, isn't it? For us to worship them and do anything for them. Do you know what they really are, Ezri? They're vampires. They came here to control us, from the inside out. And we compete for the privilege of letting them do it.

DAX

I used to think that. But I was wrong. Sure, it was confusing at first, but I've come to understand it's an amazing opportunity. They don't mean us any harm.

VERAD

Yes, that's what they say. But have you noticed how they've insinuated themselves into all the important institutions, the highest offices?

DAX

They have the most experience.

VERAD

They're keeping the rest of us down.

DAX

So what, just 'cause you couldn't have a symbiont, now no-one can?

Verad is suddenly subtly different - not so fervent, more desperate. He is really trying to get through to Ezri...

VERAD

No! That's not what this is about. Don't you understand, I'm trying to help! They're winning, and I have to stop them!

She realises he is really scared, and it gives her pause. But then the first stomach cramp comes. She GRUNTS with the pain, and Verad snaps back to being intense and angry.

VERAD

I told you it wouldn't be long.

27 EXT. SPACE - DEFIANT

A moment of the *Defiant* in orbit of Trill to re-establish.

28 INT. CAVE SET - MAK'ALA

A different cave system, where the symbionts return to breed (as seen in 3x04 "Equilibrium"). Bashir and Bowers open the portable symbiont pod...

KERU - a male Guardian, bearded, physically imposing but personally gentle - lifts the KAHN symbiont out, and gently lowers it back into the water...

It slips in, wriggling down into the water. Keru sits by the edge of the pool, dangling his fingers into the water, just... *feeling*. Bashir and Bowers are mostly ignored...

KERU

Good. It knows where it is. It's still weak, but feeling better.

BASHIR

You can communicate with it?

Keru realises his rudeness and stands up. He wipes his hands dry, then shakes Bashir's and Bowers' in greeting.

KERU

Forgive me, Doctor. I am Ranul Keru. And yes, we Guardians are attuned to the needs and feelings of the symbionts under our care. We can't communicate directly, but we can get impressions, images.

BASHIR

Kahn might know who took Dax. Is there any way you can find out?

CYL (o.s.)

That might not be wise, Doctor.

They turn to see another older joined Trill male, armed, with grey hair and a severe black uniform, making his own way into the caves. This is TAULIN CYL, a high-ranking agent of the Trill Defence Force. Keru is not pleased.

KERU

I'd rather not have that weapon around the symbionts, General.

CYL

Under the circumstances - two prominent joined Trill kidnapped in a matter of hours, one of them dead - I think it's warranted.

(to the others)

General Taulin Cyl, Trill Defence.

BASHIR
Doctor Julian Bashir, USS *Defiant*.
(re Bowers)
Lieutenant Sam Bowers, our chief
tactical officer.

BOWERS
Do you have any leads, General?

CYL
We have some ideas about what's
going on here. But I don't believe
Mister Keru needs to bother a sick
symbiont for information.

KERU
Well, I will not stand by and
leave another symbiont in danger
if I can do anything about it.

Keru steps into the pool, SINKING waist deep. The others
gather - except Cyl, who remains stiff and disapproving.

After a moment, the symbiont bobs back up to the surface
and sends an ELECTRICAL DISCHARGE towards Keru's stomach.
He slips into a kind of trance, speaking Kahn's words.

KERU
... Cure... Must get cure...

BOWERS
Cure to what?

BASHIR
To whatever was stopping me from
reviving Lenara. Kahn must have
known she was dying.

KERU
... Hurts... Lenara. Dax. Make it
stop... make him stop...

BASHIR
(leaning close)
Make who stop? Kahn, if you can
hear me, who's hurting you?

KERU

... Verad.

Kahn breaks the link and Keru slumps, conscious but dazed. The other guardians help him out of the pool while Bashir reacts to the name. For Cyl, this confirms his theories.

BOWERS

Who's Verad?

BASHIR

An unjoined Trill who tried to steal the Dax symbiont from Jadzia six years ago. She almost died.

CYL

One of the worst crimes a Trill can commit.

BOWERS

What happened to him after that?

CYL

He was committed to Gheryzan, Lieutenant. A mental hospital.

(off Bashir's
surprise)

I know Federation science likes to think it has cured all the people's ills, but a significant number of Trill citizens still suffer from some brain disorders that don't respond to even the most advanced medicines.

KERU

Our neurochemistry is complicated by our ability to join.

CYL

It's not something we advertise.

BOWERS

So you're telling me this Verad has got Dax, and that he's insane?

CYL

Well, that's probably a matter of perspective. But I did hear he had a breakdown at one point, ended up on some experimental medication.

29 INT. CAVE SET - VERAD'S LAIR

Dax is now in considerable pain - Verad is still talking, not really paying attention to her...

VERAD

Have you ever heard of a man named Bethan Roa?

(no answer)

A doctor at Gheryzan hospital. Responsible for the mental health of his patients. He came up with an experimental drug for healing brain function. I was depressed... confused... so I became one of his subjects. And it worked. My mind, all of our minds rebounded to their youthful brilliance. But there was a side effect.

(pause for drama)

Joined subjects began to reject their symbionts. The connection was dissolving. And I saw my chance to free Trill of these tiny monsters once and for all.

He presents the hypospray to Ezri, and she understands that this is what he has done to her. She is rejecting Dax...

30 INT. CAVE SET - MAK'ALA

Cyl continues to explain to Bashir and Bowers...

CYL

Some unjoined Trill aren't happy about the high status habitually granted to joined Trill. A violent faction has recently sprung up seeking to change the situation. They call themselves Purists.

BOWERS

And you're saying that Verad is associated with these Purists?

CYL

Intelligence suggests he may even be their leader.

Bashir is fuming about this, when his combadge beeps...

VAUGHN (comm)

Defiant to away team.

BASHIR

Bashir here, Commander.

VAUGHN (comm)

Doctor, Lieutenant Nog and Ensign ch'Thane have pin-pointed the location the kidnappers took Dax. We're preparing an assault.

BASHIR

I want to be on the team, sir.

CYL

(speaking up)

Commander, this is General Cyl of Trill Defence. My soldiers and I would also like to be involved with this operation.

VAUGHN (comm)

Understood, General, and thank you. Please co-ordinate with Lieutenant Bowers. Prepare to beam up to *Defiant*, gentlemen.

Bashir and Bowers start gathering their stuff, but Keru pulls Bashir aside for a private moment...

KERU

Doctor. I wanted to let you know I understand how you feel. Three years ago, on the *Enterprise*, I lost someone too... Sean.

BASHIR
Was he your partner?

KERU
Yes. I've never had a symbiont,
but I was... joined to Sean. But
then he was assimilated by the
Borg, killed by his own crewmate
and left to burn up in Earth's
atmosphere. After that... I took
extended leave from Starfleet.
This seemed as good a place as any
to clear my head. To... recover.

BASHIR
(sensitively)
Before your next joining.

KERU
I suppose what I'm saying is, I
wouldn't want what happened to me
to happen to you. So I'll help any
way I can. Good luck.

31 INT. CAVE SET - VERAD'S LAIR

Dax is now crumpled to her knees on the floor, WRACKED with
pain. Verad removes the mind-scanner from her head and
turns away to the computer banks for a moment...

VERAD
You've been most helpful, Dax.
Thank you. You've earned a quick
death... no matter how much I'd
love to make you suffer.

He turns back to her, and he has a PHASER in his hand...

VERAD
Suffer the way I suffered when
they took you away from me, and
locked me in an asylum. All those
years, I wanted only one thing...
(aims phaser)
...to see you die by my hand.

Then a PHASER shot comes from off-side, hitting Jull. Verad turns to look, and sees about twenty officers, a mix of Starfleet and Trill security, taking up positions...

VERAD
Starfleet... right on time.

Bashir, Bowers, Shar, Cyl and others exchange FIRE with Verad's men. The Purists fight back, but Starfleet and Trill security quickly outnumber them and overrun them.

The firefight dies down and security rounds the Purists up, although Verad himself is noticeably not among them.

Bashir reaches a pained and semi-conscious Dax, rests her in his lap and checks her with a tricorder. He is filled with fear, relief, fury all mixed together...

DAX
Julian...

BASHIR
It's alright, Ezri, I've got you.
Save your strength.

DAX
Verad... you can't let him... The
symbionts, Julian... he wants to
kill them all.

And then she passes out. Off Julian's reaction, we...

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

32 EXT. SPACE - DEFIANT

Still in orbit of Trill...

VERAD (comm, v.o.)
To the people of Trill! We've
allowed ourselves to be enslaved
by an alien force...

33 INT. DEFIANT - MAIN BRIDGE

Vaughn sits in the centre chair, watching as Verad presents his pre-recorded rant over the viewscreen.

Behind them, Bowers and Shar enter the bridge and take their places at tactical and ops. Verad continues in the background as the crew talk over him...

VERAD (screen, b.g.)
...one that controls us not from
without, but from within our own
bodies! I have proof, my friends!
The Symbiosis Commission told us
only the chosen few could be
granted the "gift" of carrying a
worm inside them. But they lied,
any of us could have. The
commission chose only the weak-
willed, the collaborators, those
willing to harbour our masters
within them. But hours from now,
their reign will be over!

VAUGHN
Is Verad's transmission to the
planet fully blocked?

BOWERS
Yes, sir. It can only be seen
here, and in the office of the
Trill President.

SHAR

I've traced the signal, sir. It's coming from an old relay station. Verad could've triggered it from anywhere.

VAUGHN

Mute this.

The screen goes quiet, although Verad continues MOS...

BOWERS

He's going to be pretty steamed when he finds out we pulled the plug on his rant, sir.

VAUGHN

Let's hope that provoking him makes him careless.

Shar's console beeps - he checks it...

SHAR

Sir, you have an incoming message from the office of the President.

VAUGHN

In the ready room, please, Ensign.

Vaughn gets up to head to the captain's ready room...

34 INT. DEFIANT - SICKBAY

Dax is unconscious on a biobed with a full surgical arch as Bashir and Richter fuss around her. Next to them, ignored, Lenara's body still lies on another bed, draped in a sheet. Looking at a bio-display:

BASHIR

Kristen, look - I think this is what is stopping us from reviving Dax.

RICHTER

Those chemicals aren't native to Trill physiology, are they?

BASHIR

Definitely not. Anomalous enzyme and protein traces, endocrine levels going crazy... By the looks of this, whatever this is, it interferes with the natural neurotransmitters involved in symbiosis - it's making Ezri's immune system reject Dax as if it was foreign tissue. It would begin to work almost immediately.

RICHTER

That would explain the peritoneal inflammation in the symbiont pouch - is this what killed Kahn too?

BASHIR

It must be. Lenara rejected Kahn, then got left to freeze to death in the snow of the Tenaran Ice Cliffs for however many hours.

RICHTER

But that didn't happen to Dax. If we can find an antidote to these chemicals, we should be able to save her, right?

BASHIR

I'm damn sure gonna try.

35 INT. DEFIANT - READY ROOM

Vaughn is sat at the desk, speaking to Trill President MAZ on the screen. She is older, female, joined, iron-haired and iron-willed.

MAZ (screen)

I don't know if there's any truth to Verad's claims, Commander. I've summoned the Commission directors for a private hearing before the Trill Senate. Do you have any further information about Verad?

VAUGHN

Yes, Madam President. Verad's "revolution" turned out to have less than a dozen members, most of whom were easily captured during the raid on his base.

MAZ (screen)

That may be all he needs, Commander. In the last few minutes I've been receiving reports of joined Trill all over the planet suffering severe abdominal pains just like those your doctor described in Lieutenant Dax.

VAUGHN

I've spoken with Doctor Bashir, and he believes Verad was using a drug designed to make all Trill humanoids incapable of joining.

MAZ (screen)

If that's true, Commander, then this isn't just a small political uprising. This is the end of Trill society as we know it, and a death sentence for all joined Trill. I hereby authorise Starfleet to take whatever steps are necessary to apprehend Verad and fix whatever he's done to us. I'll put all our resources at your disposal.

VAUGHN

Understood, Madam President.

Maz signs off. Vaughn taps the comm again.

VAUGHN

Vaughn to Bowers. Contact General Cyl and organise a planet-wide manhunt. Find Verad - now.

BOWERS (comm)

Understood, sir.

VAUGHN
Vaughn to Bashir. Tell me something good, Doctor.

36 INT. DEFIANT - SICKBAY

As Bashir and Richter continue to work on Dax:

BASHIR
I wish I could, Commander. If I can't find a cure for Lieutenant Dax soon, the host body will reject the symbiont and die.

VAUGHN (comm)
It's bigger than that now, Doctor. Verad's done the same thing to the entire Trill population. We need that cure right now.

BASHIR
(sagging)
I'm trying, sir. Believe me.

VAUGHN (comm)
Try harder, Doctor. An entire planet is at stake. Vaughn out.

BASHIR
(exasperated)
No pressure. How the hell did he get to the entire population?

RICHTER
Maybe he slipped the drug into the water system, or something.

BASHIR
Well, if that's so, at least it means the concentration will be lower than the direct injection Dax and Kahn got. It should take effect slower too, so that gives us a bit more breathing room.

A loving look at Dax, still on the biobed next to the dead body of Lenara...

BASHIR

That doesn't help Dax, though.

37 EXT. SPACE - TRILL

Establishing, focusing on the seemingly quiet planet.

38 EXT. TRILL CITYSCAPE - DUSK

An alien Times Square at dusk, busy with people rushing to and fro, and brightly lit screens showing advertisements, news feeds, entertainments. Verad walks among the crowds, huddled into a big coat and hat so he can't be recognised.

Behind him we see a large public display screen, which features his face and the text, VERAD KALON: WANTED FOR MURDER, TERRORISM AND KIDNAPPING. ARMED AND DANGEROUS. IF YOU SEE THIS MAN, CONTACT SECURITY IMMEDIATELY.

He stops at a smaller public screen that is showing the latest news. Everyone else is too rushed with their own business to notice him. On the screen is a Trill news show.

NEWSREADER (screen)

The Symbiosis Commission is asking all joined Trill to stay calm, but to contact medical professionals as soon as possible. President Maz is preparing to address -

VERAD

(to self)

The "joined." The joke. And the unjoined... scurrying like good little servants to save their masters. The weak ones. Soon, they will be dead. Forgotten. Nothing more than a bad memory.

His own face and the earlier warning appears on the smaller screen; he huddles further into his coat and walks away.

He approaches a public transporter platform and hits a few buttons, but the screen says TRILL GLOBAL TRANSPORT NETWORK: SYSTEM OFFLINE. Annoyed, he keeps walking.

Nearby, a random Trill begins to clutch at her stomach as the cramps hit her. She looks around in panic as she realises what is happening. Verad smiles to himself...

39 INT. DEFIANT - SICKBAY

Still tensely inspecting screens and working panels...

BASHIR

It's no use. At this rate, the joined Trill will all be dead before we finish deciphering the drug's chemical structure.

RICHTER

Then we need another approach.

BASHIR

The only way we could produce a cure on a planetary scale in time would be if we already had the formula. Hold on...

Something occurs to him. In a rush of inspiration, he begins grabbing things and jamming them into a med kit.

BASHIR

Grab a field surgery kit, and pack two hypos of metra-provaline, one of lethozine and one of metrazine.

RICHTER

Where are we going?

BASHIR

To try a hunch. The Kahn symbiont said something when it was talking through that Guardian guy, Keru. It said, "Must get cure." I'm gambling it wasn't trying to find a cure... it was trying to tell us it already had one.

With that, he rushes out of sickbay. Still trying to catch up, Richter grabs the things he asked for and follows him.

40 INT. DEFIANT - CORRIDOR

Bashir hurries down the corridor towards the *Defiant's* transporter room, as Richter follows behind...

RICHTER

But, didn't you say the Guardians
could only get impressions from
the symbionts, not hard data?

BASHIR

That's right. That's why I'm going
to have to join with Kahn myself.

Off Bashir's determined expression...

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

41 INT. CAVE SET - MAK'ALA

Bashir is dressed in one of the Guardians' white robes, standing knee-deep in the symbiont pool. Richter is nearby with all the necessary medical equipment, while Keru and the other Guardians are gathered around, looking nervous.

KERU

It's not that we don't trust you,
Doctor Bashir, but there are Trill
physicians --

BASHIR

-- Who are almost all infected
with the drug already, which means
they can't link with the symbiont.
As a human, I'm immune.

KERU

(reluctantly)

Very well... we stand ready to
assist you in the joining.

RICHTER

The metra-provoline should be
taking effect by now. We should
get started.

A guardian steps into the pool and supports Bashir as he lies back into the water. Bashir's robe leaves an opening over the stomach. Richter leans over with a hypospray.

RICHTER

Applying local anaesthetic now.

BASHIR

You only need to make the incision
and monitor my vital signs. The
symbiont will do the rest.

Richter uses a small laser scalpel on Bashir's abdomen...

BASHIR

After implantation my pressure,
pulse and temperature will all
rise slightly, but --

RICHTER

Relax, Doctor. I have read Doctor
Crusher's paper on temporary non-
Trill hosts. I know the protocols.

Bashir steels himself. As Richter watches her tricorder,
Keru approaches, cradling the Kahn symbiont in his hands.
He brings it gently to Bashir's stomach and places it by
the slit in the skin. Slowly, it wriggles its way in...

42 EXT. TRILL CITYSCAPE - NIGHT

The streets have been cleared of people somewhat. Bowers
leads a troupe of Starfleet security armed with phaser
rifles, who guard the public transporter we saw earlier.

CYL (comm)

Cyl to Bowers. I'm still not
reading anything. Are you sure
Verad's here?

BOWERS

His last attempt to use the
transport network came from this
location, six minutes ago.

NEW ANGLE

Cyl is doing similarly, leading a troupe of armed TRILL
SECURITY through another section of the city, on the hunt
for Verad. The few public still around eye them warily...

BOWERS (comm)

As long as we keep this part of
the city locked down, he's got
nowhere to run.

CYL

No, but he's got plenty of places
to hide.

BACK ON BOWERS

CYL (comm)

Finding his genetic profile among
this many people might take hours.

BOWERS

(pressing buttons)

It might not. I'm switching to a
delta-channel isolation frequency.

CYL (comm)

I didn't know those protocols were
operational.

BOWERS

Well, Starfleet still has a few
tricks up its sleeve...

Bowers silently indicates that some of his security team
should stay at the transporter bay, while he leads the rest
forward, following his tricorder...

43 INT. DEFIANT - SICKBAY

Bashir and Richter are back in sickbay, working again.
Bashir reaches for an instrument off a shelf, but STUMBLES
and crashes against it. He is weak and uncoordinated, can't
quite clear his head. Richter rushes to help him up...

RICHTER

Doctor Bashir! Umm...

(unsure)

Doctor... Kahn?

His speech is gentler, has a slightly different rhythm, a
little spaced out...

BASHIR

It's alright, Kristen. I don't
quite know what to call myself
right now, either. The symbiont is
still weak from the death of its
last host. It was probably too
soon to implant it again.

RICHTER
Maybe this wasn't a good idea.

BASHIR
No, we need to do this. I know the
cure now, we need to get to work
on formulating it.

RICHTER
I still don't understand how you
found out the antidote to this
drug while you were lying dead in
a snow drift.

BASHIR
Verad told me.

FLASHBACK - VERAD'S LAIR

As Verad leans in towards Lenara, bound to the chair, and
whispers MOS into her ear...

BASHIR (v.o.)
He whispered it into my ear.

BACK TO SCENE

Bashir/Kahn is rather confused by all this as he remembers.

BASHIR
It was just a string of chemical
formulas. I was -- Lenara was a
subspace mechanics expert. It was
gibberish to her. But now I'm a
doctor, I understand it perfectly.

RICHTER
Then let's get to work on mass-
producing it so we can get Kahn
back where it belongs.

Bashir glances with worry over at Dax's unconscious form.

BASHIR
Yes... I just hope we're in time
to save Ezri.

44 EXT. TRILL CITYSCAPE - NIGHT

Bowers leads his team. He checks his tricorder - it beeps.

BOWERS
I've got something... There!

He looks up to see a FIGURE pulling back around a corner, as if it has been caught watching them. He begins to run.

BOWERS
Bowers to search teams! We've
found Verad! Follow my signal and
intercept.

As Bowers reaches the corner, the figure FIRES a phaser at him, just barely missing him. Vulcan security non-com SEVAK returns fire, but Verad manages to dodge out of the way.

Verad RUNS into a small crowd of people, SHOVING them out of the way as he tries to escape. Bowers and team chase...

BOWERS
Hold fire!
(to the crowd)
Get out of the way!

Verad SHOOTS at the Starfleet team, firing wildly, hitting one civilian Trill woman. She SCREAMS and goes down...

BOWERS
Sevak! Help her. The rest of us
are going after him.

Sevak rushes up help the Trill woman. He taps his combadge and speaks MOS as Bowers and the rest continue the chase.

As Verad turns another corner, more FIRE comes from above. He looks up to see Trill security SNIPERS on the rooftop, firing down at him. He just barely avoids their fire again.

Nearby, a Trill civilian is hiding from the firefight inside his vehicle, a high-tech hover-car.

Verad spots him, runs towards the car, yanks the gull-wing door open, DRAGS the terrified man out onto the street.

Throwing him to the ground, he jumps into the car, closes the door. It rises up and SPEEDS away.

Security FIRES on the car. It SWERVES away, knocking other cars and almost running over some people as it does...

45 INT. DEFIANT - SICKBAY

Bashir/Kahn leans in close to the unconscious Dax and injects her neck with a hypospray...

BASHIR

Hopefully, neutralising the drug
will allow the symbiont and host
to regenerate their connection.
Come on, Dax...

46 EXT. TRILL CITYSCAPE - NIGHT

Verad's car continues to SWERVE through traffic, hoping for escape. After a moment the traffic clears, and he sees...

Defiant's two shuttlecraft and an array of Trill Security vehicles hover in a line, forming a roadblock...

Bowers and Cyl are there too - they take aim and FIRE at the vehicle....

CLOSE ON VERAD as he sneers with anger and makes his decision. He will not be taken alive.

Verad DRIVES the vehicle straight forward, forcing Bowers and Cyl to DIVE out of the way...

...and drives the vehicle at top speed right into the wall of a nearby building, where it CRUNCHES and EXPLODES.

Inside the burning car, Verad is still alive. He struggles to get free, but his legs are trapped. He looks up...

...and CYL is approaching, ominous in his black uniform...

VERAD

It's over. I've already won.
Today, I'm the villain. But an
hour from now, I'll be a hero.

Cyl does not reply. He slips a WEAPON out from his sleeve. Small, silver, deadly looking. We have never seen one like it before, and we would recognise it if we saw it again. He POINTS it at Verad. The car continues to burn around him...

VERAD

Go on then, do it. It doesn't
matter anyway. Kill me.
(plaintively)
Please...

Cyl FIRES the weapon. It launches a small projectile, pointed at the tip, a serrated BLADE on either side...

It hits Verad right in the throat, CUTS through his neck, releases a small PHASER charge that pretty much obliterates the lower half of his head. It is extremely gruesome...

...but Cyl watches impassively. Finally Bowers RUNS up behind, catching up with Cyl, who calmly slips the spent weapon back into his sleeve before Bowers can spot it.

Bowers looks at the burning wreckage and the disfigured body with a grimace of revulsion...

BOWERS

Ohhh... what happened?

CYL

He was killed in the crash. The explosion must have caught him right in the face.

(turns to him)

Trill Security can handle the clean-up, Lieutenant. Please pass on my thanks to Commander Vaughn and your team for all your help. You've been of great service to Trill today.

BOWERS

Oh... yes, of course, you're welcome.

With a last wince at the mangled body, Bowers turns and walks back to his team in the distance.

Once he is out of earshot, Cyl taps his own comm device...

CYL

This is Cyl. It's taken care of.

COMM VOICE

Well done. Report back to base.

Signing off, he continues to stand guard over the wreckage.

47 INT. DEFIANT - SICKBAY

Ezri's eyes are just fluttering open as she begins to regain consciousness on the biobed. Julian is by her side, constantly checking her with various instruments...

DAX

Julian...? Whu...

BASHIR

Oh, thank the gods. Ezri... Dax...

He hugs her, even though she is probably too weak for it. This is doubly emotional for him - Julian loves Ezri, and Kahn loves Dax, and together they have just saved her life. Dax, on the other hand, is still too groggy to understand.

BASHIR

I'm so glad you're alright. We thought we'd lost you...

DAX

Lenara... she was in the snow. She was so cold... Is she okay?

Bashir pulls back, not wanting to tell her. Dax looks around and sees the shrouded body on the next bed...

DAX

Oh no... Lenara...

BASHIR

Dax, it's okay. I'm still here...

She looks at him closer, and begins to understand there is something different about him now...

DAX
What did you... Kahn?

BASHIR
It's me, Dax.

He smiles warmly. She is not so sure...

48 EXT. TRILL - CITYSCAPE

Bowers stands with his team as the wreckage burns in the background. He has his tricorder in one hand and taps his combadge with the other...

BOWERS
Bowers to Vaughn. Verad is dead, sir. He killed himself in a hover-car crash.

VAUGHN (comm)
You're certain, Lieutenant?

BOWERS
Yes, sir. I saw the body myself, and there are no transporter signals to indicate he faked it to cover an escape.

VAUGHN
Well, that's good.

Bowers continue to look around, just in case...

49 INT. DEFIANT - MAIN BRIDGE (INTERCUT)

Vaughn still in the centre seat, speaking into the comm...

VAUGHN (cont)
Unfortunately, the Trill Symbiosis Commission reports that more than three-quarters of the joined Trill population are showing signs of rejecting their symbionts. We're talking about genocide here.

50 **INT. DEFIANT - SICKBAY (INTERCUT)**

As Dax sits on the biobed, watching Julian uncertainly...

 VAUGHN (v.o., cont)
Doctor Bashir is working on the
antidote, but I don't know if
he'll have it completed in time.

51 **EXT. SPACE - DEFIANT**

The *Defiant* still in orbit of Trill...

 VAUGHN (v.o., cont)
We'll just have to hope that Verad
hasn't left any other surprises
behind for us.

FURTHER AWAY

Defiant and the planet are in the distance, and from the
outer edge of the Trill system, a dozen smaller VESSELS
approach. These are Trill's unmanned planetary defence
drones, armed to the teeth to defend the planet from
external attack, and they are heading right *for* the planet.

52 **POV SHOT - ATTACK DRONE**

We see space and the approaching Trill planet from the POV
of one of the drones. Computerised text says

TRILL DEFENCE PERIMETER DRONE 011
TARGET: USS DEFIANT
MISSION: DESTROY

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

53 EXT. SPACE - DEFIANT

Defiant is in the midst of a battle for its life against twelve Trill Defence Perimeter unmanned DRONES. Small and manoeuvrable, about a quarter the size of the *Defiant*, and they are swarming around her like angry buzzing bees...

54 INT. DEFIANT - MAIN BRIDGE (INTERCUT)

...as the ship ROCKS from a weapons impact. VAUGHN clings to his armrests and grits his teeth as TENMEI swerves the ship to avoid more. This fight is not going well...

VAUGHN
Reroute secondary impulse power,
cut all non-essential systems.
Helm, attack pattern Alpha Sierra.

Tenmei follows her orders without question...

55 EXT. SPACE - DEFIANT (INTERCUT)

Defiant surges to one side to avoid incoming fire...

...and hammers away with PULSE PHASERS at one drone until it gives and EXPLODES. One down, eleven to go...

56 INT. DEFIANT - MAIN BRIDGE (INTERCUT)

BASHIR and DAX enter, both unsteady on their feet - partly from the fight, partly that they are both physically weak.

DAX
Lieutenant Ezri Dax, ready for
duty, Captain.

VAUGHN
(no time to argue)
Take tactical, Lieutenant. And
welcome back. Doctor, take ops.

She unsteadily takes over from the ensign at tactical, immediately starts working the panels...

BASHIR

The antidote to Verad's drugs is ready too, sir.

VAUGHN

That would be wonderful news, Doctor, but as you can see, we're a little busy right now. Dammit, where did these things come from?

DAX

I'm afraid that's my fault, sir. Verad took control of the Trill Defence Perimeter using codes he... tortured out of me. It's the whole reason he kidnapped Kahn - to get to me and the codes.

VAUGHN

Not your fault at all, Lieutenant. But how did you know those codes in the first place?

DAX

Jadzia upgraded the drones during the war. Gave them the most sophisticated tactical A.I.'s she could come up with. But I've been trying to send the codes to disarm them, and it's not working.

VAUGHN

Vaughn to ch'Thane - we need to get control of these attack ships now, Ensign.

57 INT. CAVE SET - VERAD'S LAIR (INTERCUT)

SHAR is busy at the computer banks in the empty cavern...

SHAR

Understood, Captain. But Verad changed all the prefix codes and the command over-rides when he took control of the drones.

VAUGHN (comm)
Then look at the ships themselves.
What are their weaknesses?

SHAR
Checking, sir.

58 INT. DEFIANT - MAIN ENGINEERING (INTERCUT)

NOG and crew work as panels BLOW and smoke pours out...

NOG
Captain, Verad used multiphasic
harmonics to change the drones'
shield frequencies.

VAUGHN (comm)
I don't care if he sung them a
lullaby! How do we punch through?

NOG
Still working on that, sir. Give
me ten minutes.

59 INT. DEFIANT - MAIN BRIDGE (INTERCUT)

DAX
Quantum torpedoes, incoming!

VAUGHN
Evasive!
(the ship swerves)
Ten minutes, Mister Nog? You've --

NOG (comm)
-- got five, yessir.

VAUGHN
Make it two. And no extra points
for neatness.

60 EXT. SPACE - DEFIANT (INTERCUT)

Defiant FIRES, but the drone shrugs it off, swerves away,
FIRES back - and scores a heavy hit against the starship.

61 **INT. DEFIANT - MAIN BRIDGE (INTERCUT)**

SHAR (comm)
ch'Thane to *Defiant*! The attack
drones' shields are operating on a
multiphase frequency of thirty-
four-point-one nano-cochranes.

VAUGHN
Well done, Ensign.

DAX
Weapons ready, sir!

VAUGHN
(edge of seat)
Lock torpedoes, spread pattern
Oscar Kilo... fire when ready.

DAX
Aye sir.

62 **EXT. SPACE - DEFIANT (INTERCUT)**

The torpedoes scream out from the *Defiant* --

-- and score against all but four of the ships - they BLOW
spectacularly.

63 **INT. DEFIANT - MAIN BRIDGE (INTERCUT)**

The EXPLOSIONS brighten the bridge via the viewscreen...

DAX
Captain, four of the drones
slipped past us. They're heading
down to the planet's surface!

VAUGHN
Tenmei, follow those drones down
into the atmosphere. I won't let
them lay waste to the world they
were made to defend just because
of one madman!

64 **EXT. TRILL ATMOSPHERE - NIGHT**

The drones split up into two pairs, heading in opposite directions. *Defiant* ZOOMS down behind them like a hawk after prey, atmosphere FLARING around it...

65 **INT. DEFIANT - MAIN BRIDGE (INTERCUT)**

The ship SHUDDERS - *Defiant* is not designed for this...

DAX

One of the drones is locking onto
the city's main power plant!

VAUGHN

Intercept course! All power to
forward shields!

66 **POV SHOT - ATTACK DRONE (INTERCUT)**

A TARGETING SOLUTION over the image of a large building --

Then *Defiant* ZOOMS into its sights, blocking the target...

67 **EXT. TRILL ATMOSPHERE - NIGHT (INTERCUT)**

The drone FIRES at full force --

-- and *Defiant* takes the brunt on its front shields.
Defiant FIRES back with full phasers --

-- the drone EXPLODES, but *Defiant* is too close and gets
caught by the shockwave...

68 **INT. DEFIANT - MAIN BRIDGE (INTERCUT)**

A really hard hit - lots of stuff blows. Vaughn winces...

VAUGHN

I wish you hadn't made these
things quite so tough, Lieutenant.

DAX

Seemed like a good idea at the
time, sir.

TENMEI

Captain, the second drone's coming
around for another attack.

DAX

We've lost phasers. Should we
switch to torpedoes?

VAUGHN

Negative. Even one torpedo could
flatten this whole city. We can't
risk it. We have to lead it away
from the population. Helm, set
course for the Tenaran Ice Cliffs.

The drone FIRES at full force --

69 **EXT. TENARAN ICE CLIFFS - NIGHT**

The snowy scene we saw earlier. After a few moments of
peace, the visibly damaged *Defiant* SOARS into view over the
cliffs, trailing smoke -- followed quickly by the drone.

70 **INT. DEFIANT - MAIN BRIDGE**

Vaughn is back on the edge of his seat, as various smoky-
looking EXTRAS run around quelling console fires...

DAX

It's right on us!

VAUGHN

Braking thrusters, on my mark!
Three...two...one...
 (wait for it)
...mark! Pull up!

Determined, Tenmei presses the controls...

71 **EXT. TENARAN ICE CLIFFS - NIGHT (INTERCUT)**

Defiant's forward thrusters FIRE, it twists mid-air --

-- and the drone SLAMS right into the hull on the forward
starboard edge, EXPLODES against the ship's skin, and the
pieces tumble down against the cliffs to explode some more.

72 **INT. DEFIANT - MAIN BRIDGE (INTERCUT)**

A few more panel explosions as the ship protests...

 VAUGHN
Dax, do we have a lock on the last
two drones?

 DAX
Aye sir.

 VAUGHN
Helm, intercept, full impulse.

 TENMEI
Sir, we have multiple hull
breaches. At that velocity, the
atmospheric friction -

 VAUGHN
I'm aware of the risk, Ensign.
Engage.

73 **EXT. TENARAN ICE CLIFFS - NIGHT**

The last pair of drones are now running away from *Defiant*,
heading back to the city...

Defiant gets close to one of them, closer and closer...

74 **INT. DEFIANT - MAIN BRIDGE**

Tension, tension... Vaughn is all business.

 TENMEI
Fifteen seconds to intercept.

 VAUGHN
Stand by, stand by... Dive!

75 **EXT. TENARAN ICE CLIFFS - NIGHT (INTERCUT)**

Defiant dives -- and RAMS right into the drone, slicing
through the middle of it with the deflector's leading edge.
The pieces fall to the ground - *Defiant* surges back up.

76 **INT. DEFIANT - MAIN BRIDGE**

DAX

Captain, the last drone is on a direct course for Leran Manev - the capital city.

VAUGHN

Helm, pursue and overtake.

TENMEI

We're losing power, Captain, we might not -

VAUGHN

Ensign, do whatever you have to, but catch that drone. Now.

77 **EXT. TRILL CITYSCAPE - NIGHT**

Bowers and his team look up as the drone streaks through the sky over the city, followed closely by the *Defiant*...

78 **INT. DEFIANT - MAIN BRIDGE**

VAUGHN

Lock tractor beam. I don't want it getting away from us.

DAX

Tractor beam locked.

79 **EXT. TRILL CITYSCAPE - NIGHT**

Snaring the drone in a TRACTOR... *Defiant* drags it away from the city to a mostly empty area on its edge...

VAUGHN (v.o.)

Ensign Tenmei, take us down. Hard.

The *Defiant* suddenly dips, PUSHing the drone down with the tractor beam --

-- until it SLAMS hard into the ground and EXPLODES.

80 **INT. DEFIANT - MAIN BRIDGE**

Sighs of relief all round - they won.

 DAX
I'd say it felt that, sir.

 VAUGHN
So would I, Lieutenant. Helm, take
us back into orbit.

 TENMEI
Aye, sir.

Tenmei enters the commands, then turns to Vaughn with a spontaneous GRIN at a job well done. He smiles back warmly.

Then she suddenly remembers she is supposed to hate him. Her face drops, and she coldly turns back to her console.

His hopes dashed, Vaughn sags some more...

81 **EXT. SPACE - TRILL ORBIT**

Re-establishing, as the *Defiant* recovers from its injuries in space. DEBRIS from the defence drones floats nearby...

 VAUGHN (v.o.)
Captain's log, stardate 53181.9.
The antidote to Verad's drugs
created by Doctor Bashir - with a
little help from Kahn - is being
distributed at all Trill medical
facilities. The *Defiant* performed
admirably after the recent round
of refits. It's just a shame we'll
have to do half of them again now.
Meanwhile, President Maz assures
me that her society is on the road
to recovery.

82 **INT. DEFIANT - READY ROOM**

As before, Vaughn sits at the desk, talking to a frazzled-looking Trill President MAZ on the screen...

MAZ (screen)

My gratitude for everything you and your crew have done for Trill, Commander. Although it's something of a mixed blessing that *Defiant* was able to destroy all twelve drones single-handedly. We'll have to be sure to make them tougher next time. Not to mention with more secure computer protocols.

VAUGHN

Indeed. Starfleet is sending ships to patrol the system until you get the perimeter back online. *Defiant* will remain in orbit until then.

MAZ (screen)

You've given a great deal already, Commander. But I'm afraid I must also ask for your discretion as to the reason behind today's events. I do not want Verad's accusations heard across the Federation.

VAUGHN

Agreed - it's an internal Trill matter, and it's not my news to reveal. But if I may say... Verad may have been an extreme case, but he was not the only member of Trill society who felt the way he did. I hope his resentments aren't held by more of your people... or else the damage he inflicted will seem small by comparison.

She is not exactly pleased to have that pointed out.

MAZ (screen)

I hope Lieutenant Dax recovers well. Good day, Commander.

And she signs off, leaving him not convinced anything is going to change.

Bashir and Dax sit awkwardly - he wants to be close to her, but he can tell she is still a bit freaked by the fact that her ex-wife is inside her current boyfriend...

DAX

There's a lot of things don't add up. Why would Verad inject you with the drug, but then tell you the antidote? Why would he say he was trying to save all hosts from the symbionts, but then make the defence drones attack the planet so they'd kill everyone? Why run so hard from the security teams, only to kill himself in a car crash? None of it makes sense.

(beat)

And when he was holding me, he changed for a second, and he was really scared of something. It's like he was two different people, working under conflicting agendas.

BASHIR

Well, he had been in a mental hospital, after all.

DAX

I guess. Speaking of two different people... how are you?

BASHIR

I'm okay. But... I think I understand now.

DAX

Understand what?

BASHIR

You. What it's like... to be you. How confusing it all is. I mean... I remember loving you when I was Nilani Kahn... and you were a man.

(more)

BASHIR (cont)

And Julian Bashir loves you as you are now. But... it's the same you. In a way, I've been Torias too. You remember Jadzia's *zhian'tara*? I took on Torias's consciousness? So... I remember how much he loved Nilani too. And I remember sitting there at dinner, watching Jadzia and... myself reminiscing about their former hosts. It's a very strange sensation to see the same conversation from two different angles at the same time.

Dax stands to approach him, reassured by his confusion and new understanding. He has a shy smile...

BASHIR

So I'm sorry. And I agree. Love can be damned annoying. But I'm never going to let it come between us again.

With a smile, she embraces him, and they KISS tenderly...

84 INT. CAVE SET - MAK'ALA

Back at the caves, Guardian Keru gently places the Kahn symbiont back into the pools. Nearby, a weakened Bashir (in the white robe) and proud Dax (in uniform) hold hands as they watch it swim away into the depths...

FADE OUT:

THE END