

STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE

11x17 - "Whistleblower."

Screenplay by Martyn Dunn

Based on characters from the series

Star Trek: Deep Space Nine

and from the post-finale novels
by Pocket Books

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 INT. DS9 - MAIN OPS CENTRE

Open upon Major CENN at the central Ops table. It's a normal day, and he's working as normal. NOG is at the engineering station, CANDLEWOOD at sciences, BOWERS at tactical, extras elsewhere.

NOG

If I ever suggest going to that place again, you have permission to shoot me on the spot.

CANDLEWOOD

Oh come on, Nog. It can't have been that bad.

NOG

Oh you think so? Would you want to spend four hours being lectured by a two-hundred year old Vulcan on the relative merits of wild or domesticated *sehlat* milk? I swear it was the worst party I've ever been to. I would rather die than go through that again.

CANDLEWOOD

So... that would make it a fête worse than death?

Nog grabs a padd off the side and makes as if to throw it at Candlewood's head. Candlewood ducks. Cenn smiles at the capering, but as the senior officer on duty...

CENN

Alright, fellas. Settle down.

An ALERT comes in on Cenn's panels. He reads it, frowns in worry. Then he touches another control.

CENN

Commander, could you come out
here, please?

After a moment, the office door opens and RO strides out.

RO
What's going on, Major?

CENN
There's an incoming signal from
General Lenaris - he wants to
speak to both of us.

RO
(shrug)
Okay. Put him on screen.

Ro joins Cenn at the central table. Cenn works his panels,
and the main viewscreen changes to show an image of Bajoran
Militia General LENARIS, looking grave.

RO
General, what can we do for you?

LENARIS (screen)
Ah, Commander, Major. Good. Have
you seen the news today?

RO
Not yet. Why?

LENARIS (screen)
Watch this.

Lenaris works some controls at his end, and the image on
screen changes to a NEWS BROADCAST, featuring regular
reporter TIANA FEEN (last seen 10x21 "Into the Fire").

Tiana is improvising, hastily coming up with a report on
the fly for a developing situation.

TIANA (screen)
And we're still receiving reports
of violence on the streets of the
capital in response to this news.

2 **ON SCREEN**

The image changes to scenes of Bajoran civilians rioting on the streets, as Bajoran Militia and Starfleet officers work together to keep them under control. We're up close with them, camera shaking as the cameraman is buffeted about.

 TIANA (v.o.)

 We're receiving these live images
 now from Teris Juze and Lamerat
 Anjen, who are on the ground in
 Ashalla. Teris, can you hear me?

3 **RO and CENN**

 watching this, stunned...

 RO

 What the hell is going on?

4 **ON SCREEN**

The camera image moves around, finding field reporter TERIS JUZE looking a little battered but determined.

 TERIS

 Tiana! The crowds here in Ashalla
 have doubled in the last hour. At
 least. As you can see, the Militia
 and Starfleet are working together
 to try to get it under control,
 but they are heavily outnumbered.

 TIANA (o.s.)

 And what are the people saying?
 Can you hear them?

 TERIS

 It's a little -
 (buffeted by protestor)
 - a little confused and scattered,
 but the general consensus seems to
 be demands for a response from the
 government and the Militia as to
 whether the leaked information is

true, and fury at both, on the assumption that it is true.

5 **RO and CENN**

Ro looks disturbed. She glances to Cenn...

RO
"Leaked information"?

On the screen, the image returns to the news studio.

TIANA (screen)
Thanks, Teris. Stay safe.
(beat)
If you're just joining us, the top story is that classified military data has been released onto the Bajoran comnet by as-yet-unknown parties - data that reveals the existence of a ship belonging to the race known as the Ascendants, currently being held in Starfleet protection on Derna.

As Ro's jaw drops with horror, the screen changes to a still image of RAIQ, taken by some enterprising amateur cameraman. Tiana's narration continues...

TIANA (v.o.)
The Ascendant woman Raiq is currently residing on Bajor at Janir monastery...

The image changes to a stock of Vedek YEVIR.

TIANA (cont)
...the residence of Vedek Yevir Linjarin, of the Oralian Way.

The image returns to the studio...

TIANA (screen)
So far there has been no official response from either the First

Minister or the Militia to these
startling accusations -

The image cuts suddenly, returning us to General Lenaris,
looking more like thunder than ever.

LENARIS (screen)
It seems that your secret is out,
Commander.

RO
Crap. How? Who did this?

CENN
The newsreader said it was 'as yet
unknown'...

LENARIS (screen)
Thankfully, Major, our own techs
are somewhat more skilled in
tracking electronic signatures
than the media's. Naturally we
haven't told them what we know.

RO
Then you do know?

LENARIS (screen)
Oh, yes. He was good, I'll give
him that. But we're better.

As Ro wonders what that means...

6 INT. DS9 - QUARK'S BAR

The news and its response have not reached here. In Quark's
it's a perfectly pleasant afternoon with a normal crowd.

QUARK himself is on the open side of the bar, comfortably
schmoozing an ALIEN customer.

QUARK
Well, you know what I always say.
If you can't do the time, you
really should have done a better
job of hiding what you were up to.

The alien nods sadly.

EVIK (o.s.)

Quark.

Quark turns towards the main entrance, where EVIK, Bowers, Cenn and Ro are all entering together. Several security officers are with them. Quark doesn't know why they're here, but a small army of armed officers can't be good.

QUARK

Lieutenant Commander Evik. Can I get you a drink?

EVIK

Not right now, Ambassador. Right now... we have a job to do.

QUARK

Really.

There's an awkward pause. Evik looks disappointed. Bowers looks professional. Cenn looks nauseous. Ro looks *pissed*.

EVIK

Ambassador Quark. Under Starfleet code article 36-Beta, subsection seventeen, you are under arrest for the unauthorised release of classified data to the public.

Quark takes this calmly - he knew they'd be coming for him. Meanwhile, the crowd in the bar goes quiet, listening in. TREIR emerges from the edges to watch - unhappily.

QUARK

I'm impressed. I didn't think I'd left any traces, but I guess I'm just not as good as I thought. Unluckily for you, as the Ferengi Ambassador, I enjoy diplomatic immunity from prosecution. So I'm afraid you won't be arresting anyone today, Commander.

(beat)

Now if you'd like a drink, I'll be
happy to oblige.

Ro steps forward - her fury is blistering. Quark sees it,
and is sad for it.

RO

I don't care. You have broken the
law for the last time, Quark. You
have betrayed my trust. Mister
Evik, Mister Bowers... on my
authority you may consider the
Ambassador's diplomatic immunity
rescinded. Arrest him. Now.

The junior security officers draw their weapons. Evik and
Bowers step forward and grab Quark by the arms. Quark
stands his ground, refusing to be intimidated. Keeping his
dignity, Quark allows himself to be marched out of the bar
and towards the security cells.

The crowd have all seen this happen in broad daylight. Cenn
still looks like he could vomit. Ro is incandescent with
fury. She turns to Treir...

RO

The bar is yours. Congratulations.

Ro turns and stomps out of the bar, following the others.
Treir is left dumbfounded...

FADE OUT:

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

7 INT. DS9 - COMMANDER'S OFFICE

Ro SLAMS her hand down on the desk, the padd it carries clattering against the surface. She's standing, looming over the desk comm screen, and still blazing angry.

RO

Now you listen to me. I will answer questions about this when I'm damn well ready to answer questions about it. And it's gonna take more than some hopped up little bureaucrat to make me be ready. Do you understand?

ON SCREEN

A BAJORAN functionary is bristling at Ro's tone.

BAJORAN (screen)

This request comes directly from the office of the First Minister. You are required to -

RO

I don't care who it comes from. Until the First Minister herself turns up on this station, I'm not saying a word.

BAJORAN (screen)

Commander Ro, this is a direct order from -

RO

And you're done.

Ro STABS the comm panel, cutting the signal, then turns and HURLS the padd in her hand against the wall with a SMASH.

She looks up, and sees Cenn has just entered the room from Ops, and seen her tantrum.

RO

What?

CENN

You know, it might be wise to be a bit more respectful to the government. For your own sake.

RO

I don't respect them.

CENN

It's called diplomacy.

RO

It's called lying. What do you want, anyway?

Cenn steps in the room, brings up the padd in his own hand.

CENN

I've been fielding calls all morning from angry people all around the station. "Why did you keep the ship? Why didn't you tell us? Why do you think you can arrest an ambassador?"

RO

What have you been telling them?

CENN

That I understand their concerns and that we're looking into it. Otherwise known as "nothing".

RO

What does it even say? What was the information that he released? Have you seen it?

CENN

I have. It's quite narrowly focused. He wasn't just uploading

indiscriminately. It was very specifically about Axno's ship.

RO

But why? Why would Quark care? And how did he even get access to that information? Everyone involved knows how sensitive this was. I can't see any of them being that careless.

CENN

Neither can I. But it's all there - the fact that we've had the ship since the initial incident with Axno, that we kept it on Empok Nor at first, then moved it to Derna, and that we've been conducting scientific research on it.

Ro slumps against the wall, looking up to the ceiling.

RO

Why would he do this to me?

CENN

You'd have to ask him.

Ro looks to him... and nods. That's exactly what she'll do.

8 INT. DS9 - SECURITY CELLS

Quark sits on the bench, behind a forcefield in one of the cells. He accepts his lot - which is not to say he's happy.

QUARK

I bet you're feeling very...
"disappointed" right now, aren't
you, Commander?

Reveal that he's talking to Lt Cmdr Evik.

EVIK

Well, I wouldn't say I'm happy,
exactly.

QUARK

You know who would be really happy
right now? Odo.

EVIK

You think so?

QUARK

Are you kidding me? There was
nothing he dreamed of more, in his
little bucket, than getting me in
one of these cells and leaving me
here. He'd be in here right now
gloating, saying how he always
knew I'd come to a bad end. Then
he'd grunt and strut off like he
was High Sheriff of Smugtown.

(beat)

At least if I do come to a bad
end, it'll be for a good reason.

RO (o.s.)

You think this was a good thing?

Evik and Quark both turn, and see that Ro has been hovering
in the doorway, out of sight. Quark stays calm.

QUARK

Yes. Yes, I do.

RO

Commander Evik. Would you mind?

EVIK

I'm... not certain that's a good
idea, Commander.

RO

(cold smile)

I didn't ask. Get out.

Reluctantly, Evik does as he's told, and turns to leave.
Quark chuckles sadly.

QUARK

No witnesses, right? You better keep those life-sign sensors on.

Evik leaves, his expression suggesting that yes, maybe he should. Once he's gone, Ro steps closer to Quark.

RO
You think this is a joke, Quark?

QUARK
Not for a second.

RO
Do you have any idea what you've done?

QUARK
I told the public what they had a right to know. What their military is up to behind their backs.

RO
You've let out highly classified information. You've started riots all over Bajor, and outside that door right now. Who gave you the information?

QUARK
I don't reveal my sources.

RO
Oh yes you do.

QUARK
You're gonna torture it out of me?

RO
If I have to. Who gave you the information, Quark?

QUARK
That's Ambassador Quark to you.

RO

You're not the ambassador in here.
In here, you're nobody.

QUARK

Do you really think you've got the
upper hand here, Laren? The moral
high ground?

RO

You broke the law, Quark!

QUARK

You broke the trust of the entire
Bajoran people. Keeping dangerous
alien technology. Experimenting on
it. Putting every life on Bajor
and this station at risk. And then
when somebody calls you out on it,
you break the diplomatic immunity
between two sovereign governments
and illegally hold a prisoner
without charge. It's not looking
good for you, Laren.

Frustrated, Ro turns away, paces round the room. After a
moment to gather her wits, she turns back to him.

RO

Why? Why did you do this?

QUARK

I told you. Because the people
deserved to know.

Ro shakes her head in disgust, refusing to believe that.
Then she turns and leaves. Quark watches her go, sadly
pondering his options.

9 INT. DS9 - SECURITY OFFICE

Ro re-enters the security office, where Evik stands. He has
clearly been watching their conversation on the screens. Ro
sneers as she makes to walk on past.

RO

Watch him.

EVIK
I'm watching everything.

Ro pauses, turns back at the insinuation in Evik's voice.

RO
I beg your pardon?

EVIK
Anyone being accused of a crime
has the right to a fair trial. You
don't seem willing to extend that
courtesy to Mister Quark.

RO
You're new. You don't know him
like I do.

EVIK
True, I haven't been here very
long... but he has. Longer than
any other resident of the station,
if I'm not mistaken. I seriously
doubt he'd do anything to harm the
people who've given him a home and
a career for almost twenty years.

RO
(astonished)
Are you defending him?

EVIK
I'm simply trying to keep an open
mind. If I may be blunt,
Commander, you're emotionally
compromised here, due to your
relationship with the prisoner.

RO
We don't have a "relationship".

EVIK
The vehemence of your reaction
suggests otherwise. I suggest you

leave further interactions with
Quark to those less... invested.

RO

I spent months arguing over that
damn ship with Vaughn, Bashir,
Kira, Cenn... everyone. And then
Quark comes in and pulls the whole
thing out from under me. How would
you feel?

CENN (comm)

Cenn to Commander Ro.

RO

Go ahead, Major.

CENN (comm)

We've just received a top priority
message from Ferenginar. From the
office of the Grand Nagus himself.

RO

I guess I'm not surprised. What
does it say?

CENN (comm)

That they have already lodged an
official complaint with both the
Bajoran government and Starfleet
Command. Also that the Nagus is
outraged at the illegal treatment
of the ambassador, and that if he
is not released, they are prepared
to break off diplomatic relations
entirely and withdraw all Ferengi
citizens from Federation space.

RO

(scoff)

Is that supposed to be a threat?

CENN (comm)

Perhaps not. But what definitely
is a threat are the three *D'Kora*-
class Marauders on their way here

now, with orders to secure Quark's
release... by force if necessary.

Off Ro and Evik's reaction to that...

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

10 EXT. DEEP SPACE NINE

A Bajoran shuttle docks at the station...

11 INT. DS9 - DOCKING RING CORRIDOR

The airlock cycles open, and KIRA steps out. Ro and Cenn are there to greet her. Cenn is looking pale and sickly. As they talk, other passengers disembark from the shuttle, many giving dirty side-eye to all three of our characters.

RO

Nerys.

KIRA

Commander, Major.

CENN

How are things on Bajor?

KIRA

Not good. We're pretty isolated in Janir, thank the Prophets. But I'm hearing stories of angry protests from all over the planet.

RO

Yeah. We're hearing the same stories here.

CENN

I've already had to break up two fights on the Promenade. Some people are calling Quark a hero of the people... others a traitor.

KIRA

(deep breath)

That's why I'm here. Yevir came to me. He said that the kai requested

me specifically, to come here and handle this.

RO

A simple novice?

KIRA

A novice who's worked with all the people involved... and who knows because she's been there herself.

LEDAHN (o.s.)

I look forward to hearing the Vedek Assembly's position.

They turn, and see that Bajoran politician LEDAHN (last seen 10x07 "Instinct") is one of the last passengers off the shuttle. They're all surprised to see him.

RO

Second Minister Ledahn. I didn't realise you were on board.

LEDAHN

I was able to secure a private cabin. It's not exactly safe to be a politician in public right now.

Cenn blanches even further. This is all getting worse.

LEDAHN

I think it's best we not talk in a corridor, Commander. Shall we?

RO

Lead the way, Major.

Nodding, Cenn haltingly leads them off down the corridor.

12 **INT. DS9 - SECURITY CELLS**

Quark still sits in his cell. Evik sits in a chair opposite the cell, holding a padd, speaking calmly and patiently.

QUARK

You can ask me the same question over and over as often as you like, Commander. You'll get the same answer.

EVIK

It's important that you tell us how you got the information, Quark. So far as we know, only a very small number of people had access to it. So you knowing implies a leak in our security.

QUARK

That's your problem, not mine.

EVIK

And you didn't consider coming to me or to Commander Ro, rather than going straight to the public?

QUARK

Work within the system, you mean? The system doesn't work. How are you supposed to report something that's wrong to the people who are responsible for doing it?

EVIK

What exactly have we done that's so wrong?

QUARK

Really? Starfleet is supposed to protect the people. But you've put them at risk. I have ears. I know it only takes one Ascendant ship and one pilot to destroy an entire star system. And that's exactly what you've got.

EVIK

Raiq hasn't been anywhere near the ship, at least not when she was conscious. It's under extremely heavy security.

QUARK

You shouldn't have it in the first place. You should have destroyed it. Ro should have destroyed it.

EVIK

That's not your decision to make.

QUARK

If the population can't keep their leaders honest and hold them to account... who can, Mister Evik?

13 INT. DS9 - COMMANDER'S OFFICE

Ro, Kira, Cenn and Ledahn. All on their feet, although Cenn stands somewhat apart, less confrontational than the rest.

LEDAHN

We demand that the ambassador be turned over to us for questioning.

RO

On what grounds?

LEDAHN

What he has done affects Bajor.

RO

It wasn't Bajor's secrets he let out. It was Starfleet's. He's staying here.

CENN

He's being questioned right now. We'll share what we learn.

LEDAHN

(snide)

You'll forgive me if my confidence in that has been shaken, Major.

KIRA

The Vedek Assembly agrees with the Ferengi government that the

ambassador should be released immediately. And I agree too.

RO

What?!

KIRA

Ro, Quark hasn't done anything wrong. Against the rules, maybe. But that's not the same thing.

RO

I can't believe you of all people are defending Quark.

KIRA

Yeah, that used to be your thing. But I think you're punishing him unfairly. And the Kai agrees.

CENN

(flustered)

Look, it's... is it really so bad? Maybe the public should know.

KIRA

Exactly. They can handle it. You underestimate them if you think they can't.

RO

It's not about whether the people can handle knowing we've got an Ascendant ship!

LEDAHN

I rather think it is. If I can't even tell people where I'm going for fear of being attacked, then clearly this was a bad idea.

RO

(dismissive)

So get a bodyguard or something.

As the raised voices continue from inside the office, Nog and Candlewood get on with their work in Ops.

CANDLEWOOD
You're awfully quiet.

NOG
(tight)
I've got nothing to say.

CANDLEWOOD
Your uncle has just pulled off the biggest classified information heist in decades. That demands some kind of reaction from you.

NOG
He broke the law. He's in jail.
That's all I need to know.

Candlewood gets up from his station, walks across to Nog (passing the office doors through which we can still hear the muffled arguments), and leans against Nog's console.

CANDLEWOOD
Nog, he's your family. You should at least talk to him.

NOG
I told you. I have nothing to say.
Don't ask me again, John.

As Nog turns back to his console, with the shouting voices still going in the background...

15 INT. DS9 - HABITAT RING CORRIDOR

Ro stomps along the corridor, still in a very bad mood. She turns a corner, THUMPS the wall in unfocused anger on her way past, and keeps on going.

She passes a turbolift entrance. Just after, the turbolift arrives and the doors open. Treir emerges, calls after her.

TREIR

Commander! Can I talk to you?

Ro pauses, grits her teeth. Really not in the mood for this. But she makes an effort to be pleasant and receptive.

RO

Treir. What can I do for you?

TREIR

You can let Quark go.

RO

(turns to leave)

Goodbye, Treir.

TREIR

Don't walk away from me! You will talk to me, dammit!

Ro turns back to Treir, looms threateningly.

RO

Who the hell do you think you are?

TREIR

I don't think - I know - that I'm not one of your officers, and you can't boss me around. And I know why you're doing this.

RO

(derisive)

Are you gonna tell me I'm secretly in love with him? That this is a spat between lovers and if I could just let my scorned woman heart go then I'd see he was right along?

TREIR

Or you're afraid he's the scorned one who did it to get back at you.

RO

He doesn't care about me. He's proven that.

TREIR

Oh yes he does. But this was never about you.

RO

(grabs Treir)

Did you know about this? Did you know he was going to do this?

TREIR

(shakes free)

No. But I know Quark. Better than you do sometimes, I think. And this was not about you. This was about right and wrong.

RO

And Quark is the one in the wrong.

TREIR

I don't think you'd be so angry if you really believed that, Laren.

RO

Treir, I'm going to say this very clearly. I have had enough. I don't care how many people plead or beg or demand. Quark is staying where he is. Goodbye.

Ro turns away again and continues to stomp off down the corridor. Treir watches her go, and makes a decision.

16 INT. DS9 - SECURITY CELLS

Quark is still sat in his cell, quite calm. He looks around at the walls of his cell, at the forcefield in front of him and at the bare, unpopulated room beyond. He sighs.

QUARK

You really got yourself into it this time, Quark. Mother would be so proud.

TREIR

Not as proud as I am.

Treir has appeared in the doorway from the office.

QUARK

How did you get in here? I thought
I wasn't allowed any visitors.

TREIR

I convinced Lieutenant Commander
Evik that I needed to ask you
something about running the bar.

QUARK

You better not have left that
idiot Grimp in charge.

TREIR

I think we have more important
things to worry about than that
right now, don't you? Like how to
get you out of here.

QUARK

Treir, there is no getting me out
of here.

TREIR

Yes there is. Because I'm gonna
break you out.

Off Quark's reaction to that...

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

17 INT. DS9 - SECURITY CELLS

Picking up exactly where we left off.

QUARK

What are you talking about?

TREIR

I can talk to Major Cenn. He's crazy about me. If I work on him just right, I'm sure I can get him to loosen the locks on your cage.

QUARK

(amused)

And then what?

TREIR

And then I sneak you out of here, get you off the station, and...

QUARK

And what?

Treir hesitates. This is a big thing for her.

TREIR

And then I talk to the Orion Syndicate and get them to take care of you.

QUARK

The Orion Syndicate?! Oh Treir, there are so many things wrong with that plan...

TREIR

I know they're not the most trustworthy people, but -

QUARK

Plus they hate me, plus they want to make you a slave -

TREIR

I know all that. But you stood up for me when I needed it. I wanna return the favour.

QUARK

Treir... I appreciate the offer. Really. But no. I am not going to the Orion Syndicate. You are not breaking me out of here. And you are certainly not seducing Major Cenn to do it. He's a good guy, he doesn't deserve that.

TREIR

You don't have to be a martyr, Quark. You've got people out there right now fighting for you.

QUARK

(touched)

Really? That's sweet.

TREIR

And you've also got three Ferengi Marauders coming in with their weapons charged any minute now.

QUARK

I'm not running, Treir. I did this, and now I'm going to face the consequences.

Quark sits back in his cell, resolute.

18 EXT. DEEP SPACE NINE

One at a time, three Ferengi Marauder vessels drop out of warp and approach the station.

CENN (v.o.)

(shaky)

First Officer's log, Major Cenn
Desca reporting. The Ferengi
cruisers *Kreechta*, *Togram* and
Flibb's Folly have just arrived.

The three ships take up positions surrounding the station
in an unambiguously threatening posture.

CENN (v.o., cont)

This has gone so much further than
I expected. If we end up going to
war over this... I don't know what
I'm supposed to do here.

19 INT. DS9 - WARD ROOM

The doors open and DAIMON GROB (last seen on screen in
10x08 "Property Values") struts proudly in. The diminutive
Ferengi holds himself tall as he can, wearing a fur-lined
uniform as in early TNG, energy-whip coiled at his side.

Out in the corridor, two armed Ferengi security officers
cringe at the dark architecture and suspiciously eye the
two Starfleet security also standing there. The door closes
on them, and Ro, Kira, Cenn and Ledahn rise to greet him.

RO

Daimon Grob, welcome to Deep Space
Nine. Allow me to present Second
Minister Ledahn, Novice Kira -

GROB

Where is the ambassador?

CENN

(tense)

He's being held for questioning.
If you'd like to see him, that can
be arranged.

GROB

I would like to see him freed. I
have orders from the Grand Nagus
himself to ensure the ambassador's
freedom... or else.

RO

Let me be clear about something,
Daimon. Threats are not going to
work. You don't scare me.

GROB

I'm wearing fur, aren't I? Of
course you're scared of me! And I
will not be talked down to by
clothed females.

RO

One more comment like that, and
you'll be wearing your fur on the
inside, Daimon.

Kira and Ledahn smirk. Cenn gulps nervously.

RO

Now if you'll take a seat, I'm
prepared to talk about this. But
if you're just going to bluster,
we can leave right now.

Grob seethes quietly to himself... but begrudgingly sits
down. Ro, Cenn, Kira and Ledahn do the same.

20 INT. DS9 - QUARK'S BAR

Nog is sat at the bar, eating his lunch, as business goes
on around him. The atmosphere is quiet, as they all discuss
recent events in hushed, worried tones.

Treir steps up to Nog from her place behind the bar.

TREIR

I'm disappointed in you, Nog.

NOG

(surprised)

Why, what did I do?

TREIR

You abandoned your family. People
who've never even met him are

fighting to defend his name, and
you haven't even been to see him.

NOG

Treir, this really isn't any of
your business.

TREIR

You know what I don't understand?
How come I, who have done nothing
but fight with the son of a slorg
since the day I got here, am the
only one who seems to give a damn.

NOG

You think I don't care? I care a
lot. I'm embarrassed. I'm ashamed
of him. I don't wanna see him. I
don't wanna talk to him. He
disgusts me.

Nog throws down his fork onto the plate, leaving his food
half finished. Then he stands, turns and stomps across the
bar and out onto the Promenade.

21 INT. DS9 - PROMENADE (CONTINUOUS)

Exiting the bar, Nog catches sight of the security office
doors. He pauses, torn by indecision. What will he do?

22 INT. DS9 - SECURITY OFFICE

Evik returns from the cells, stopping in surprise to find
Nog standing in the office, watching his uncle on screen.

EVIK

Plucking up the courage?

NOG

Trying not to reach for a phaser.

Evik steps aside; with a nod, Nog walks past to the cells.

23 INT. DS9 - SECURITY CELLS

Nog enters the cells area, seeing Quark sat across from him. Quark looks up, smiles in muted relief. But Nog has nothing but scorn for him.

NOG

I always knew you were a criminal.

QUARK

Nice to know I'm appreciated.

NOG

How much did you get paid, uncle?
How much money does it take for you to spit on the organisation I've dedicated my life to? On the people who've protected you, who let you get away with all your little schemes over the years? Huh? How much, uncle, to send an entire planet's society to hell?

QUARK

(chuckle)

At least you've inherited my flair for the dramatic, if nothing else. I'm surprised at you, Nog. You're the one who always says money isn't everything.

NOG

And I believe that. But you -

QUARK

Then you should be happy! I've finally lived up to all your hopes and dreams. I didn't take a single slip of latinum for this. Not one.

NOG

I don't believe you.

QUARK

Check my accounts if you want. I have nothing to hide. I received the information, I read through it, I decided that the public had

a right to know that the people charged with protecting them are actually putting them in danger, so I passed it on. Simple as that.

NOG

Who gave you the information?

QUARK

Okay, I guess I do have one thing to hide. You know a businessman never reveals his contacts.

NOG

He does if you pay him enough.

QUARK

We already established it's not about the money. I'm not getting any reward for this, Nog. Actually I'm making a substantial loss. I stand to lose my business, my reputation, even my freedom. But you know what? It was worth it.

Nog is dumbfounded. This is so unlike Quark, and yet it seems to be true. Nog doesn't know what to believe...

24 **ON SCREEN**

A small personal screen. It shows the NEWS FEED, where Bajoran civilians continue to riot in the streets. Militia and Starfleet officers work together to control them.

TIANA (v.o.)

The Vedek Assembly has come out in support of Ambassador Quark, calling him "a scapegoat and the victim of a monstrous miscarriage of justice".

25 **INT. DS9 - CENN'S QUARTERS**

Now we see that Cenn is watching, in the dark, alone in his quarters. He looks absolutely stricken, horrified.

TIANA (screen)

The First Minister's office has said they will make a complete review of the evidence against the ambassador before deciding how to proceed.

Cenn turns away from the screen and rushes to his bathroom.

We stay with Cenn; Tiana's voiceover continues over the background sounds of rioting Bajorans.

TIANA (v.o.)

General Lenaris has admitted that he was aware of the existence of the Ascendant vessel, but was under instructions from Starfleet not to reveal it. And Commander Ro of Deep Space Nine has refused to comment, despite several requests.

In his bathroom, Cenn lurches to the sink and VOMITS hard, belly twisting and skin sweating. He retches and coughs, wracked with sobs of revulsion. Stay on him. No flinching.

TIANA (v.o.)

Meanwhile, the protests continue. And while Militia and Starfleet are ostensibly working together to quell them, there are unconfirmed reports that Militia are in fact turning on Starfleet, blaming them for having caused this crisis.

Cenn drags himself upright and stares in the mirror. He looks awful - sweating, dark circles, hair unkempt.

TIANA (v.o.)

Dozens of injuries have been reported, and there are rumours of at least one death in the fighting outside the Starfleet recruitment offices in Musilla province...

Off Cenn's stricken face in the mirror...

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

26 INT. DS9 - COMMANDER'S OFFICE

Appearing on Ro's desk screen is the one and only Admiral JANEWAY. Ro sits in the command chair, on edge but forced to control it in front of her superior officer.

JANEWAY (screen)

You're risking a major diplomatic incident with this, Commander. You cannot imprison a duly appointed envoy from a foreign state.

RO

I understand the rules, Admiral. But the ambassador is our only lead in a major security breach. We need answers, and he's the only one who can give them to us.

JANEWAY (screen)

I do appreciate your frustration. But you'll have to find another way. Starfleet is coming under enormous pressure from the Ferengi to resolve this - now. I'm going to have to order you to release the ambassador. He is to be freed and back on sovereign Ferengi soil within the hour. Understood?

RO

Understood, admiral.

JANEWAY (screen)

Good. Command out.

Ro's screen returns to the standard Federation banner. Ro hisses in frustration. Then she looks up as the doors open - Novice Kira is entering.

RO

Oh, goodie. I was just looking for someone else to yell at me.

KIRA

I haven't come to yell, Laren. But I do have to wonder what the hell you think you're doing.

RO

Look, Nerys - you've said it many times. This isn't your problem anymore. So just let me handle it my own way, will you?

KIRA

You're right, I have no control over what you do. But I can try to make you see sense.

RO

Really? Are you seriously telling me you wouldn't have come down on Quark like a ton of bricks if he'd done this when you were in charge?

KIRA

Probably. But then Sisko or Vaughn or somebody would have come down on me like a ton of bricks, and I'd have realised it was wrong.

RO

Oh, don't talk to me about Vaughn. This is all his fault. He got me into this mess.

KIRA

Maybe. But you're the one who's gotta get out of it.

RO

Exactly - me. Not you, not Vaughn, not the politicians, not some admiral at Starfleet Command, not some sexist pig Ferengi captain.

Me. So let me do what I need to do, and this'll all be over.

Ro gets up and stomps out of the office, leaving Kira.

27 **INT. DS9 - SECURITY CELLS**

Ro walks into the cells area, Cenn and Evik close behind. Quark looks up in confusion - this feels like development.

RO
Mister Evik. I have been ordered by Starfleet Command to release the ambassador within the hour.

EVIK
Understood, Commander.

RO
An hour gives me just enough time to ask a few last questions. Make sure no-one interrupts us, please.

Evik hesitates. Ro gives him a stern look.

RO
That's an order, Commander.

EVIK
Aye, sir.

Exchanging a frown with Cenn, Evik retreats back to the security office. Cenn looks no better than he did before. Staring Quark down, Ro doesn't blink.

RO
Computer, disengage security and life-sign sensors within cell block one, and restrict access. Authorisation Ro Laren, commanding officer, seven-J-four-two-red.

COMPUTER
Authorisation confirmed. Sensors disengaged, access restricted.

CENN

Commander, what are you -

RO

Mister Cenn, please release the
ambassador from his cell.

Confused, Cenn moves slowly to do as he's told. He presses the controls, and the forcefield drops. Meanwhile, Ro grabs a chair, places it in the centre of the room, then moves to a locker on the wall. Quark stands, getting worried.

QUARK

Are you actually going to do this,
Laren? To me?

RO

You've given me no choice, Quark.

CENN

Why, what are you -

QUARK

Come on, Major. You're a Bajoran.
Don't you recognise a Cardassian
torture chamber when you see one?

CENN

W-w-what? No, Commander, you -

RO

I need to know who your contact
was, Quark. It's a matter of
national security. Take a seat.

QUARK

Make me.

RO

If you insist. Major, please bring
Quark to the chair.

CENN

But, sir -

RO

Do it.

Hardly able to believe what's happening, Cenn moves in a daze to grab Quark by the arm. Quark struggles. Cenn weakens. But at a renewed glare from Ro, he grabs Quark again and drags him to the chair in the middle of the room.

Cenn forces Quark into the seat, then stands back. Quark is starting to get genuinely worried now. Ro steps forward.

RO

Thank you, Major. Good to know I can depend on someone.

Cenn blanches in horror. Ro brings out a set of Starfleet handcuffs, moves behind Quark and locks them around his wrists behind the chair.

QUARK

Okay, Laren. Ha ha. The joke's gone far enough now.

RO

(stone faced)

Witness my laughter, Quark.

Ro moves back to the locker and begins picking through its contents. Cenn watches, beginning to sweat. Quark struggles against his bonds.

QUARK

Laren... if you do this, you're going to have to live with yourself afterwards.

RO

I already live with worse.

Ro turns around, holding two hyposprays and walks ominously back towards Quark.

RO

Now. Here's a little trick they don't teach you at the academy. But hiding in caves, fighting Cardassians and Jem'Hadar, you

learn a thing or two. One hypo of morphenolog, standard painkiller, no side effects. But one hypo of morphenelog plus one hypo of dalaphaline - what a fascinating combination.

Quark struggles again against his handcuffs. Cenn seems rooted to the spot.

QUARK

Don't you dare do this.

RO

Who gave you the information, Quark? I need to know.

QUARK

You behave like this, I'm not telling you anything ever again.

RO

I'm not kidding, Quark. Once these drugs get into your system, you'll feel like you're burning alive from the inside out. You'll beg to tell me everything you know.

QUARK

Major, do something!

RO

As you were, Major. You can make this all stop right now, Quark, if you just tell me who your contact was. Who gave you the information.

QUARK

You don't deserve to know!

With shocking suddenness, Ro PUNCHES Quark across the face. Quark SHOUTS in pain; Cenn YELPS in surprise.

CENN

Commander, you have to stop -

RO

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

CENN

But that's no reason to do this.

QUARK

(desperate)

Yes! No reason! No reason at all!
Laren, look, let's talk about
this, come to some arrangement.

RO

No arrangements, Quark. I've made
my last arrangement with you. Now
tell me who your contact was, or
I'll make you tell me.

Quark begins to SQUEAL at the top of his voice, that
supremely irritating sound only a Ferengi can manage.

QUARK

Heeeelp! Heeeelp! Heeeelp!

Ro PUNCHES him again, and he stops shrieking, starts crying
and moaning instead, his face swelling and bruised.

RO

Shut up! I only want to hear one
thing from you Quark, and that's a
name. Tell me now.

QUARK

I don't know!

RO

I don't believe you.

QUARK

It's true, I don't know!

RO

Fine. You wanna do this the hard
way, that's fine with me.

Ro lifts the hyposprays. Cenn surges forwards, grabs Ro, tries to pull her away.

CENN
Commander, no!

Ro SHOVES Cenn away - he staggers back across the room.

QUARK
I don't know who it was! They never told me their name! It was anonymous! It just appeared on my comm system one day!

RO
Don't lie to me, Quark.

QUARK
I'm not lying! I can't tell you because I don't know!

CENN
Stop it! Stop it!

RO
Tell me their name, Quark.

CENN
It was me!

Ro stops, turns to Cenn. Cenn is collapsed against the wall half in tears, face ashen, looking like death. He looks back at Ro and Quark, both staring at him in confusion.

CENN
It was me, alright? It was me!

RO
What was you?

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

As Ro gawps in amazement, Cenn crumples against the wall...

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

28 INT. DS9 - SECURITY CELLS

Picking up where we left off again. Cenn leans against the wall, wracked with shudders and pants. Quark slumps in his chair, his hands still bound behind him. Ro gawps in shock.

Slowly, she turns away, takes a few steps, places the hypos down on a table as she tries to process this. She can't look either of them in the face right now.

RO

You.

(shakes head)

...You?

CENN

General Lenaris ordered me to do it. To find a way to get the data out there... without it looking like it was us.

RO

So you used Quark? Set him up to take the fall?

CENN

No! No-one was supposed to know. I gave it to Quark... I thought he would pass it on to somebody else. I never thought they'd trace it back to him.

QUARK

(slurry)

Thanks for the confidence.

CENN

This all got so far out of hand... But this makes it okay, right? If I own up to this... then that makes it an internal Bajoran

matter. The diplomatic crisis with
the Ferengi goes away.

Ro finally turns to him.

RO

It makes it okay? Yeah, sure! It
just means that instead of my best
friend betraying me, it was my
first officer instead.

CENN

But -

RO

Does it make it okay that Quark
still let out classified data, no
matter where he got it from? Does
it make it okay that I arrested an
ambassador and held him without
charge? Does it make it okay that
there have been deaths on the
street because of this? Or that I
was about to...

She can't even finish that.

QUARK

Can I say something?

RO

Oh god, Quark...

Ro rushes to free Quark's hands. Unbound, he gingerly
touches his face, winces at the bruises and swelling.

QUARK

This doesn't change anything. It
was still the right thing to do.

RO

How can you say that?

QUARK

You were still wrong, Laren. You
shouldn't have kept this secret.

Whoever told it, the people had a right to know.

RO
But look what's happened.

QUARK
Because of the secrets. Not because of the truth.

Ro sags against a table. She looks at Quark slumped in his seat, beaten and bruised. She looks at Cenn, crying softly against the wall.

RO
What do we do now?

No-one has any answers.

29 **INT. DS9 - SECURITY OFFICE**

Evik sits in his chair, unhappy about things. He looks up as he sees BASHIR approaching in a hurry, carrying a med kit. The door opens and Bashir enters. (Outside on the Promenade, a bit of a crowd has gathered).

EVIK
Doctor?

The door from the cells opens and Ro steps through.

RO
Julian. In here.

Bashir quickly follows Ro back into the cells. Curious, Evik follows too.

30 **INT. DS9 - SECURITY CELLS**

Ro, Bashir and Evik re-enter the cells area, finding Quark standing, Cenn helping him. Bashir rushes to Quark, begins to inspect his face. He throws a sour look at Ro.

BASHIR
Is it even worth me asking what went on in here?

Ro doesn't answer. Evik is very much not happy either. Bashir just does his work, mending Quark's face.

31 INT. DS9 - PROMENADE

The security office doors open, and Quark emerges, to a ROAR of applause and cheers from the gathered crowd. Treir is there, cheering and clapping at the front of the crowd. Kira, Ledahn and Daimon Grob are also there, in various emotional states. (Security bodies keep everyone in line.)

Quark stands in the doorway of security, looking fully healed, no sign of his injuries. He raises his hands in thanks to his supporters. Ro, Bashir and Evik stand grimly behind him. Cenn is nowhere to be seen.

Quark moves off into the crowd, letting them adore him. As she exits the office, Ro catches eyes with Treir. Treir nods her thanks to Ro. Ro looks away awkwardly.

32 EXT. DEEP SPACE NINE

The three Ferengi Marauders slowly turn and leave the area. The Bajoran shuttle also detaches and moves away.

33 INT. DS9 - COMMANDER'S OFFICE

Ro is sat at her desk, talking again into the comm screen, which now features General Lenaris.

RO
You know, General, if you hated me
this much, you could have just
said so. Cenn told me it all.

On screen, Lenaris takes a deep breath and centres himself.

LENARIS (screen)
Prophets save me from officers
with persecution complexes.

RO
I beg your pardon?

LENARIS (screen)

This was not personal, Commander. At least, not in so much that I wouldn't have taken this action regardless of whose wrong-headed decision this was.

RO

I gave you that information as a sign of good faith. And you just stomped all over my good faith like it meant nothing to you.

LENARIS (screen)

Good faith does mean nothing, Commander, when it's including me in something so corrupt. You have put the lives I protect at risk. And I have no problem embarrassing Starfleet publicly because of it.

RO

While you look like the victim. So now what? I'm supposed to throw myself on my sword, beg for mercy?

LENARIS (screen)

You're supposed to get rid of the ship, Commander, before it gets rid of us.

RO

It's a source of vital tactical and technological information.

LENARIS (screen)

It's a death machine. And now everyone - everyone - knows where to find it. You have no choice.

RO

(cold smile)

Don't underestimate me, General.

LENARIS (screen)

Is that a threat, Commander?

RO

(shrug)

I just think that if the public were so eager to know my secrets, I'm sure they'd be fascinated by yours as well.

LENARIS (screen)

Mutually assured destruction, then.

RO

It's what it's all about, General.

Ro stabs the comm panel, cutting the signal. She sits for a moment, ponders. Then she hits the comm button again.

RO

Major Cenn to my office please.

CENN (comm)

On my way, Commander.

Ro stands and gazes out of the window behind her desk. After a moment, the door opens and Cenn enters the office. He keeps it tight and controlled, no idea how this will go.

CENN

Major Cenn, reporting as ordered.

RO

(still not looking)

Thank you, Major.

There's a pause. Cenn wonders if he should say something.

RO

I've spoken to Lenaris. I've think we've both agreed that this will go no further.

CENN

Do you want my resignation, sir?

RO

I thought about it. But of the two of us, you're the only one who was actually following orders. So no.

(turns to him)

But I do want your honesty. You'll get mine in return. The Militia and Starfleet can't be working at odds like this.

CENN

I'm gradually coming to the same conclusion, Commander.

RO

I haven't told the crew. They all think it was just Quark, and he got away with it because he's the ambassador. So your secret's safe.

CENN

I appreciate that, sir. May I ask - what about the ship?

RO

I'm having it moved again as we speak. A whole new hiding place.

CENN

Can I know where?

RO

Can I trust you to know?

As we await Cenn's answer to that...

34 INT. DS9 - QUARK'S QUARTERS

The tissue regenerator is in Quark's hand, and he casts it slowly and gingerly across his cheek. He's in his pyjamas, and alone. The DOOR CHIME sounds.

Afraid he knows who it is, he hesitates. But then he places down the regenerator on a table and goes to answer it.

The door opens - it's Ro. She waits, cautious.

RO

Hi, Quark. Can I come in?

Quark almost says no. But eventually he steps aside. She enters, fidgety, not sure what to say now she's here.

Quark returns to pick up the tissue regenerator, sits on the couch, resumes passing it over his cheek.

QUARK

What do you want?

RO

I thought Bashir fixed you.

QUARK

That was just cosmetic. So I could look good for my public. It's still bruised underneath.

He winces as the regenerator goes over a particularly sore spot. Ro rushes to him...

RO

Let me?

Reluctantly, he lets her take the regenerator. She sits beside him on the couch and begins gently healing him.

RO

I don't know what to say, Quark.

QUARK

Neither do I. It's not something that happens every day.

RO

I'm still mad at you for going behind my back.

(off Quark's
reaction)

I know, I know. You have more reason to be mad at me.

Quark settles back down, lets her run the regenerator.

RO

The protests are dying down, now
that you're out of jail.

QUARK

These things always blow over.
There'll be another next big thing
soon enough, and then everyone's
attention will be on that.

RO

I guess so. Kira's gone too. And
Ledahn. And Grob.

QUARK

I'm gonna have some explaining to
do to Rom.

RO

Me too. I've agreed to go on BNN
and be interviewed. Prophets only
know what I'm going to say.

QUARK

I can help you prepare for it, if
you want.

A long pause as Ro continues to heal Quark's wounds.

RO

Thanks, Quark. That would be good.

Leaving on that...

FADE OUT:

END OF SHOW