

STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE

9x22 - "Back to Life."

Screenplay by Martyn Dunn

Based on the novel

Star Trek: Deep Space Nine: Fearful Symmetry

by Olivia Woods

NOTE: This episode features three different versions of Kira Nerys. For clarity, we will refer to them as follows:

KIRA - Captain Kira Nerys of Starfleet, currently on Deep Space Nine, trying to figure out what's going on.

ILIANA - Our Universe's version of Iliana Ghemor. Born Cardassian but surgically altered to appear Bajoran. She was then imprisoned as the toy of Gul Dukat.

GHEMOR - The Mirror Universe's version of Iliana Ghemor. Previously known as simply the Cardassian Woman. Currently on Deep Space Nine and under investigation.

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. DEEP SPACE NINE

Establishing shot of the station at rest...

2 INT. DS9 - VAUGHN'S QUARTERS

Last seen 8x14 "Twilight." VAUGHN sits on his couch, glass of Capellan grosz in his hand. Uniform jacket is off, cast messily across the back of the couch. Quiet classical-style MUSIC plays. Downtrodden, his thoughts far away.

CHIME - surprised, Vaughn puts down his glass, silences the music. Gets up, goes to the door. It opens to reveal --

-- SISKO, in civilian dress. He looks unsure, awkward, uncomfortable to be here...

VAUGHN

Captain - this is a surprise. Is everything alright?

SISKO

Sorry to disturb you, Commander.
May I come in?

VAUGHN

Of course.

Vaughn steps aside for Sisko to enter. Sisko walks around, searching for a way to start the conversation...

VAUGHN

Can I offer you a drink?

SISKO

Whatever you're having is fine.

Sisko stops at an object in Vaughn's room - a GUITAR. He picks it up from its support, admires it.

Vaughn grabs a second glass, pours some *grosz* into it, hands the glass to Sisko, raises his own...

VAUGHN

Ad astra.

Sisko smiles, clinks the glasses together, and sips...

SISKO

(re guitar)

Hand-crafted or replicated?

VAUGHN

Replicated, unfortunately. It's not an instrument you hear much of these days, and real ones are hard to come by. Most of them are in private collections.

(a sip)

What's your instrument?

SISKO

Piano. My father has one, back on Earth. I grew up with it.

(a sip)

How long have you played?

VAUGHN

Nearly twenty-five years, on and off. I took it up not long after Prynn was born. Whenever I could make it home, I'd play it for her. Nothing serious, just a few songs she seemed to enjoy.

SISKO

How is Prynn?

VAUGHN

She's recovered, thank you for asking. No lasting injuries.

SISKO

I'm glad to hear it. I read her report on what she went through. You should be proud of her.

VAUGHN

I am, sir. Thank you.

Vaughn turns and sits back on the couch, inviting Sisko to do the same. Sisko sits opposite him. It's obvious Sisko is here for more than small talk, but Vaughn is not going to pressure him. He'll get to it when he gets to it...

SISKO

Elias, you know that I'm still on temporary leave from Starfleet, so what I'm about to say can't be viewed as an order. Nevertheless, I've become aware of an aspect of our current situation that needs to be dealt with, and I'm here to ask you to see the matter through.

VAUGHN

I'd be more than happy to help any way I can, Captain, but I guess you haven't heard the news. I've been relieved of duty.

SISKO

I heard. How are you handling it?

Vaughn gazes back into his drink - quiet, pensive...

VAUGHN

It's given me plenty of time to think. And what I can't seem to get out of my mind... is that fight I had with Doctor Girani.

Sisko gives a questioning look... Vaughn explains...

VAUGHN

I was putting off my annual exam because I didn't want to hear how I was another year older, another year weaker. I didn't want to deal with the possibility - the very likely possibility - that I'm getting too old for running around the galaxy chasing bad guys. That has been my identity for so long, I couldn't face giving it up.

Sisko sits back, sips his drink, lets Vaughn talk...

VAUGHN

But after Kira relieved me, and after sitting here thinking about why, I can't help but wonder if that time has finally arrived. Maybe I am a liability. Only it wasn't my body that gave up on me... it was my heart. My emotions, my love for Prynn...

SISKO

Elias...

Vaughn looks up, encouraged that Sisko's being informal...

SISKO

(continuing)

You never need to apologise for loving your family. And I know things are... strained right now. But your captain is going to need you soon, whether she realises it or not. This... thing with the alternate universe is coming to a head, and however it plays out between you and Kira, eventually she's going to decide that making another crossover is unavoidable. When that happens, you need to be ready to act.

Vaughn blinks, not sure he understands what's going on...

SISKO

Obviously, this isn't an official assignment. It's off the record, extremely sensitive, and risky... and it requires a leap of faith on your part. You should therefore consider it completely voluntary.

Vaughn takes a deep breath, a sip of his drink. He decides he trusts Sisko, and he will do whatever he asks. More than that, it is a chance to be useful, to be needed...

VAUGHN

What do you need me to do?

As Sisko plucks up the courage to tell him...

BLACK OUT:

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

3 INT. DS9 - QUARK'S BAR

A PADD shows the faces of the four main mercenaries caught at Harkoum - the Efrosian, the Romulan, the Lissepian, and the Kressari. Each image has official information with it.

Major CENN is reading the padd, sat at the bar. He sighs with frustration - his investigation is not getting very far. Tries to concentrate, gazing at the images...

Then the padd is SNATCHED out of his hand --

CENN

Hey!

Cenn looks up - and sees QUARK reading his padd intently, just out of reach behind the bar...

CENN

Who in fire do you think you are?

QUARK

I'm Quark! Your host, proprietor and official Ferengi ambassador to Bajor. Welcome to my establishment, Major Cenn Desca.

CENN

You know who I am?

QUARK

Always know your customers before they walk in the door. So, you're looking into these mercenaries, right? How's it going?

CENN

I can't discuss it. Give me back the padd, Quark.

Cenn tries to snatch the padd back - Quark calmly side-steps and keeps reading...

QUARK

Don't worry about it, Lieutenant
Ro loves me. I heard most of them
were transferred to Bajor this
morning. These ones you kept hold
of must be very interesting...

Getting angry now, Cenn leans across the bar and GRABS
Quark by the lapels...

QUARK

Hey, easy on the material. Jackets
like this don't come cheap.

CENN

Give me back the padd, now.

QUARK

Alright, alright. Here you go.

Quark hands the padd back - Cenn snatches it, angrily gets
off his stool, prepares to leave. Quark turns to his comm
panel, slots in an isolinear rod, presses buttons...

CENN

And you can cancel my order.

QUARK

No refunds. House rules.

CENN

...Fine. Take my thumb scan so I
can get out of here.

QUARK

No need. As much as I hate it, the
first round is always on the house.

CENN

Then why did you --

QUARK

Because I needed another moment to
show you this.

Quark takes the rod out of the panel, hands it to Cenn...

Cenn is wary and confused... but at Quark's urging, he takes the rod, slots it into his padd. The screen fills with new information... and Cenn's jaw drops...

QUARK

You were having trouble finding anything to connect those four mercenaries, weren't you? Well, there it is.

CENN

(amazed)

They were all at Letau prison. How did you do this? The Cardassians weren't able to tell me anything.

QUARK

Yeah, that's a shock. They're so organised these days. It's a wonder Laren is able to get as much out of Gul Macet as she does. Lucky for you, I still have a few contacts in a little known Cardassian records office. And in my experience, people like this...

(re padd)

...usually meet in prison.

Cenn is speechless, poring over the new information. He retakes his stool just as a server brings his drink...

QUARK

Looks like it's too late to cancel your order.

CENN

No problem. Thank you, Quark. I mean that. I owe you one.

QUARK

(big grin)

I'm so glad we got off on the right foot.

CUT TO:

4 INT. LETAU CELL

ILIANA (as Kira), lies asleep on the thin cot. She is older now, having been here many years. She is lean and thin, her hair shorter. Her sleep is fitful, rolling back and forth, her eyes twitching with dreams. CLOSING IN on her face...

5 SERIES OF SCENES

A hazy, dreamlike effect falls over everything, memories fading across each other...

-- Kira Taban dying on the floor of the cave, as his daughter Nerys sits nearby (5x19)

TABAN
Nerys, don't leave me...

KIRA
I'll make them pay for this, I
promise.

-- Dukat hovers ominously over Iliana, unfastening (9x21)

DUKAT
I know exactly who you are...
-- Tekeny Ghemor delivering the bad news to Iliana (9x21)

TEKENY
News came from Bajor this morning.

6 BACK TO SCENE

As Iliana-as-Kira's eyes continue to flutter in her sleep, and her body jerks with the memories...

7 SERIES OF SCENES

-- Dukat entering her cell on a different day. An older Cardassian man, ROKAI, opens the cell forcefield for him. Iliana struggles as Dukat approaches, but he injects her neck with a hypospray until she becomes more pliant...

DUKAT
I can't tell you how much I've
missed you...

-- Entek watching her as she kills the Bajoran (9x21)

ENTEK

Are you really so ashamed of the
person you were? Is there nothing
left of her in you?

-- Kira's friend Furel, after a successful mission (5x19)

FUREL

At least fifteen Cardassians dead.
Now that's not a bad day's work,
eh? We should celebrate!

KIRA

Yeah, they kill us, we kill them.
It's nothing worth celebrating.

-- Dukat STORMS into the cell in an absolute fury. He grabs
Iliana by her thin prison fatigues and YANKS her up to his
face. She doesn't resist, just flops like a rag doll...

DUKAT

It isn't over! Do you understand
me?! I won't allow it!

He THROWS her against the wall - she just goes with it, as
if her body is empty of a mind. Dukat barely notices...

DUKAT

Let them think they've won. Let
them take my station, drive me off
their soil, go crawling to their
insipid Federation. Let them think
Cardassia is ready to make peace.
They'll all learn how wrong they
were to underestimate me!

Suddenly, she raises her eyes, making contact with him...

ILIANA-as-KIRA

Bad day, Dukat?

He is taken by surprise - she breaks free and SLAMS him in
the nose. He stumbles back, and she LAUNCHES off the cot.
But suddenly Rokai is there with a hypospray...

While she sags to the floor, drugged, Rokai helps Dukat...

DUKAT

You'll pay for that, I promise...

ILIANA-as-KIRA

(re Rokai, sneering)

You'll always need help to extract
that payment, though, won't you?

8 **BACK TO SCENE**

Iliana still jerks in her sleep...

9 **SERIES OF SCENES**

-- Back with Kira and her dying father (5x19)

TABAN

I can hear the Prophets calling
me. I can feel my *pagh* slipping
away...

-- as Rokai closes the forcefield behind him, Dukat walks
into the cell - in his Bajoran disguise as Anjohl (7x18)...

DUKAT

Look at us - we're a perfect match.

She SHRIEKS with renewed disgust... he GRABS her, injects
her again. She sags, and he begins to undress...

DUKAT

I may not see you for a little
while, Nerys, so I wanted to make
sure we had a proper goodbye...

-- Entek leaning over her in the medical suite (9x21)

ENTEK

Iliana... I'm going to miss you.

10 **BACK TO SCENE**

...and Iliana JERKS awake from her horrible dream. Pants
until the panic wears off, as she remembers where she is.

Gets up, sits on the bed, looks around. Stands, jumps up to hold on to an exposed PIPE in the ceiling - and YANKS herself up on it, doing a series of pull-ups.

Then the whole room RUMBLES - she drops to the floor. Lies there as dust drifts down, weak bulb flickering...

...then she feels the big one coming, and scrambles to hide under her thin metal cot. Just in time...

...because the room SHAKES - a distant but huge explosion. Cracks appear in the stone walls, pieces fall from the ceiling, and the entire room is plunged into DARKNESS.

Finally, silence. Iliana pokes her head out from under the bed, coughs from the dust, tries to see what happened. The door forcefield is gone. Dim orange lighting snaps on...

COMPUTER (comm)
Warning. Main power failure in
cell blocks three and four.
Emergency lockdown systems
unresponsive. Security personnel
to riot positions.

Iliana crawls out, HEAVES fallen debris out of the way, steps gingerly over others. She finds the metal PIPE again in the rubble, grabs it, hefts it - it'll do for a weapon.

Not sure what she will find, she creeps towards the open doorway. She pokes her head round the corner, sees nothing. She steps out fully, and looks down the corridor...

11 **INT. LETAU CORRIDORS (CONTINUOUS)**

...and it is nothing but a long corridor stretching into the distance. No other doors, no other prisoners, nothing. Just her and the dark, empty stone. Off she goes...

At the end of it, Iliana reaches two doors - one for an elevator like on DS9, the other a heavy security door with a retinal scanner. Which one would get her out of here?

She presses for the elevator - to her surprise, a GRIND of machinery suggests it is actually working. She hefts her weapon, takes a defensive stance, just in case...

On her face as a memory comes...

QUICK FLASH

-- Iliana brandishing the metal pipe as she fights Dakhana

BACK TO SCENE

She frowns - where did that come from? It makes no sense.

The doors open. Nobody inside. She steps in...

12 INT. LETAU OPS CENTRE

A central control room, like in 3x09 "Defiant". Half the screens are dead, others show views from around the prison - fires, prisoners rioting, Cardassian soldiers shooting.

Alone with back turned, ROKAI dashes back and forth between panels, trying to keep things under control, frustrated...

VOICE (comm)
Dal Rokai, come in!

ROKAI
(taps wrist comm)
This is Rokai - report.

VOICE (comm)
Total loss of containment, sir.
We've killed at least a hundred
prisoners, but some have managed
to overwhelm our people and
they're arming themselves. You
have to send us help!

ROKAI
There's no-one left to send! I've
had no contact with anyone on
Cardassia since Weyoun unleashed
the Jem'Hadar!

VOICE (comm)
With respect, sir, somebody needs
to do something soon, because --

ROKAI

Listen to me. I don't care what it
takes, but you and your men get
the situation down there under --

Turning away from his panels, Rokai JERKS to a stop as he
finds Iliana-as-Kira standing there, sharpened metal pipe
aimed perfectly for his eye. Her intentions are clear...

ILIANA-AS-KIRA

Your sidearm. Remove it. Slowly.

Sensing she means business, he slowly moves to take the
phaser pistol from his belt and hands it to her...

ILIANA-AS-KIRA

Now turn off the comm-cuff, and
drop it on the floor.

He does it. She tucks the pipe into her own belt, points
the phaser into his face...

QUICK FLASH

-- Iliana pointing the completed phaser into Entek's face

BACK TO SCENE

She shakes off the memory, confused by it...

ILIANA-AS-KIRA

I won't waste your time or mine,
Rokai. You can help me, or I can
kill you. Because thanks to you, I
have absolutely nothing to lose.

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

13 INT. LETAU OPS CENTRE

ILIANA-as-KIRA holds Rokai's own weapon on him, while one eye watches the chaos and panic on the screens...

A door OPENS - other prisoners enter, armed with whatever they could find. They immediately point their weapons...

ILIANA-AS-KIRA

Easy. Let's not make any mistakes here, alright? We're on the same side, I think.

The ROMULAN man from Cenn's files, TELAL, speaks up...

TELAL

Why should we trust you?

A TELLARITE male we have not seen before, ZHAG, barks...

ZHAG

Don't be a fool, Telal. You think a Bajoran in a Cardassian prison has any less hatred for our jailers than a Romulan?

TELAL

You're the fool, Zhag, if you --

The KRESSARI woman, SHING-KUR, overrides them both. She is clearly the smartest one of them, and Iliana sees that...

SHING-KUR

Quiet, you two. Do as she says.

(to Iliana)

Alright, Bajoran. Now, what exactly are your intentions?

ILIANA-AS-KIRA

To get off this moon. I wouldn't mind some help. Interested?

SHING-KUR
Provisionally. What's your name?

ENTEK (v.o. from 9x21)
(ghostly)
...Iliana...

Iliana closes her eyes a moment, pushing away the memory...

ILIANA-AS-KIRA
Nerys. Kira Nerys.

TELAL
You - what kind of resistance can
we expect at the shuttle hangar?

ROKAI
None. Look at the external feed --

The Cardassian reaches towards one of the control panels -
everyone raises their weapons on him again...

ILIANA-AS-KIRA
I'll do it.

Iliana nods for Shing-Kur to keep her weapon on Rokai, then
begins to work on the panels, hands flying smoothly...

SHING-KUR
You seem to know your way around
Cardassian computers.

ILIANA-AS-KIRA
I learned in... in the resistance.

She frowns again, confused - *no, that's not true...* She
pulls up an image that shows the outside of the moon...

INSERT - THE SCREEN

Green-painted wreckage, crashed and burning...

TELAL (o.s.)
A Romulan vessel.

BACK TO SCENE

ROKAI

We took several particle beam strikes before the ship crashed. The Romulans were forced down. We just happened to be in the way.

TELAL

Go in tight on the upper left. Extreme magnification...

Iliana works the control again, zooming in on the upper left corner. The picture resolves itself clearer...

INSERT - THE SCREEN

Cardassia Prime itself, and the last great battle of the Dominion War. Starfleet, Klingons, Romulans, Cardassians, Breen and Dominion ships, all in one big fire fight...

BACK TO SCENE

ILIANA-AS-KIRA

Who are they?

SHING-KUR

The Dominion.

Iliana has never heard of them. Shing-Kur is confused...

SHING -KUR (cont)

Invaders from the Gamma Quadrant. The Cardassians joined them, gave them a foothold in this part of the galaxy. But for the allies to have made it all the way to Cardassia Prime, this has to be it. The Dominion's last stand.

ZHAG

And none too soon. This is the worst war the quadrant has ever known. And all because Dukat thought the Dominion was his key to conquering the galaxy.

Iliana sneers at the mention of Dukat...

ROKAI

Not anymore. My people rebelled
against the Dominion. And now
they're punishing us for it.

TELAL

Typical. Count on Cardassians to
be fickle in their allegiances.

ROKAI

Amusing, coming from a Romulan.

Telal steps forward, grabs Rokai by the throat...

TELAL

You should not provoke me, Warden.

ILIANA-AS-KIRA

That's enough, Telal!

TELAL

I don't take orders from you!

ILIANA-AS-KIRA

It's not about who's in charge. We
still need him alive.

TELAL

What use is he?! That ship landed
right on the shuttle hangar.
There's no way off this place!

ILIANA-AS-KIRA

Yes, there is. There's a door with
a retinal scanner on a sub-level.
I believe warden Rokai was about
to head down there when we met.

ZHAG

A way out? What if you're wrong?

ROKAI

(choking in
Telal's grip)

She's not. I can get you out of
here. But I want some assurances.

ILIANA-AS-KIRA

No. No assurances. No deals. I already told you, Rokai - you either help us, or you die.

ROKAI

I can give you Dukat.

ILIANA-AS-KIRA

What? He's here?

ROKAI

No. But I can show you where.

COMPUTER

Warning. Multiple unauthorised transporter signatures detected.

As they all turn in surprise, three Dominion transporter signatures form, depositing armed JEM'HADAR...

ILIANA-AS-KIRA

Get down!

She grabs Rokai, PULLS him down with her behind a console. Shing-Kur and Telal dive for cover as well. Zhag is too slow - he is SHOT down as the Jem'Hadar begin firing.

Phaser shots go back and forth. Iliana peeks out from behind cover, stares horrified at the Jem'Hadar...

ILIANA-AS-KIRA

What are they?

ROKAI

Jem'Hadar. The soldiers of the Dominion, engineered to kill you. You have to keep firing. If you let up, if you give them time to concentrate, they turn invisible.

ILIANA-AS-KIRA

You have got to be kidding me.

She goes back to firing at them, hiding from their fire...

CUT TO:

14 **INT. DS9 - RO'S QUARTERS**

RO sits in her wheelchair at her massive bank of computers, working her files. The exo-frame sits unused on her couch.

The doorbell sounds. Ro growls at the interruption...

RO

Go away!

A different sound chimes...

COMPUTER

Medical override engaged. Privacy
locks deactivating.

The door opens, and ETANA enters, in her Bajoran uniform...

RO

Dammit, Simon, I don't have time for
- oh, it's you. What do you want?

ETANA

Is that any way to treat your old
friend and deputy?

RO

You quit, remember? How do you
expect to be treated?

ETANA

I'm glad to see your bad attitude
is back. But believe it or not, I
didn't come for the yelling. I'm
here as your physical therapist.

RO

(scoff)

Tarses gave up, did he?

ETANA

If he had, I wouldn't be here. You
need to get back on your feet.

RO
I don't need my feet right now.
I need some peace so I can work.

ETANA
What's that smell? When was the
last time you showered?

RO
Goodbye, Kol.

Etana has had enough. She walks over, SNATCHES the padd
right out of Ro's hand. Ro is furious...

RO
Give me back the padd. Now.

ETANA
Let me lay this out for you, Laren.
Doctor Tarses pulled off a minor
miracle so you'd have a chance of
walking again, and right now you
are squandering it.

RO
I don't report to Doctor Tarses!

Ro tries to LEAP out of her chair to grab the padd from
Etana - but she doesn't quite make it. Her legs buckle --

-- and she collapses against the console. Panting with
anger and humiliation, she struggles back into the chair...

ETANA
I get it, Laren. You need to prove
something. You want the universe
to see nothing's holding you back.

RO
It's not about me.

ETANA
Then what the *kosst* is going on?

Seething to herself, Ro finally forces the admission out...

RO
I liked him.

ETANA
Who?

RO
Taran'atar. He was always himself. He wasn't trying to assimilate, or be more like us. He only ever wanted to be a better Jem'Hadar. I couldn't help but admire that about him. And I really thought he felt the same way about us. Me. I thought we were friends. As much as either one of us could actually make friends anyway. We understood each other. Now someone has turned him into a weapon, and people are dead. And I don't know how any of that can be made right again. But I have to do something, Kol.

(re computers)
And this is all I know.

Etana listens to all that, takes it on board. She speaks in the low, quiet, soothing voice of a friend...

ETANA
Look, I'll make a deal with you. Let me help you with your physical therapy - and I mean regularly, every day. You start taking better care of yourself, and I'll help with the investigation. I'll help with the research, I'll be your sounding board --

RO
You don't have to do that.

ETANA
I want to. I just want to help, Laren. I shouldn't have to beg.

Ro sits and broods - it's clear she can't win this one...

RO
And how are you going to clear
that with Tarses?

ETANA
I'll just tell him you're crazy
and I'm the only one who can deal
with you. He'll believe that.

RO
(chuckle)
Yeah, he probably will.
(genuinely)
Thank you, Kol.

ETANA
Alright, then. Let's get started.

Etana places the padd in her hand aside, and Ro prepares to
face her demons...

15 INT. DS9 - VAUGHN'S QUARTERS

VAUGHN sits alone in his quarters.

Gazing into his drink, now even more troubled. Thinking
about what Sisko asked him to do. He's extremely disturbed
by it... but he agreed to do it.

The computer signals - he's been expecting the call.

COMPUTER
Incoming transmission from the USS
Yolja.

A deep breath - he prepares himself...

VAUGHN
Put it through.

KIRA (comm)
Vaughn, this is Kira.

VAUGHN
Go ahead.

KIRA (comm)
I'm on my way back from Bajor,
Commander. You and I have a lot to
talk about, but unfortunately, now
simply isn't the time. So I'll
come right to the point. Are you
ready to return to duty?

VAUGHN
Absolutely.

KIRA (comm)
Good. Lieutenant Dax will bring
you up to speed. Report to Ops at
the start of alpha shift tomorrow
morning.

VAUGHN
Yes, Captain. Thank you.

KIRA (comm)
Kira out.

The line drops. Vaughn sits there, staring into his drink.
Eventually he hangs his head. Troubled, but determined.

As always, he has a mission.

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

16 INT. LETAU CORRIDORS

The lift door opens - Rokai shuffles out still at the point of Iliana's weapon. Shing-Kur and Telal follow, then two more ex-prisoners - Efrosian female FELLEN, and Lissepian male MAZAGALANTHI. They are all a bit singed and scarred.

Shing-Kur stares down the long dark corridor. Iliana tries specifically not to look at it, focusing on Rokai...

SHING-KUR

How long were you down here?

ILIANA-AS-KIRA

I stopped counting a long time ago. What year is it?

ROKAI

In the Cardassian calendar? Four-two-nine *walai*.

ILIANA-AS-KIRA

Fifteen years... how could it be fifteen years?

SHING-KUR

I'm so sorry, I had no idea...

CENN (o.s.)

It must have been very difficult to endure.

17 INT. DS9 - SECURITY CELLS

Major CENN with his padd, pondering almost to himself...

CENN (cont)

The brutality and the degradation, the denial of your dignity as a sentient being... I can't imagine anything more horrible than being held in a Cardassian prison.

Revealing the CELLS - Telal in the left cell, Mazagalanthi on the right, Shing-Kur and Fellen in the middle...

MAZAGALANTHI

It sounds terrible. Perhaps we should think ourselves lucky to have landed in the custody of the newly Federated Bajor.

CENN

Oh, don't thank me yet. There's still the extradition questions that need to be sorted out --

FELLEN

What do you mean, extradition?

CENN

Well, the Bajorans want you for Sidau village. The Cardassians want you for piracy, trafficking, theft, whole host of other things. And then there's the Romulans...

TELAL

What about them?

CENN

(shrug)

They're irritated with Starfleet for violating their protectorate to go after that rogue Jem'Hadar. Just between us, I think that to avoid two diplomatic incidents, they'll probably hand one of you over to the Romulans, and give the rest of you to the Cardassians.

FELLEN

You vile piece of - I'll kill you!
You and your false captain! I'll kill you for Kira!

Cenn conceals his reaction - *that* is an interesting little piece of information right there. Shing-Kur steps closer, tries to comfort the emotional Efrosian woman...

FELLEN

I can't go back to a Cardassian prison, Shing-Kur. I can't!

SHING-KUR

Shhh. Don't worry. He won't give us to the Cardassians. Remember your vow. Focus on that.

CENN

So... you all took a vow to your leader. I can respect that. I suppose it's that kind of belief that allowed you to survive all those years in Letau. Is that where you met Iliana Ghemor?

SHING-KUR

Ignore him. He's just trying to divide us.

Cenn listens to everything, ponders his next move. Shing-Kur is the key here. He turns back to the Romulan...

CENN

Your name is Telal, correct? An assassin for hire, wanted by the Cardassians, the Federation, the Klingons, even your own people.

TELAL

You left out the Talarians and the Breen. Who's Iliana Ghemor?

SHING-KUR

I said ignore him!

TELAL

You don't command me, Shing-Kur. None of you does. I've had enough of this madness. None of this was part of the plan.

MAZAGALANTHI

You're a fool, Telal. You always have been.

CENN

(turns to him)

Mazagalanthi, isn't it? Smuggler specialising in classified tech. If Telal's a fool, what does that make the rest of you? Your leader lied to you, abandoned you, and yet some of you seem to think you still owe her your loyalty.

FELLEN

She never lied! She saved us!

CENN

She let you believe she was Kira Nerys.

FELLEN

(are you stupid?)

She is Kira Nerys!

CENN

No, she's not. She isn't even Bajoran. Her name is Iliana Ghemor. A Cardassian, an ex-agent of the Obsidian Order. You swore your allegiance to a lie.

(re Shing-Kur)

And she knew it all along.

FELLEN

You're the liar. Or the fool. Your captain is the imposter. Shing, tell him...

But the Kressari woman says nothing. The others begin to realise - they turn to her, disappointed. She steps back, folds her arms, sits on the cell's bunk...

MAZAGALANTHI

Shing-Kur... he's telling the truth. Isn't he?

TELAL

(to Cenn)

I want to make a deal.

MAZAGALANTHI

As do I.

FELLEN

Shing... Shing, why?

Shing-Kur looks sadly but calmly into Fellen's eyes...

SHING-KUR

I'm sorry, Fellen.

With her thumbs pressed into the crooks of her elbows, Shing-Kur PRESSES some kind of implanted switch. The other three prisoners immediately collapse and begin to violently CONVULSE. Cenn realises too late what's happening...

CENN

(slaps comm)

Cenn to Infirmary! Medical emergency in security holding area two! Three humanoids down!

SHING-KUR

(calm, resolute)

It's too late.

18 INT. DUKAT'S BUNKER

The door opens with a solid HISS-THUNK, the ex-prisoners enter - and their jaws drop in amazement.

Iliana keeps Rokai under control as the others fan out to excitedly explore. Computers, sofas, a luxurious bathroom, medical supplies, a full pantry, a weapons locker...

ILIANA-AS-KIRA

But why? Why would he need a place like this?

ROKAI

Dukat understood that the universe is a capricious place. He built this room when he was warden here, early in his career. He returned when he felt a need for sanctuary. It was a place to renew himself.

ILIANA-AS-KIRA
Renew himself? That's what you
call what he did to me?

ROKAI
You were... one of his excesses.

Shing-kur has settled in to the computer station, and has
called up DISPLAYS from around the prison...

SHING-KUR
The Jem'Hadar... they're killing
everyone.

ILIANA-AS-KIRA
Then we need to get out of here as
soon as possible. Fellen, make
sure the door's sealed. Telal,
Mazagalanthi, you're with me.
Alright, Rokai - show us.

Iliana pushes Rokai at gunpoint, and he leads them towards
a DOOR at the back of the apartment. It OPENS to reveal...

19 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM

...a complex transporter platform, like the Intendant's.
Iliana steps up to check the console readings...

ILIANA-AS-KIRA
Is this a joke? You expect me to
believe you transported Dukat more
than twenty light years away?

ROKAI
One of the reasons the Dominion
has come as close as it has to
conquering the Alpha Quadrant, is
that they have technology that is
vastly superior to ours.

ILIANA-AS-KIRA
(scoff)
And they just gave this to him as
a reward for being a good puppet?

ROKAI

They knew nothing about it. During their alliance, Dukat undertook a significant number of secret projects that involved quietly acquiring samples of "misplaced" Dominion technology.

ILIANA-AS-KIRA

(bitter laugh)

He was planning to turn against them all along. More schemes. More deceptions.

20 INT. DUKAT'S BUNKER

Shing-Kur is still sat at the computers. She calls out...

SHING-KUR

Kira - I've found something I think you need to see.

Iliana re-enters from the transporter room, comes to lean over Shing-Kur's shoulder, looks at the screens...

INSERT - THE SCREEN

It shows Kira's Bajoran Militia service file. The real Kira, in uniform, as she appeared in season 7...

BACK TO SCENE

ILIANA-AS-KIRA

(to Rokai)

Explain this.

ROKAI

I don't know anything about it.

ILIANA-AS-KIRA

You're lying. And I think that's the first lie you've told us. Why would you need to lie about this?

Rokai still doesn't answer. Iliana turns back to Shing-Kur.

SHING-KUR

There are also several files about
Starfleet and Bajoran personnel,
and a Cardassian intelligence
summary on Bajor.

Shing-Kur works the panels. Iliana leans over to read...

ILIANA-AS-KIRA

The occupation's over... the
Emissary came to us... but he's an
alien! And it was because of him
that the Dominion invaded in the
first place. And now Bajor is
going to join the Federation?

(disbelieving)

How can they get rid of one set of
overseers, only to walk right into
the arms of another?

(reading on)

And... me. Colonel Kira Nerys,
Bajoran Militia. Working for them.
Betraying everything I fought for.

She turns back to Rokai again, seething with anger...

ILIANA-AS-KIRA

An agent. Your people sent an
imposter to pretend she was me,
didn't they? That's who that
person is. It's all some kind of
insane conspiracy. Isn't it?

SHING-KUR

There's a restricted file area
too. And it's huge. But I can't
access it without the key code.

ILIANA-AS-KIRA

Give her the code.

ROKAI

I don't know it.

ILIANA-AS-KIRA

That's another lie.

She raises her phaser, SHOOTs him in the leg. He SCREAMS and falls to the floor. Everyone else has gone quiet...

ILIANA-AS-KIRA
The code. Now.

ROKAI
Doka-eight-two-one-zero... Meru.

While Iliana glares at him, Shing-Kur enters commands...

SHING-KUR
That's odd. All the files have the same name - "Iliana." Just the date to distinguish them.

On Iliana as she remembers...

FLASHBACK - 9x21 "FEARFUL SYMMETRY"

As Entek leans over her, on the biobed...

ENTEK
Iliana... I'm going to miss you.

BACK TO SCENE

Iliana jerks at the memory. Confused, heart pounding...

SHING-KUR
Kira?

ILIANA-AS-KIRA
Open one of them.

Shing-Kur presses buttons. The screen changes...

ON SCREEN

A video recording, from a high angle, of Iliana's cell. Iliana herself is there, naked and crying, while Dukat moves towards her, unfastening his uniform...

DUKAT (screen)
I can't tell you how much I've missed you...

BACK TO SCENE

Shing-Kur reacts with horror to what is on the screen...

SHING-KUR

My Gods, Kira... are you alright?

But Iliana is silent. The onslaught of memories are coming to her now, the flood barriers have broken.

She shakes, eyes wild. Her entire identity being rewritten on the spot. Shing-Kur gets up, goes to her...

SHING-KUR

Kira!

ILIANA

(whisper)

Kira... Kira Nerys...

She turns, walks to Rokai, lifts her foot -- and STAMPS hard on his already damaged leg. He SHRIEKS with pain...

ILIANA

Say it! Say my name!

ROKAI

Iliana... Iliana, please... I can help you...

ILIANA

I'm Kira Nerys! I'm Kira Nerys!
I'm Kira Nerys!

She SCREAMS it over and over, firing her phaser over and over right into Rokai's face. As the screaming goes on...

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

21 INT. DUKAT'S BUNKER

ILIANA huddles in the shower of the bunker's bathroom, cold water running over her naked body. She looks down at her shivering hand, at the pink skin. She scratches at it.

SHING-KUR cautiously steps near, holds out a tricorder. She takes readings of Iliana, nods with sad understanding...

SHING-KUR
Mazagalanthi thinks he's got the transporter working. Safest to just re-use the last coordinates it was set for - some place called Harkoum. We should get going before the Jem'Hadar find us.

Iliana can't respond. She just stares, shivering.

SHING-KUR
I haven't told the others anything. And I won't. I thought that after everything, you should be the one to make those choices. But I want you to know I'm still with you. No matter who you are.

ILIANA
...Why?

SHING-KUR
Because I think we want the same thing - to get your life back.

ILIANA
My life...? Which life? Bajor is happily becoming the very thing I fought to prevent. Cardassia is being obliterated as we speak. They both deserve their fates. Nothing left for me on either.

She spreads her arms, demonstrating the cold, pink skin...

ILIANA (cont)

This is what I have left.

SHING-KUR

But Iliana --

ILIANA

(sudden shout)

Don't call me that!

SHING-KUR

...I'm sorry, I don't understand.
I thought you remembered...

ILIANA

I do. I remember everything. I remember growing up in the ruling elite on a planet so poor we had to invade other worlds just to feed ourselves. And I remember being a child on a world of brutal enslavement, where our lives were valued by how much ore we could mine for our alien overlords.

(beat)

I remember Ataan, the man I loved, who was murdered by terrorists on a pathetically backward planet. And I remember creeping through the shadows to set the explosive that took his life.

(beat)

I remember Dakhana, one of the best fighters in the resistance, and how blaming myself for her death almost killed me too. And I remember my satisfaction when I killed her for the Obsidian Order.

(beat)

But do you know what I remember more than anything? I remember being locked in a box for fifteen years as the plaything of the most sadistic creature in the galaxy.

ILIANA (cont)

And it wasn't just my body he raped, was it? It was my mind - both of them. He took everything. My freedom, my friends, my faith, everything except my identity.

(beat)

I'm not giving that up, Shing-Kur. Not after everything I've been through. I'm Kira Nerys, the one and only. And no-one - no-one - is taking that away from me now.

Shing-Kur quietly takes that in... and accepts it. Then she reaches in and turns off the running water.

She takes Iliana's hand, gently helps her stand. Silently promising to help, no matter what. She's with her.

CUT TO:

22 INT. DS9 - SECURITY CELLS

Shing-Kur now sits, quiet and withdrawn, alone inside one of the cells.

When Kira and Ghemor walk in together, she quickly stands. She almost completely ignores Kira, but gazes with rapt fascination at Ghemor...

SHING-KUR

You're even more beautiful than I imagined.

GHEMOR

You're really not my type. Do you know who I am?

SHING-KUR

Of course. You're the other one.

KIRA

Why did you kill your friends, Shing-Kur?

SHING-KUR

They were going to break their vow to her. I couldn't allow that to happen. Besides, I wanted to spare them her pain.

KIRA

Her pain? What pain?

SHING-KUR

The pain she hid from them.

KIRA

But not from you. You knew her pretty well, didn't you?

SHING-KUR

Better than most.

KIRA

Then what does she want?

SHING-KUR

The same as any of us. The right to exist.

KIRA

And she had to kill nearly three-hundred Bajorans to assert that right?

SHING-KUR

Her worlds abandoned her. She owes them nothing.

GHEMOR

Whereas you think you owe her everything.

SHING-KUR

My life belongs to her.

(to Kira)

I have a message for you.

KIRA

I'm listening.

SHING-KUR
Trakor's First Prophecy.

This simple phrase seems to stun Kira. She stares silently at Shing-Kur, who stares right back. (Ghemor doesn't seem to react at all...)

KIRA
(quiet, intense)
I'll stop her.

SHING-KUR
No, you won't.

The staring contest continues. Kira is scared here...

KIRA
Why are you doing this? She fled.
She abandoned you. She used you.
All for her own twisted --

SHING-KUR
If she's twisted, then it's only
because of you. You... and all the
other corpses.

KIRA
Is that supposed to be a threat?

SHING-KUR
Call it a prediction. She's not
going to rest until all the
pretenders are gone.

KIRA
She's the pretender. You already
know that.

SHING-KUR
No. What I know - what I've come
to understand - is that she's more
deserving of being Kira Nerys than
you, or that Intendant, or any of
the others out there could ever
be. No-one has the right to take
that from her. Not even you.

Kira stares a moment longer... then turns and walks out.

Ghemor turns to follow, but Shing-Kur calls after her...

SHING-KUR

I understand why she's threatened.
But you - how could you be against
her? You of all people?

Ghemor stops, looks back over her shoulder...

GHEMOR

She's an egomaniac. My side has
enough of those already. We don't
need one from your universe.

She turns and walks out.

23 INT. DS9 - SECURITY OFFICE

As Ghemor enters from the cells area, Kira is waiting. The room is otherwise empty, though there are Security outside on the Promenade. Kira is fuming, but Ghemor holds her own.

KIRA

You knew all along, didn't you?

GHEMOR

Yes.

Kira aims a backhand PUNCH to Ghemor's face --

-- but the Cardassian woman blocks it easily.

Kira grabs the blocking arm, SPINS Ghemor on the spot --

-- and SLAMS her against the office wall.

Kira leans in, whispers furiously into Ghemor's ear through gritted teeth...

KIRA

So what was your job? To keep me
and my people running around in
circles while your counterpart
fulfils Trakor's First Prophecy?

GHEMOR

Just the opposite, actually. I want to stop her, same as you.

KIRA

And you didn't think I needed to know this?

GHEMOR

Look at yourself, Captain. You're way off your game. You're still recovering from your injuries, you're letting your emotions get the better of you, you don't even trust your own crew. And you can never be objective when it comes to your precious Prophets. You're too close to the problem.

Kira is still furious... but unable to deny that Ghemor is right. She lets go, steps back. Ghemor slowly turns, rubs her sore shoulder...

KIRA

You should have levelled with me from the start. But you're always holding something back. Tell me now, once and for all, why I should trust you.

GHEMOR

It's complicated.

KIRA

You're the alternate universe double of a woman who was altered surgically to replace me, but who has instead replaced my alternate universe double. How simple do you think I expect it to be?

GHEMOR

(smirk)

Fair enough. Alright then. I was assigned by the Terran rebellion to eliminate the Intendant.

GHEMOR (cont)

In order to do that, I needed to make contact with the religious authority on my universe's Bajor.

KIRA

I thought the Bajoran religion - the one I know, at least - didn't exist in your universe.

GHEMOR

It would be more accurate to say it doesn't exist anymore. For the most part. Underground enclaves still exist, in secret, hoping to someday unshackle Bajor from the Alliance and return their world to the way it used to be. As you can imagine, this movement is sympathetic to the rebels on Terok Nor. I was sent to one of those enclaves, hoping to confirm a rumour that the Intendant would soon be making a rare special trip to Bajor, so that I could plan her assassination.

(pause for breath)

What I got instead was a... a revelation I wasn't expecting.

KIRA

You... you've looked into an Orb, haven't you?

GHEMOR

(awkward, evasive)

Not exactly. The enclaves do have certain artefacts that fuel their faith. My exposure to one of them is where my information comes from. It's how I learned about my counterpart in your universe, and what she was planning to do.

Ghemor takes a moment to catch her breath, allowing Kira to absorb all the revelations...

GHEMOR

You see, Captain... unlike your world, my Bajor is still waiting for its redeemer. The one who is supposed to lead them into a new age. According to the enclaves, the time of the Emissary is now.

Understanding dawns on Kira's face...

KIRA

Benjamin Sisko. The Sisko of your universe was supposed to have become your Bajor's Emissary, just like mine. But he's dead.

GHEMOR

That's right. There's a void in my continuum that demands to be filled. Under the right symbol - the right person - my Bajor could become the centre of a benign new order. It could strengthen the rebellion against the Alliance, and bring about a revolution that could usher in that new age.

(beat)

But if my counterpart - your Iliana Ghemor - is the one to take up the mantle of Emissary, then there's a very good chance that the new age will be even worse than the present one.

On Kira's troubled reaction to that pronouncement...

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

24 EXT. DEEP SPACE NINE

Everything looks peaceful from the outside...

O'BRIEN (v.o.)

Iliana... I'm not sure how much of
this I can believe.

25 INT. DS9 - OPS CENTRE

Kira and Ghemor stand together at the central Ops table, serious and earnest. Vaughn, Dax and Bashir stand nearby, with Nog and Bowers working at their stations.

On the screen, the alternate O'BRIEN, KEIKO and EZRI stand around Terok Nor's central Ops table. All three are trying to get their heads around what seems a preposterous tale.

(NOTE: For the purposes of later episodes, we will need full coverage from all sides of the following conversation, even though we only see it from DS9's POV for now.)

O'BRIEN (screen)

You're telling me that you didn't
manage to kill the Intendant, but
she might already be dead, but
not really, because an alternate
universe version of you is
pretending to be her to fulfil
some obscure Bajoran prophecy?

GHEMOR

I realise it's a lot to take in.
But you have to understand - if
this woman succeeds in doing what
she intends, Bajor will follow her
like some kind of messiah. She
could even start a holy war within
the Alliance.

EZRI (screen)

Would that be such a bad thing?

KEIKO (screen)

It would be. A war like that would devastate the region. People like us would be its first victims.

GHEMOR

Exactly - the faithful versus the infidels. With a madwoman calling the shots.

KIRA

You see now why we felt the need to warn you. General O'Brien, I also have a stake in seeing this woman stopped. She's proved herself to be a threat on our side as well as yours. My people and I stand ready to assist you.

O'BRIEN (screen)

I appreciate the offer, Captain, and I accept. You can start by explaining exactly where...

(reacts to panels)

...what the bloody hell?

On the screen, we see that ALARMS are going off all over Terok Nor. As O'Brien, Keiko and Ezri check their panels, other rebels run around in the background, panicked.

On DS9, all they can do is stand and watch, powerless...

KEIKO (screen)

Multiple warp signatures on approach vectors. Looks like Klingons. ETA two minutes.

O'BRIEN (screen)

Raise shields. Ezri, prepare for planetary bombardment. I want a torpedo lock on Ashalla in the next thirty seconds.

Kira and Bashir's jaws both drop, shocked. Did they really hear what they thought they did? On the screen, O'Brien is now the hardened rebel soldier, doing what he has to do...

KIRA
General... what are you doing?

O'BRIEN (screen)
Exactly what I warned them I'd do
if they moved against us, Captain.

KIRA
You can't attack Bajor! Millions
of innocent lives --

Static is coming over the signal, breaking it up...

O'BRIEN (screen)
Captain... -ow do you think we've
managed... hold Terok Nor all this
time? By... -nvincing the Alliance
tha... -ushed me too far, Bajor
wo... -ffer the... -nseque-...

KIRA
Nog - do something!

NOG
I'm trying! But something's
interfering with the signal lock,
overriding the link... wait, I
think I've got it back...

The screen clears, reveals a new face - Kira's own.

But it is ILIANA, impersonating the Intendant, iconic black
bodysuit and silver headdress. She stands beside General
KURN's command chair on the bridge of the *Negh'Var*.

This is the first time Kira has directly faced the woman
behind all this - the woman who was supposed to become her.
She glares, hardening. Iliana gives a thin, amused smile...

ILIANA (screen)
Well hello... Captain. What a
pleasant surprise. And how clever
of you to have devised a way to
communicate with Terok Nor. You've
no idea how pleased I am to see
you alive.

KIRA
I sincerely doubt that.

ILIANA (screen)
Oh believe me, I wasn't happy to learn what Taran'atar had done to you. That was a task I'd reserved for myself. It's reassuring to know I get to come back for you... once I'm done here, that is.

KIRA
You won't succeed.

ILIANA (screen)
Of course I will. Haven't you heard? I walk with the Prophets.

Iliana brings up her hand - she has the *pagh-varam*, the Orb bracelet from Sidau, wrapped around her palm. She wiggles her fingers in a taunting wave... then the comm link drops.

KIRA
Nog, can you get Terok Nor back?

NOG
It's like there's an expanding wall between us and the alternate universe - some kind of scattering field. The effect is spreading.

KIRA
Can we beam across?

NOG
Not a chance. Not to Terok Nor anyway. But maybe...

KIRA
What?

NOG
If I'm reading this right, the field hasn't overtaken Bajor yet. I may be able to beam over two people now, if we act fast.

BASHIR

Two - what good would that do?

DAX

It's better than nobody. Captain,
I volunteer to go.

KIRA

Your attitude is commendable,
Lieutenant, but last I checked,
I'm the only member of this crew
who can pass for the Intendant.
We may need to use that.

(turns to Ghemor)

That religious enclave you told me
about - where was it?

GHEMOR

A place called Mylea - it's a
small coastal village in Kendra
province. I can guide you to it.

Kira shares a thunderstruck look with Vaughn, Nog, Sisko.
This can't possibly be a coincidence. Ghemor sees the look.

GHEMOR

What? What is it?

KIRA

We're familiar with it. Come on.

At Kira's beckoning, Ghemor begins to follow the captain up
the stairs towards the transporter...

Sisko turns to Vaughn, gives him a silent, significant look
- something passes between them, and Vaughn steps up...

VAUGHN

Wait. Captain, take me instead.
You don't need a guide, you need
someone who has your back.

Kira pauses, turns to look at Vaughn...

Ghemor also turns, confused at this turn of events...

KIRA
Alright, Commander... with me.

Vaughn pauses to grab two phasers out of a weapons locker, then trots up the stairs with Kira to the transporter. Ghemor lets them pass, but she is still a little confused.

GHEMOR
Captain -

KIRA
I'm sorry, Ghemor, but he's right. Nog, I don't want to spook the locals by beaming down right in the middle of Mylea high street. Can you put us somewhere isolated?

NOG
I think so...

SISKO
What about Yyn? An archeological site that's been unchanged for thousands of years. It's only a couple of hours' walk from Mylea.

Ghemor looks again to Sisko, intrigued at how this is the only thing Sisko has said throughout the whole scene...

NOG
I've got it. The interference is getting stronger. We've only got a few more seconds...

Kira and Vaughn stand side by side on the transporter, armed and as ready as they can be for the mission...

KIRA
Take care of our station, Ezri.
Mister Nog, energise.

In the moment before the transporter signal forms, Vaughn shares another intense, significant look with Sisko...

VAUGHN (v.o.)
What do you need me to do?

26 **INT. DS9 - VAUGHN'S QUARTERS**

Continuing the scene from where we left it in the teaser.
Vaughn is promising to do whatever Sisko needs...

SISKO

I need you to find my counterpart
- the other Benjamin Sisko - and
convince him to find the wormhole,
so that he can become Emissary.

VAUGHN

My understanding was that your
counterpart died years ago.

SISKO

Some... intelligence has come my
way that suggests he faked his
death to get out of leading the
rebellion. And that he's been in
hiding on Bajor ever since.

VAUGHN

I see. I don't suppose I could
have access to your intel?

SISKO

It isn't that kind of source.

VAUGHN

I suppose that's where the leap of
faith comes in. Can I at least
assume that the success of this
mission will neutralise Iliana
Ghemor as a threat?

SISKO

No, it won't. But it may minimise
the damage she does.

Vaughn puts down his glass, sits back to think this out...

VAUGHN

If your counterpart fulfils his
destiny, the alternate Bajor is
likely to be profoundly affected.

VAUGHN (cont)
I'd be effecting a fundamental
change in that universe. Surely
the Prime Directive applies.

SISKO
That's where the "off the record"
part comes in. Apparently I was
supposed to have accomplished all
this myself some time ago...

VAUGHN
If that's the case, then surely
this task is meant for you.

SISKO
Not anymore. Confronting him now,
after all I've been through, would
only drive him deeper underground.
It has to be you.

VAUGHN
And Kira?

SISKO
You can't tell her any of this,
Elias. Please don't ask me why.

Vaughn sits back and silently thinks about it. He doesn't
like the idea of lying to Kira. But Sisko needs him.

VAUGHN
I'll do it.

Sisko stands up. Vaughn follows his lead, and the two shake
hands on their secret pact. On Sisko's troubled face...

28 INT. DS9 - OPS CENTRE

As Vaughn and Kira stand on the transporter, Ghemor notices
the look between Vaughn and Sisko, wonders what it means...

Then the complex inter-dimensional transporter effect
forms, and Kira and Vaughn TWIST out of existence.

Ops bursts into activity. Dax takes firm command...

DAX

Yellow alert. Sam, whatever ideas you have about safeguarding the station from trans-dimensional incursions, now's the time. Nog, keep trying to re-establish the comm link and the transporter lock. Julian, get down to the Infirmary, just in case. And make sure Ro's kept in the loop.

Everyone gets moving to their jobs and stations. Sisko is standing still, pensive in the chaos...

SISKO

It's time I got going...

DAX

Okay - I'll get Ensign Tenmei to warm up the *Brahmaputra* --

SISKO

No need. I'll just get passage on the afternoon transport. You've got good instincts - trust them.

DAX

I will. Thanks for everything.

Sisko nods, heads up to the turbolift platform. He reaches it, turns around as he steps aboard...

...and catches Ghemor's eye. She is staring at him, looking right into him. He feels self-conscious. Does she know?

The turbolift lowers. Ghemor's accusing eyes watch it go...

BLACK OUT:

THE END