

STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE

9x14 - "Lost Time."

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Based on the short story

Star Trek: Corps of Engineers: Lost Time

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TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. DEEP SPACE NINE

A close-up on the Promenade and Ops areas... then the image SHUDDERS as the station is rocked by an unseen force...

2 INT. DS9 - OPS CENTRE

Start on a flashing RED ALERT signal and wailing ALARM, then pan quickly to NOG at his engineering station...

NOG

Here comes the second front - hold
on!

The station SHUDDERS again, rumbling all around. Lights and panels rupture in SPARKS, supports GROAN...

KIRA

(re alarms)

Someone shut that thing off! You'd
have to be brain dead not to know
we're in trouble!

The alarm is silenced. The station snaps and jerks again, and staff all around Ops are thrown off their feet.

Captain KIRA - who had been gripping onto the central Ops table - loses her grip, tumbles to the floor, barking her chin on the table on the way down.

She shakes her head clear, spits out blood, then looks up as VAUGHN reaches down to help her...

VAUGHN

You still with us?

KIRA

(woozy)

I'm fine. What about everyone
else? How's the station?

DAX still stands, working across the Ops table...

DAX

Ro and her people are keeping everyone in their quarters. The infirmary's getting swamped with minor injuries - Julian and Simon have their hands full.

VAUGHN

I locked down the docking pylons and issued a general warning to reroute out of the system.

Everyone is tense and urgent - definite crisis mode. Kira snaps her head around to look at Nog - too fast, she makes herself dizzy. Holding back bile...

KIRA

Time to next distortion wave?

NOG

Impossible to predict. It's just... random. Like someone's flicking a switch on and off. The only thing I can tell for certain is that they're getting stronger.

KIRA

Uh-huh. What about Bajor?

VAUGHN

(off readings)

Not good. Ground stations report increased tectonic activity along the Tilar and Musilla plates. They're trying to evacuate the coastal areas, but with so little warning...

KIRA

(dismayed)

...we'll be lucky if only a third of them drown. Kendra Valley's lousy with fault lines...

NOG

Oh no... Jake and Rena...

KIRA

Nog - concentrate. Where is this coming from?

NOG

(working panels;
frustrated)

I don't know! There are subspace distortions all over the system.

VAUGHN

Could it be another thoughtscape entity, like the one we encountered in the Gamma Quadrant?

NOG

Not the same kind of readings. That was one universe trying to push through into ours... this is more like two universes grinding up against each other like... well, like two tectonic plates.

VAUGHN

Is it the alternate universe? The one we're used to dealing with? Could it be some kind of attack by the Intendant?

Kira is a touch surprised Vaughn knows about that. But he was with Starfleet Intelligence... Nog works his panels...

NOG

Umm... no, I don't think so. The quantum signature doesn't match.

KIRA

Really? You can tell that?

VAUGHN

It's a fairly new development.

NOG

It's based on readings taken in various Starfleet encounters over the years.

NOG (cont)

Commander Worf's experience with a quantum fissure on the *Enterprise*, the *Defiant*'s encounter with the Cathedral artefact in the Gamma Quadrant, that time the alternate Vedek Bareil transported over here... a dozen others. We're starting to be able to pinpoint a particular alternate universe by their quantum signature. This one is new, but it's a lot closer to us than the Intendant's universe. It's really fascinating how --

KIRA

(slams hand down)

I don't care, Nog! Just tell me you know how to stop it!

Nog stutters and blushes, embarrassed to be chewed out in front of the crew. He returns to his panels...

NOG

I'm trying to track the source right now, sir.

VAUGHN

Time's a factor, Lieutenant. The planet's coming apart at the seams, literally.

NOG

Aye, sir.

KIRA

What about the wormhole?

VAUGHN

With these kind of distortions, I don't see how its horizon can remain coherent.

KIRA

(grits teeth)

Meaning it's destroyed too.

NOG

Sir, I've localised the epicentre of the distortions... It's coming from in orbit of Cajara... from Empok Nor.

KIRA

What? I thought you left that place dead and powerless.

NOG

(a bit defensive)

We did! But I don't think Empok Nor itself is doing this...

VAUGHN

(catching on)

The Androssi devices.

NOG

Yes, sir.

The station SHUDDERS again as another distortion wave hits. Frustrated, Kira stalks upstairs to Nog's station...

KIRA

Will someone please explain this? You said you guys took that station apart looking for any little presents the Androssi left behind. How did you manage to miss something big enough to crack space-time?

NOG

Well, to be fair, Captain, the Androssi did what they always do - dropped everything into subspace. We didn't find it because it wasn't there.

KIRA

Well, this something that's nothing is destroying Bajor, Lieutenant. Vaughn - what do you know about the Androssi?

VAUGHN

Not much, I'm afraid, Captain. I only encountered them in person once, and never had anything to do with their technology.

NOG

Sir... there's only one ship I know of that has experience with the Androssi. We need the Corps of Engineers - we need the *Da Vinci*.

Kira nods, realising she has got no choice...

KIRA

Alright... Commander, get a hold of Captain Gold on the *Da Vinci*.

VAUGHN

(working)

Aye, Captain.

KIRA

Let's just hope they get here before Bajor tears itself apart.

On Kira and Nog's expressions...

BLACK OUT:

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

3 EXT. DEEP SPACE NINE

Establishing... the *Defiant* pulls away from the docking ring, and all five runabouts launch from their pads.

As they all head away from the station towards Bajor, the small, snub-nosed Sabre-class USS *Da Vinci* (8x04 "Cold Fusion") settles into place on the docking ring...

4 INT. DS9 - WARDROOM

The meeting is already underway. DS9's senior staff - KIRA, RO, BOWERS, DAX and NOG - take one end of the table.

Da Vinci's senior staff at the other - Cpt GOLD, security CORSI, engineer STEVENS and computer expert SOLOMAN (all seen 8x04) plus exec GOMEZ (TNG 2x17 "Samaritan Snare")...

GOMEZ

We know the Androssi like to hide their devices in another dimension when they're not using them. From the readings Nog showed me, I'd say one of those devices fell into somebody else's universe, and now those somebody elses are trying to find out where it came from.

NOG

Their scans are what's disrupting space-time in the Bajoran system, focused through the hole the Androssi device left behind when it slipped through.

KIRA

Alright. I've assigned the *Defiant* and all five runabouts to help Lenaris however he needs them. We seem to be in a lull between wave fronts right now, but I don't expect that to last.

GOLD

We'll get underway as soon as,
then, Captain. I'd like to request
that Lieutenant Nog join us - he
has more experience of Nor-class
stations than any of my people.

NOG

Will Commander Duffy be joining
us, Captain?

Nog's innocent question provokes odd reactions - all the *Da Vinci* crew tense, awkward and uncomfortable...

GOLD

(clears throat)

No he won't, Lieutenant. Commander
Duffy passed away six months ago.

NOG

(flustered)

Oh... I'm sorry, I didn't --

GOLD

(on with business)

It's a plan, then. With your
leave, Captain?

KIRA

Good hunting.

The two crews get up and head off to duty. Gomez walks out quickly, not wanting to talk. Nog knows he has made some kind of social *faux pas*, but has no idea how to handle it.

Kira watches them go. Dax hovers until they're alone...

DAX

All this talk about alternate
universes... awfully interesting
timing. Just yesterday, Soloman
submitted a formal request to
access the Orb of Time.

KIRA

Did he say why?

DAX

Well, his application said it's to study how the Orbs harness and direct energy to create a time shift. But there was a definite tone of personal interest...

KIRA

I didn't know a Bynar could get religion...

Dax isn't sure that is what's really going on here...

5 **EXT. DEEP SPACE NINE**

The *Da Vinci* uncouples again, and heads off in a different direction to the one the *Defiant* took...

6 **INT. DS9 - SECURITY OFFICE**

Ro and Corsi enter, looking at the screens which show the many reports from around the station...

RO

Well, that was... awkward. I know what it's like to lose a crew member, believe me. But Nog didn't mean any harm.

CORSI

Kieran Duffy is still a raw wound for us, Lieutenant... He died at Galvan Six.

RO

(ashamed)

Oh... I never thought... sorry. I heard about that. That must have been horrible for all of you.

CORSI

(with attitude)

Losing half our crew to stop a stupid Starfleet experiment from destroying a native population? Yeah, you could say that.

CORSI (cont)

(calmer)

But it's not just that. Kieran and Sonya - Commander Gomez - they were a couple. He'd just proposed. And then Galvan Six happened...

RO

Okay, I get why that's bad for Gomez. But why are you taking it so personally?

CORSI

Because it was supposed to be me, dammit! I'm the chief of security, I'm the one who's supposed to go into danger like that...

Ro begins to understand the problem...

7 INT. DS9 - INFIRMARY

BASHIR is just finishing with a Bajoran civilian patient, helping him up from the biobed and showing him out. Kira enters, nods in passing to the Bajoran, and approaches...

KIRA

Doctor? If you've got a second, I have a favour to ask...

BASHIR

Of course. What is it?

Kira is hesitant, not sure whether she should do this. But she decides she has no choice...

KIRA

I'm worried about Taran'atar. I thought we were getting somewhere, but ever since Odo was here, he seems to have withdrawn. I haven't seen him in Ops in weeks. Whenever I manage to track him down, he's either even more irritable than usual, or he's busy slaughtering something in the holosuites.

BASHIR
What do you want me to do?

KIRA
I think... he needs a friend, I
guess. I've tried, Ro's tried. But
perhaps you have more in common
with him than we do.

BASHIR
(dubious)
Because I'm genetically
engineered, you mean?

KIRA
Only that he might take you more
seriously. As an equal, maybe.

BASHIR
Well... I'm not sure what I can
do. But I'll try.

KIRA
Thank you, Julian. Let me know how
it goes.

Kira leaves, and Bashir ponders...

8 EXT. SPACE

The seventh planet in Bajor's system is a bluish gas giant. EMPOK NOR hangs in orbit, lower power core missing. Regions of spatial distortion ripple throughout the area.

The *Da Vinci* holds station a safe distance away. Beyond it and closer to the station, a small shuttle craft attaches to a lower pylon, in a currently-stable pocket of space...

9 INT. EMPOK NOR - CORRIDOR

Four FIGURES in spacesuits clomp down the dark and airless corridors, using mag-boots in the zero gravity. They shine wrist lights as they go.

The first two are NOG and STEVENS, with SOLOMAN and BOWERS in suits a small distance behind...

NOG

Stevens... you know I didn't mean to upset anyone, don't you? I only asked 'cause I got used to working with Commander Duffy last time.

STEVENS

I know, Nog. But you just need to tread carefully. The *Da Vinci's* had a rough time lately.

Nog glances behind them, ensuring they are a safe distance from Soloman and Bowers. He speaks confidentially...

NOG

As long as we're talking, would you explain something else to me? Your crewman Soloman is a Bynar.

STEVENS

Right. What about it?

NOG

Well, I've never actually met one before, but I read about them in Cultural Studies at the Academy, and I thought they always operate in twos. You never ever see a Bynar without his partner.

STEVENS

Normally that's true. Each pair is basically two halves of the same person. They think together, like two computers in a network.

NOG

So how come Soloman's on his own?

STEVENS

Um... yeah... well. That's another one of our less happy stories. Soloman's real name is One-One-Oh. He and his partner, One-One-One - they were billeted to the *Da Vinci* as non-com computer specialists.

STEVENS (cont)

But just after the war ended, we were assigned to clean up some of the mess, and One-One-One... she was killed when an unexploded Jem'Hadar torpedo went off.

NOG

Oh, River...

STEVENS

It nearly broke him. Catatonic for a week, just couldn't function on his own. Eventually he recovered, physically at least. Emotionally, he'd lost half of himself.

NOG

Couldn't he get a new... half?

STEVENS

That's what Bynars are supposed to do in that situation, yeah. Go home and get a new partner. But One-One-Oh thought that would be dishonouring One-One-One's memory. He didn't want a new partner.

NOG

So he just decided to go it alone?

STEVENS

Thus the nickname - Soloman. "Solo man." Of course, that means he's a pariah on the Bynar homeworld now, because he refused to do what his culture said he should.

NOG

Yeah, I know what that's like. DS-Nine seems to attract those kind of people.

Nog glances behind again, sympathy for Soloman in his face. He clumps on down the corridor, more depressed than ever...

10 **INT. EMPOK NOR - OPS CENTRE**

One of the side doors is gradually CRANKED open by Bowers, and Nog and the rest of his team emerge into the room. No power except for one SCREEN flickering with static...

NOG

Nog to Commander Gomez.

GOMEZ (comm)

Go ahead, Lieutenant.

NOG

We've reached Ops - it's the same as everywhere else. Everything's off except for the basic computer system, and that's picking up the signal from the other side.

11 **INT. EMPOK NOR - POWER CORE AREA**

GOMEZ stands in her own enviro-suit, connecting two large BATTERY UNITS to Empok Nor's power grid. Still smarting from the reminder of Duffy, which colours her attitude towards Nog, even though she knows it shouldn't...

GOMEZ

Connecting power now...

12 **INT. EMPOK NOR - OPS CENTRE**

Soloman is stood in front of the one working computer panel -- as POWER surges back into the station. Low LIGHTS come on around Ops, AIR hisses out of the ventilation ducts, gravity wobbles into place, and the screen settles a bit...

STEVENS

Looks great up here, Commander.
Soloman's gonna try for computer access in a minute.

GOMEZ (comm)

Keep me informed, Fabe.

Stevens tests the surrounding air with the tricorder on his arm. He judges it good, and twists off his helmet...

STEVENS
It's good, guys. We can breath.
Soloman, whenever you're ready.

Nog, Bowers and Soloman take off their helmets. Soloman steps closer to the computer console, gazing at it...

Soloman opens a section of the computer panel. Lights are flashing inside. He removes one glove and reaches out --

-- he makes contact, and the screen settles even further. Constantly running lines of characters and text... and the lights inside the panel FLASH faster...

13 CLOSE-UP ON SOLOMAN

The lines of text reflect in his eyes, and he drifts off into a sort of trance, communing with the computer.

The light in the chip on the side of his head begins to FLASH in rhythm with the lights in the panel.

STEVENS (o.s.)
Soloman... are you in?

SOLOMAN
(distant, entranced)
I have... insinuated myself into
the code. I am attempting... to
discern its meaning...

Stevens looks to Nog. The station SHUDDERS again...

14 SOLOMAN'S POV

The fast-scrolling text on the screen... and then we dive gradually into the text, until we are INSIDE IT.

Characters whizz past us at various speeds and angles, patterns just out of reach but gradually coalescing...

15 BACK TO SCENE

Soloman leans in closer, without even meaning to. The lights on his head and in the panel flash faster, faster...

Something catches Soloman's attention - he frowns. Nog sees this, and pulls out his tricorder to scan the Bynar...

NOG
Soloman? What is it?

SOLOMAN
(whisper)
Stop...
(a little louder)
Stop...
(urgent, panicked)
Stop stop stop stop stop stop --

The repetition builds into a scream, and then Soloman is THROWN away from the computer in a cloud of SPARKS.

He lands hard on his back, breath is knocked out of him, killing his scream. Nog rushes up, hovering over him...

SOLOMAN
(catching breath)
The data-stream... it carries a
synchronisation signature... a
Bynar signature.

NOG
What? A Bynar? Who was it?

SOLOMAN
One-One-Oh. The person on the
other end of this data-stream -
it is me.

On Nog and Stevens' reaction...

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

16 EXT. EMPOK NOR - ESTABLISHING

The *Da Vinci* nearby, its shuttlecraft closer...

GOLD (comm, v.o.)
So you contacted... yourself...
in a parallel universe.

17 INT. EMPOK NOR - OPS CENTRE

Soloman sits primly on the steps. Gomez crouches, offering support. Bowers, Stevens and Nog hover anxiously...

SOLOMAN
Exactly. And I believe that if I
re-enter the data stream, I will
be able to commune with this other
One-One-Oh... and determine what
he is searching for.

GOLD (comm)
I'm not so sure, son. How do we
know this isn't just a trick by
the Androssi - that their device
isn't faking Bynar brainwaves?

SOLOMAN
(pauses)
That is a possibility I had not
considered.

GOLD (comm)
Well, you'd better. Even if this
is an alternate you, he's going to
be completely... well, alien. He's
the roads you didn't take, and
some you can't even imagine.

SOLOMAN
Sir, Bajor's safety requires that
I take the chance. And that I do
so as soon as possible.

We can hear Gold huff and consider over the comm line,
while Soloman waits with patience and certainty...

GOLD (comm)
Alright. But Gomez, Stevens - you
both keep a damn close eye on him.

STEVENS
You got it, Captain.

GOLD (comm)
One last thing. If you've reached
- well, yourself - and this other
One-One-Oh is Bynar enough that
you recognise yourself, then he's
probably bonded, right? To his own
One-One-One. So you would have
picked up her synchronisation
signature as well.

Soloman looks around at his companions, at the computer
screen with its scrolling text, and confidently lies...

SOLOMAN
No, sir. I did not.

He looks deeply back into the tumbling codes, and we dive
into it again, the text whooshing around us. Soloman's shy,
small voice echoes through the data stream...

SOLOMAN (v.o.)
Please, do not be afraid. It is
only I - One-One-Oh. And yet...
I am my own person. I wish to
communicate with you...
(pause, plaintive)
No, wait, come back... please...

Until slowly it resolves into another image...

18 CLOSE-UP ON

...the face of another Bynar - ONE-ONE-ONE. She hears the
words and recognises the signature on the other end of the
signal, and jerks back. Switch angle again to reveal...

19 INT. DA VINCI - SICKBAY

...One-One-One staring in horror and confusion at the blocky and clumsy ANDROSSI DEVICE she was just touching. Around her are this universe's versions of GOLD and GOMEZ, the latter of whom runs to check on the shaken Bynar...

ONE-ONE-ONE

Another! There is... another Bynar
in the data-stream. A singleton...

GOMEZ

But that's not possible...

GOLD

Bridge! We got what we came for.
Set course for the Denorios Belt
and let's get out of here before
the Cardassians catch us sneaking
around their territory.

We feel the ship launch away. Gold turns to see...

...this universe's Soloman - or rather ONE-ONE-OH - who now spasms in unconsciousness on the deck. Dr LENSE, the ship's medic (from 3x22 "Explorers"), rushes up to tend to him...

LENSE

Autonomic functions are fine, but
he won't come out of it...

GOLD

Dreck! Without the Bynars this
mission's as good as *schtupped*.

Gomez points to the flashing light on One-One-Oh's head...

GOMEZ

But look - he's still in active
communication with someone.

GOLD

And if it's a singleton of all
things - then where is he?

From the flashing light on the unconscious One-One-Oh...

20 **INT. EMPOK NOR - OPS CENTRE**

...to the light on Soloman's head pulsing the same pattern.
The others wait nearby, uncertain and worried...

NOG

Do you think it's working?

STEVENS

I don't know. I hope so. How long
has it been - twenty minutes?

GOMEZ

Give him his chance.

Around them, the station SHUDDERS again with a new wave of
distortions. Soloman just stares deeply into the code...

21 **EXT. DEEP SPACE NINE - ESTABLISHING**

Returning us to our home, the space rippling slightly as
the DISTORTION WAVE arrives...

22 **INT. DS9 - QUARK'S BAR**

From one of the upper corridors, Bashir looks down on the
empty bar. The station RUMBLES from the distortion wave,
and glasses and bottles CRASH to the floor from the bar.

Bashir turns and walks towards the holosuites. He reaches
one, checks the panels, and taps a comm link...

BASHIR

Taran'atar? It's Doctor Bashir.
Are you in there?

The comm sends back SOUNDS of exertion and fighting. Bashir
considers it, then presses the panel to open the door...

23 **INT. HOLOSUITE (CONTINUOUS)**

...and reveal the bare holosuite grid, where TARAN'ATAR
battles a random MONSTER. Bashir gingerly steps in...

BASHIR

Taran'atar...?

Mid-movement, Taran'atar SPINS in surprise, THRUSTS his weapon towards Bashir -- and stops just in time. Bashir FLINCHES back, but manages to stand his ground...

BASHIR
Computer, pause program.

The monster freezes. Taran'atar is unconcerned...

TARAN'ATAR
Doctor. Do you have need of me?

BASHIR
Not need, exactly. Just that we haven't spent any time together since Sindorin, and I wanted to see how you were doing. Make sure you weren't hurt by... all this.

TARAN'ATAR
The distortions do not concern me. Nothing here concerns me.

BASHIR
Perhaps you could tell me about what you were fighting there. I don't recognise that species.

TARAN'ATAR
It is from the Rintanna system. I can provide you with biological and sociological information if you wish.

BASHIR
Only if you want to.

TARAN'ATAR
I want to return to my training.

BASHIR
Okay, I'll leave you to it, then.

With a sigh of defeat, Bashir turns to leave. Taran'atar hesitates, embarrassed by what he is about to admit...

TARAN'ATAR

Wait. Perhaps... I believe I may have a medical... problem.

BASHIR

Go on...

TARAN'ATAR

There are periods of blankness in my memory. Times for which I have no recollection of events. It is disconcerting.

BASHIR

I take it Jem'Hadar don't normally experience such things.

TARAN'ATAR

Never. A Jem'Hadar must maintain clarity of mind at all times. To be unaware of my surroundings for even a moment is an unacceptable lapse in discipline.

BASHIR

How often has this happened?

TARAN'ATAR

Three times. Once while training, and twice while studying in my quarters.

BASHIR

Perhaps I should run some scans in the infirmary.

TARAN'ATAR

No. No-one else must know of this.

BASHIR

Alright... then how about your quarters? They're private, and I can observe you there just as well as anywhere else.

Taran'atar considers it, embarrassed by the whole thing...

24 **INT. TARAN'ATAR'S QUARTERS**

A distinctly bare set of quarters - only a COMPUTER DESK and a range of WEAPONS on the wall. A Bajoran OFFICER moves medical equipment into position, as Bashir and Taran'atar enter. The Bajoran flinches at the sight of him...

TARAN'ATAR
(to Bashir)
Make the security officer leave.

BASHIR
I'm not willing to do that. Last time I was alone with a Jem'Hadar, he nearly tore my head off.

TARAN'ATAR
Kitana'klan was young and foolish, and a traitor to the Founders. I saved your life on that occasion. I will not harm you now, because the Founder has ordered me not to.

BASHIR
If you don't know what you're doing during these blackouts, how can you be sure?

TARAN'ATAR
(insistent)
I will not harm you.

Hesitantly, Bashir turns to the officer... and nods. The officer leaves. The door closes behind him...

BASHIR
Just in case, the sensors are set to alert Ops and the Infirmary if anything happens to either of us.

TARAN'ATAR
Acceptable. You may begin.

Taran'atar moves to his computer console, sits awkwardly, and calls up files to study. Still nervous at being alone with him, Bashir begins setting up his equipment...

25 **INT. EMPOK NOR - OPS CENTRE**

Gomez, Nog, Stevens and Bowers all hang around, hoping for some sign. There is none.

Soloman sits in his space suit, helmet off, still entranced by the scrolling codes. Focusing on him...

26 **INT. DA VINCI - SICKBAY**

...to One-One-Oh, unconscious on a biobed, with One-One-One holding his hand, crying, unable to move on without him. Lense keeps an eye on them while Gold and Gomez pace...

VOICE (comm)

Bridge to Gold. We've reached the Denorios Belt, and there's no sign the Cardassians detected us. The *Li Nalas* is waiting, and Major Kira's on the comm.

GOLD

Alright, put her through. Can't put this off forever.

A screen on the sickbay wall brings up a picture of KIRA - a high-up leader in the anti-Cardassian resistance...

KIRA (screen)

David - have you got it? Is it what we thought?

GOLD

Nerys... yes, we got it. As for what it is - no, I don't think so.

KIRA (screen)

The legends say the Tears of the Prophets will appear in the skies over Bajor. If that is an Orb, we need it, David. The resistance is on the verge of giving up the fight to the Cardassians. They need proof of the Prophets... to keep them believing we can win.

GOLD

I understand that. And I know that this thing appeared as if by magic in orbit of Cajara. But I've had Lieutenant Dax scan it six ways to Sunday, and it isn't one of your Orbs, Nerys, I'm sure of it.

(more bad news)

There's more... when the Bynars did their thing, tried to connect to it... it knocked one of them out. One-One-Oh is in a coma.

GOMEZ

I'm telling you, he's still communicating with someone - or some thing.

KIRA (screen)

It's a Prophet! He's talking to the Prophets. I'm beaming over.

GOLD

That's really not necessary --

KIRA (screen)

I may as well give you back your chief engineer while I'm at it.

(off screen)

Duffy, get your stuff together.

She cuts the comm, leaving Gold stewing...

27 INT. EMPOK NOR - OPS CENTRE

Nothing has changed. Gomez stands, agitated, taps her comm.

GOMEZ

Gomez to *Da Vinci* - I think we have a problem. We haven't had any response out of Soloman for almost thirty minutes now.

GOLD (comm)

Can you pull him out?

GOMEZ

I'd rather not do that against his will, sir. I can't be sure what it would do to him.

GOLD (comm)

Well, this is a hell of a thing.
What do we do --

The line drops. Gomez taps her combadge again, troubled...

GOMEZ

Gomez to *Da Vinci*. Are you there?
(no answer)
Da Vinci, come in.

She looks to Nog, who taps his comm as well...

NOG

Nog to *Da Vinci*. Please respond.

Still no answer. They are all becoming worried now...

BOWERS

Maybe the spatial distortions are interfering with the signal.

NOG

Or maybe it's the Androssi's trick with the comm frequencies again...

GOMEZ

With the deflector shield up, I should be safe to beam back to the *Kwlek* now. Its sensors should be able to tell me if there's anything wrong with the *Da Vinci*.

(taps comm)

Gomez to *Kwlek* - one to beam up.

27 CLOSE ON GOMEZ

We stay with Gomez as the room dematerialises around her. We're going inside the transporter beam with her, as we did with Barclay in TNG 6x02 "Realm of Fear"...

28 **GOMEZ'S POV**

...as the Ops Centre of Empok Nor dissolves... there is another figure in the matter stream...

...it's the alternate DUFFY (8x04 "Cold Fusion"), wearing the alternate universe's Starfleet uniform. His own eyes widen in surprise as he recognises Gomez...

29 **CLOSE ON GOMEZ**

...still inside the transporter beam, Gomez also gapes in shock as she recognises her dead lover...

30 **INT. SHUTTLE - TRANSPORTER PAD**

...and the transporter sequence completes, depositing Gomez onto what looks just like a runabout's transporter pad.

She is still gaping in surprise and horror, barely able to breathe from the shock of it, shaking, beginning to cry...

GOMEZ
Kieran...

From Gomez's face, we pull back, out through a window of the shuttle, until we're...

31 **EXT. SHUTTLE**

...outside the shuttle, and we PULL BACK from the lower arm of Empok Nor to which it is attached... further and further away... distortions rippling through the local space...

...and there is no sign of the *Da Vinci* at all.

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

32 EXT. EMPOK NOR - ESTABLISHING

Just re-establishing for a moment. *Da Vinci* has gone...

33 INT. EMPOK NOR - OPS CENTRE

An emotional Gomez is back with Nog, Stevens and Bowers, who are trying to be delicate and sympathetic to her...

GOMEZ

I'm not imagining things.

STEVENS

I didn't say you were. But Sonya, you know that wasn't really Duffy you saw, right? It was just some weird glitch caused by the spatial distortions. You know that.

GOMEZ

He recognised me, Fabe.

NOG

Soloman said he's contacted an alternate version of himself. Maybe you did the same, sir.

Empok Nor SHUDDERS again with a new round of distortions...

BOWERS

What about the *Da Vinci*?

GOMEZ

She's gone. No sign of an impulse trail or debris. She must have got caught up and slipped through the hole too. Fix the hole, she should pop right back into our reality.

NOG

Which leaves us right back where we started.

He turns... to where SOLOMAN remains hooked up to the main computer, still deep in the code...

34 INT. DA VINCI - SICKBAY

ONE-ONE-OH remains unconscious. KIRA inspects the Androssi device, as GOLD stands by.

GOMEZ is in a semi-private alcove in the sickbay, hugging DUFFY affectionately. But Duffy is deep in thought...

GOMEZ

You're a million light years away.

DUFFY

Just thinking about what happened in the transporter. It was weird, Sonya. All the time I was working with Kira... I had this feeling something was wrong.

GOMEZ

Nothing's wrong, not now I've got you back...

She leans in close, and they kiss....

35 INT. EMPOK NOR - OPS CENTRE

On our Gomez, remembering Duffy, as the station SHUDDERS...

36 INT. DEFIANT - MAIN BRIDGE

Vaughn grips tight to the arms of his command seat as the *Defiant* SHAKES around him. A computer BURSTS into sparks.

TENMEI is at helm, fighting to keep the ship under control. The viewscreen shows an in-orbit view of Bajor...

VAUGHN

Tell me we got them!

TENMEI

Yes sir, they're in transporter room one, and Doctor Tarses is assessing their injuries.

VAUGHN
Still no word from Captain Sisko?

TENMEI
No, sir. I hope he's alright.

VAUGHN
If you think the Bajorans will
let anything bad happen to their
Emissary, Ensign, then you really
haven't been paying attention.

Tenmei turns to him, annoyed -- but she sees his smirk, and
realises he's only joking. She softens, returns a smile...

TENMEI
Actually, Commander, from what
I've read, I'd bet that Captain
Sisko is helping them out more
than the other way around.

VAUGHN
(smiling)
You're probably right, Prynn.

The ship SHUDDERS again, reminding them both to get back to
work. But Vaughn spares his daughter another smile first...

37 INT. TARAN'ATAR'S QUARTERS

The distortion hits Deep Space Nine, making Taran'atar's
computer GLITCH and FIZZLE, knocking out its power. The
Jem'Hadar gets to his feet in anger and frustration...

TARAN'ATAR
How am I to supposed to study with
these kinds of disruptions?! The
Dominion would never allow this.

BASHIR
Taran'atar, try to calm down...

Taran'atar begins to stalk back and forth in his room. His
movements are becoming looser and less coordinated than
usual, similar to how he was in the holosuite last episode.
Watching him pace, Bashir notices this with worry...

TARAN'ATAR

Why should I be calm? I follow the Founders as a Jem'Hadar should. I fight for them for twenty-two years without fail. But now I am stuck in this godless place where the computers do not even function!

In frustration, he launches a PUNCH right into the computer screen, shattering it in a shower of sparks...

BASHIR

Computer, raise force field!

A field snaps into place between them... Taran'atar sneers, reaches for a weapon... but he stumbles, weakening... eyes flickering as he fights against unconsciousness...

TARAN'ATAR

I... do not... understand...

Slowly but inevitably, Taran'atar slumps to the ground by the wall... and he's unconscious.

Bashir watches him from behind the force field, with mixed fear and sympathy for his patient...

38 INT. DA VINCI - SICKBAY

One-One-One stands by her unconscious partner's bedside, afraid for him. Kira continues to circle the Androssi device. Gold is not impressed...

KIRA

I need to know what this is, Gold.
That means I need those Bynars.

GOLD

Those Bynars are my crew, Major.

KIRA

This is more important than one person - or two! This object is the only thing that'll bring the Bajorans together to fight off the Cardassians!

GOLD

And I've told you it's not an Orb!
Look at it, it's not even round!

KIRA

(not listening)

Doctor Lense, can you wake him?

LENSE

Not without hurting him. Bynar
physiology is tough - half the
time you gotta look at them more
as sick computers than humanoids.
(to One-One-One)
Sorry.

ONE-ONE-ONE

It is... accurate.

LENSE

Only one way I can think of to get
through to One-One-Oh - One-One-
One has to be willing to commune
with him. Maybe she can - I don't
know, reboot him or something.

One-One-One looks at them, small and scared and tearful...

ONE-ONE-ONE

But, this might not be a Prophet.
It might be... infection.

Kira glares at Gold. Reluctantly, Gold comes down to One-
One-One's level, tries a soothing voice...

GOLD

You're right to be frightened. No-
one blames you for that. But One-
One-Oh's not coming out of this.
Humans value love. I don't know
what's in a Bynar's heart... but
how far are you willing to go to
help your partner?

ONE-ONE-ONE

I wish... I will... I will try.

GOLD
Well, alright then.

Nodding with satisfaction, Gold steps back over to Kira.

One-One-One reaches out to hold One-One-Oh's hand, grasps it tightly, looks at him. The light on her head gradually begins to PULSE in the same rhythm as that on his...

39 INT. EMPOK NOR - OPS CENTRE

...and in our universe, Soloman's head-light is FLASHing in the same rhythm. He is miles away, gazing into the churning figures on the screen, but a small smile of recognition creeps over his face. Gomez frowns...

GOMEZ
I haven't seen that smile on his face in more than a year - since before One-One-One died.

STEVENS
You saying what I think you are?

GOMEZ
I think Soloman hasn't just found himself - he's found One-One-One. That's why he was so eager to go back in.

STEVENS
Eager enough to lie to us? He's never lied before.

NOG
Maybe he just never had anything worth lying about before.

GOMEZ
Well... the longer he spends in there, the more the fabric of reality bends and breaks out here, and the more Bajor gets ripped to shreds. So we have to get the mission done with or without him. The question is - how?

Nog stands up, begins pacing back and forth in the dark, empty Ops. He's brainstorming...

GOMEZ

Nog...? I'd recognise that "I've got an idea" look anywhere.

NOG

I was just thinking about what you said about Duffy... about how the other Duffy is still alive...

Stevens glares at Nog - he said to be *sensitive*. But Gomez takes a deep breath and gives Nog benefit of the doubt...

GOMEZ

What about it, Nog?

NOG

Besides the bio-filters and the phase transition coils, what does a transporter have that nothing else onboard a starship has?

GOMEZ

A Heisenberg compensator. So?

NOG

So what's the compensator for? It overrides the inevitable drift of information from being broken down into your particles.

Gomez doesn't appreciate being lectured but goes with it...

GOMEZ

Yes - it doesn't really tell you much, just gives you information in a general sense and compares it to what's stored in the buffer.

NOG

Right. So what if your transporter snagged some information in the stream and compared it to what's already there - in the *Kwolek*?

GOMEZ

(catching on)

...and it came up with Duffy.

NOG

And if it has the patterns for Duffy, it's probably still got the patterns for Soloman back from when he wasn't Soloman. So if I access those, compare the two and whittle them down...

GOMEZ

...then you get rid of the two Solomans. And whatever's left will be the interaction between Soloman and that universe's One-One-One.

NOG

(triumphant)

And that means I can talk to her.

STEVENS

Wait, wait. That's a Bynar search program that's running there. You don't even know the language.

NOG

I will in a second. I've had the tricorder reading everything that has gone through Soloman's memory buffer while he's been connected.

STEVENS

Alright, so you run a translation. What are you going to say?

GOMEZ

How about, what the hell are you looking for?

Flushed with excitement and success, Nog gets to work with his tricorder. Gomez crouches back down by Soloman...

GOMEZ

I'm sorry, Soloman. We have to.

40 **INT. TARAN'ATAR'S QUARTERS**

Taran'atar JERKS awake on the floor. He is momentarily disoriented, but then recognises where he is. He stands, frowning in confusion. Then he sees Bashir sat across the other side of the room, watching him with sympathy...

BASHIR

Welcome back. How do you feel?

TARAN'ATAR

Disoriented, but otherwise ready
for battle. You were observing me.
(touches forcefield)
Did I attack you?

BASHIR

No.

TARAN'ATAR

Have you diagnosed my condition?

BASHIR

As a matter of fact, I have.

TARAN'ATAR

Tell me.

BASHIR

Based on my observations and
readings, I believe that what's
actually happening here, why
you're missing periods of time...
is that you fell asleep.

On Taran'atar's unhappy reaction...

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

41 INT. TARAN'ATAR'S QUARTERS

The forcefield is down, but Taran'atar does not move. He just stares down Bashir, absorbing his analysis...

TARAN'ATAR

This is intolerable. Humiliating. Already I am exiled from everything I know. Forced to live among fools and weaklings. Now I must accept this shame as well?

BASHIR

There's no shame in needing sleep from time to time, Taran'atar. I can help you learn to handle these new developments... if you want.

TARAN'ATAR

If I understand your laws correctly, you are required to keep my diagnosis a secret from your colleagues.

BASHIR

If you're talking about doctor-patient confidentiality, then yes, you're right.

TARAN'ATAR

Then you will not inform Captain Kira about my condition.

BASHIR

Alright. But I would think she'd want to know. And I would think you'd want to be honest with her.

TARAN'ATAR

No Jem'Hadar wishes to appear weak in front of their Vorta.

BASHIR

This isn't weakness, Taran'atar.
It's just natural progression.

TARAN'ATAR

Explain.

BASHIR

You don't require ketracel-white.
You've begun to eat limited foods
- soup, rice. Now you're starting
to need sleep, albeit much less
frequently than humans, so far. It
might be a function of advanced
age, but I believe that your
physiology is slowly returning to
its natural state, the way it was
meant to be before the Founders
manipulated it to their purposes.

TARAN'ATAR

You speak as if this is something
to be desired. I should have
expected such a response.

BASHIR

What does that mean?

TARAN'ATAR

(matter-of-fact)

You are arrogant. Hypocritical. I
have observed this in most members
of Starfleet. Despite your claims
of respecting all life equally,
you believe your own way of life
is inherently superior, and that
to make others be more like you is
to make them better. The Founder
ordered me to live among you - not
to live like you.

BASHIR

Is being like us so terrible?
Isn't there anything about our way
of life that you can respect?

TARAN'ATAR

(thinks a moment)

I do respect Captain Kira. More than I have respected most of the Vorta under whom I have served, in fact. She is an able warrior, honest and honourable. She does not simply command - she leads. But mostly... I respect her because she has gone out of her way to earn my respect, even though she did not need to.

(beat)

But she is still mistaken about me. She sent you to me because she believes I require... company. I comprehend that Commander Vaughn, Lieutenant Ro, even you, are all valued within your own system. But that does not mean that I wish to spend time with you, or become like you. If I am forced to live in this place and have indignities piled upon me, I will do it as a Jem'Hadar - focused on the mission and nothing else.

BASHIR

That sounds... lonely.

TARAN'ATAR

(sigh)

You will never understand Jem'Hadar. Leave me now. And keep your promise. Captain Kira will remain unaware of my blackouts, and I will work to conquer them myself. Without your help.

Downcast, Bashir gets up to go, not sure what else to do...

BASHIR

Alright... I'll order you a new computer screen. I'll just tell them that it was damaged by the disruptions.

42 **EXT. EMPOK NOR - ESTABLISHING**

Re-establishing again, lonely in orbit of the gas giant...

43 **INT. EMPOK NOR - OPS CENTRE**

The others have been waiting or pacing while Nog works with his tricorder. Then he takes a deep breath...

NOG

I think I've got it.

GOMEZ

Okay... Go ahead, Lieutenant.

A little nervous now that it's time, Nog steps close to Soloman and crouches down by him... activates a program on his tricorder... and waits for some response. Still in his trance, Soloman's face creases with a small frown...

44 **INT. DA VINCI - SICKBAY**

Holding onto One-One-Oh's hand, One-One-One gasps slightly in her own trance...

ONE-ONE-ONE

There is now another line of code.
It is... not thought.

GOLD

A fourth Bynar? Are you sure?

ONE-ONE-ONE

No, no... this is not One-One-Oh,
and it is not One-One-Oh's double.
This one is new. It says that the
double is a Bynar named Soloman...
and that he exists in another
universe. Another temporal realm.

KIRA

It's a Prophet! The One will reach
out and his Temple will be reborn.

GOLD

Will you give it a rest?

KIRA

Look, we know that Bynars always come in twos, right? But now One-One-Oh has found his opposite number - a singleton. How is that possible? A single Bynar shouldn't exist. But this one does, and he calls himself "Solo Man."

(off blank reactions)

Don't you get it? Solo man - one man. The One.

Gold shakes his head in exasperation. One-One-One agrees...

ONE-ONE-ONE

It is not a Prophet. It is a...
(unfamiliar word)
...ferengi.

GOLD

Never heard of it.

ONE-ONE-ONE

He says it would take too long to explain. He says that One-One-Oh - Soloman - in his universe... he lost his partner.

(voice breaks)

He says I died there...

Sympathetic, guilty, Gold takes One-One-One's free hand...

ONE-ONE-ONE

There is a void in him. But I cannot fill it. Much as I wish to help, I have my own partner here.

(tearful)

I want my One-One-Oh back, whole, and yet I feel such sorrow for this other. He is so alone. I do not know how he managed to survive.

GOLD

I suppose he just went on. People do that.

ONE-ONE-ONE
But how can they, when the heart
knows what it has lost?

Off Alt-Gomez, feeling these words...

45 INT. EMPOK NOR - OPS CENTRE

...to our Gomez, as she waits for a response...

GOMEZ
Well?

NOG
I know the message got through.
One-One-One's code changed to
accommodate it.

GOMEZ
And what about Soloman?

NOG
He's in there, but it's like he's
locked in tight somehow.

BOWERS
Can't we just give him a general
neural suppressant or something -
take him offline that way?

GOMEZ
But then we'd lose the connection
altogether. We still need them to
shut down the search.

NOG
Right now, all we can do is talk
to them. It's up to them to decide
- they're the ones who are looking
for something, not us.

GOMEZ
Then ask them what they're looking
for. Maybe we can help find it.

Nog turns back to his tricorder...

46 **INT. DA VINCI - SICKBAY**

The rest of the *Da Vinci*'s crew has gathered round now, interested in the exchange. Gomez holds Duffy's hand...

GOLD

Another universe? Another us? What makes them think they can help? We have no way of knowing if our two universes are compatible at all.

DUFFY

Actually, now that you mention it, sir...

GOMEZ

Kieran saw something when he beamed over with Major Kira. Another me.

DUFFY

I believe she was from this other universe. They had another Gomez, and I think she recognised me.

Gold considers this. He looks to Kira, whose determination hasn't changed. He takes a deep breath...

47 **INT. EMPOK NOR - OPS CENTRE**

Gomez reacts to Nog's report...

GOMEZ

The wormhole? That's what this is all about?

NOG

That's what they say. Apparently they haven't found theirs yet, and they thought the Androssi device would help them find it.

STEVENS

In a weird sort of way, I guess it has. I mean, it reached out and found this version of Bajoran space well enough.

BOWERS

I'm not sure we should tell them.
Ever hear of the Prime Directive?

GOMEZ

Ever hear of Pandora's Box? They
know we're here. We know what they
are looking for. From the sounds
of it, they're on a clock. If we
don't, what incentive do they have
to turn that thing off?

NOG

None.

GOMEZ

That's right. And if they don't,
things don't get better over here.
Seems pretty cut and dried to me.
(to Nog)
Do it.

Nog types on his tricorder again...

48 INT. DA VINCI - SICKBAY

Kira reacts to One-One-One's report...

KIRA

It's in the Denorios Belt? But
that's where we are right now.
It's a mess of plasma storms and
tachyon eddies - that's why we
always hide here. But I always
assumed the Temple would need
somewhere stable to open.

GOLD

(sneer)

Guess again.

KIRA

But then why hasn't it opened
before, if we've been right on its
doorstep all this time?

GOLD

Maybe you don't have the faith.
Look, you've got your answer, and
I would like to get our collective
tucheses out of here before Gul
Garak comes chasing us down.

GOMEZ

(re Androssi device)

But what do we do with this?

KIRA

I'll take it back to the Bajoran
resistance with me.

GOLD

How many times do I have to tell
you it's not an Orb? It can't help
you open your precious Temple.

KIRA

They don't have to know that.

GOLD

So what, you'll just lie to them?

KIRA

Everybody needs something to
believe in, David. Something to
keep them going.

49 INT. EMPOK NOR - OPS CENTRE

Nog checks the readings on his tricorder...

STEVENS

Will they do it?

NOG

I don't know.

GOMEZ

They have the information they
wanted. They'll have to decide how
to use it. My guess, though, is
they're committed now.

Bowers quietly hands Gomez a hypospray out of his security -cum-medical kit. She presses it gently to Soloman's neck.

GOMEZ

And so are we.

Soloman slumps backwards into Gomez's arms, and she cradles him tenderly. Around them, the rumbles have stopped...

50 **INT. DA VINCI - SICKBAY**

Kira exits, taking the Androssi device with her. One-One-One still holds tight to One-One-Oh's hand, tears flowing. She has been forgotten in all the confusion, but now Gold comes to her gently. She looks up at him, crying...

ONE-ONE-ONE

He is gone, Captain. He is gone.

GOLD

Is he dead?

ONE-ONE-ONE

No... but he is one again. He is alone. They have chosen for him. But how will he live, Captain? How can he?

GOLD

Because he will. He'll have to.

As One-One-One continues to cry...

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

51 EXT. DEEP SPACE NINE

Calm has returned. The *Defiant* and *Da Vinci* are both docked safely at the station. We're back in our own universe now.

52 INT. DA VINCI - CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM

Captain GOLD sits behind his desk, while SOLOMAN sits upright in the seat opposite him. It's definitely a disciplinary meeting, but Gold is not unsympathetic - he knows what Soloman has been through...

GOLD

How do you feel?

SOLOMAN

Badly. I chose very poorly.

GOLD

Yes, you did. And in the end,
Commander Gomez chose for you.

SOLOMAN

Yes. And because of her and Nog,
DS-Nine and Bajor are now safe.
But... I have missed her so much.

GOLD

One-One-One, you mean?

SOLOMAN

The chance to make up for the time
we have lost - I could not resist.

GOLD

Anything else?

SOLOMAN

I lied. I have never lied, and for
that I am truly sorry. You would
be within your rights to transfer
me off your vessel.

GOLD

I would. Don't think I haven't considered it. But you're far more valuable to me if you stay. On one condition - you go to counselling, for a few months, maybe on a star-base. Or perhaps with Doctor Lense, since you seem comfortable with her. Anyway, we have time.

SOLOMAN

Yes... there is always that.

Soloman sits and cares at the deck...

53 INT. DS9 - KIRA'S OFFICE

Kira sits behind her desk, with Nog standing before her...

KIRA

I just wanted to tell you that I'm very happy with the work you did on Empok Nor, Lieutenant. Thanks to your creativity and skill, Bajor and this station are safe. In fact, I'm putting you in for a commendation.

NOG

Thank you, sir.

KIRA

I'd also like to apologise for snapping at you. Seems I've been doing that a lot lately.

NOG

No need, sir. It was a stressful situation for all of us.

KIRA

Yes. You might be pleased to know that we heard from Captain Sisko. They're all perfectly fine. He's even helping Rena's Aunt Marja feed all the displaced people.

NOG
That's good to hear, sir.

KIRA
Dismissed, Lieutenant. You've got
plenty of repairs to see to.

Nodding acknowledgement, Nog turns and bounds out of the
door, down the steps to Ops. Kira proudly watches him go...

KIRA
Computer - play back messages.

COMPUTER VOICE
First message from Chief Medical
Officer, Julian Bashir.

BASHIR (comm)
Captain... there's something I
need to tell you. I'm breaking a
serious confidence talking about
this. If it got back to Starfleet
Medical, then I could be in major
trouble.

(pause)
But... I'm just too scared about
what could happen if I don't tell
you, and you did ask me to keep
you informed. It's about
Taran'atar...

Kira's face drops in anticipation of trouble...

54 INT. DEFIANT - MAIN BRIDGE

The crew is just closing up shop after the completion of
the mission. Vaughn is making his final notes on the panels
on his armrests...

VAUGHN
(to crew)
Excellent work, people. You all
did a good thing today. Now go get
some rest.

Tenmei waits a little too obviously for the last few non-coms to depart, leaving her and Vaughn alone. Approaches him nervously, not sure how to say what she wants to. The reverse of the scene in 8x06 "Fallout"..

TENMEI
Commander... Dad...

Vaughn is very happy to hear that word from her...

VAUGHN
Prynn... what can I do for you?

TENMEI
I was just thinking... about what happened on Empok Nor... about losing the people you care for...
(composes herself)
I was wondering if you might be free later this week. I haven't tried out the Klingon restaurant yet - still. And I wondered if you might like to join me to give it a shot. Never scared to take a risk, that's me. Only if you're free.

Vaughn smiles, touched that she is making the effort...

VAUGHN
I'd love to, Prynn. How about tomorrow night?

TENMEI
Tomorrow night would be great.

Relieved, she smiles and exits. He watches her with love...

55 INT. DS9 - INFIRMARY

Bashir is working hard, trying to keep himself distracted from all the business with Taran'atar. The door opens and Dax strolls into the infirmary...

DAX
Hey, Julian. You okay?

BASHIR

As much as can be expected. It's been a rather busy day.

DAX

I was wondering... Have you had a chance to read Crewman Soloman's final report on what happened on Empok Nor?

BASHIR

No. Like I said, I've been busy.

DAX

Makes interesting reading. Turns out he contacted an alternate reality, with another Starfleet, another DS-Nine. Well, Terok Nor. It's strange to think about how things might have turned out, with just a little tweak. For example, the alternate *Da Vinci's* science officer... was Dax.

BASHIR

Really? You went back to science?

DAX

No, not me.

(beat)

It was Jadzia.

Bashir isn't sure how to react to that. With an enigmatic look, Dax leaves him and exits out onto the Promenade...

56 INT. DS9 - PROMENADE

Dax crosses the Promenade, passing Kira on her way. Kira stops to look inside Quark's bar...

QUARK himself is clearing up the mess of smashed glass and spilled liquids, helped by his Ferengi servers, TREIR and HETIK, and to Kira's surprise, Ro and her security staff.

Kira is about to move on, when she sees Taran'atar walking towards the bar. He stops as he sees her...

TARAN'ATAR
Captain.

KIRA
Taran'atar. Everything alright?

TARAN'ATAR
Everything is... fine.

KIRA
Alright then. Carry on.

He nods and walks into Quark's. Kira turns and looks up to the top level, where she can see Commander GOMEZ standing by herself, gazing out of the porthole into space...

57 **INT. DS9 - QUARK'S BAR - UPPER LEVEL**

Holding himself tight and under control, Taran'atar walks up the stairs and towards the holosuites. He taps the control panel, and the door opens to reveal the MONSTER from earlier. He immediately ROARS and launches upon it...

58 **INT. DS9 - PROMENADE - UPPER LEVEL**

Kira emerges from the spiral staircase and quietly walks over to Gomez. Gomez starts to pull herself to attention when she notices Kira, but Kira waves her down...

GOMEZ
Captain... I was just watching the
wormhole before we ship out.
Always another problem to be
solved. No rest for the wicked. I
just wanted a moment, and this...
this is a good place.

KIRA
Yes, it is. Sometimes I take it
for granted. Then I think back to
the time when it went away, and I
remember to be grateful.
(beat)
I read your report, and Soloman's.
I talked to Captain Gold.

GOMEZ

(nods absently)

Weird to think about that other universe. Somewhere, out there, people I've cared about are alive. People Solomon cared about, too. And I took him away from them.

(pause)

Do you ever wish you could go back? Do things over?

KIRA

Do I wish I'd never released the Ohalu prophecies, or never joined the resistance? Put the genie back in the bottle?

(small smile)

No. I don't worry about what can't be changed. If I could, then it wouldn't be my past. I wouldn't be me. I'm afraid I don't have the imagination to consider choices I'd never have made anyway.

Kira pauses, sees the look of regret on Gomez' face...

KIRA

What about you? Do you have regrets?

GOMEZ

All the time.

(quieter)

All the time.

On Gomez, as she gazes out into space...

BLACK OUT:

THE END