

STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE

8x25 - "Unity, pt 2."

Screenplay by Martyn Dunn

Based on the novel

Star Trek: Deep Space Nine: Unity

by SD Perry

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 INT. DS9 - INFIRMARY

BASHIR has just revealed his findings to KIRA, DAX and CYL.
Dax turns on Cyl, full of anger and accusation.

DAX

Did you know about this?

CYL

(defensive)

Of course not.

DAX

No more secrets, Cyl! Enough!

CYL

Ezri, please... you must believe me, I am as taken aback by this as you. Audrid Dax herself was the first to document the biological connection between symbiont and parasite. But the assumption has always been that it represented a natural evolutionary divergence. As far as I know, no-one has ever suggested that the parasites were engineered from symbionts.

BASHIR

Doesn't that strike you as odd?

CYL

What do you mean?

BASHIR

I mean, maybe the reason no-one ever suggested it is precisely because no-one wanted it known. Maybe that's the real reason Trill has always been so secretive about the symbionts.

DAX

Not just for the living memory
they represent, but because of the
danger they pose if exploited.

BASHIR

If they were tampered with once,
and it gave rise to the parasites
- is it such a stretch to believe
your leaders would do anything to
prevent that from happening again?

CYL

You're suggesting a generational
conspiracy. Among all the leaders
of my world.

KIRA

Can you honestly rule it out?

Dax and Cyl share a look - they honestly can't.

KIRA

At the least, this is something to
give the Symbiosis Commission. If
you tell your people an alien race
experimented on your symbionts
during their evolution, they might
be more willing to help find out
who and why.

CYL

I'll speak to Ambassador Gandres
immediately.

Cyl exits the infirmary, leaving the other three...

2 INT. HOSPITAL

RURIKO lies in a 1950s hospital bed, connected to tubes and
pipes. Semi-conscious, gazing with love at TENMEI, who sits
nearby in 1950s-era civilian clothing, reading from a book.

A hand comes into frame, POV, holding an old revolver...
and BANG. BLOOD spatters across Tenmei's face...

3 **INT. STARFLEET SURFACE SHELTER - MORNING**

VAUGHN jerks awake with a strangled scream, distressed and sweating, uniform rumped from a restless sleep. Catching his breath, he drags himself upright, looks around...

His thin cot sits in a small, utilitarian Starfleet-style temporary shelter - little more than a shack. Necessities only, no luxuries. Early morning sun sneaks in the window.

Desperate, he reaches sharply, uncoordinated, out to the portable COMM UNIT installed in the shelter. He hits a series of keys, waits for a result...

After a moment, TENMEI's face appears on the screen, open and pleasant at first. But when she sees who is calling, she shuts down cold, back to stiff and unfriendly...

TENMEI (screen)
What do you want?

VAUGHN
I'm sorry to bother you. I... just wanted to see you. To see how you were. Check that you're okay.

TENMEI (screen)
Well you've seen me, I'm fine. And I'm really very busy, so --

VAUGHN
I'm sorry, Prynn. I'm sorry about everything. Please believe that, you have to believe that much --

TENMEI (screen)
I have to go.

The signal drops. Vaughn sits and stares at the screen...

...until Bowers enters the shelter, and Vaughn tries his best to smarten up, rather than be seen in this state by a subordinate. But he looks like hell, haggard and unrested.

Bowers is very aware of Vaughn's condition, and compensates with extra professionalism...

BOWERS
Good morning, Commander.

VAUGHN
At ease, Lieutenant.

BOWERS
I have General Lenaris's report, sir. I'm ready to brief you on our current status.

VAUGHN
Take a seat, Sam. When I said at ease, I was serious. Can I get you something to drink?

Bowers relaxes, but not much. He's worried about Vaughn...

BOWERS
Ah, that'd be great, sir. Coffee, black.

Vaughn goes to the basic replicator, returns with the two coffees, hands one to Bowers. He sits back on his bed...

VAUGHN
So, fill me in.

BOWERS
The general managed to clear four more possibles, that family from Hedrikspool. He's still getting resistance to the Cardassians, so he suggested reassigning them to the central compound, so they have as little contact with the public as possible.

Vaughn listens to Bowers' report, but only halfway. He is still thinking about Prynn and Ruriko. He says something only for the sake of something to say...

VAUGHN
What's your view of the situation?

BOWERS

Truthfully? We're accomplishing nothing here. These measures are not enough. People are slipping through the cracks, borrowing or stealing identity tags, lying for one another so they don't have to interact with Cardassians. They won't believe this "assassination ring" story for much longer.

The word brings it all back for Vaughn...

FLASHBACK - THE HOSPITAL

The hand FIRES the revolver at helpless 50s-era Ruriko, the BLOOD splatters Prynn's face...

BACK TO SCENE

Vaughn covers a wince. He tries to bring himself back to the conversation. But Bowers can see what's going on...

VAUGHN

Thank you, Lieutenant. I'll take your opinions into consideration.

BOWERS

Aye, sir.

Bowers leaves. Vaughn continues staring into the distance. He can't think about anything else but Prynn and Ruriko...

BLACK OUT:

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

4 EXT. DEEP SPACE NINE

The station much as it was last time. *Defiant* is still on the docking ring, and the area is full of Cardassians...

5 INT. DS9 - SECURITY OFFICE

RO sits at her desk, flips between various PADDs, looking through security reports, not happy with what she sees.

Behind her on the monitors, GARD sits alone in his cell.

Frustrated, she throws down the padds and heads out...

6 INT. DS9 - PROMENADE

The atmosphere is tense, the few people rushing their way rather than strolling or chatting. Ro walks alone, eyeing the Cardassian soldiers stood at strategic points. Then she notices something, stops and stares in happy surprise...

...TARAN'ATAR and the grey alien girl WEX, standing side by side and looking out of the window on the upper level, in the direction of the wormhole. They make an odd couple - her small and slight, him huge and hulking.

UPPER LEVEL

Ro emerges from a spiral staircase and joins a small party of people walking along. As she passes Taran'atar and Wex, she peels off and steps up to the next window along, hiding behind the bulkhead so as not to be seen eavesdropping...

WEX

...I suppose not. Trellians enjoy their freedom. Did you know that?

TARAN'ATAR

Yes. They resisted Dominion control twice in the last century. I killed many during the last insurrection.

Ro tenses, worried Wex will be offended - but Wex smiles...

WEX

And have you ever stopped to wonder why a people would risk death just to be free?

TARAN'ATAR

Failure to recognise overwhelming opposition.

WEX

No. It's because faced with a life of stagnation under the Dominion, the risk of death was preferable.

TARAN'ATAR

Then death is inevitable.

WEX

Your presence here would seem to suggest otherwise.

TARAN'ATAR

My presence here... is lost on me.

WEX

So why do you stay?

TARAN'ATAR

I was given no option to leave.

WEX

And what would you do if you had the option? Return to your unit?

TARAN'ATAR

I'm not sure. Do you have any suggestions, Lieutenant Ro?

Ro kicks herself - she's been rumbled. She takes a deep breath, steps into view, hoping the day can be saved...

RO

I apologise if I offended you. My curiosity got the better of me.

RO (cont)
This is a tense time, after all.
I'm Lieutenant Ro Laren, the
station's chief of security.

Wex looks Ro up and down, seeming to inspect her...

WEX
You're good. By nature I'm not
easy to sneak up on.

RO
I feel I should make it up to you.
Is there anything you need to make
your stay with us more pleasant?

Wex stares at Ro for a moment more, her big black eyes
disconcerting. Then she nods towards Quark's bar...

WEX
I was considering trying out that
establishment. How is it?

RO
Not bad. Food, drink, games of
chance, holographic environment
rooms. I can see to it you're well
taken care of. I'm on good terms
with the proprietor.

WEX
That sounds... interesting. Will
you join me, Taran'atar?

Taran'atar gives one small and tight nod.

RO
Great.

Ro lets the other two turn and walk back to the stairway
together. Then she follows them, still a bit bemused...

RO
(to self)
And people think Quark and I make
a weird couple...

7 **EXT. DEEP SPACE NINE**

Focusing on the *Defiant* berthed on the docking ring...

8 **INT. DEFIANT - MAIN BRIDGE**

Half-lighting, under repairs. SHAR and NOG sit on the deck, working on disassembled components which lie on the floor between them. Nog is chatting, trying to take Shar's mind off things. Shar doesn't mind the distraction...

NOG

...and he said she's doing great,
and that his grandfather, Joseph,
will be there soon. And it turns
out he's coming with the chief!
Jake said it was a personal visit,
but Chief O'Brien will come to see
us, I know he'll want to see how
we transferred the fusion core
from Empok Nor... hey, Shar, do
you have the Lindsay wrench?

Shar rummages through his tools...

SHAR

Didn't Ensign Senkowski come up a
while ago, to borrow some tools?

NOG

Oh, right. Back in a minute. You
want something? The replicators
are back up.

SHAR

No, thank you.

As Nog EXITS, Tenmei ENTERS, padd in hand... pauses at the sight of Shar on his own... then steels her nerves and goes for it. She approaches, sits, holds out the padd...

TENMEI

The latest readings from Bashir.
For your project with the sensors.

Shar takes the padd, reads it silently. Tenmei wants to say something, offer sympathy, but doesn't know how to begin...

SHAR

You said your father had gone to
Bajor...?

TENMEI

Yes, something about tracking
Shakaar's movements, I think. Not
that I ever get the full story.

She looks up at him, his face shadowed in the half-light.
Shar looks up and they make eye contact - it's intense and
strange. Tenmei looks back down, a little embarrassed...

TENMEI

About the other day... I'm sorry
if I bothered you.

SHAR

It was no bother. I apologise for
my awkwardness. It had been a
difficult morning for me.

TENMEI

Me too.

They go back to work for a while. Tenmei wants to keep
talking, engage Shar somehow. She feels a kinship with him,
and suddenly realises that she wants it to be more...

TENMEI

So, would you like to have lunch
with me?

SHAR

That would be very nice. But I may
have things to do. Colonel Kira
asked that I assist with several
departments in the coming days.

(slight smile)

I... I'm sure I can take time for
lunch, though.

Tenmei smiles back, happier than she has been in days...

9 **INT. DS9 - SECURITY CELLS**

GARD lies staring at the ceiling, on the bunk in his cell.
The door from the security office opens --

-- and RO walks in, carrying a large padd and two mugs of
tea. Gard sits up as she approaches, eyeing the padd with
hope. Ro places the items on the table, half-smiling...

 RO
 Promise not to kill me if I drop
 the forcefield?

 GARD
 Solemnly.

 RO
 The outer office is locked down
 and being monitored from Ops, so
 if you were to try...

 GARD
 I won't.

He seems genuine, earnest - and disarmingly attractive - so
Ro takes a chance...

...and taps a control to drop the FORCEFIELD. She carries
the padd and drinks into the cell, then taps a control on
her hip to reinstate the field.

Gard is a bit disappointed that he is not getting out after
all, but he's happy to have company - especially Ro's.

 RO
 Tea. A blend Quark came up with.

Gard takes the drink, sniffs it, sips it, and is pleasantly
surprised at the taste...

 RO
 You'll have to stay here a while
 longer, but they told me to give
 you basic computer access... and
 assured me you weren't dangerous.

GARD

I appreciate that. And I realise that this ship has long sailed... but I wanted you to know that my romantic overtures toward you were not purely for the purposes of my mission. Not by a long stretch.

Ro takes that on board, not really sure how to react. Used? Flattered? Sympathetic? She sticks to business...

RO

I thought you might be willing to talk to me about a few things. For instance... what can you tell me about the parasites?

GARD

Nothing you don't already know.

RO

You knew Shakaar was infected.

GARD

Yes. We began tracking him after he started asking questions about Trill's defence network.

RO

(excited)

So you know where he was infected?

GARD

Alas, no. We did manage to narrow it down to five places, judging by the timeline. Three planets and two starbases. But we didn't have the resources to follow up.

RO

Any chance you remember the names of those five?

Gard grins. Ro grins back. They're onto something...

10 **INT. DS9 - KIRA'S OFFICE**

MACET and a Cardassian medic are just leaving Kira's office after a meeting, when Ro passes them. She excitedly drops a padd on Kira's desk, proud of her work...

RO

Found it. Shakaar was infected by a parasite on Minos Korva.

KIRA

Are you sure?

RO

As much as I can be. Starfleet's been looking at all the places Shakaar visited on his way home from Earth. They've crossed the two stations closest to Earth off the list, which leaves nine... except there are really only five.

KIRA

Why only five?

RO

Because Gard finally gave me something useful - a timeframe.

Ro works the padd, shows it to Kira...

GRAPHIC - Shakaar's path through Federation space, heading one general direction but diverting to touch eleven ICONS. The first two are crossed out. Ro POINTS to the third...

RO

These are all the places Shakaar stopped. Notice that Betazed is third, just after Deneva. Based on the reports from the *Enterprise* after the Starfleet infiltration, Deanna Troi, the ship's counsellor - she's half-Betazoid - she sensed something was hidden, although she couldn't be sure what.

(more)

RO (cont)

So a planet packed with full-blood Betazoids would have detected any problems straight away. If Shakaar was already infected by then, he never would have dared go there.

KIRA

So that rules out New France, Deneva and Betazed.

RO

Right. And Gard says it was two weeks after Betazed that Shakaar contacted them for information.

KIRA

(last planet)

Which would eliminate Xepolite.

RO

Probably Lya too. But I just spent two hours cross-checking departure and arrival logs, and Minos Korva has to be it. There are Federation starbases on either side, heavy surveillance, every moment would be accounted for. But on the planet, he was taken on a scenic tour of the mountain ranges that lasted for four days. Lots of isolated territory, population low... infinite opportunity.

Kira starts to smile at their first real lead in ages...

KIRA

Ro, this is really excellent work. I'll contact Akaar immediately.

That certainly spoils Ro's celebratory mood...

RO

What about Gard? I couldn't have done this without him. Will you pass that along?

KIRA

I'll... do what I can for him.
It's complicated. But you're doing
a good job, Ro. Even the admiral
will have to concede that.

RO

It seems to me he doesn't have to
do anything.

KIRA

I know he's difficult. But he's
just doing what he thinks is best.

RO

(not convinced)
Permission to be excused?

KIRA

Granted. But let me just say... I
hope you're still considering your
options, about your resignation.

RO

I've been busy, Colonel. I'll give
it all due consideration, when I
have the time.

And the shields are back up between them again. Kira sighs
with sad disappointment...

KIRA

Excused, Lieutenant.

Ro turns and leaves...

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

11 EXT. BAJOR - KASIDY'S HOUSE

Sunny and bright, late morning. Calm, peaceful, birds tweeting, nothing wrong with the world...

12 INT. KASIDY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

Heavily pregnant KASIDY emerges from the bedroom in a light robe. JAKE is moving around the kitchen - he grins to see her and rushes to pull out a seat at the dining table...

JAKE

Sit, let me get you breakfast. I made French toast when I got up, saved some for you...

(suddenly concerned)

Do you want French toast? Is that going to make you sick? I can make eggs. Or anything you want.

Taking the seat, she smiles at his excited attentiveness. It's nice to have someone to take care of her.

KASIDY

French toast sounds wonderful. And a big glass of water, please.

JAKE

Whatever you say.

He grins again and heads back to get the toast and water, then brings it back to the table and sits with her...

JAKE

So, is it a boy or a girl? I bet it's a boy. When I talked to Doctor Bashir about it --

KASIDY

-- he didn't tell you a thing. He's sworn to secrecy.

JAKE

You know Quark's got a pool on it.

KASIDY

I'm stunned. Who's winning?

JAKE

'Boy,' but only by a few points.

KASIDY

Maybe I'll have twins, just to upset Quark. He'd have to give everyone's money back.

(off Jake's shock)

No, Jake. I'm not having twins.

That I would know. Besides,

'avatar' wasn't plural.

At the reminder of the prophecy, Jake's good mood dims...

JAKE

It's weird. You know, having all these things revolve around dad, and his family. It makes me wonder if we have any choice in what we do - any free will, you know?

KASIDY

Let me know if you figure it out. I'm just... I'm hoping he'll come back soon. I feel like it's time, now. I'm afraid he's going to miss things, important things in our lives. Mostly, though, it's just what I want. Maybe that's selfish, but it's... it's what I want.

Then Kasidy feels a familiar TWINGE in her swollen belly. She grabs Jake's hand, brings it gently to her stomach...

JAKE

Is it...?

Then his face breaks open in amazement, as he feels the baby move inside her. She smiles back at him...

13 **EXT. BAJOR - KASIDY'S HOUSE - DAY**

Kasidy and Jake come out onto their veranda, Kasidy having thrown on a dressing gown. They look out up the pathway...

Further away, at the edge of their land, there is a small CAMPSITE - a few tents, with Bajorans outside cooking over a barbecue. Jake points towards it...

JAKE
What's over there?

KASIDY
I told you I had some volunteer help around here? That's them. Been hanging around for months.

JAKE
Really?

KASIDY
They're harmless. They just want to make sure the Emissary's wife doesn't lose communications, break her leg and go into labour all at the same time.

JAKE
Well, with Grampa and the chief and everyone coming, I can tell them we're okay...

KASIDY
Feel free to try. I've been telling them that I'm perfectly fine for weeks now. They seem determined to stay, and I don't really mind --

Multiple Federation transporter signals form on the path. They deposit CHIEF O'BRIEN (with KEIKO, MOLLY, KIRAYOSHI), plus JOSEPH and JUDITH SISKO (from 8x06 "Fallout").

With a huge grin, Jake runs down and into a powerful bear hug with his grandfather. Big smiles all round...

JOSEPH
Jake, Jake... oh, thank God.

Kasidy approaches more slowly, and Judith and Keiko both give her more gentle hugs. Jake lets go of Joseph and turns to O'Brien, who holds out his hand for a friendly shake...

O'BRIEN
It's good to see you, Jake.

Jake looks down to see Molly pulling on his shirt, holding a book up to him...

MOLLY
I can read you a story, Jake!

JAKE
I can't wait.

He scoops her and carries her giggling back to the house. They all follow, all happy and content at the reunions...

14 EXT. BAJOR - STARFLEET SHELTER

The outside of Vaughn's emergency shelter, set among a series of similar temporary buildings in a field, near to some old Bajoran ruins...

15 INT. STARFLEET SURFACE SHELTER

AKAAR enters - to find Vaughn asleep in his chair, leaning on his console, eyes moving with another unpleasant dream. Akaar looks at his old friend with sympathetic worry...

...then loudly clears his throat. Vaughn JERKS awake, takes a moment to figure out where he even is. He tries to pull himself together, straighten his uniform, embarrassed...

AKAAR
(straight)
Commander.

VAUGHN
I thought you were on the *Trager*.
(sudden worry)
New outbreak?

AKAAR
Nothing like that.

Akaar is uncomfortable here, about to deliver bad news...

And Vaughn can see that. He feels indignant about Akaar's unannounced visit, like he is being checked up on. He is.

VAUGHN
Have a seat, Admiral. You mind telling me what's going on?

AKAAR
(sits)
You need a break. I'm sending you to the monastery in Ashalla for a few days, to get some rest.

VAUGHN
Are you kidding me? We're in the midst of a major operation here. I don't have the time or the desire to rest. If you hadn't noticed, things are getting worse.

AKAAR
I've noticed. But this morning's security scans say you're not up to it. Your serotonin levels have continued to drop, and your blood pressure is up. You're overtired. I've already discussed the matter with Colonel Kira and General Lenaris, and they both agree.

VAUGHN
This is ridiculous! There have been seven new cases reported in the last two days -

AKAAR
Eleven. Remember? The four in Dakhur, yesterday morning.

Vaughn's pique is pierced by embarrassment. He forgot...

VAUGHN

I'm perfectly capable of doing my job, and... and I don't need this right now. LJ, please... I need to work. Bashir can prescribe --

AKAAR

Let's not argue about this, Elias. It's a medical leave, there's no shame in it.

Vaughn fights indignation and shame... but he knows he has no choice in the matter. Akaar is right anyway...

VAUGHN

Who's going to step in?

AKAAR

It's only for a few days, a week at most. Bowers and Lenaris can handle it.

Seeing Vaughn's dejection, Akaar leans places a meaty hand on his friend's shoulder in sympathy...

AKAAR

The choice wasn't yours to make, and dwelling on it won't change anything. As of now, you're off duty. A transport is standing by to take you to Ashalla.

VAUGHN

Why the monastery?

AKAAR

Because it's as far from your responsibilities as I can send you without shipping you off planet.

(stands up)

I'll see you soon.

With a final nod, Akaar turns and leaves. Vaughn stares for a moment... then turns and looks for his travelling bag, grabbing his few effects and throwing them in.

16 **EXT. DEEP SPACE NINE**

Defiant is still sat on the docking ring, the station still surrounded by ominously loitering Cardassian vessels...

17 **INT. DS9 - CARGO BAY**

ETANA creeps nervously between the crates and barrels, shining her PALM BEACON into the dark...

CRASH - Etana JERKS around, aiming her beacon and raising her phaser. Something fell off a shelf... *hopefully*...

ETANA
Bennings? You okay over there?

BENNINGS (human male) appears catching his breath, carrying his tricorder. He looks at Etana with a rueful grin...

BENNINGS
I was attacked by a box of stem-bolts, thank you very much.

Etana smiles with relief. This cargo bay is creepy...

ETANA
What is a stem-bolt, anyway?

He shrugs. Nobody knows. They proceed on together, shining their beacons into the numerous nooks and crannies...

BENNINGS
Anything?

ETANA
No, you?

BENNINGS
Just a lot of dark. Be nice to turn on a few lights around here.

ETANA
I wish we could. But the power-grid malfunction in this section is exactly why Lieutenant Ro sent us down here in the first place.

Bennings heads down another passage, his palm beacon light bobbing on the walls and crates as he walks.

Etana carries on her way, shining her own light over crates, reading the information panels on them...

ETANA

These scans, they're not thorough enough. There's no way we can get through even a quarter of the station's population in a single day. And what if the parasites can move from person to person? We'd be right back where we started.

Bennings doesn't respond. Etana turns, looking for him...

His beacon light is still now, not bobbing. Almost as if it has been placed on top of one of the crates.

She moves to head back down the passage towards him. But as her palm beacon light swings with her --

-- he's *right there*, manic grin shining. SMACKS the phaser out of her hand, GRABS her throat, DRAGS her close...

Etana gargles a scream, struggles to get free, flails for her combadge...

Bennings opens his mouth - *wide*, inhumanly wide.

And from the darkness of Bennings' open mouth, two sharp and purplish PINCERS emerge...

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

18 INT. DS9 - QUARK'S BAR

QUARK sits on a high stool, legs curled up. He scans the floor nervously, alert for any movement. He looks up at...

...Wex and Taran'atar hovering by the door. He doesn't like either of them, especially as neither has bought a drink.

Then Ro rushes past them into the bar, coming directly to Quark, hissing in a fury...

RO
How did you find out, Quark?

QUARK
I have my resources. And no, I didn't tell anyone. We have that in common.

RO
I didn't have a choice. Until we get a fix on who's who -

QUARK
You think I'm one of them?!

RO
(gritted teeth)
If you were, you wouldn't have called to tell me you found out, would you? We're just buying time.

QUARK
Time is money. How many have they got? Is that why business is down?

RO
Only ten. And business is down because people are scared - by the lockdown and the possibility of anti-Federation terrorism.

QUARK

And what if word were to get out
that there is no terrorist threat?
That being in a crowd is actually
safer than staying in?

RO

Do. not. mess with me, Quark. They
just got Etana - you remember, the
one who saved your life? If you
let any of this leak... I swear I
will never speak to you again.

QUARK

(grin)

That, I couldn't bear. Your secret
is safe... but only if you keep me
in the loop. As much as possible.

RO

Is there anything you need?

QUARK

(re Taran'atar)

You could get that alien monster
and his new girlfriend to move.
They're scaring people away.

RO

I asked Taran'atar to keep an
eye on the bar, for exactly the
reasons we've been discussing. And
Wex is from the Gamma Quadrant. If
she chooses to spend time with
him, his presence will be less
disruptive. Be grateful.

Ro leaves and walks to the door, stopping to speak MOS to
Wex and Taran'atar. As Ro moves off, Wex turns to look
directly at Quark - and gives him the DIRTIEST look ever.

Meanwhile, TREIR is working the other end of the bar...

TREIR

Hey, Quark - call for you. It's
from Ferenginar.

QUARK
(confused)
Did they lift the comm blackout?

TREIR
Nope. The call's being routed from
the Militia comnet on Bajor.

Intrigued, Quark goes to his comm panel, taps buttons...

...and ROM's face fills the screen, grinning wide, in his
Nagal regalia. Quark is not especially pleased to see him.

ROM (screen)
Hellooooo, Brother!

QUARK
Rom. This better be important.

ROM (screen)
But brother, I have wonderful
news! Leeta's pregnant! You're
going to be an uncle again!

Rom reaches off screen, and pulls LEETA into the picture.
Quark's former dabo girl waves cheerily...

QUARK
How nice.

ROM (screen)
What's wrong, brother? I thought
you'd be happy for us.

QUARK
Oh, I couldn't be happier. I mean,
let's look at my situation. Either
Bajor joins the Federation, or we
all get eaten alive. Either way,
business is in the waste extractor
and I'll have to close the bar. I
have no prospects, my personal life
is a shipwreck, but hey, Leeta's
pregnant so it must be happy hour!

He grabs a complete stranger's drink off the bar, downs it, SLAMS the glass back down in a tantrum.

ROM (screen)
I had no idea things were so bad,
brother. I'm sorry.

QUARK
...No, Rom, I'm sorry. You too,
Leeta. It's great news, really.
I'm just having a bad day here.

ROM (screen)
Is there anything we can do?

QUARK
Don't worry about me, I'll be
fine. I always am. Look... I need
to get back to work. I'll see you
around, okay? Congratulations.

He cuts the signal and hangs his head.

Elsewhere, in one of the quiet areas under the stairs, Shar and Prynn share lunch. Conversation is still not easy...

TENMEI
May I ask a personal question?

SHAR
Yes.

TENMEI
Do Andorians have romantic or...
sexual... liaisons outside their
species?

It's an odd question. Shar is surprised, but not offended.

SHAR
They do, but it isn't encouraged.
And it isn't acceptable until
after the children have grown to
maturity. There must be proper
role modelling for the young.

TENMEI

Even off-planet? I mean, if there
are no children around...

SHAR

More acceptable. But still rare.

TENMEI

Why is that?

SHAR

I don't know. I suppose we're all
so indoctrinated into the need for
bonding. Mating is very important,
for the future of our world...

TENMEI

(gently)

And if you have no mates?

He looks at her, and he finally twigs what she is asking -
she is interested in him. He blinks in bewilderment. Such a
thing absolutely never occurred to him...

SHAR

Prynn... I --

TENMEI

I'm sorry. I shouldn't have said
anything. Just... I like spending
time with you, and I was wondering
what your situation is, now.

SHAR

I... don't know. I may not know
for a while.

TENMEI

Then forget I asked. For a while.
Let me subtly change the subject.
Have you ever tried coconut? It's
a kind of fruit, from Earth, and
they make this pie out of it...

They go back to small talk, but the subject is out there...

19 **EXT. BAJOR - ASHALLA MONASTERY**

Set among the picturesque mountains, this is the same monastery Sisko visited way back in 1x01 "Emissary"...

20 **INT. ASHALLA MONASTERY - GARDEN - DAY**

OPAKA sits in a quiet, secluded internal courtyard garden with warm sun and a wonderful view. She is reading quietly to herself, just relaxing, calm and peaceful.

Vaughn steps into the garden, looks around, tries to feel the tranquillity, respectful but largely unmoved. Opaka looks up, greets him with a smile, grasps his hand...

OPAKA

Commander. Please, sit with me.

They both sit together on the stone bench. Opaka can sense he is troubled, but doesn't want to pry. For the sake of something to say, Vaughn gestures to her book.

VAUGHN

Let me guess. The Ohalu text?

OPAKA

Actually, it's a book of recipes.

VAUGHN

I thought you'd be up to your neck in the controversy by now. Railing against the heresy, perhaps.

OPAKA

I've chosen to actually read it, first. I'm half-way through, and so far I see nothing heretical.

VAUGHN

Really?

OPAKA

Oh, I can see why it bothers the Assembly. And I know I would have protested it too, before my time in the Gamma Quadrant.

VAUGHN

But now you don't?

OPAKA

There are things in the text I disagree with, or at least have a different opinion about. But I'm not sure our traditional beliefs are completely incompatible with what Ohalu says. Besides, I have faith it will all resolve itself.

VAUGHN

I wish I had that faith. I feel trapped, Sulan. And I don't have the first clue how to get out. What should I do?

OPAKA

How am I to know? It's your life.

VAUGHN

(sags)

But I thought... well, I thought you might have some insight.

OPAKA

Insight, no. I have opinions, and I can tell you what I see... if you're willing to look with me.

Vaughn nods solemnly, desperate for any lifeline...

OPAKA

If you had to pick a moment or an event that changed things for you, that turned your life onto this path you now walk, what would it be? Don't think on it too long.

VAUGHN

My experience with the Orb, on the *Kamal*. I took the job at DS-Nine because of it. I didn't even know that Prynn was stationed there...

OPAKA

If you could go back and unravel
that moment, erase it from your
story, would you? Would you cast
aside the knowledge you've gained?

VAUGHN

I... don't know. What I want is
clarity, I suppose. It felt so
right, when I looked into that
Orb. If I could just remember that
feeling... if I had some sign...

Opaka looks away, letting him bring himself under control.

OPAKA

(softly)

The Orbs of the Prophets are here.

And he looks back up at her, hope in his face at last...

21 INT. ASHALLA MONASTERY - PRAYER ROOM

Like the one Kira visited in 2x02 "The Circle." Vaughn
kneels on a cushion, gazing up in expectation at the ORB
BOX on its stone pedestal. He is eager for this, but still
daunted. Opaka stands behind the box, wise and warm...

OPAKA

Are you prepared?

VAUGHN

You'll stay?

OPAKA

I'll be here.

He gives a nervous but resolute nod, and she reaches around
the box, gently opens the doors. The bright, swirling LIGHT
surges out, engulfing Vaughn and washing over him...

OPAKA (o.s.)

Walk with the Prophets.

...and **WHITE OUT.**

22 INT. HOSPITAL

RURIKO lies in a 1950s hospital bed, connected to tubes and pipes. Semi-conscious, gazing with love at Prynn, who sits nearby in 1950s-era civilian clothing, reading from a book. The scene is now over-exposed, that white dreamlike aura...

A hand comes into frame, POV, holding an old revolver... Ruriko sees it, scared... Prynn's eyes are wide, staring into camera with fear and confusion...

...and BANG. BLOOD spatters across Prynn's face --

23 INT. ASYLUM CELL

-- and ELI UNDERWOOD jerks awake with a strangled scream, lying on his cot in a small cell, in a criminal asylum. sweating, distressed, wearing a bland asylum smock.

Early morning, and weak light filters in through the barred windows onto the featureless grey-green walls. Rain patters outside, with thunder rumbling somewhere in the distance.

He reaches sharply, uncoordinated, to touch the shadows on the wall. But it's just a stone wall. He hangs his head...

24 INT. ASYLUM - COMMON AREA

Opaka, in her 50s guise of SUE-LYNN, a human nurse, leads Eli shuffling along the corridor.

He is new here, and she is giving him the full tour. She is kind, but wary given his murderous history. He is locked in his pattern of recrimination and self-hatred...

SUE-LYNN

...group sessions three times a
week - Monday, Wednesday, Friday.
We're quite progressive here, but
we also find that most of our
patients enjoy some structure.

Eli glances backwards at the security guard following. It's Sam Bowers as SAMUEL the prison guard, tapping a billy-club threateningly in his hands, and sneering back at him.

ELI

I'm sure that will be fine.

Sue-Lynn leads Eli into the common area - a larger room but with passably comfortable couches and soft entertainments.

The other inmates include young and androgynous SHAUN (Shar as a dread-locked human), pixie-like THERESA (Ezri without her spots) and the giant older man LEO (Adm Akaar).

Watching over them are another nurse LAURA (Ro as a rather stern human) and another guard TERRENCE (Taran'atar as a huge and imposing human).

Sue-Lynn leads him forward, to one of the inmates sat on a couch, a man whose face we cannot see yet. Sue-Lynn seems friendly with him, eager to please him...

SUE-LYNN

Benny, this is Eli Underwood.

The man turns, and it is BENJAMIN SISKO in his vision-guise as BENNY RUSSELL, wearing his small round glasses...

SUE-LYNN

Eli, this is Benny Russell. He's something of a... trustee, I suppose you'd say. I'm sure Benny will be happy to help you settle in. Won't you, Benny?

BENNY

My pleasure. It's nice to meet you, Eli.

He smiles in welcome and reaches out to shake Eli's hand...

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

25 INT. ASYLUM - COMMON AREA

Eli Underwood takes a seat on the couch opposite Benny Russell. Benny's smile dims as he notices Eli's manner...

BENNY

What's wrong, Mister Underwood?

ELI

I'm... nothing is wrong.

BENNY

I see. That makes you something of
an exception around here.

ELI

Oh?

Benny looks around at all the other faces in the room...

BENNY

Everyone who stays here, everyone
who works here... We all have our
crosses to bear. Choices we wish
had turned out differently. Bad
memories. Bad dreams.

Eli looks at Benny - does he know his secret?

ELI

But... aren't you here because...
I mean, we're all here for some
crime or another...

BENNY

That's one way of looking at it,
Eli. Is that why you're here?

ELI

I... yes. I'm here... because I
deserve to be.

BENNY
(smiling wide)
Then it must be where you belong.
Let me tell you about the schedule
around here. Did Sue-Lynn tell you
we're a progressive group?

They settle in for Eli's introduction to the asylum...

26 EXT. BAJOR - KASIDY'S HOUSE - DAY

Keiko stands on Kasidy's veranda, watching Jake, Joseph and the children play in the fields, full of fun and laughter.

O'Brien comes out onto the veranda too. He's done something she won't be happy about, and she knows immediately...

KEIKO
Miles, you didn't.

O'BRIEN
I tried to get out of it, I swear
I did, but Kira said that Nog was
working on some kind of weapon
scanner, that it's not picking up
a certain bio-sig, and asked if I
could take a look, and I said --

KEIKO
(sharp)
I don't care what you said.

O'BRIEN
What am I supposed to do, Keiko?
It's my duty to help, and I owe
Kira, we both do. If she'd asked
you, what would you have said?

She doesn't answer, goes back to watching the children.
Both quiet for a moment... then she makes a decision...

KEIKO
I got a call from the Agricultural
Commission. Right before we left.
They offered me a position.

O'BRIEN

That's great! What is it?

KEIKO

Heading up a planetary renewal project. Crops, season patterning, irrigation systems, everything.

O'BRIEN

That's wonderful! It's what you wanted, isn't it?

KEIKO

You don't understand. I'd... We'd have to move there, for at least two years.

O'BRIEN

Well, where is it?

KEIKO

...Cardassia.

The word hangs there. Miles doesn't know how to respond...

KEIKO

There are a number of projects starting up there, to work with the survivors, to help rebuild. We wouldn't be the only humans.

O'BRIEN

You're seriously considering it. Without even telling me...

KEIKO

I didn't tell you because I knew you wouldn't even think about it. We just moved, you just started teaching. How could I even ask?

O'BRIEN

So now you're mad at me because you didn't ask me something you thought I'd say no to?

KEIKO

I'm not mad. Or maybe I am, but it's not your fault. It's just... I feel like all our big decisions have been about your career. Don't misunderstand, I agreed to those things at the time, but... would you have considered it? Really?

O'BRIEN

Moving to Cardassia? Of all the places... I don't know, Kay. I'd like to say that I'd be a hundred percent behind you, whatever you want... but there? I don't know.

(sigh)

We should talk more about this. But I told Kira...

KEIKO

That you'd be right there. I know. You'll be careful?

O'BRIEN

Always. I'll be back as soon as I can, I promise.

He reaches in to kiss and hug her briefly, then leaves - and Keiko goes back to watching the children play...

27 INT. DS9 - QUARK'S BAR

Quark talks incessantly, imprisoning Nog as he tries to eat his lunch. Taran'atar and Wex remain by the door...

QUARK

...oh and that reminds me, did you know that Frool is talking about going back to Ferenginar? After all I've done for him. He got a half-slip raise just two years ago... and do you think that Wex person might have something to do with the parasites?

Nog's head jerks up in alarm, staring at his uncle...

QUARK

Yeah, that got your attention,
didn't it? Quite a coincidence,
her turning up when she did, then
her and that Jem'Hadar getting
chummy. Maybe they're, you know...

Quark leers suggestively. Nog grimaces with disgust...

NOG

I don't know what you're talking
about, Uncle.

QUARK

Oh, stop. And thank you so very
much for telling me my life is in
danger, by the way. That's what
makes family so special. But don't
teach your elders how to forge
cheques. Your secret's safe.

Nog nods, relieved and annoyed, but still worried...

NOG

Aren't you afraid?

QUARK

I've got Mister Victory-Is-Life
over there. Unpaid security.
Between him and Lady Grey, the
atmosphere in here is creepy
enough to scare anything away.

NOG

I don't think she's creepy...

QUARK

(ignoring that)

It's the way she looks at me, not
to mention the company she keeps.
She's trouble. I don't know how,
but I'm sure of it.

On cue, Wex turns her head and sends another disapproving
glare in Quark's direction...

QUARK
See that?! See?

NOG
I don't know. Half the people who
come in here look at you like
that. Anyway, gotta go.

SNAP - a sound like a mouse-trap. Nog and Quark react...

...then a customer SCREAMS, jumps up onto a chair, looking
with fright at the floor. Now everyone is on their feet...

The PARASITE streaks across the floor to the Promenade...

Quark SHRIEKS, jumps up on top of the bar...

Taran'atar CROUCHES down directly in the parasite's path...

The creature LIFTS OFF, launches directly for Taran'atar...

It flies straight into the Jem'Hadar's open mouth, fighting
to work its way deeper and take him over...

...but Taran'atar BITES down hard, crunching the parasite
between his teeth, then SPITS out the mulched pieces.

Some customers actually look at Taran'atar with admiration
and gratitude for once...

...while Nog steps forward, inspects the mess on the floor
with revulsion and horror. Wex speaks out loud...

WEX
I told you this place has vermin.
I saw the traps.

Quark leaps down off his bar, hissing at Wex...

QUARK
This establishment is clean.
(to customers)
I assure you, Quark's is vermin-
free. Unless it's on the menu. It
so happens --

NOG

-- that my pet *hunta* spider just
got eaten. I'm so sorry, Uncle. I
know I wasn't supposed to bring
him into the restaurant.

Begrudgingly accepting Nog's cover, Quark plays along...

QUARK

I told you time and again, that's
a stupid pet to have. And now look
what happened?

Nog shares a look with Quark, a grateful nod to Wex, then
walks out. Quark goes back to placating his customers...

28 INT. DS9 - HABITAT RING CORRIDOR

Ro walks down the corridor, unhappy with the way things are
going. She nears a junction, turns the corner...

...and there is a Bajoran WOMAN just standing there, in her
way, looking at her strangely, unnaturally.

RO

Excuse me.

Ro attempts to step around the woman, but the woman SHIFTS
to stay in her path. The mouth starts opening wide...

...and Ro instantly knows what this is. She DROPS into a
crouch, reaches for her phaser...

...the parasite LAUNCHES out of the woman's wide mouth and
right onto Ro's arm. It grabs on -- and starts to CLIMB.

Horrified, Ro BATS the parasite off her arm --

-- but it lands on the deck unharmed... and turns to start
skittering towards her. Ro gets to her feet...

The woman is still coming, smiling her inhumanly wide manic
grin, more PINCERS emerging...

Ro FIRES her phaser - it has no effect. She keeps coming...

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

Elsewhere in the corridors, Shar and Nog walk together on their way to a meeting. Shar is still rather distracted...

SHAR

I'm sorry, Nog, what did you ask?

NOG

I asked if you had anything on your mind. I mean, if you wanted to talk about anything.

SHAR

I was thinking of Ensign Tenmei. She has suggested that she and I develop a closer friendship.

NOG

You and Prynn? That's interesting.

SHAR

I don't mean to suggest - that is, I am not interested in pursuing a... familiarity with anyone.

NOG

Right, gotcha.

Then Nog suddenly reacts to some sound only he can hear...

NOG

Did you hear a -

Then Shar hears it too - a short, strangled SCREAM. It's Ro's voice, and Shar's blood is boiling instantly. He RUNS at full pelt to the nearest junction, around the corner...

Nog struggles to catch up, taps his badge, shouts orders...

NOG

Nog to Shul! Alert in corridor
twenty-seven delta! Activate now!

Nog turns the corner, sees --

Ro on her knees, clawing at her face to tear the parasite off, as it works to pry her lips open and get inside...

...while the possessed Bajoran woman hovers menacingly over her, about to spit out another tiny monster...

Shar is ahead of Nog, barrelling down the corridor...

...KNOCKS the Bajoran woman aside, GRABS the parasite and SQUEEZES its shell until it breaks. He rips it free with a spatter of Ro's blood, SLAMS it into the wall, crushes it.

The Bajoran woman is back on her feet, advancing again. She vomits up another parasite, and another, and another...

They all fall to the floor, begin skittering towards their targets. Shar hisses, ready to attack...

...then they FREEZE, all the parasites and the Bajoran woman stopping completely in their tracks.

Forcefields have popped into place around them all. Ro, Nog and Shar all look up to see --

-- Sergeant SHUL and two friends holding stasis projectors and phasers. Relieved, Ro gets up off her knees...

SHAR

I'm sorry, Lieutenant, your lip -

But Ro is staring at the Bajoran woman with a bloodied grin of satisfaction and triumph...

RO

We've got a queen.

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

30 INT. DS9 - SECURITY CELLS

GRAPHIC - a humanoid body. Clearly indicated at the base of the skull is a PARASITE, twice the size of the usual ones. Within the abdomen nest at least a dozen smaller creatures.

KIRA (o.s.)
You said they're telepathic.

BASHIR delivers this rather discouraging report from a wall screen. KIRA, DAX, RO and CYL meet in the central area, while GARD watches from his cell...

BASHIR
The females are. They seem to use their pheromones to control their soldiers, but a kind of mental imaging to communicate with other females within range. Each female is fully capable of setting up a colony on her own.

KIRA
So... what produces the females?

BASHIR
Nothing we've seen so far.

RO
But if we kill this female, the soldiers it commands die, right? So what are we waiting for?

CYL
If we kill her, any other females in the vicinity will know. It could be a major security risk.

RO
The risk is to the people still carrying those things around.

KIRA

Is there any way to communicate with her?

BASHIR

Not without a host body. And that is simply out of the question. Her ability to integrate with a humanoid's central nervous system is fast and all but irreversible.

CYL

But a being adapted to joining...

This is why Bashir didn't want to say what he knew - he knows Dax will volunteer. But he is bound by honesty...

BASHIR

If it bonded with a symbiont rather than a host, then yes, there might be a way. But I can't recommend it.

DAX

I'll do it.

BASHIR

No. There are other options.

DAX

Like what?

BASHIR

Kill it, like Ro said. At least the station would be cleared.

KIRA

We have to communicate with it, find out what it wants.

CYL

Colonel, I volunteer. In fact, I insist on it. I've spent my life preparing for this. I refuse to allow Dax to step in and take it away at the last second.

GARD
(quiet but firm)
I've spent all my lives preparing
for this. It's what I do. If she's
going anywhere, I'm taking her.

Gard can see Kira still isn't sure, so he presses on...

GARD
How long do you think it will take
for the soldiers to realise that
their mother isn't around anymore?
The lockdown is over. Don't waste
what little time you have left.

RO
Admiral Akaar wouldn't want you to
take the risk.

KIRA
No he wouldn't, but it's all we've
got. Doctor, prepare Gard for the
procedure. Ro, I want security
standing by. Dax, contact Ops and
make sure Selzner fields any calls
from the admiral. Have her say
that I'll... I'll get back to him.

Everyone gets to work. Bashir looks at Dax, worried...

31 INT. DS9 - SECURITY CELLS

Later. Bashir straps a resolute Gard to a portable biobed.
Nog and Shar work to set up computer screens and various
other devices. Kira and Cyl watch tensely...

Dax is gazing into a portable SYMBIONT POD, like in 8x05
"Reflections". Now the female parasite floats in it, twice
the size of the soldiers and an orange-brown colour...

BASHIR
Not very appealing, is she?

Ezri can't help remembering the revulsion she used to feel
about the symbionts. But this... this is the real horror.

Kira goes to Gard, the man who killed her former lover...

KIRA

Thank you for doing this.

GARD

It's the least I can do.

Shar activates his machine - the air in the room becomes electrified, filled with static...

SHAR

This bioelectric field should
block the female's ability to
contact its soldiers for help.

KIRA

Then let's do it.

Bashir works his controls. Gard closes his eyes...

A transporter BEAMS the female parasite out of its pod...

An active GRAPHIC shows the parasite appearing right on
Gard's brain-stem. Everyone holds their breath...

Then Gard's eyes open again. They drift, unfocused...

KIRA

Gard? Can you hear me?

GARD

She's here. She knows what's
happening.

KIRA

I'm Kira Nerys. I'm in command of
Deep Space Nine.

Gard continues to weave in and out, faltering some words,
as the parasite looks back out at them with contempt...

GARD

We know who you are. We know what
you represent.

32 EXT. BAJOR - KASIDY'S HOUSE - DAY

The house sits peacefully in the afternoon sun.

But then, the Bajorans from the impromptu CAMPSITE on the edge of their land start to casually approach the house...

33 INT. MONASTERY - PRAYER ROOM

Vaughn is where he was, kneeling before the open Orb box, eyes half-closed and far away as the light envelops him.

Opaka sits meditating silently, keeping watch. But then, raised VOICES from somewhere outside the prayer room...

34 INT. DS9 - SECURITY CELLS

Kira leans over Gard, as he speaks for the parasite...

KIRA

Stop your attack on Bajor. We
don't want to fight you. We can
solve your concerns another way.

GARD

It's too late. We've already won.

KIRA

What do you mean?

GARD

We know, now. We know everything.
You will destroy Trill. You will
leave us the wormhole and withdraw
from this space. You will give us
the bodies we need, or we will
obliterate all you hold sacred,
and take what we want. Tell them.

KIRA

You won't succeed. I won't let you
do this, do you understand?

GARD

I'm taking him now. You'll have to
kill him.

DAX
(scared)
Julian?

BASHIR
I have to pull her, now.

KIRA
Do it.

GARD
(manic grin)
Doesn't matter doesn't matter
doesn't --

Bashir presses his controls again - Gard JERKS and spasms.

The queen rematerialises into the symbiont pod...

...and the Trill flops back onto the biobed, stares blankly
for a few seconds. Then he hitches a gasping breath --

-- and he is back, if rather weakened. Bashir rushes up,
checks his instruments...

KIRA
Report.

BASHIR
Neither symbiont nor host have
sustained any permanent damage.

KIRA
And the queen?

BASHIR
She didn't survive the separation.

Gard begins making a rasping whisper, trying to speak. Kira
leans in close to hear him...

GARD
She's... they're... there's only
one. She sees the artefacts...

KIRA
Who? What artefacts?

GARD
Mother... Bajor... Tears...

Kira's eyes flare as she interprets Gard's words...

CYL (o.s.)
The mother, maybe? The matriarch?

But Kira isn't listening to him. *No - it can't be...*

35 INT. KASIDY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

Kasidy and Keiko are chatting in the living room. KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK. Surprised, Kasidy waddles over to the door...

It's just the BAJORANS from the nearby campsite. Kasidy relaxes - bit of a nuisance, but no threat.

KASIDY
Yes? What can I do for you?

But then the closest man raises a PHASER, grins evilly...

BAJORAN
You can let us in.

36 INT. MONASTERY - PRAYER ROOM

Roused by the rising voices, Opaka looks up -- and sees a female PRYLAR in the doorway, others behind her. Opaka is appalled at this breach of etiquette, starts to protest...

PRYLAR
We don't need him.

But then the prylar raises a phaser, and SHOOTs Vaughn.

OPAKA
No...!

Vaughn is knocked over sideways, limp and semi-conscious. His head HITS the stone floor, but he remains deep in his vision. Opaka runs to him, shocked and terrified...

37 INT. DS9 - SECURITY CELLS

Kira and Bashir's combadges both sound at the same time - they both tap to receive...

KIRA	BASHIR
Kira, go ahead.	This is Bashir.

SELZNER (comm)
Colonel, Doctor, there's a medical crisis. We've got reports from the Promenade, decks five, seven and eleven, two at the docking ring -

At the same time, Ro steps into the cells from her office, clearly agitated...

RO
Colonel, I'm getting reports from all over the station - people are collapsing, at least nine alien sightings so far...

Still reeling, Kira begins to absorb the extent of the problem. Bashir is already grabbing a medkit...

BASHIR
Colonel, he's stable, I should -

KIRA
Go.
(he does)
Ro, get your people out there, and coordinate with Macet to track the parasites. We need crowd control -

SELZNER (comm)
Colonel, there's also something happening on Bajor, General Lenaris is reporting that a number of skirmishes have broken out...

Kira is instantly in action, moving to the door, beckoning them to follow. This is all her fault...

KIRA
Ensign... I'm on my way.

And Kira goes to war.

38 INT. KASIDY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

Kasidy backs away from the front door, protecting her belly as the Bajorans force their way inside...

More Bajorans bustle Jake, Joseph, Keiko and the children in through the back door at gunpoint....

Jake tries to fight - until a Bajoran PUNCHES him down.

Kasidy YELPS, tries to run to him - but the lead Bajoran still has his phaser pointed in her face...

39 INT. MONASTERY - PRAYER ROOM

Opaka fusses over Vaughn, terrified, in tears. She rips at her clothes, making a bandage for his bleeding shoulder...

The prylars step over him and ignore Opaka - they go to the Orb, close the box doors, heft it up...

PRYLAR
Put this one back with the others.

They carry the Orb out of the room, the lead prylar evilly grinning at Opaka as they leave her and Vaughn alone.

But as Opaka tries desperately to care for the commander...

...he remains unresponsive, lying comatose on the floor, his eyes half-closed and far away...

FADE TO BLACK:

THE END