

STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE

10x21 - "Into the Fire."

Screenplay by Martyn Dunn

Based on characters from the series

Star Trek: Deep Space Nine

and from the post-finale novels
by Pocket Books

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. BAJOR - SISCO'S HOUSE - MORNING

Early, as the sun is rising over the distant hills and the local birds are fluttering and tweeting in reply...

2 INT. SISCO'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

OPAKA sits in the rocking chair in the corner of the room, slowly rocking back and forth with baby REBECCA in her lap. She's keeping the girl occupied with some simple toy.

KIRA emerges from the kitchen, in casual clothes. She's carrying three mugs of morning coffee. She drops one off at the side-table next to Opaka's rocking chair...

OPAKA

Oh, thank you, Nerys.

...and takes the other two to the couch. KASIDY gratefully accepts, and Kira sits beside her, gentle and soothing...

KIRA

So he never came home?

KASIDY

No. Haven't seen or heard from him since I threw him out of the house. Oh God, why did I do that? Anything could have happened to him when he's in that state.

KIRA

Don't beat yourself up, Kas. You were scared, angry...

KASIDY

How's Rena?

KIRA

She's fine. Handling it better than Jake is. I don't think I've ever seen him so angry.

Kasidy puts her mug down on the coffee table, gets up and begins to pace. Kira and Opaka can only sympathise...

KASIDY

Damn it, Ben! At least call me and let me know you're okay.

OPAKA

(gently)

Perhaps he worried he would not be welcome after what happened. Perhaps he did not wish to burden you any further.

KASIDY

I'm his wife! He's supposed to burden me! I just hate when he gets like this. All this Prophets business screaming in his head...

Kasidy slumps back down into an armchair...

KASIDY

I'm sorry Nerys, Sulan. I don't mean to be insensitive to your beliefs... I just wish those Prophets of yours would leave Ben out of it once in a while.

KIRA

It's okay, I know what you mean. And I know this probably isn't what you want to hear... but I believe it's all for a purpose.

Kira looks subtly over to Opaka. Opaka gets the message - she stands and hefts Rebecca onto her hip...

OPAKA

I'll go and tidy Rebecca's things. I'm sure she can show me where everything goes.

Opaka carries Rebecca into the bedroom, leaving Kira and Kasidy alone. Kira smiles, turns back to her friend...

KIRA

Kasidy, please... try and hear me.
I know the Prophets wouldn't ask
him to do anything unless it was
absolutely vital for the safety
of Bajor. They take care of us.
Ben is Their way of doing that.

KASIDY

But does it have to be so hard for
him? And for me?

KIRA

I can only tell you that in the
end, it'll all be for the best.

Kasidy wishes she could be as confident. And really, Kira
is trying to convince herself just as much...

KASIDY

I know he lies to me. Alright,
maybe not lie, that's too strong a
word. But he keeps things from me.
He hides and pretends. It's just
because he wants to protect me.
But I hear him mumbling in his
sleep. I know he's scared. And I
want to protect him too.

KIRA

Perhaps you could talk to Jake
about it? Or encourage Ben to talk
to Jake if he can't talk to you.

KASIDY

(shakes head
firmly)

No. I don't want to put Jake in
the middle of it. He has his own
life to lead now.

KIRA

Then maybe you could persuade Ben to
step back a bit. Take more of a back
seat. Vaughn and Taran'atar and I
can handle what we need to do...

KASIDY

I can't do that either. I could never ask him not to go with you. It's all he's thought about and worried about since he came back from the wormhole. Besides, if I try to make him choose... I'm afraid I'll lose.

KIRA

You don't seriously think he'd choose the Prophets over you...?

Kasidy looks Kira in the eye, sad and resigned...

KASIDY

He already did once.

Kira doesn't really have any answer for that. It's a tough situation all round, and she has her own doubts about it.

There's a BANG out on the veranda, at the back of the house. Kira and Kasidy look to each other, confused. They get up from the sofa and look to the back door...

...just in time to see SISKO half-collapsing against it.

Kira quickly rushes to the door, opens it, catches Sisko as he slumps into her arms. It's not unlike 5x10 "Rapture" - he's wracked with the same kind of shivers and sweats, like his head is too full of comprehension, trying to burst out.

Kasidy stays back, hand to her mouth, in tears at the state her husband is in. Opaka emerges from the bedroom at the commotion. Sisko looks up, barely realising where he is...

SISKO

Nerys...

KIRA

Benjamin... what is it?

SISKO

I understand now. You have to gather everyone. Gather them all, before it's too late.

On Opaka, as she remembers...

FLASHBACK - 10x11 "HARMONY"

Itu has received revelation from their Orbs, during the last Ascendant attack. He stops another passing Eav'oq...

ITU

I understand now. You have to
gather everyone. Gather them all,
before it's too late.

BACK TO SCENE

The same words. Opaka realises - *this is it*.

BLACK OUT:

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

3 INT. SISKO'S HOUSE - BATHROOM

Sisko stands over the sink, splashing his face with water. Brings himself around, forces the knowledge rushing round his brain into calm, rational patterns by force of will.

He looks at his reflection, stares into his own eyes. Into lightning FLASHES of memory, barely enough to register...

-- Three comet fragments approach the Gamma end of the wormhole (3x15 "Destiny")

-- In engineering, Sisko is caught in a warp core discharge and phases out of existence (4x03 "The Visitor")

-- Sisko weeps bitterly in Prylar Eivos's arms at the base of the *bantaca* spire (10x20 "In the Stars")

Sisko tenses his jaw at the memories, but doesn't run away. He accepts what he has to do...

4 INT. SISKO'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

Sisko emerges from the bedroom. He has changed his clothes, freshened up, but still urgent and grim with determination.

Kasidy stands, holding Rebecca. She looks to her husband, knows exactly what he's thinking...

KASIDY

So this is it. It's finally time.

Sisko goes to her, and as gently as he can, gathers them both into his arms, pulls them tight...

SISKO

Kasidy... I love you. You know that. You and Rebecca and Jake are the most important things in the universe to me.

Kasidy nods silently against his shoulder. Refuses to cry.

SISKO

I do what I do... what I've always done... to keep you safe. Either for Starfleet or the Prophets... doesn't matter. You - you are what matters. Do you believe me?

KASIDY

(sad nod)

I do, Ben. I do.

SISKO

I am so, so sorry for whatever I've put you through. I have never wanted to hurt you. And I would never leave you if I didn't have to. But this... this I have to do. And I have to do it now.

He reaches in and kisses her deeply - as much for his own comfort as for hers. Then he kisses Rebecca's head...

SISKO

You should call somebody... to come and sit with you. I don't want you to be alone.

KASIDY

(no accusation)

Who would I call, Ben? Everyone I know is going with you.

SISKO

How about Prylar Eivos? He took good care of me, gave me a place to sleep last night. And you said you liked him.

KASIDY

...maybe.

Kira re-enters the house from the front door. Sisko pulls back from Kasidy, takes a deep breath, steels himself...

SISKO

Everything ready, Nerys?

KIRA
I called the station. Vaughn's
pulling everyone together.

SISKI
Good. There's no time to waste.

One last kiss, then he heads for the door. He doesn't look
back. Kira tries her most reassuring smile for Kasidy...

KIRA
Don't worry, Kas. I'll bring him
home safe and sound.

KASIDY
Thank you, Nerys.

But Kasidy doesn't believe it any more than Kira does. Then
Kira turns and leaves as well. Kasidy sits alone...

5 EXT. DEEP SPACE NINE - ESTABLISHING

Much as we left it last time - *Defiant*, Vannis's Dominion
ship, and the damaged *Even Odds* all sit in a line around
the docking ring. A single RUNABOUT approaches and slowly
lands on its pad, sinking into the body of the station...

6 INT. DS9 - SECURITY CELLS

ETANA and RICHTER sit together inside one of the cells. The
forcefield is up, and security Ensign ALECO stands guard,
but far enough away to give the women their privacy...

ETANA
So what's going on out there?

RICHTER
(faux cheerful)
Nothing special. Aylam's still
flirting with Simon. Simon's still
oblivious. Bashir's on egg-shells
around them both.

ETANA
(gently)
Kris - come on. Tell me.

RICHTER
(sigh)
They still haven't decided.

ETANA
What's taking them so long? It's
not legal to hold someone this
long without charges, you know.

RICHTER
It's... complicated, Kol.

ETANA
And what about the rest?
(no answer)
I know something's going on. I can
feel it in the air.

RICHTER
I don't know what. I'm just a
nurse, you know they don't tell
me anything. But I do know Kira
just got back from Bajor.

Richter watches as Etana ponders what that means...

7 INT. DS9 - KIRA'S QUARTERS

The door is open, and Kira stands at the threshold. Sisko
is elsewhere in the room...

KIRA
Come on in, everyone.

Opaka enters, followed by VAUGHN, DAX, RO, TENMEI, BASHIR,
NOG, SHAR, CENN, TARAN'ATAR, VANNIS and finally DEZ, on
crutches and not sure what he's doing here. They spread
out, taking seats (except for Taran'atar, who stands).

Last in the room are JAKE and RENA. They are about to join
the rest without a word, but Sisko stops them...

SISKO
Wait, Jake, Rena... please.

They pause, giving nothing away, but allow him to speak...

SISKO

I hope you'll let me apologise to you both. My behaviour was inexcusable. Especially towards you, Rena. I would never hurt either of you. I was just so...

RENA

It's alright, Mister Sisko... It's a stressful time for everyone.

SISKO

Stressful. That's a reason. But not an excuse. I am so sorry.

RENA

Apology accepted.

Sisko turns towards Jake, who has yet to speak. He nods, almost reluctantly. But he knows his father is sincere...

JAKE

Apology accepted. Rena helped me understand some things... so did Dez. But I'm serious. Don't ever say anything like that again, dad.

SISKO

I won't. There won't be a need. Because I understand now...

(to Rena)

...why you're here. I'll explain everything. Go on - take a seat.

Jake and Rena do as they're told. Sisko goes and stands by the window, next to Kira, and they look back at the rest...

SISKO

Thank you all for coming. I'm doing this in Kira's quarters because I wanted it to be informal. This is not an official Starfleet mission. This is just us - the people in this room. So you all get an input, and no question or suggestion is out of bounds. With that said...

He nods to Kira, who takes over the meeting...

KIRA

Alright. You all know what we're up against. The Ascendants are coming. They believe if they can reach the wormhole, and enter it, they'll become gods themselves. And they're willing to destroy anyone who gets in their way.

NOG

This is something I've been wondering, actually. We've had whole fleets going through the wormhole for years now. If the Ascendants have been searching for it, how did they miss all that?

OPAKA

When the Eav'oq used their Orbs to hide away, the Ascendants were... "cast out." Scattered across the quadrant in an instant.

VAUGHN

And this all happened thousands of years ago. It's taken them this long to even get close again.

SHAR

Plus, we know that the wormhole is a localised phenomenon. Even as close as we are right now, there are no measurable readings until one hits the event horizon.

NOG

Alright, yeah, I get all that. But the thing is, Iliana Ghemor is in charge of them now, right? And she knows everything. About us, the Dominion, the wormhole... What she didn't get from the Obsidian Order or from your memories, Captain... Taran'atar gave her.

Nog looks to Taran'atar warily, expecting trouble. But the Jem'Hadar has no reaction. Nog is right, after all...

NOG (cont)

So if she knows all that... then
what's she waiting for?

KIRA

I've asked that question myself.
And the only answer I can come up
with... is that she's deliberately
biding her time, maybe to gather
up as many of the Knights as she
can, to make sure they can't lose.

RO

That's a pleasant thought.

KIRA

And she's convinced she won't
lose. She honestly believes she's
following the will of the
Prophets. That they're destined to
destroy the Eav'oq.

VAUGHN

Captain... what do you believe?

Well, that's the question, isn't it? Kira pauses, and then
lies as confidently as she can...

KIRA

We're going to stop them.

They are relieved to hear it. But Vaughn sees something in
Kira's face the rest of them don't...

Before he can say anything, Tenmei speaks up first...

TENMEI

How? I mean, I don't mean to be
negative, Captain, but I've seen
what one of these guys can do. How
can we possibly stop the entire
race, if it really is just the
people in this room?

SISKO

Luckily for us, Lieutenant, the people in this room are a pretty remarkable bunch. We can do it.

(to Dez)

And it all starts with you.

Dez looks back confused. Everyone has turned to look at him, and he's feeling a bit put on the spot...

DEZ

Me?

SISKO

Your ship can listen in on the Ascendants... and it turns out, that's the key to everything.

NOG

But they know about that now.
We've lost the advantage.

KIRA

No we haven't. What we've got...
is a trap.

DAX

(realising)

We listen in on them, they try to track the *Even Odds* down again, and they find it right where we want them to be.

CENN

And where's that?

KIRA

In orbit of the Eav'oq homeworld.

Everyone seems shocked at that...

OPAKA

Nerys... I thought the plan was to protect the Eav'oq. Now you tell us you intend to deliver the Ascendants right to them?

KIRA

They won't get anywhere near the Eav'oq. Because waiting for them in orbit will be a massive Jem'Hadar fleet, courtesy of Taran'atar, Vannis... and Odo.

DEZ

Hold on. The *Even* is my ship, and I haven't agreed to this.

KIRA

You won't be doing any fighting, Dez. Your whole job is to run as fast as you can, and then get the hell out of the way.

DEZ

Out of the way of a running fire-fight between two insanely violent armies out for each other's blood. We'll never make it.

VAUGHN

You will if you have Lieutenant Tenmei at the helm.

SISKO

(gently)

Elias, that's not necessary...

VAUGHN

Is there a better pilot in this room? Is there a better pilot in this sector?

(no-one answers)

Then it's Lieutenant Tenmei's job. Let's move on.

Tenmei is a little taken aback by this, but she trusts her dad, and she appreciates his faith in her. She'll do it.

BASHIR

What makes you so sure the Ascendants will ignore the Eav'oq to fight the Jem'Hadar?

KIRA

Something Iliana said - "they're easily distracted." They've already attacked the Dominion once. Put the Jem'Hadar in their path again, they won't be able to resist taking the bait.

TARAN'ATAR

And then we will destroy them all.

SISKO

(sad smile)

I appreciate your confidence, Taran'atar. But no, you won't.

TARAN'ATAR

I don't understand.

SISKO

I don't doubt your abilities. But it's not your job to kill the Ascendants. It's mine.

JAKE

Dad... what are you saying?

SISKO

That's the other reason we need them in the Idran system. They want the wormhole... I'm going to give it to them.

As they all look at him in shock and surprise...

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

8 INT. DS9 - HABITAT RING CORRIDOR

The meeting is over. Everyone emerges from Kira's quarters looking a little shell-shocked. They've heard the whole plan, and it's a biggie. There are awkward glances as they go their ways, off to prepare for their respective roles.

Last to the door is VAUGHN. He makes sure everyone else has left, and at the threshold, turns back to Kira...

9 INT. DS9 - KIRA'S QUARTERS

KIRA stands gazing into her prayer mandala. Vaughn hovers in the doorway...

VAUGHN
Captain... can I ask you something?

KIRA
Of course, Commander.

Vaughn steps closer into the room, lets the door close...

VAUGHN
I just wanted to know... why did
you lie to us?

Kira looks at him, unsure whether to be offended, scared, caught out...

VAUGHN
Please don't misunderstand, I'm
not accusing you of anything. But
I saw the look on your face when
you said you believed we'd stop
the Ascendants. Don't worry, I
don't think anyone else caught it.
But I've had reason to become an
expert at spotting lies.

Kira turns back to her mandala, full of confusion...

VAUGHN

Do you think Iliana will win?

KIRA

I don't know, Elias. There are just so many signs...

VAUGHN

Signs of what?

(Kira hesitates)

Captain... Nerys... Just talk to me. Let me help.

KIRA

(sigh)

She was right... about Cardassia. They attacked, killed billions of Bajorans... and that was one Prophet race against another. Why wouldn't it be the same for the Ascendants and the Eav'oq?

VAUGHN

But look at Cardassia now. It's falling apart, while Bajor has never been better.

KIRA

But Cardassia is a world of the Prophets, just like Bajor. If that happened to them, it could happen to the Eav'oq too.

VAUGHN

It could. Maybe it already has.

KIRA

What do you mean?

VAUGHN

The Ascendants first attacked the Eav'oq thousands of years ago, yes? And it didn't work.

KIRA

And now they're back.

VAUGHN

Just like Cardassia tried to come back to Bajor during the war. And it didn't work. Their second attempt to control you ended with them being razed to the ground. Who's to say the Ascendants' second attempt won't end up the same way?

KIRA

But is that any better? What right do I have to stop the Ascendants from achieving what their faith says is the entire point of their lives? Who am I to say that my interpretation of the Prophets is better, or any more correct than theirs? If I do that, I'm no better than Yevir, when he tried to ban the Ohalu religion on Bajor.

VAUGHN

Captain, if protecting Bajor and the Eav'oq means stopping the Ascendants... then that's just what you'll have to do. What other option is there? Sit back and do nothing?

KIRA

Maybe the Prophets have some other plan...

VAUGHN

Captain, you are the Prophets' plan. I may not believe in a god, but I do believe that if there is a god, and if that god is going to save us... then he's going to do it by giving us the intelligence and imagination and strength to save ourselves.

Kira tries her best to take his advice...

10 **INT. DS9 - HABITAT RING CORRIDOR**

SISKO strides down the corridor. DAX chases behind him...

DAX
Ben - hold up!

He turns to her - she jogs up to him...

SISKO
What do you need, old man?

DAX
Ben, come on. Are you really sure
this is the way to go?

He looks around, makes sure there's no-one to listen in...

SISKO
It's the best of a bad set of
options, Dax. But I do need to ask
for your help.

DAX
Anything. You know that.

SISKO
I need you to be Jadzia for me one
last time. I need you to be the
one to press the button.

DAX
I'm not the science officer, Ben.
I'm not even assigned to DS-Nine
or the *Defiant* anymore. Shouldn't
Shar be the one --

SISKO
Shar doesn't know me. I can't ask
him to do this. He can stay here
on the station, with Ro. She'll
need good officers to rely on.
(beat)
Please, Dax. I need you with me.

Dax sighs. How can she say no to her oldest friend?

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

By the bar, QUARK holds court, relating a ribald tale MOS while the *Even Odds* Ferengi - FEG and TRIV - gaze with rapt attention, sucking up as much as their lobes will allow.

FACITY, BRAD and GLESSIN sit together, all looking a little battered and bruised. Glessin especially is quiet and insular. They look up at a stomp-shuffle sound...

...and see DEZ limping towards them with his crutch. Facity pulls out a chair, he gently lowers himself into it...

FACITY

Well? What did they say?

DEZ

These people are insane. There's no other word for it. Must be an Alpha Quadrant thing.

(beat)

No offence, Glessin.

Dez is about to spill it all, but there's the sound of more people approaching - JAKE and NOG. Dez sighs and rubs his face, as if to say, "Oh, will you just leave me alone"...

JAKE

Hi, everyone. Dez... can we talk to you for a second?

Dez looks down at the table, doesn't respond. The others are not sure what's up. Jake gets the message...

JAKE

Fine. I guess I'll tell my dad he needs to find another plan.

Jake turns to leave. Reverse psychology. It works.

DEZ

Wait...

Jake turns back. He sees that Dez is struggling with this. The freighter captain wants to be involved, but wishes he didn't. Taking pity, Jake crouches down to Dez's level...

JAKE

Dez... I'm not here to ask you to change who you are. We just need your help.

NOG

Maybe there's something we can offer you in return. A deal.

Dez is half-way to being convinced. But he's scared. He doesn't know which way to jump. Facity speaks up...

FACITY

Tell me what you need, Jake.

JAKE

We need the *Even Odds* to act as a lure for the Ascendants. Use the Wa to get them where we want them. That's all.

DEZ

You're putting us in the middle of a war zone, Jake. I have to think of the safety of my crew.

NOG

Your crew will be safe.

GLESSIN

I'd do it.

The others look to Glessin for an explanation...

GLESSIN

The battle's coming anyway. Just once I'd like to get through one with my head high, knowing I did something to help. I don't want to cower and cry all my life.

Dez reluctantly considers all the options...

DEZ

You're sure Prynn can get us through the battle safely?

NOG

I guarantee it. Run, and then hide
till it's all over.

DEZ

(deep breath)

Alright. But this is the last
time, Jake. The moment it's over,
you leave my ship and we go our
separate ways.

NOG

Deal.

Nog looks to Jake for his confirmation...

JAKE

Deal. Thank you, Dez. We'll call
you when we're ready.

They turn to leave. As they walk together out of the bar...

NOG

Jake, can I ask you something?

JAKE

Sure, Nog.

NOG

What is with us and crazy plans?
(beat)

I mean, we try to fly a runabout
without the autopilot. We steal a
stuffed bear to help out a mad
scientist with his experiments. We
pit a crew of cadets against the
biggest, baddest ship in the
Dominion fleet. And now this...

JAKE

(sad sigh)

I don't think this is the same
thing. This plan isn't crazy...
it's just wrong.

They exit the bar...

12 **INT. DS9 - TENMEI'S QUARTERS**

TENMEI is moving swiftly around the room, packing a small travelling bag. Taking out her frustration and confusion on the clothes and drawers and closet doors...

TENMEI

It's wrong, Dad. I can't do it.

VAUGHN

I'm just saying, give it a chance.

TENMEI

No! Do you think I haven't gone over this with myself a hundred times? Shar and I cannot happen. It never has happened. The most we've ever done is kiss, and...

She drifts off, as if sadly remembering the kiss and how wonderful it was...

TENMEI

Is that really all we've done? In two years?

(plaintive)

He's so pretty... he makes me want to sit in a dark room, eat ice cream and cry.

(resolved)

But it's better for everyone if we stay colleagues and nothing more. So whatever I may or may not be feeling, I'm just going to ignore it till it goes away.

She goes back to stuffing clothes haphazardly in her bag...

VAUGHN

But what if something were to happen... to either of you...

TENMEI

Then it wouldn't matter anyway.

Vaughn takes Tenmei's hands, forces her to pay attention...

VAUGHN

Prynn, listen to me. I haven't had a lot of love in my life. Ruriko, you, a couple of minor flirtations when I was even younger than you are now... and that's it. In more than a century of breathing.

(emphasising)

Do not follow my example.

Tenmei is grateful for her father's advice. She smiles...

TENMEI

Don't sell yourself short, Dad. I can think of one lady who's shown a definite interest... and it's more than a minor flirtation.

Opaka. Vaughn chuckles, pulls Tenmei in close for a hug. They breathe together, glad to have each other...

VAUGHN

Just promise me you'll think about it. You're my daughter... and I want you to be happy.

TENMEI

I love you too, Dad.

They separate, steel themselves, and get back to work.

13 INT. DS9 - KIRA'S OFFICE

The door from Ops opens, and Nurse RICHTER enters. KIRA is likewise buzzing around, putting things in order. She stops to greet Richter, directs her to the guest seat...

KIRA

Thank you for coming, Ensign.

RICHTER

What can I do for you, Captain?

KIRA

I wanted to tell you in person that we've come to a decision.

RICHTER
(nervous)
Okay. Go on...

KIRA
Sergeant Etana is free to go.
Legally, the only thing we can
charge her with is medical
malpractice. And as the only one
affected by that, Lieutenant Ro
has chosen not to press charges.

RICHTER
(deep breath)
I see. Thank you, Captain. But if
you don't mind... I don't want Kol
to be released.

KIRA
(pause for WTF)
I'm sorry?

RICHTER
I want her to stay where she is,
in jail. And I want her to stay
there, behind that forcefield...
for as long as possible.

Off Richter's determination, and Kira's confusion...

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

14 INT. DS9 - KIRA'S OFFICE

Where we left it. RICHTER just delivered her decision...

KIRA

Ensign... I don't understand. I thought you'd be happy. She didn't do anything wrong. Or even if she did, I know if I loved a person --

RICHTER

That's precisely why I want her to stay there. I know something's going on. I know you're putting together some kind of big mission.

KIRA

I can't talk about that.

RICHTER

I know. I also know my girlfriend, and whether Ro presses charges or not, Kol will feel like she has to make amends. So she'll join up, I won't be able to stop her... and then she's going to die.

Kira finds herself unable to deny the possibility...

RICHTER

So I'm asking you, Captain...
Please. Keep her safe. At least
until all this is over.

From Kira as she considers Richter's request...

15 INT. DS9 - DOCKING RING CORRIDOR

...to KIRA watching her crew undertake a massive logistical operation - dozens of crewpersons lifting and carrying and anti-grav-ing and preparing for the mission ahead. Nervous, worried, but burying it under professionalism.

AIRLOCK 1 - RO and SHAR stand nearby, also observing. Ro knows this is it. As Kira approaches...

RO

Good luck, Captain. I don't wish I was going with you.

KIRA

Good luck to you too, Ro. And Shar.
I know the station's in safe hands.

Kira reaches out and shakes Ro's hand. It feels like a curiously final gesture. Then she enters the airlock.

With Ro's leave, Shar turns and walks along the corridor. He passes VAUGHN on his way. Vaughn approaches Ro...

VAUGHN

Lieutenant. Everything ready?

RO

Yes, sir. Major Cenn's talking with General Lenaris right now. They'll be there.

VAUGHN

Good. Carry on, Lieutenant.

Vaughn enters the airlock as well, and is gone.

AIRLOCK 2 - a squad of Jem'Hadar stand guard. VANNIS and OPAKA approach - TARAN'ATAR snaps to attention...

TARAN'ATAR

The soldiers are prepared. First Rekan'ganar is an able commander.

VANNIS

I agree. Thank you for your help, Ambassador.

OPAKA

You're not coming with us?

TARAN'ATAR

I have chosen to join the *Defiant*.

VANNIS

And the ranjen travels with us.
What greater symbol of our
alliance could there be?

Vannis turns and leads Opaka onto the ship, followed by the
Jem'Hadar soldiers. Taran'atar turns to leave...

Inside the airlock, Opaka is pleasantly surprised...

OPAKA

You seem much happier, more at
peace than you did.

VANNIS

I died. That tends to change a
person's perspective.

OPAKA

I know precisely what you mean.

AIRLOCK 3 - more crew loading up *Even Odds* with supplies.
SISKO, JAKE and RENA stand by, watching with bitten lip...

SISKO

Rena... thank you.

RENA

For what?

SISKO

For reminding me... of what I
needed to know.

Sisko pulls them into a big hug, then lets them go, turns
away, unable to watch. Jake and Rena enter the airlock...

...passing Tenmei on her way. She looks out, disappointed,
until she finds what she was looking for - Shar.

SHAR

Prynn... hello. I wanted to wish
you luck. But you do not need it.
You will be magnificent.

Tenmei's breath catches - what a wonderful thing to say...

TENMEI
I'll see you when I get back,
Shar. That's a promise.

They share a moment. Then Shar turns to walk away.

AIRLOCK 1 - Ro presides over the last few supplies being loaded, as Taran'atar approaches. She takes a breath...

RO
Taran'atar... don't die.

TARAN'ATAR
I am already dead, Lieutenant. I
go into battle to reclaim my life.
A battle of blood or of words...
the distinction no longer matters.

RO
Then go reclaim your life. And
Taran'atar... kick their ass.

And she really means it. They're good now, friends again.
He sees it, shares it. He turns and enters the ship...

Ro walks along, just as Sisko is approaching. They nod
their acknowledgements. Sisko steps into the airlock, and
passes Vaughn. Vaughn watches him pass with a curious look,
then presses the control to roll the airlock door closed.

16 INT. DS9 - MAIN OPS CENTRE

The turbolift rises into Ops, carrying Ro. Shar is back at sciences, SEVAK running tactical, LEISHMAN at engineering, and CENN and TARSES at Ops. All the new faces...

RO
Status, Major.

CENN
All three ships indicate ready.
And General Lenaris is sending
everything he's got.

RO
Let's hope it's enough.

On screen, the three ships depart the docking ring. Shar catches something out of the corner of his eye, turns...

...and sees the second turbolift bringing PIF. Ro and Cenn turn too, confused to see a green-furred talking dog...

SHAR

Pif! What are you doing here?

PIF

Jake arranged temporary security clearance for me. He said it was only fair, considering.

SHAR

No... I mean, why aren't you on the *Even Odds*?

Pif stretches his neck to look at the screen...

17 EXT. DEEP SPACE NINE

The freighter ship in question follows the *Defiant* and Dominion Vessel 288 out into space.

The wormhole BURSTS open in its great display of power and colour, and the ships dive in...

18 INT. DEFIANT - CORRIDOR

SISKO stands peering out of a porthole at the wormhole interior, tears in his eyes. He hears footsteps, turns...

...it's VAUGHN, also just strolling. Things on his mind. When he looks up and spots Sisko, he hesitates a moment...

VAUGHN

Captain.

SISKO

Commander.

VAUGHN

(approaching)

It's all coming together just as you wanted. Are you happy?

SISKO

(quiet, small)

Do I look like a man who's happy,
Commander? Have I ever looked
happy about any aspect of this?

VAUGHN

(slightly chastised)

No, I suppose not.

SISKO

What I am is determined. It's what
has to happen. So I'm going to go
through with it.

This is getting close to Vaughn's own worries. He takes a
chance, quietly opens up to Sisko...

VAUGHN

Why? I mean... how can you be so
certain this is what's right?

(beat)

When you... "recruited" me last
year... how did you know that was
the right thing to do?

SISKO

You're not going to like the
answer.

VAUGHN

I'll take it anyway.

SISKO

The Orbs. Specifically the Orb of
Souls. It called out to me.

VAUGHN

What did you see?

SISKO

Myself. Or... lots of myselfes.
The Orb of Souls shows you
versions of yourself, different
ways your life might have gone.

VAUGHN
You mean alternate universes?

SISKI
There were nine of us. Well, nine
places. One was empty - the pirate,
from the Intendant's universe.

VAUGHN
Because he was already dead.

SISKI
I... felt it happen. I could see
all their lives, laid out before
me, as clearly as I see you now.
Dead or alive.

VAUGHN
And they told you what to do?
(Sisko nods)
And you did it... even though you
knew it would mean lying to me...
forcing me to do what I did...
you went ahead anyway.

There's no accusation in this anymore. If anything, Vaughn
empathises with Sisko. They have a quiet moment of unspoken
companionship. Sisko turns back to the porthole...

19 **EXT. SPACE - WORMHOLE**

The Gamma entrance to the wormhole bursts open, and the
three ships fly out of it...

20 **INT. DEFIANT - MAIN BRIDGE**

Kira presses a control on the panel at her side...

KIRA
Defiant to Even Odds. You know
what to do. Good luck.

TENMEI (comm)
You too, Captain. We'll see you
there. *Even Odds* out.

21 **EXT. SPACE**

The *Even Odds* peels away from the other two ships, takes another heading, and jumps to warp. They're gone.

The *Defiant* and Dominion Vessel 288 turn together towards the planet in the distance... the Eav'oq homeworld.

22 **EXT. EAV'OQ CITY - DAY**

Vaughn sits on a low stone wall, watching several EAV'OQ bounce peacefully on their way. A voice calls out...

 OPAKA (o.s.)
Elias...?

Vaughn turns and sees Opaka strolling away from the Temple towards him. He stands in the presence of a lady...

 VAUGHN
How's it going in there?

 OPAKA
Nerys is... apologising. To the Eav'oq, for having been overly forceful with them last time. But I thought you were staying up on the ship...

 VAUGHN
Dax can handle that. I wanted to ask you something.

 OPAKA
Of course, Elias. Anything.

 VAUGHN
Once, when I needed... help... you took me to see an Orb. I'd like to do that again.

 OPAKA
Any particular one?

 VAUGHN
The Orb of Souls.

Opaka's face falls. She knows the Orb of Souls is one of the toughest ones. Vaughn must be in a bad way...

VAUGHN

Please... don't ask. And don't tell anyone else, either.

OPAKA

I would never. Orb experiences are rare and precious, not the stuff of gossip. But are you sure?

VAUGHN

No. I want to be sure. That's why I need to ask... and whatever the answer, I'll do it.

OPAKA

I'll speak to Tendren at once.

VAUGHN

Thank you, Sulan. And there was one other thing... something Prynn helped me to understand. And as I'm afraid I may never get another chance to say it...

OPAKA

Say what?

In answer, Vaughn reaches his hand to caress Opaka's face, slowly and gently, as if barely daring. When she doesn't pull away in horror, he leans further forwards. Gradually, tentatively, with small hopeful smiles... they KISS.

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

23 EXT. FOUNDERS WORLD - DAY

No Great Link, no Founders, just a vast expanse of rock.

A Starfleet transporter delivers KIRA, NOG, ALECO (armed but holstered) and TARAN'ATAR. A Dominion transporter deposits WEYOUN, plus VANNIS and First REKAN'GANAR.

Aleco directs Kira's attention to the horizon on the left - a golden MISSILE, piercing the air on its way towards them.

Kira turns to the right - another shape, the undulating SPACE-FISH from 7x14 "Chimera." They're converging on us...

Finally both shapes get here, and both MORPH, "land" on the islet as humanoid forms - MEERA and LAAS, respectively...

KIRA

Laas.

LAAS

Kira.

KIRA

Where's Odo?

LAAS

He's coming.

Somewhere out there, a SHAPE is moving. A massive flattened carpet of golden liquid, an entire continent of changeling matter. It crawls, flows over the rock, getting closer...

...until ODO stands before them, in the shapeless smock they all wear. The image is clear - he's a Founder now. The two Vorta and the two Jem'Hadar bow their heads politely.

Odo and Kira look at each other. So many feelings trying to burst to the top. But this is business, they're in public, in front of their subordinates. It would be inappropriate.

You know what? Screw it.

Kira and Odo throw themselves on each other, a powerful kiss that says everything all at once. Nog and Aleco look mildly uncomfortable. Meera smiles. Laas rolls his eyes.

Finally they pull themselves apart, get down to business...

ODO

What do you need?

KIRA

The Jem'Hadar. All of them. Or as many as you can spare.

ODO

You've got them.

LAAS

Odo... a little discussion might not go amiss?

ODO

There's nothing to discuss, Laas. Everything I have is hers. Nothing you can say to me can change that.

LAAS

You insisted they stay where they were. Keeping us safe.

MEERA

None of us are safe, Laas. Not while the Ascendants remain.

NOG

Meera's right. We've seen the Ascendants in action.

TARAN'ATAR

Founders... may I speak?

(at Odo's nod)

The Jem'Hadar need guidance, a purpose. I... understand how they feel. They need this as much as any of us. If fighting beside the Bajorans brings them together again... they will welcome it.

LAAS
(reluctant)
Very well.

ODO
Weyoun, I want to speak to the
Jem'Hadar. All of them.

WEYOUN
At once, Founder.

Weyoun disappears in a transporter beam. Odo goes to Kira,
takes her hands affectionately...

KIRA
Thank you, Odo.

ODO
Don't mention it. Anytime you want
to start an interstellar war...
just say the word.

She grins, taking the joke how it was intended...

ODO
Now what? Off to lead the fight
from the bridge of the *Defiant*,
I suppose?

KIRA
Actually... I'd been thinking I
should lead it from the bridge of
a Jem'Hadar ship. They might be
more willing to fight for us if
they see a Bajoran there in the
trenches with them.

ODO
Taran'atar... what will you do?

TARAN'ATAR
Whatever I want.

ODO
And what do you want?

TARAN'ATAR
To stand beside Captain Kira, as
her First.

KIRA
(touched)
Thank you, Taran'atar.

VANNIS
I know of a ship that recently
lost its Vorta, and its First.

TARAN'ATAR
It shall be so. At least, for the
duration of this mission. After
that... we will see.

Off Kira's uncertain reaction to that...

WHITE OUT

24 WHITE SPACE

We are in the Prophets' realm. The fog parts to reveal...

...VAUGHN, looking around in mixed wonder, fear, unease.

A HEARTBEAT sounds, breaths deep and regular. Vaughn walks
forward through the fog... he seems to be alone for now.

25 EXT. EAV'OQ CITY - DAY

Sisko leans against one of the gleaming white walls of the
Eav'oq citadel. Brow furrowed, eyes closed, trying not to
show how heartbroken he is. He feels a shadow...

OPAKA
Benjamin... I wonder if you might
like to pray with me. I know I
could use a little tranquillity.

They both know she's offering for his benefit, not her own.
But it gives him the wiggle room to admit to his weakness.
He smiles gratefully, and takes her hands.

26 INT. JEM'HADAR SHIP #1 - BRIDGE

Odo stands in the centre. The Jem'Hadar crew go about their business, a little awed to have a Founder among them.

Kira stands to one side, nervous but hopeful. Laas stands to the other side, arms folded, unimpressed.

Weyoun reverently approaches Odo, hands him a comm headset, backs away. Odo dons the headset, prepares himself...

ODO

I am speaking now to all Vorta and
all Jem'Hadar... everywhere. This
is the Founder.

Kira can't help but notice Odo's use of that word...

ODO

I know you've all wondered why the
Dominion has fallen into chaos.
You might have wondered if your
gods had abandoned you.

(beat)

I will never abandon you. But...
I have kept things from you. The
reason behind recent events...
the real reason. That reason is
called... the Ascendants.

The Jem'Hadar look between themselves... they'd heard the rumours. Laas hangs his head and sighs - he still thinks this is a bad idea. Kira is on edge, waiting for trouble...

27 INT. JEM'HADAR SHIP #2 - BRIDGE

A different Jem'Hadar ship - Vannis and Rekan'ganar's crew. Odo's VOICE pipes through the ship-wide comm system...

ODO (comm)

The Ascendants destroyed something
very important to the Founders...
important to us.

Rekan'ganar looks to Vannis in shock - what is this? He'd heard nothing. The other Jem'Hadar are likewise confused...

28 INT. JEM'HADAR SHIP #3 - BRIDGE

A third ship. Taran'atar stands in the centre, listening.
Odo's words are personal to him...

ODO (comm)
That is what led to the chaos and
confusion you have felt.

29 INT. JEM'HADAR SHIP #1 - BRIDGE

Odo, Kira and Weyoun...

ODO
But now we have a chance to strike
back at them...
(looks to Kira)
...thanks to Bajor.

30 EXT. EAV'OQ CITY - DAY

Sisko and Opaka stand facing each other, hands held between
them, heads down and eyes closed. Praying...

OPAKA
Prophets, we humbly ask for Your
guidance and Your love in the
difficult times ahead...

31 WHITE SPACE

Vaughn walks around the white space, still alone, still
only hearing one heartbeat, one set of breaths. He's a
little confused, annoyed. Where are the others?

32 INT. JEM'HADAR SHIP #1 - BRIDGE

Odo and Kira...

ODO
Our former enemies offer us the
chance to set right what the
Ascendants set wrong, by fighting
our common enemy - together.

Kira smiles...

33 INT. JEM'HADAR SHIP #2 - BRIDGE

Vannis and Rekan'ganar and their crew...

ODO (comm)
I ask all Jem'Hadar, all Vorta,
all soldiers of the Dominion...
to follow two people.

The Jem'Hadar crew exchange confused glances...

REKAN'GANAR
Keep your place...

34 INT. JEM'HADAR SHIP #3 - BRIDGE

On Taran'atar as he listens to Odo's voice...

ODO
First Taran'atar, the oldest...
and the wisest Jem'Hadar I have
ever known.

Pride surges in Taran'atar's chest. His god accepts him.

35 INT. JEM'HADAR SHIP #1 - BRIDGE

Odo gazes with love at Kira...

ODO
And Captain Kira Nerys of Bajor.
The bravest woman I have ever
known. Follow them, and they will
lead you to victory.
(beat)
We are the Dominion. We fight
together. And we will prevail.

He takes off the headset. It's done. He looks to Kira...

ODO
Weyoun, coordinate with all the
other Vorta as to how many we can
actually spare. Anyone not vital
to the Dominion's security right
now, I want out there with Kira.

WEYOUN
Of course, Founder.

Weyoun sets to work. Odo approaches Kira, talks *sotto*...

ODO
Nerys... are you alright?

KIRA
(quiet)
You let him call you Founder. You
called yourself a Founder.

ODO
I also sent all those loyal soldiers
to their deaths.

KIRA
That's what they want.

ODO
That doesn't make it any easier
for me, Nerys.

36 EXT. EAV'OQ CITY - DAY

Opaka concludes her prayers...

OPAKA
We walk Your path, in certain
knowledge that with Your wisdom
and light to guide us... we will
prevail.

Opaka raises her eyes to Sisko, and sees that unbeknownst
to her, she has only been making it worse on him. He looks
more heartbroken than ever...

OPAKA
Ben... what is it?

SISKO
How much, Sulan? How much more are
they going to ask of me?

Opaka gathers him to her breast and comforts him...

37 WHITE SPACE

Vaughn is in the white space... alone.

 VAUGHN
Hello? Are you there?
 (no answer)
Sisko said my alternate selves
would help me, tell me what to do.
So where are you?

But there's no-one. He frowns, confused. He stares at a point directly in front of him, and a FLASH comes...

38 FLASH

Vaughn as a younger man, in his 60s, dressed in the uniform of an Andorian Guard. In a physical fight with an actual Andorian, he is STABBED in the heart and falls down dead.

39 BACK TO SCENE

Vaughn flinches at the "memory" of one alternate self. One that is now dead. He looks to the right side...

40 FLASH

The Starfleet shuttle shared by Vaughn, Ruriko and T'Pol. The transporter "accident" caused by Section 31... except that it's Vaughn being burned to a crisp.

41 BACK TO SCENE

Vaughn turns away in revulsion and desperation. He doesn't want to see this. He looks to his left...

42 FLASH

A much younger Vaughn, barely in his 30s, wearing the gold tabard of the Mirror Universe. He struts along a corridor, turns a corner... and is STABBED again by a junior officer.

43 BACK TO SCENE

Vaughn screws up his eyes, not wanting to see any more. But he can't not look. Another "memory" flash...

44 FLASH

A boy of about 12, CLOSE UP as he is rocked violently back and forth by some large angry shape, all claws and feathers and SQUAWKS of fury. A claw sinks deep... and he is dead.

45 FLASHBACK - EARLIER

Vaughn's conversation with Sisko in the *Defiant* corridor...

SISKO

There were nine of us. Well, nine places. One was empty.

VAUGHN

Because he was already dead.

46 BACK TO SCENE

Vaughn looks around himself... all the places are empty. One final sad, comprehending look directly to his right...

47 FLASHBACK - 9x24 "HA'MARA"

The Vaughn of the Intendant's universe is an ancient, blind and crippled old man, thin as paper on the bed. Our Vaughn tearfully holds a phaser to his head... and FIRES.

48 BACK TO SCENE

Vaughn finally understands. All the Vaughns are dead. He killed the last one himself. That's why there's no-one to tell him what to do.

He's the last Elias Vaughn left in creation. As the truth comes crashing down on him...

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

49 EXT. SPACE

The Alpha end of the wormhole bursts open, and the tiny *Defiant* shuttle dives in. We see a fleet of Bajoran Militia ships (like Kira's fleet from 7x02 "Shadows and Symbols"), blockading the area. They do not follow the shuttle in.

50 EXT. WORMHOLE INTERIOR

We travel with the shuttle, following it on its own through the inside of the wormhole.

The Gamma end bursts open, revealing normal space beyond, and the *Defiant* holding position right at its mouth. We keep following the shuttle...

51 EXT. SPACE (CONTINUOUS)

...into normal space. The shuttle approaches the *Defiant's* underbelly. The circular hatch in the larger ship opens up, and we go with the shuttle as it glides to a halt...

52 INT. DEFIANT - LAUNCH BAY (CONTINUOUS)

...and slips up the z-axis into the ship's small launch bay (as seen in 8x15 "Haunted"). It locks into place with a satisfying *ker-thunk* of machinery...

53 INT. DEFIANT - MAIN BRIDGE

The door opens and VAUGHN strides onto the bridge, firm and emotionally closed. DAX stands from the command chair...

DAX
Welcome back, Commander. Everything okay?

VAUGHN
Fine. Where's Sisko?

DAX
In his cabin.

VAUGHN
And where's Kira?

DAX
(pointing)
There.

Dax points to the main viewscreen. Vaughn looks...

...and sees the Idran planet in the distance, and a massive fleet of Dominion ships hanging in space in front of it.

54 EXT. SPACE

The Dominion fleet fills the entire sky of the Eav'oq home world. All types of vessels - the small fighters, mid-sized cruisers, and the humongous behemoth battleships. We close in slowly on one of the small fighters...

55 INT. JEM'HADAR SHIP #3

KIRA stands in the centre, her headset on and transmitting. She looks out through her tiny eye-screen at the fleet. Thank the Prophets they're on her side this time.

KIRA
First...

She looks to the side, and there is TARAN'ATAR...

TARAN'ATAR
Yes, Captain?

KIRA
Everyone's clear on what's going to happen?

TARAN'ATAR
Yes, Captain. All the Vorta have been briefed on the battle plan.

KIRA
(sad chuckle)
I don't have a plan...

Taran'atar looks confident. She's not so sure...

56 **EXT. EAV'OQ CITY - DAY**

Opaka stands outside the Eav'oq citadel, gazing up into the bright, sunny sky. She can't see the ships from here, but she knows they're there. Hopes everything goes to plan...

 OPAKA (v.o.)
Emissary... I don't understand.

CUT TO:

57 **INT. DS9 - KIRA'S QUARTERS**

Back to the big meeting in Kira's quarters.

Everyone is gathered around, staring at Sisko. Opaka looks especially disturbed by what he just said...

 OPAKA (cont)
You're going to... "give" the
Ascendants their Fortress?

Sisko nods. He doesn't seem especially happy about it.

 SISKO
That's right. Because that's how
we're going to stop them - by
giving them what they want.

Everyone looks back at him, a bit confused, a bit unnerved. He knows they don't understand what he's saying. He wishes he didn't understand it either...

58 **INT. EVEN ODDS - BRIDGE**

PAN around the bridge of the *Even Odds*, seeing its crew on edge, waiting for the signal. Dez, Facity, Tenmei, Glessin, Brad, Jake...

 SISKO (v.o.)
...and it's all thanks to you.

...ending on Rena.

59 **INT. DS9 - KIRA'S QUARTERS**

On Rena, sat on the couch next to Jake...

 RENA
Me? What did I do?

 SISKO
Jake told me it was your idea to
take your road trip into the Gamma
Quadrant.

Moving to Dez...

 SISKO (cont)
Without that, you would have never
met the *Even Odds* again...

Moving to Shar...

 SISKO (cont)
...and Lieutenant ch'Thane would
have never figured out the Wa and
its link to the Ascendants.

And back to Rena...

 RENA
 (timid)
Is that the "reason" I'm here? Why
the Prophets led me to you and
Jake? Is that enough?

 SISKO
There's more to it, but that's not
important right now.

60 **FLASHBACK - 10x14 "AGAINST THE ODDS"**

Shar and Rena stand inside the Wa. Shar touches the ORANGE
splotch, and the Wa shifts into communications mode...

 SISKO (v.o.)
We know that the Wa is Ascendant
technology...

61 **FLASHBACK - 10x21 "IN THE STARS"**

Prees is in the Wa during the Ascendants' attack, and the strange environment is going haywire...

SISKO (v.o.)

It responds to them, knows when
another of its kind is near...

62 **FLASHBACK - 10x21 "IN THE STARS"**

Iliana standing in her Ascendant ship, talking to Kira across the mirrored wall...

SISKO (v.o.)

It even connects across massive
interstellar distances...

63 **FLASHBACK - 8x23 "RISING SON"**

The bridge of the *Even Odds*, caught in the massive wash of energy as the Eav'oq are revealed and space is realigned...

DEZ (v.o.)

Prees said it went crazy when the
whole Idran system moved in space.

64 **INT. DS9 - KIRA'S QUARTERS**

On Sisko...

SISKO

Exactly. Because it's connected to
the wormhole itself. It's their
equivalent of the Orbs.

VAUGHN

So, what? We bring them just close
enough to the wormhole to force
their ships' systems to react and
blow themselves to pieces?

DEZ

It won't work. The Wa may have
gone crazy but it never came close
to destroying the ship.

NOG
(realising)
Because it's only a small part of
your ship anyway.

SHAR
Ascendant vessels are composed
entirely of the Wa material, in
various forms. It would create a
much stronger reaction.

DEZ
I'm telling you it won't work.
We even came right through the
Anomaly to get here and the Wa
never twitched.

NOG
Because you were powered down.

SISKO
Even so, you're right, Dez. The
Wa's reaction isn't strong enough
to destroy anything. So we need
to... turn the wormhole itself up
a notch. Make it more reactive.

VAUGHN
And how do we do that?

DAX
(gasp of
inspiration)
A subspace inversion.

65 FLASHBACK - 4x03 "THE VISITOR"

The bridge of the *Defiant*, with the wormhole on the screen.
The blue flower is reacting stronger than usual, making the
whole ship shake and vibrate. Jadzia is at the helm...

SISKO (v.o.)
Exactly. The inversion's a natural
phenomenon, makes the wormhole's
gravimetric field and neutrino
levels increase a hundred fold.

66 **INT. DS9 - KIRA'S QUARTERS**

On Major Cenn...

CENN

But that only happens once every
fifty years. The last time was
just seven years ago.

BASHIR

We can hardly wait another forty-
three years for our next chance.

SISKO

We make our own chance. Remember,
Dax? Nerys? When the Cardassians
came, to set up the relay...

KIRA

(gasp)

The sword of stars...

SISKO

We tried to peer through the
Temple gates, using the relay...

DAX

And it accidentally set off a
subspace inversion.

So that's it. It's all out.

The room goes quiet, as they all absorb what this means...

VAUGHN

So that's the plan...

67 **EXT. SPACE**

The *Defiant*, holding position on its own...

TIANA (v.o.)

While B-N-N has not been given any
specific information for security
reasons...

68 INT. DEFIANT - MAIN BRIDGE

Vaughn in the command chair. He looks around at his crew - Dax, Bashir, Nog, Bowers, Aleco (and extras). Dax sits at her panel, staring at the control she's going to press...

 TIANA (v.o.)
 ...we do know that a combined
 Starfleet...

69 EXT. SPACE

The massive sprawling Jem'Hadar fleet in orbit of the Eav'oq homeworld...

 TIANA (v.o.)
 ...and Dominion task force has
 been brought together in the Gamma
 Quadrant...

70 INT. JEM'HADAR SHIP #3

Kira and Taran'atar in charge of their Jem'Hadar ship...

 TIANA (v.o.)
 ...to address the Ascendant threat.

71 EXT. SPACE

The Bajoran Militia fleet, holding position...

 TIANA (v.o.)
 Meanwhile, a Bajoran Militia fleet,
 led by General Lenaris, has formed
 a blockade at the Alpha Quadrant
 entrance to the Celestial Temple.

72 INT. DS9 - MAIN OPS CENTRE

Ro, Shar, Cenn and the others watch the fleet on the main viewscreen, tense and waiting for the moment...

 TIANA (v.o.)
 The Militia press office assured
 B-N-N that this is a precautionary
 measure only...

73 INT. DS9 - SECURITY CELLS

Etana and Richter sit together in one of the cells...

 TIANA (v.o.)
 ...and they do not anticipate
 either Ascendant or Dominion
 forces entering Bajoran space.

74 EXT. BAJOR - SISKO'S HOUSE - DAY

Things are peaceful and sunny as always...

 TIANA (v.o.)
 In a joint statement released
 exclusively to B-N-N...

75 INT. SISKO'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

Kasidy sits on the couch, Rebecca in her lap. The big screen is out on the mantelpiece, and Kasidy is watching the Bajoran News Network, featuring newsreader TIANA FEEN (from 10x02 "Brave New World")...

 TIANA (screen)
 ...First Minister Asarem, Kai
 Solis, Vedek Yevir and Ranjen Opaka
 have called upon all Bajorans, of
 whatever religious or political
 affiliation, to pray for the safety
 of the Eav'oq, and our fleet.
 (beat)
 Stay tuned, as we bring you more
 breaking news.

Kasidy looks down to Rebecca, bouncing happily in her lap, no idea of the danger her daddy is in...

76 INT. DEFIANT - MAIN BRIDGE

The door opens and Sisko steps onto the bridge, looking straight to the viewscreen and its view of the fleet...

 SISKO (v.o.)
 Yes, that's the plan.

77 **THE WA**

The turbolift doors open onto the white fog of the resting
Wa environment. Jake and Rena step out, holding hands.
Daunted but ready to do what they have to...

SISKO (v.o.)
Even Odds gets the Ascendants into
the Idran system...

78 **INT. JEM'HADAR SHIP #3 - BRIDGE**

Kira and Taran'atar...

SISKO (v.o.)
The Jem'Hadar keep them away from
the Eav'oq once they arrive...

79 **INT. DEFIANT - MAIN BRIDGE**

Sisko looks at the screen...

SISKO (v.o.)
And then I...
(beat)
...I kill them all.

Sisko hangs his head in shame...

BLACK OUT:

END OF SHOW