

STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE

# 14x20 - "Plagues of Night"

Screenplay by Martyn Dunn

Based on characters from the series

*Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*

and on the *Star Trek* tie-in novels  
by Pocket Books

## TNG 19x20 - "ALL THE OLD FACES"

Data and LaForge make their escape from Daystrom and head to Bajor. Moriarty is toying with them, and LaForge worries about how far Data is willing to go. At Bajor, they reconnect with old friends O'Brien and Ro, then head to the bar, where Data swaps casino tips with Quark. Nog has been unable to reactivate Vic Fontaine since DS9 was destroyed (DS9 "Fragments"), so no help there. Meanwhile in Moriarty's lair, Alice explaining her past with Harry Mudd leads to Lal having an emotional overload followed by a shutdown. Leaving Bajor, Data arranges a call to the Full Circle fleet, but Barclay and the EMH assure him the mobile emitter cannot be replicated. Frustrated, Data finally considers the Exo III technology to transfer living minds into android bodies (TOS "What Are Little Girls Made Of?"), but research suggests it was acquired... by Harry Mudd. He will trade them the tech, but it is useless without the right blank template body, and only one person has that - Kivas Fajo (TNG "The Most Toys").

## VOY 12x20 - "WHO YOU KNOW"

With the ex-Borg safe in the Tamarian Embassy, Paris tries to report the crisis to Admiral Montgomery. He refuses to listen, and orders Seven returned to Starfleet Medical by force. Using her own admiralty connections, plus advice from Garak himself, Paris's mother Julia is able to get Tom and Sharak in to see President Bacco and Admiral Akaar. With Seven's help they all overhear Dr Briggs, aka "the Commander", admit that he caused the catomic plague accidentally on Coridan when he killed a Borg drone mid Caeliar transformation, but he deliberately caused further outbreaks to continue his research into the catoms. Montgomery, Briggs and all their co-conspirators are arrested, and Project CLCP is closed down. Seven, Axum, Riley, Icheb and the other ex-Borg combine their catom powers to neutralise the plague across the Federation, but they resist Axum's attempts to form them into a new gestalt...

## TEASER

FADE IN:

### **1**     ADMIRAL AKAAR

The imposing Capellan admiral appears on Bajoran Control Centre's large master systems display turned viewscreen. He looks as intense and tightly wound as ever he has.

AKAAR (screen)  
I regret to inform you, Captain,  
that while your conclusions were  
partly wrong... they were partly  
right as well.

WIDEN to reveal...

### **2**     INT. BAJORAN CONTROL CENTRE

...that he is speaking to Starfleet captains RO and SISKO, Bajoran major CENN, Ferengi inspector RWOGO and Cardassian *dalin* SLAINE, who stand around the situation table looking up at the image of the Admiral looming over them. The daily business of the Control Centre goes on behind them all.

AKAAR (screen)  
We have acquired... reasonably  
reliable intelligence from our  
Romulan detainee...

Ro and Rwogo glance to each other - Tomalak.

AKAAR (screen)  
(continuing)  
...who claims that the Typhon Pact  
has no intention of returning to  
the Bajoran system...

Cenn breathes with relief...

AKAAR (screen)  
(continuing)  
...or of invading Cardassia.

Slaine likewise breathes with relief...

AKAAR (screen)  
(continuing)  
Sadly, that does not mean they are not making yet another attempt to acquire slipstream drive, in order to counter what they perceive as the Federation's unfair advantage.

RO  
What are they planning, Admiral?

AKAAR (screen)  
It seems that the Pact no longer requires access to the Bajoran system... because the Tzenkethi have successfully developed an artificial wormhole generator.

SISKO  
What?!

**3 EXT. SPACE - VIR-AKZELEN ASTEROID (INTERCUT)**

The Tzenkethi asteroid laboratory sending out its RED BEAMS that converge to create a puncture through space, a giant swirling red whirlpool, a new artificial WORMHOLE...

...and a ROMULAN WARBLIND diving into its gaping maw.

**4 INT. BAJORAN CONTROL CENTRE (INTERCUT)**

RO speaks up to her old frenemy-mentor-father-figure...

RO  
Sir, do you mean they intend to bypass our wormhole, and return to the Gamma Quadrant using theirs?

AKAAR (screen)  
Not exactly, Captain.

**5 INT. VIR-AKZELEN LABORATORY (INTERCUT)**

NELZIK the Tzenkethi scientist at her console, in charge as the machinery around her hums with power and strain...

AKAAR (v.o.)  
(continuing)  
Apparently the Tzenkethi are not yet capable of creating a wormhole that would remain stable over such vast distances.

**6 INT. BAJORAN CONTROL CENTRE (INTERCUT)**

RWOGO is confused...

RWOGO  
Then where are they going?

AKAAR (screen)  
(grim)  
I said the Typhon Pact no longer require access to the Bajoran system, Inspector. I did not say they no longer require access to the Bajoran wormhole...

**7 INT. TZENKETHI WORMHOLE (INTERCUT)**

The Romulan warbird flies shakily through the structural loops and swirling rapids of the new wormhole, its angry red light reflecting off the ship's dark green metal...

AKAAR (v.o.)  
The Tzenkethi's solution to the problem of their wormhole's subspace stability was to anchor its far terminus to something already stable in subspace...

FOLLOWing the Romulan ship as it reaches the end of the red wormhole, a RAGGED TEAR into shrieking white energy...

...and passes through it...

AKAAR (v.o.)  
(continuing)  
...such as the Bajoran wormhole.

...emerging into the calming blue of the Bajoran wormhole.

8 **INT. BAJORAN CONTROL CENTRE (INTERCUT)**

CENN is overcome with horror...

CENN

That thing is breaking into the wormhole? Toppling the walls of the Celestial Temple itself?

AKAAR (screen)

That is former Proconsul Tomalak's contention, yes, Major.

RO

When are they planning to do this?

AKAAR (screen)

Given that the *Vetruvis* went missing from the Lamenda system at least a week ago, we must assume it is already happening now.

9 **INT. BAJORAN WORMHOLE (INTERCUT)**

The Romulan warbird exits the intersection, a bloody red WOUND in the peaceful blue-white-gold wormhole wall...

...and turns to port, heading for the Gamma Quadrant.

10 **INT. BAJORAN CONTROL CENTRE (INTERCUT)**

SLAINE speaks up...

SLAINE

Admiral, if I may ask...

She checks with RO - is this okay? Ro nods to carry on...

SLAINE

(continuing)

Are we absolutely certain that the activity in the Lamenda system was a distraction? Should I advise Legate Macet to recall his forces?

AKAAR (screen)

That is of course the Legate's decision, *dalin*. But given the Typhon Pact's apparent ability to plan for multiple eventualities at once, I would advise him to keep the majority of them where they are until this is resolved.

SLAINE

Understood, Admiral. Thank you.

AKAAR (screen)

There is one other thing you might suggest to the Legate, *dalin*. The Tzenkethi's wormhole generating apparatus can only operate within five light years of its target - that being the Bajoran system.

Everyone present looks back and forth between each other in shock, grasping what Akaar is getting at...

RO

But that would have to mean...

11 **EXT. SPACE - VIR-AKZELEN ASTEROID (INTERCUT)**

The Tzenkethi asteroid lab keeping the red wormhole open...

RO (v.o.)

(continuing)

...they're in Cardassian space.

12 **INT. BAJORAN CONTROL CENTRE (INTERCUT)**

SLAINE is confused, worried...

SLAINE

But... why would my government allow this? We are your allies.

AKAAR (screen)

Tomalak implied he too has allies within the Cardassian Union.

Ro and Rwogo look to each again, glowering...

RO / RWOGO  
The True Way.

**13 INT. VETRUVIS - BRIDGE (INTERCUT)**

MORAD, the Cardassian courier, stands proudly on the bridge of the Romulan warbird as it travels much more smoothly now, the blue lights of the wormhole on the viewscreen...

AKAAR (v.o.)  
Sadly correct.

PAN from Morad, across Cmdr KOZIK in his command chair...

AKAAR (v.o.)  
(continuing)  
Not only do the Pact have support  
from Cardassian separatists...

...to the Breen engineer TROP SAR working at his station.

AKAAR (v.o.)  
(continuing)  
...they also have a Breen engineer  
on board, one of the men who first  
discovered that Dominion deflector  
technology could be adapted.

**14 INT. BAJORAN CONTROL CENTRE (INTERCUT)**

Akaar continues...

AKAAR (screen)  
(continuing)  
Plus the Tzenkethi providing the  
method of reaching the Dominion,  
and the Romulans themselves the  
phase-cloak that will allow them  
to infiltrate it once they do.

RWOGO  
(dry)  
What an inspiring embodiment of  
international cooperation.

AKAAR (screen)  
Quite.

RO  
What are our orders, Admiral?

AKAAR (screen)  
(pointedly)  
Stop them, Captain.  
(beat)  
As for the specifics, your crews,  
past and present, have by far the  
most experience with that part of  
space - be it cosmological, astro-  
political... or metaphysical.

Sisko reacts to what feels like a comment just for him...

AKAAR (screen)  
You know the stakes. I leave the  
details to you. Command... out.

Akaar's image disappears. The various officers - Starfleet,  
Bajoran, Cardassian and Ferengi - absorb the enormity.

**15 INT. VETRUVIS - BRIDGE**

On the warbird's viewscreen, the Gamma end of the Bajoran  
wormhole blooms open, revealing normal space beyond.

KOZIK  
Commander Kozik to all crew. We  
have entered the Gamma Quadrant.

As Kozik, Morad and Trop Sar all indicate satisfaction...

BLACK OUT

**END OF TEASER**

## ACT ONE

FADE IN:

### 16 EXT. SPACE

The Romulan warbird *Vetruvis* looks ominous and dramatic hanging in space against the open mouth of the wormhole...

Then the wormhole's mouth closes, leaving just the ship...

Then the ship CLOAKS and JUMPS TO WARP, disappearing into the depths of the Gamma Quadrant. We *do not* go with it.

Instead we fly through open space toward the trinary star system in the distance - IDRAN.

The fourth planet in this system comes into view... we close in on it, the peaceful globe filling the screen...

Closer and closer, travelling up to the north pole...

...and hovering over the pole, where the magnetic fields will disguise it from curious sensors... is the patchwork freighter ship *Even Odds* (last seen 13x13 "Dog Eat Dog").

TARAN'ATAR (v.o.)

Founder...

**CUT TO:**

### 17 INT. DOMINION FACTORY

Picking up from the moment in 14x17 "Into the Lion's Den". ODO turns, alone in the cavernous space, shocked at the deep rich VOICE out of nowhere. But he can't see anyone...

ODO

Who's there?

A whisper-rush of air, and a Jem'Hadar UNSHROUDS in the otherwise deserted factory... it is TARAN'ATAR.

ODO

Taran'atar? But... you were killed.

TARAN'ATAR

No, Founder... I was saved. And now... we need your help.

Odo can't help himself, intrigued by the sudden mystery...

ODO

"We"? Who is we?

TARAN'ATAR

I would be pleased to answer that question, Founder. But as it is a long tale, I would prefer to do so after leaving the Overne system.

ODO

(amused, proud)

You would prefer? My, how things have changed.

(crosses arms)

But I'm not going anywhere until you explain how we're having this conversation, when I watched you get vaporised before my eyes.

**FLASHBACK - 11x04 "SEPARATION MANOEUVRES COMPLETE"**

-- The ring of Jem'Hadar soldiers all fire their weapons  
-- Odo gazes at the smoking space where Taran'atar was

**BACK TO SCENE**

ODO

(continuing)

Laas ordered you executed, and Vannis - who I'm sure you know only just left - made it happen.

TARAN'ATAR

That is true, Founder. But I was not killed - I was transported away at the last moment.

ODO

By who?

TARAN'ATAR

(small smile)

Founder, please - come with me.  
All your questions will be  
answered, I swear it.

Odo peers at Taran'atar for a moment - he is still confused by the Jem'Hadar First's survival. Can he really trust him?

ODO

I'll hold you to that, Taran'atar.  
But I'll agree to come with you.

TARAN'ATAR

Thank you, Founder.

The Jem'Hadar taps a wrist device, and he and Odo both DEMATERIALISE in Dominion transporter beams...

**18    INT. JEM'HADAR SHIP - BRIDGE**

...and appear on the bridge of a Jem'Hadar fighter, crewed by several JEM'HADAR SOLDIERS... and WEYOUN. The obsequious Vorta bows his head, fawning before the astonished Odo.

WEYOUN

Founder. We are honoured by your  
choice to join us. Welcome back to  
Jem'Hadar vessel Nine-Seven-One.

ODO

Weyoun...? I had no idea your ship  
was in orbit of Overne Three.

(realises)

And... you knew about Taran'atar?

WEYOUN

Forgive me, Founder. The deception  
was... necessary.

ODO

Necessary or not, how was it  
possible? I've seen you several  
times since Taran'atar's supposed  
death - and every time I've asked  
if you had anything to tell me.

MEERA (o.s.)  
Weyoun didn't disobey your orders,  
Odo. He obeyed mine.

Odo turns again in surprise, and sees MEERA, the teenage girl Founder (last seen 12x17 "Army of Me") strolling up to join Weyoun and Taran'atar. Neither are surprised by this.

MEERA  
We'll explain everything, Odo, but  
we really should leave. Weyoun?

WEYOUN  
At once, Founder.  
(turns to Jem'Hadar)  
Second Rotan'talag - break orbit,  
maximum warp to rendezvous point.

As the Jem'Hadar get to work, Odo can't help but wonder,  
*what is going on here?*

**19 EXT. SPACE - OVERNE III - ORBIT**

One of the several Jem'Hadar ships standing guard around the purple-grey world pulls out of formation...

...and JUMPS TO WARP.

**20 EXT. SPACE - BAJOR ORBIT**

The by-now-familiar world of Bajor... with the *Defiant* in orbit, largely powered down and at rest.

**21 INT. SISKO'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY**

KASIDY unlocks a SAFE inside the wardrobe, pulls out an ENVELOPE - the one from 14x17 "Into the Lion's Den." Holds it. Considers it. Turns... KIRA sits on the bed, watching.

KASIDY  
I signed them. Gave him what he  
wanted.

KIRA  
But you didn't file them?

KASIDY  
Couldn't quite bring myself to do  
it. It would have been too final.  
Like giving up on Ben ever coming  
back to us once and for all.

KIRA  
(gently)  
I thought you were ready to let  
him go.

KASIDY  
You told me I had to.

Kira looks away, suddenly evasive, acting confused...

KIRA  
When did I say that?

KASIDY  
You know you did. You were there.

**FLASHBACK - 14x13 "FRAGMENTS"**

-- Kay stops Cassie from chasing after Benny and Eli...

**FLASHBACK - 14x17 "INTO THE LION'S DEN"**

-- Kasidy curled up on the floor crying, Rebecca hugging...

**BACK TO SCENE**

KASIDY  
(continuing)  
You told me to trust you. To let  
him go. Don't tell me you don't  
remember - I know you do.

KIRA  
(hesitant)  
I do remember. Bits and pieces,  
anyway. Strange, fractured images  
of you, of Benjamin... even of  
Elias. The bright sun. A river.

**FLASHBACK - 14x13 "FRAGMENTS"**

-- Eli Underwood greeting Benny Russell excitedly...

-- Both of them in a small boat, rowing into the Hudson...

**BACK TO SCENE**

KIRA

(continuing)

But I don't think that's what I said, Kasidy. I didn't say let him go. I said to let him walk his own path... or he'll never come back.

(re the envelope)

Don't give up yet. I said things will change... and they will.

Kasidy considers that... and turns to put the envelope back into the safe, locks it up tight. Turns back, brighter.

KASIDY

Okay! There's gotta be something two educated women can talk about besides a man. How's the monastery?

KIRA

Why not come and see for yourself? Might do you a little good to see a different view for a while.

Kasidy ponders that...

**22 INT. SISCO'S HOUSE - BACK GARDEN - DAY**

REBECCA fumblingly catches a baseball in a catcher's mitt that is far too big for her 6-year-old body, a short sharp SHRIEK as she does so. JAKE and RENA both applaud.

JAKE

That's it! You're really getting the hang of it now, Rebecca!

Rebecca uncertainly lobs the ball back to her older brother - it only reaches about half way but he picks it up without complaint and goes back for another throw.

Kasidy and Kira have emerged onto the verandah, watching...

KIRA

(grin)

You told me she hated baseball.

KASIDY

Siskos don't take no for an answer  
when it comes to baseball. Neither  
do Yateses, for that matter.

Rebecca catches another ball... everyone APPLAUDS...

KASIDY

Well done, Rebecca! But why don't  
you take a break for a second? I  
have a suggestion.

Rebecca throws off the glove and runs to join her mother.  
Jake smile-sighs - his little sister is not feeling the  
baseball love. He and Rena walk over too...

KASIDY

What do you think about a trip to  
Vanadwan monastery? Nerys invited  
us all to stay for a few days.

JAKE

Fine with me.

RENA

Marja will be thrilled to get us  
out of the bakery.

JAKE

Oh please, she loves having you  
there.

RENA

She loves having you there. Her  
business triples any time the  
Emissary's son comes to stay.

Kira smiles at the byplay. Kasidy changes the subject...

KASIDY

What about you, Rebecca? Would you like to come to Vanadwan with us?

REBECCA

Isn't that where Raiq lives?

An awkward moment. Rebecca hasn't forgotten...

KIRA

Yes. But she's changed, Rebecca. She's got her own little girl now. It's safe, I promise.

Rebecca isn't sure, but it's clear everyone else is up for this, so she feels a bit peer pressured...

REBECCA

Okay.

KIRA

Okay! Sounds like a plan. Wanna come and pack a bag, Rebecca?

Rebecca takes Kira's hand and they head back into the house together, door slamming as always. Kasidy forces a smile...

**23 EST. ALJULI APARTMENTS - EVENING**

Heading towards night in the small Bajoran town. Shops just closing up, bars starting to open...

**24 INT. ALJULI APARTMENTS - CORRIDOR**

RO plods down the corridor, head full of worries about how to handle the latest crisis thrown into her lap.

She reaches a certain door to one of the small quarters, reaches up to knock...

RO

Quark -

But before she gets chance to knock, the door OPENS...

...and there stand QUARK and RWOGO, both with skin flushed, smiling flirtatiously, he obviously showing her out after an amorous encounter. They both turn to the open door...

...and see RO standing there with her jaw dropped.

RWOGO

Oh... *frinx*.

BLACK OUT

**END OF ACT ONE**

**ACT TWO**

FADE IN:

**25 INT. ALJULI APARTMENTS - CORRIDOR**

Picking up as Quark reacts in horror to being caught out...

QUARK

Oh... Laren... I...

RO

What's going on here? Are you -

RWOGO

Captain, this isn't -

RO

(sharp)

You be quiet.

QUARK

Laren. Don't take this out on her.

A pause as Ro gets her momentary anger under control...

QUARK

Rwogo, go on. I'll see you later.

RWOGO

Yes, that's probably for the best.

(acknowledgments)

Ambassador. Captain.

Rwogo scuttles off down the corridor back to her own room.

QUARK

Well I guess you'd better come in.

He turns and heads back into the room. She hesitates...

**26 INT. ALJULI APARTMENTS - QUARK'S QUARTERS (CONTINUOUS)**

Ro processes what she is walking into. Ruffled bed clothes, the debris of something quick yet surprisingly romantic.

Quark opens the window, then turns back, both hesitant...

RO  
Since when?

QUARK  
Since the trip to Holo-palooza.

RO  
And you didn't think to tell me?

QUARK  
I didn't think it would go over well. You two don't exactly get along, do you?

RO  
But... I thought...

QUARK  
That I love you? You made it clear you don't feel the same way. That I'm free to pursue whoever I want.

RO  
Yeah, but... why her?

QUARK  
Are you kidding? I told you who she reminds me of, didn't I?

RO  
(realises)  
Me.

Quark nods, as if to say "Well then, there you go." He goes to sit on the bed. She takes the desk chair instead.

RO  
She is the perfect woman for you, I guess. She's a Ferengi, for one...

QUARK  
She's also a strong, independent, intelligent female...

RO

Who won't put up with your usual  
crap, legally or... personally.

QUARK

I'm not saying I'm in love with  
her or anything. And I don't think  
she's in love with me either. It's  
just a temporary infatuation.

RO

Of course. You're a legend to her.

QUARK

But she offered... and I saw no  
reason to say no. I hope you're  
able to be okay with this, Laren.

RO

Well, it is kinda weird. But after  
everything you've done for me, I  
can't begrudge you some happiness.

(laughs at herself)

I came here planning to talk about  
this Typhon Pact stuff. I wasn't  
expecting to end up deconstructing  
our entire relationship.

QUARK

You know we still can talk about  
that, Laren. We're still friends.

RO

(deep breath)

Well then. In that case... yes.  
I'm able to be okay with it.

(stands)

I'll go. You have to get ready for  
work, and you'll probably want to  
take a shower...

QUARK

If you're sure...

Ro heads to the door, a small wave goodbye...

27 **INT. ALJULI APARTMENTS - CORRIDOR (CONTINUOUS)**

...and quietly closes the door behind her. A pause...

RO

...damn.

And she heads back to her own quarters...

28 **EST. ALJULI TOWN - MORNING**

The next morning, business as usual on Aljuli's streets...

29 **INT. BAJORAN CONTROL CENTRE - CAPTAIN'S OFFICE**

RO is hard at work at her tiny-ass desk in her tiny office. A HMM-HMM from the door. She looks up... and sees RWOGO hovering nervously, cringing Ferengily in the doorway.

RWOGO

Good morning, Captain. I hope last night's little indiscretion won't damage our relationship any further than it already is. Or that you'll now consider me a foolish female, at the mercy of her hormones...

Ro stands up - Rwego flinches back. That makes Ro sad.

RO

We're fine, Inspector. Quark and I talked... and we're fine. As for your hormones... I don't need to know anything about those, thanks.

RWOGO

I'm glad. I know I should have said something sooner -

RO

We both kept secrets. We both had good reason. And we've both got bigger things to worry about. So what do you say we get to work?

Rwego straightens, no longer cowering...

30 INT. BAJORAN CONTROL CENTRE

Ro and Rwego stride out of the captain's corner office to the situation table. SLAINE is already there, perusing the star map of Cardassian and Tzenkethi space from last ep...

SLAINE  
Captain - I passed along Admiral  
Akaar's advice to Legate Macet...

RO  
And how did Legate Macet react?

SLAINE  
(worried)  
By increasing the number of ships  
on the border.  
(re the map)  
The Tzenkethi have increased their  
fleet along the border as well, in  
response to Cardassian aggression.

RWOGO  
So Macet increases his fleet again  
- and we grow ever closer to war.

RO  
It's a snowball effect.

SLAINE / RWOGO  
A what?

Ro looks back and forth between the two women. Chuckles.

RO  
Yeah, I guess neither of you would  
have heard of snow. Ferenginar's  
too wet, and Cardassia's too dry.  
It's a phrase I learned at the  
Academy - it means when something  
keeps building on itself, and the  
more it builds, the heavier it  
gets. And the heavier it gets, the  
faster it builds...

RWOGO

Oh! You mean the Ninety-Seventh Rule! "Enough is never enough."  
Greed feeds on greed.

RO

I guess so.

SLAINE

The strange thing is... I really can't blame the Tzenkethi.

RWOGO

What ever do you mean, my dear?

SLAINE

A build-up of Cardassian military assets along their borders? How exactly should we expect the galaxy at large to take that?

Ro ponders that... can't really argue. Shakes herself...

RO

Where's Sisko, anyway? Wasn't he supposed to be here?

**CUT TO:**

**31 INT. BAJORAN CONTROL CENTRE - CAPTAIN'S OFFICE**

Back in the office, but now with the glass walls turned to TRANSLUCENT for privacy, and SISKO on the desk screen. He is unrested, disheveled, embarrassed about both. We see the small personal quarters of a *Defiant* cabin behind him.

SISKO (screen)

I apologise, Captain Ro. I didn't sleep very well, I'm afraid.

RO

I'm surprised at you, Captain. I'm the one who's meant to be wracked with guilt and self-doubt. You're the famous war hero, the Emissary of the Prophets...

From Sisko's reaction, Ro knows she's hit on something...

RO

Captain... what's going on? We're supposed to be working on ideas for how to stop the Typhon Pact. This is no time for a crisis of faith.

SISKO (screen)

It's nothing. Please, continue.

Ro is not happy, knows there's more... but forges on.

RO

What about the Dominion? Can you warn them that the Romulans are on their way to try again?

SISKO (screen)

Vannis made it quite clear they wouldn't need or appreciate any help protecting their borders.

RO

Forget Vannis, what about Odo?

SISKO (screen)

It wouldn't work, Ro. Odo just wants to be left alone.

RO

Alright, so if we can't stop them from stealing what they want from the Dominion, maybe we can stop them from getting away with it. How do we disrupt their wormhole?

SISKO

(looks away)

I don't know.

RO

It could be as simple as firing a phaser or a quantum torpedo.

SISKO (screen)

No. We daren't risk using weapons  
against the Tzenkethi's wormhole.  
We have no idea how that would  
affect the Bajoran wormhole.

(wobble)

It might even hurt the Prophets...

Ro senses they're getting closer to the truth now...

RO

Well then what about the Prophets?  
You've asked them for help before  
- why not do it again?

Sisko doesn't answer, just gazes slightly off screen...

RO

Captain?

SISKO (screen)

(small, quiet)

They won't talk to me.

RO

Not even to save themselves?

SISKO (screen)

The Prophets haven't talked to me  
in years, Ro. No reason they'd  
start now.

Ro wants to argue the point further, but she can see how  
much Sisko is struggling with this. Deep breath...

RO

Then we're back to disrupting the  
wormhole. Stop them from escaping  
into Cardassian space, force them  
into Bajoran space instead... and  
then we deal with them the same  
way we dealt with the *Eletrix*.

(beat, firm)

How do we do that, Captain? Who  
knows best how the wormhole works?

SISKO  
(thinks about it)  
Dax. Dax discovered the wormhole  
with me, she studied it more than  
anyone. We need Dax.  
(beat, quieter)  
I need Dax.

As Ro nods along to that...

**32 EXT. SPACE - AVENTINE**

The long and sleek Vesta-class USS *Aventine* soars through space against the background of the M'Kemas star system...

**33 INT. AVENTINE - BRIDGE**

The door from the ready room opens, and EZRI DAX strides out, heading back to her captain's chair. Her XO, Cmdr BOWERS, joins her from the tactical station...

BOWERS  
What did Captain Ro have to say?

DAX  
That she and Ben need my help - or  
rather Jadzia's help - with how to  
safely disrupt the wormhole.

BOWERS  
What about the Tzenkethi?

DAX  
Apparently they're a distraction.  
The real action is back in the  
Gamma Quadrant again. Helm, set  
course out of the M'Kemas system  
and back to Bajor, maximum warp.

The Bolian male at helm, THARP, responds...

THARP  
Aye, sir. Going to warp in five...

Dax settles into her chair...

34 **EXT. SPACE**

*Aventine* turns and pulls away from the star system...

...and the moment it does, three TZENKETHI HARRIERS uncloak in formation around it. The silver teardrop ships with those deadly whip-tails...

...and the *Aventine* is trapped between them.

35 **INT. AVENTINE - BRIDGE**

Automatic RED ALERTS and urgent proximity alarms - Takaran security chief KEDAIR calls out with concern...

KEDAIR

Captain! We're surrounded by three Tzenkethi harriers with weapons hot. They're telling us to stand down and prepare to be boarded... or be destroyed where we stand.

Dax remains calm in her command chair. Turns to Bowers...

DAX

Mister Bowers...?

BOWERS

All hands, this is the XO.  
(beat)  
Battle stations.

BLACK OUT

**END OF ACT TWO**

**ACT THREE**

FADE IN:

**36 EXT. SPACE**

*Aventine* surrounded by three Tzenkethi harriers...

**37 INT. AVENTINE - BRIDGE**

Red alert lights flashing, all the bridge crew on edge...

KEDAIR

Captain, the lead Tzenkethi ship  
is repeating their demands.

DAX

(ignores that)  
Mister Tharp, I don't remember  
belaying my last order.

THARP

But we're surrounded, Captain...

DAX

(smile)  
I have faith in you, Lieutenant.

Tharp turns back to his helm console, steadies himself...

**38 EXT. SPACE**

*Aventine* turns, warp engines glowing as they power up...

...the Tzenkethi ships change their position, gathering at  
the place where the *Aventine's* pointed nose suggests the  
enemy will try to escape, planning to block their path...

...and the Starfleet ship jumps to warp *BACKWARDS* through  
the gap the Tzenkethi have opened up for them (as seen in  
14x04 "Zero Sum Game").

**39 INT. AVENTINE - BRIDGE**

Bowers grins, Dax nods her approval...

DAX

Nice work, Lieutenant.

BOWERS

I still love this, but you know  
Leishman is down there cursing  
your name right now.

DAX

Why - because I put her name in  
the engineering history books?

Dax stands, straightens her uniform, considers the warping  
stars on the massive IMAX viewscreen. Bowers joins her...

DAX

You're right, though - we can't  
keep this up for long. The ship's  
not designed for it.

BOWERS

Plus we've only got a few seconds'  
lead until the Tzenkethi figure  
out what we did and come chasing.

DAX

Mirren - find us someplace safe to  
turn around and give us the chance  
to go to slipstream.

The human female at Ops, MIRREN, gets to work...

MIRREN

Aye, Captain.

Dax heads to the tactical station, speaks to KEDAIR...

DAX

Lieutenant Kedair, I want to avoid  
actually engaging the Tzenkethi as  
much as possible. I don't plan on  
giving them any chance to capture  
this ship, or else the Typhon Pact  
won't need to go back to the Gamma  
Quadrant - we'll have handed them  
a slipstream drive on a platter.

KEDAIR  
Understood, Captain.

DAX  
But... if we do end up having to  
engage them... I want to win.

KEDAIR  
(grin)  
Understood, Captain.

Mirren calls out a suggestion - Dax turns back to her...

MIRREN  
Captain - we're approaching the  
edge of the Badlands...?

As Dax ponders that, Kedair calls out urgently...

KEDAIR  
Captain! I'm reading three more  
Tzenkethi ships heading our way  
from the Lamenda system.

Bowers runs to the secondary tactical console, works it...

BOWERS  
We can reach the Badlands before  
either group intercepts us.

DAX  
(thinking it through)  
Even a runabout has trouble making  
it through the Badlands safely. A  
ship this size would be as subtle  
as an Algorian mammoth in there.  
(beat)  
But... looks like we don't have a  
choice. Tharp - adjust heading for  
the Badlands, drop to thrusters at  
the last second... and take us in.

THARP  
Aye, Captain.

40 **EXT. SPACE**

The first trio of Tzenkethi harriers chasing the *Aventine*, sharing a warp field as they hold a helix formation...

...the second trio of Tzenkethi ships doing the same as they fly to intercept from the other direction...

...and the *Aventine* drops out of backwards-warp with barely a second to spare...

...before backing into the obscuring gases and fiery plasma storms of the Badlands, slowly disappearing from view.

41 **INT. AVENTINE - BRIDGE**

The giant viewscreen now shows the Badlands gases starting to obscure their view - but Dax knows there are six heavily armed Tzenkethi ships just beyond it... waiting for her.

DAX

Mister Bowers - get Leishman on top of whatever repairs she needs to make to the engines... but I want this ship as close to silent running as it can get.

BOWERS

Aye, sir.

Bowers moves off to get it done. Dax ponders the view...

42 **EXT. SPACE**

Open space... and a Galaxy-class ship drops out of warp. It is the *Robinson*, fully repaired after 14x13 "Fragments".

As it settles to a relative stop, another ship hoves into view nearby... the *Defiant*.

43 **INT. ROBINSON - BRIDGE**

SISKO enters the *Robinson's* bridge via the observation room door, escorted by Cmdr ROGEIRO. The rest of the bridge crew - UTELN, CORALA, PLANTE and SIVADEKI - all stand from their stations. Sisko doesn't especially like the attention...

UTELN  
Welcome back, sir.

SISKO  
Thank you, Lieutenant. Carry on.

Sisko nods polite if slightly awkward hellos to the rest as he heads down the ramp and into the ready room. Rogeiro sticks with him, calling back as he goes...

ROGEIRO  
Return to your stations, everyone.  
Mister Plante, you have the conn.

PLANTE  
Aye, sir.

Rogeiro follows Sisko into the ready room, the door closes.

**44    INT. ROBINSON - READY ROOM (CONTINUOUS)**

As Sisko stops at the window and gazes out at the stars, Rogeiro can tell he is uncomfortable...

SISKO  
The repairs seem to have gone well. It's good to see the *Robinson* back in one piece.

ROGEIRO  
You too, Captain.

Sisko turns to look at Rogeiro - does he mean it's good to see *him* back in one piece? Rogeiro continues...

ROGEIRO  
It's a morale builder for the crew to have their captain back.

SISKO  
They seem quite comfortable with you as their commanding officer.

ROGEIRO  
Sir?

SISKO

This is just a flying visit, Anxo. I've been given temporary command of the *Defiant*. You'll continue to command the *Robinson*, at least for the duration of this crisis.

Rogeiرو absorbs that uncertainly. Sisko sees it...

SISKO

Is there a problem?

ROGEIRO

(straightens)

Absolutely not, Captain.

SISKO

Out with it, Commander.

Rogeiرو takes a deep breath, forces the confession out...

ROGEIRO

I was in command of the *Robinson* during the fight against the Breen and Tzenkethi. The fight in which thirty-two crewmembers were killed.

SISKO

Were killed by the Typhon Pact, Commander. Not by you.

ROGEIRO

I realise that, sir. It's just... difficult to remember sometimes.

SISKO

Unfortunately those are the kind of memories we have got to deal with. That's what it means to be captain.

Rogeiرو looks at Sisko, sees that the captain feels guilty about his actions - or *inaction* - during that battle too.

It brings them closer as colleagues. Maybe even as friends.

45 **EXT. SPACE**

Jem'Hadar Vessel 971 drops out of warp in open space...

46 **INT. JEM'HADAR SHIP - BRIDGE**

Jem'Hadar second ROTAN'TALAG (9x17 "Olympus Descending p2") turns to report to WEYOUN, wearing the headset...

ROTAN'TALAG

We have reached the rendezvous point, Weyoun.

WEYOUN

Thank you, Second.

(turns to Odo)

Almost there, Founder.

But ODO is stood at another bridge console, reading off the reports for himself. He turns back to Weyoun angrily...

ODO

Almost where, Weyoun? Rendezvous with what? There's no-one here.

Weyoun is stricken that he cannot answer. MEERA takes pity.

MEERA

Please try to relax, Odo.

ODO

I've been waiting to find out what is going on here for long enough, Meera. I want answers - now.

MEERA

It'll be easier to show you. Meera to First Taran'atar - we're now on the edge of Dominion space.

TARAN'ATAR (comm)

Our guests are ready, Founder.

MEERA

Thank you, First. Stand by.

ODO  
Guests? On a Jem'Hadar fighter?

Odo is ever more annoyed. Meera reaches out her hand...

MEERA  
Trust me, Odo.

Still unsure, Odo reaches out his hand, tentatively takes hers... it's been so long since he did this... they LINK.

Odo closes his eyes as the bliss of the Link flows through him, the natural joy he's been denied for so long...

Meera watches him with a faint smile... nods to Weyoun...

...and the two Founders DEMATERIALISE in transporter beams.

**47**    **THE WA**

...and beam back into the undefined white space of the WA (first seen 8x23). Odo separates from Meera, gazes around in confusion. The dimensionless void, no depth or shadow, just the coloured splotches hanging at periodic intervals.

ODO  
What-... where are we?

MEERA  
It's called the Wa - the strange space at the centre of the freighter ship *Even Odds*.

ODO  
*Even Odds*? I remember Nerys and Jake telling me about that... why are we here, Meera?

MEERA  
Because this is where we've been bringing them... to safety.

Odo remains as confused as ever...

...then more transporter signatures form. Figures beam in - DOSI, KAREMMA, ARGRATHI, RINDAMIL, TRELIANS, others...

MEERA

This is what Jem'Hadar vessel 971 has been doing for the past three years. Ever since Laas insisted on the borders being closed. Finding those dissatisfied with living in subjugation and servitude...

More figures BEAM IN, unusual non-humanoid figures, species we haven't seen before. All the new arrivals look around at their new environment in the same quiet confusion as Odo...

MEERA

...using long-distance subspace transporters to beam them all into the secret heart of the *Even Odds*, to hide them from prying eyes...

...and finally TARAN'ATAR beams in as well. He stands tall and proud, as Odo looks at him in surprise...

MEERA

...and helping them to escape the Dominion to freedom.

Odo gazes in amazement at the range of aliens, all Dominion member races, filling the strangely space-less space around him, breathing free for the first time in their lives...

MEERA

...And now, Odo, we need your help to complete our mission.

Off Odo's reaction to that...

BLACK OUT

**END OF ACT THREE**

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

**48    EXT. SPACE**

*Even Odds* flies at warp...

**49    INT. EVEN ODDS - BRIDGE**

The turbolift opens... and Taran'atar leads Odo onto the freighter ship's bridge (not seen since 11x02 "Structural Integrity Compromised" and substantially repaired since).

Captain DEZ stands to greet them, and the other bridge crew - buxom Wadi first officer FACITY, reserved Cardassian medic GLESSIN, hulking Dosi gem specialist BRAD, the twin Ferengi accountants FEG and TRIV - turn to look, curious.

Odo is still thrown - not least by the fact these people seem quite comfortable with a Jem'Hadar wandering freely about their ship. Then there's the familiar faces he hasn't seen in years - Cardassian, Ferengi. It's a lot to process.

DEZ

Ah, here you are. You must be Odo  
- welcome to the *Even Odds*.

ODO

Umm... thank you, Captain...?

DEZ

Zin Dezavrim. Dez for short.  
Taran'atar told us he'd be  
bringing you along this time.

ODO

Did he indeed?  
(side glance)  
You do many of these trips?

DEZ

(nods)  
But always from a different point  
on the border. Don't want anyone  
getting suspicious.

Odo turns to Taran'atar, demanding answers...

ODO

And you're, what - their liaison?

TARAN'ATAR

In a manner of speaking. Since everyone in the Dominion - except for Meera and Weyoun - believed I was dead, I was the ideal choice to work without being noticed.

ODO

I don't know how I feel about this, Taran'atar. Of course I'm proud my lessons have taken hold, and that you've found a purpose in helping people instead of killing them. But I've been trying to bring the races of the Dominion closer... and here you are trying to break them out.

TARAN'ATAR

You may seek peace and compromise, Odo. But Laas is happy to torture citizens of the Dominion for his entertainment. And you... are not always around to stop him.

ODO

(indignant)

Are you saying this is my fault?

TARAN'ATAR

I'm saying... this is my solution.

Odo considers that... and turns back to the viewscreen.

ODO

So... how many have you rescued?

TARAN'ATAR

Almost four thousand.

Off Odo's amazement all over again...

50 INT. BAJORAN CONTROL CENTRE

Ro LOOMS over the situation table, annoyed...

RO

Nothing?

CENN

(shakes head)

Subspace silence. We lost track of the *Aventine* almost as soon as you finished speaking to them.

RO

They weren't destroyed, were they?

Major CENN moves to check another readout...

CENN

No reports from our listening posts. They've just... vanished.

Ro stands and seethes for a moment... then she spots BASHIR and CANDLEWOOD leaving the break room together, chatting.

RO

(shouts out)

John! Julian!

They look up - she beckons them over. They manoeuvre their way across the large room, past the many rows of computers occupied by junior crew... eventually joining the table.

RO

We need someone to tell us how to disrupt the Tzenkethi wormhole - safely. It was meant to be Dax, but it looks like the *Aventine's* not coming. What have you got, John?

CANDLEWOOD

Buh... I got nothing. I'll give it a shot but you know I'm a computer guy, not a subspace mechanic.

RO

(dry)

Glad you're on board.

(to Bashir)

Julian, didn't you host the Kahn symbiont for a while? Lenara Kahn, the Trill wormhole expert?

BASHIR

(bad idea)

For about an hour, yes. And it was half-dead at the time. My memories of that whole incident are hazy.

RO

Well, you're still the best shots we've got. Get on it.

BASHIR / CANDLEWOOD

Yes, sir...

They stumble off together, daunted at the sudden impossible task when they were just trying to take their breaks. Ro turns back to Cenn...

51 **EXT. VANADWAN MONASTERY - WALKWAY - DAY**

KIRA strolls down the covered-but-open walkway, monastery on one side, spectacular view on the other. REBECCA is with her, holding her hand. And KASIDY, JAKE and RENA behind.

KIRA

You know, Rebecca, this monastery has been here for at least three thousand years. Isn't that amazing?

REBECCA

Do you have to pray all the time?

KIRA

Well... not all the time. There is a small shrine room - that's where we keep the Orb we brought here from Deep Space Nine, in fact.

Suddenly realising what she's said, Kira looks back in horror to Kasidy at having brought up a difficult subject. But Rebecca's mother just smiles sadly, so Kira diverts...

KIRA

(continuing)

But most of what we do here is look after people... people who don't have anywhere else to go.

REBECCA

People like Mister Vaughn?

Another awkward pause - they keep on hitting these tricky subjects. But Kira just nods solemnly...

KIRA

Yes... people like Mister Vaughn.

The group turns the corner, into...

**52    INT. VANADWAN MONASTERY - COMMISSARY - DAY (CONTINUOUS)**

...the communal dining area, with the nurse-ranjens plus some familiar faces - MATTHIAS and her children, O'BRIEN and his... and RAIQ with baby Aniq.

Rebecca stops dead, eyes wide, instantly terrified. Eyes on the Ascendant woman's silver hands, cradling the baby...

**FLASHBACK - 11x22 "PENITENCE"**

-- Raiq with hand around Rebecca's throat, skin *burning*...

**BACK TO SCENE**

Raiq's glowing compound eyes pin Rebecca in place. Clearly the woman remembers the girl as well...

...and Rebecca lets out a strangled SCREAM of terror, the white light BURSTING out of her body, filling the screen...

**WHITE OUT**

**CUT TO:**

**53**    **EXT. VANADWAN MONASTERY - WALKWAY - DAY**

KIRA strolls down the walkway, Rebecca holding her hand...

KIRA

But most of what we do here is  
look after people... people who  
don't have anywhere else to go.

Just as they reach the turn into the commissary, Rebecca  
PAUSES, gathers her strength, steadies her nerves...

KASIDY

You okay, sweetie?

Rebecca forces a fake smile for her mother, nods, and they  
walk on into...

**54**    **INT. VANADWAN MONASTERY - COMMISSARY - DAY (CONTINUOUS)**

...the communal dining area, with the nurse-ranjens and the  
familiar faces. As Kira, Kasidy and the rest move into the  
room to join the others...

...Rebecca pauses to look at Raiq, with baby...

...and Raiq pauses to look at Rebecca, peering at the girl  
with curious, narrowed eyes. Did something just happen...?

...then Rebecca moves on to catch up with her family. Raiq  
watches her go, intrigued... yes, something just happened.

**55**    **INT. VANADWAN MONASTERY - HOSPICE ROOM - DAY**

VAUGHN lies in bed, no life support machines anymore but  
still life-sign monitors attached - and apparently still  
alive. TENMEI sits by his side, reading a book.

The door CREAKS open... and Kira enters quietly. Tenmei  
looks up...

KIRA

Hi, Prynn. How's he doing?

TENMEI

(chuckle)

Oh, he's still being a stubborn old goat. Refuses to shuffle off.

KIRA

(approaching)

That must be difficult for you.

TENMEI

Actually... no. If anything it makes it easier. Eases my guilt.

KIRA

Guilt? Over what?

TENMEI

The whole time we were turning off his life support... I couldn't help feeling like I was killing him myself. After what Opaka said about there still being more for him to do, I thought I was taking that away from him. But I did my worst... and he's still here.

KIRA

(warmly, agreeing)

Like you said, stubborn old goat.

TENMEI

I just can't help wonder... what's he waiting for? What's keeping him holding on against all reason?

Suddenly a RUMBLE OF THUNDER outside, and the light changes - what was previously bright day fades into shadow...

KIRA

Thunder...? It never thunders in Relliketh this time of year...

Kira goes to the window... Tenmei stands to join her...

...and the sky is slowly filling with dark grey clouds.

SLAINE and NOG stand at the stone railing, tables and deck chairs ignored behind them as they look out at the sky...

Heavy grey THUNDERCLOUDS are rolling in, blocking out the formerly bright sunlight and casting dark shadows over the tree-lined mountain range. Then it starts to RAIN - gently at first but gradually growing heavier through the scene.

Slaine GRINS wide, leans over the railing, sticks out her tongue to catch the rain, delighting in the experience.

NOG

What are you doing?

SLAINE

It's rain, Nog.

NOG

Yeah, I know rain. It happens all the time on Ferenginar. Literally all the time.

SLAINE

Not on Cardassia. Where I grew up, in Andak... the scientists chose that place specifically because it was one of the driest places on the planet.

The rain gets heavier... Slaine lets it hit her face, run through her long black hair. Nog joins in, lets it bounce off his big bald head, comforted at the reminder of home.

NOG

It's weird... I spent most of my life away from my home planet. So much of what happens on Ferenginar feels almost alien to me now. But this... this always feels right. I guess it must be genetic.

Suddenly KIRA and TENMEI emerge onto the courtyard, urgent and alarmed...

KIRA

This is all wrong...

SLAINE

Vedek? What do you mean? I think it's wonderful. Beautiful, life-giving rain.

KIRA

But not now. This is the hot and dry season in Relliketh.

Kira stares up into the dark, thunderous sky, the ever-worsening rain plastering her vedek's robes to her skin. Then the entire monastery SHAKES - everyone staggers...

TENMEI

What the...? An earthquake now?

KIRA

Must be a sign from the Prophets. Something is very, very wrong...

An even larger TREMOR, shaking the entire mountain. Trees CRASH in the valley. Stone CRUMBLES from the walls of the ancient monastery, falling as dust into the chasm below.

Slaine staggers back from the railing she had been leaning over - just in time, as it CRUMBLES to bits and falls away.

More SHAKING. Jagged CRACKS rip through the stone floor of the courtyard, destroying the very ground they stand on...

...and the entire courtyard COLLAPSES, throwing Kira, Nog, Tenmei and Slaine SCREAMING off the side of the mountain.

BLACK OUT

**END OF ACT FOUR**

## ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

### **57** EXT. VANADWAN MONASTERY - COURTYARD - DAY

Kira, Nog, Tenmei and Slaine SCREAM as the floor COLLAPSES, they start to PLUMMET down the mountainside, stone and rock crumbling, RAIN pelting them, nothing to stop their fall...

...until suddenly they are caught in a FORCEFIELD BUBBLE out of nowhere, protected, held hovering in mid-air while the world still crumbles and falls around them...

...the forcefield bubble CARRIES them slowly up, back to the level of the now-destroyed courtyard...

TENMEI looks around in confusion, not understanding what's going on... SLAINE watches the rain run down the outside of the forcefield... NOG marvels at the sensation of flying... but KIRA smiles, relieved, knowing what must have happened.

### **58** RAIQ

...at the surviving edge of the building, baby Aniq in one arm, the other hand thrown out and CASTING THE FORCEFIELD as we have seen before, teeth gritted with the effort of holding it, controlling it, raising its contents higher...

### **59** KASIDY AND REBECCA

...further back in relative safety, watching Raiq do this. Rebecca, held close to Kasidy's body but watching with eyes wide as the scary silver woman saves Aunt Nerys's life...

### **60** KIRA ET AL

...inside the forcefield bubble, as they are carried over the edge of the building, to safe and intact ground... and slowly lowered to the floor. The forcefield dissolves...

...and Kira rushes to hug Raiq.

KIRA  
Raiq... thank you, thank you...

Raiq nods along, almost as surprised by what she did as Kira is... then baby Aniq starts to CRY, and she turns her attention back to the young one. Kira turns to Kasidy and Rebecca, gathers them up, pushes them ahead of her...

KIRA

Kas... get inside. Pull everyone together in the commissary, it's the safest place...

...leaving Tenmei, Nog and Slaine stood there, processing their brush with death, clothes sodden with the rain that still falls outside, thunder still rolling...

...and Raiq looking back at them, crying baby in her arms.

**61**    **INT. BAJORAN CONTROL CENTRE**

A holo-projection of BAJOR itself, the entire globe cast up over the situation table, turning slowly, with RED CIRCLES at various points indicating TECTONIC DISTURBANCES. Bashir, Candlewood, Rwogo, Cenn and Ro gaze at this in dismay...

CANDLEWOOD

It's the wormhole. It's sending gravitational distortions across the entire system, and that's screwing up Bajor itself.

(points)

Tectonic disturbances on the Tilar and Musilla plates, hurricanes throughout the Kendra valley... Ashalla... Janir... Suramil...

RO

It must be the Tzenkethi. Their artificial wormhole is damaging our wormhole...

CENN

The Temple walls are crumbling... and Bajor is paying the price.

Ro looks to Cenn - she almost instinctively wants to yell at him... but finds that she can't bring herself to do it.

RWOGO

How are the Bajoran authorities responding, Major?

CENN

General Lenaris is deploying every Militia officer he's got... but I'm worried it won't be enough. The entire planet is in danger.

RO

Then we need help. We've got five entire starships in the system, don't we? Get them here, now.

RWOGO

But the Typhon Pact - we can't leave the wormhole unguarded.

Ro tenses - so many moving pieces to keep track of, so many important decisions to make.

RO

Fine - we'll leave the *Robinson* out in the Denorios Belt to guard the wormhole. But get *Canterbury*, *Venture* and *Brisbane* back here.

BASHIR

Two Galaxy-classes and an Akira...  
(does the math)  
...that's still only about thirty-five thousand at top capacity.

CENN

There's Lenaris's fleet as well, and our runabouts. *Robinson* has a full complement of shuttles, plus two runabouts of their own -  
(reads off panels)  
- *Acheron* and *Styx*. We can borrow those, they won't need them.

CANDLEWOOD

*Acheron* and *Styx*? Oh, well that's just fantastic, isn't it?

The rest all look at him, confused. He looks back...

CANDLEWOOD

Don't you know your classic Earth mythology? *Acheron* and *Styx* are rivers to the underworld in the ancient Greek. Rivers of the dead.

RO

That doesn't matter. Major, make the calls. Inspector, contact our own crew across Bajor - they're all activated as of now.

Cenn and Rwego move to other panels to send the messages...

BASHIR

What about the *Defiant*? That won't be of much use in an evacuation.

RO

No... but somebody has to be the one to stop the Tzenkethi.

From RO's determination...

**62 INT. AVENTINE - BRIDGE**

...to DAX's frustration as she glares at the fiery currents of the Badlands on the viewscreen. They may be hiding the ship from danger... but Dax hates hiding from danger.

BOWERS

I know that look. You're thinking of making a run for it, aren't you?

DAX

They need us at Bajor, Sam. Ben needs Jadzia's expertise on the wormhole. And I'm here... hiding.

(looks back at him)

And I know that look. You think I'm crazy, don't you? Putting the ship and crew at risk.

BOWERS

Actually I was thinking that Bajor may need Jadzia... but *Aventine* needs Ezri. You're the captain who led this crew against the Borg. The captain who figured out that the Typhon Pact existed at all. Who faced off against Ascendants, Breen, Jem'Hadar, even Vaughn...

Dax smiles bashfully, glad of the ego boost. She stands, straightens her uniform, starts throwing out orders...

DAX

Mister Tharp, can we go to slipstream from inside the Badlands?

THARP

(checks panels)

Sorry, Captain. The plasma eddies would prevent the deflector dish from forming the quantum field.

DAX

Alright. Kedair - shields to max, all weapons ready but not fire first. I don't want to be the one who turns this cold war hot.

KEDAIR

Understood, Captain.

DAX

Tharp, ahead full impulse. I want to go to slipstream the instant we can form a quantum field. Ready?

All the senior staff nod their readiness. Bowers turns to Dax as she confidently retakes her command chair...

BOWERS

Ready, Captain.

DAX

Then engage.

63 **EXT. SPACE - THE BADLANDS**

*Aventine* SURGES out of the Badlands into open space...

...and two Tzenkethi harriers immediately OPEN FIRE with white plasma bolts - hitting *Aventine's* deflector dish.

64 **INT. AVENTINE - BRIDGE (INTERCUT)**

SPARKS and GAS. Kedair reads off her tactical console...

KEDAIR

Direct hit to the deflector dish!

THARP

Slipstream is offline!

DAX

Of course it is. What about warp?

KEDAIR

They're in formation to block us.

BOWERS

They really learned their lessons.

As the ship ROCKS again under fire, Dax grits her teeth...

DAX

Then I guess we fight our way out.

BOWERS

Six against one?

DAX

The greater the enemy, the greater the glory, Sam.

BOWERS

Klingon aphorisms now?

DAX

You prefer Ferengi? The riskier the road, the greater the profit?

(beat)

Lieutenant Kedair... fire at will.

65 **EXT. SPACE - THE BADLANDS**

*Aventine* opens fire, PHASERS shooting all directions at once, targeting the Tzenkethi ships... and it's on.

66 **EXT. SPACE - EAV'OQ HOMEWORLD**

*Even Odds* settles into orbit over the planet's north pole, as we saw at the top of the episode...

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

Three Dominion TRANSPORTER signals deposit Odo, Taran'atar and Dez. Once he is down, Odo looks around in amazement...

...at a wide and gentle meadow, calm and peaceful, winding paths and trickling streams, filled with former Dominion citizens enjoying life without a weapon at their heads.

As we watch, the latest deliveries from the *Even Odds* beam down a few at a time. As they materialise, others of the same species recognise their friends and family, and run to hug them. Joyful reunions and welcomes everywhere.

As Odo gazes over this heartwarming view, two other figures come towards their group out of the crowd - the excitedly galloping Aarruri PIF, and the gently lolloping Eav'oq ITU.

PIF

Dez! Taran'atar! You're here.

Dez happily scratches the green-furred doglike alien behind the ear - his leg thumps the ground. Meanwhile the white-furred Eav'oq spreads its thin pink ribbon limbs wide, bows its long tubular body, and smiles its single large eye...

ITU

Founder - you are most welcome in the home of the Eav'oq. I am Itu.

ODO

You know who I am?

ITU

Taran'atar speaks of you often.

Odo looks up at the Jem'Hadar, touched and flattered.

TARAN'ATAR

The Eav'oq shelter all those we  
bring from the Dominion.

ITU

It is our privilege to serve the  
Siblings in this way.

TARAN'ATAR

But it is only temporary. Our  
final goal is to take these people  
through the Anomaly... and request  
asylum in the Federation.

ODO

(astonished)

To do what?

TARAN'ATAR

Is it so hard to believe? You sent  
me to live among the people of the  
Alpha Quadrant. Why should these  
people not do the same?

ODO

One observer is a very different  
matter to four thousand refugees.

DEZ

Hence why we needed you, Odo.

Odo turns now to look at the freighter captain...

DEZ

Yes, I've been to DS-Nine... I've  
worked with Starfleet. But who are  
they more likely to believe - a  
pirate captain with a questionable  
reputation, or a trusted colleague  
of many years... a literal god?

Odo can't argue with that... but it sadly reminds him...

ODO

There is no more DS-Nine. It was destroyed. The Federation is on the verge of war. Again.

PIF has been SNIFFING the air all this time, sensing something strange. And then it comes - the same CLOUDS, THUNDER and RAIN as on Bajor. It turns to look up into the sky...

ITU

This is most unusual.

As the RAIN begins to fall on the refugees, they don't seem to sense anything wrong. But Pif does... and he BARKS loud.

PIF

Get inside! Everyone get inside!

And then it hits - the EARTHQUAKE rocks the entire scene. The refugees STAGGER and SCREAM. Dez stumbles - Taran'atar shoots out a hand, hoists him by the scruff. Odo MORPHS his arms out to steady himself as the shaking intensifies...

An ALERT sounds - Taran'atar raises his wrist device...

TARAN'ATAR

This is First Taran'atar.

WEYOUN (comm)

First! Is the Founder with you?

TARAN'ATAR

He is.

WEYOUN

Tell him another Dominion world has reported the theft of deflector and structural integrity technology.

Odo, who has overheard this, knows exactly what it means...

ODO

The Typhon Pact are trying again.

Off his horror at that...

68 **EXT. SPACE - BAJOR ORBIT**

*Defiant* coasts over the planet, slightly buffeted as waves of gravitational distortions rock the entire system...

69 **INT. DEFIANT - READY ROOM**

SISKO is in uniform. Another officer stands at attention, as yet unidentified - we see only the back and shoulder of a uniform. But Sisko prowls behind this poor unfortunate, dressing them down exactly as he did Tenmei in 14x17.

SISKO

I graduated from Starfleet Academy twenty-nine years ago. I served during the Federation-Tzenkethi war, the Dominion war, and the Borg invasion. I've been decorated by Starfleet seventeen times.

(beat)

So tell me, who is best equipped to command this mission?

Sisko comes around to the officer's front, and we see...

...that it is SISKO himself. He is dressing himself down. The other Sisko, the one stood still, replies quietly...

SISKO 2

You are.

The commanding Sisko seems less than impressed...

SISKO 1

You are Benjamin Sisko. You've led countless officers in battle. You are known across the galaxy as a paragon of strong leadership.

The other Sisko nods along, letting the tirade bolster him.

SISKO 1

That world out there, those people - they need you. Your family needs you. Are you going to deny them?

SISKO 2  
No. I'm not.

SISKO 1  
So tell me - who is best equipped  
to command this mission?

SISKO 2  
I am.

SISKO 1  
Say it again!

SISKO 2  
I am.

SISKO 1  
Then why the hell are you hiding in  
your ready room, like you've hidden  
here for the last two years? Get  
out there and lead, mister.

Sisko 2 straightens, the forgotten fire coming back into  
his eyes. And with a simple change of ANGLE, we realise...

...that Sisko 2 is the real one, the only one in this room.  
He straightens his uniform, turns firmly to exit...

**70    INT. DEFIANT - BRIDGE**

Sisko strides onto the bridge, strong and in command. His  
crew turn at his arrival - TENMEI, CANDLEWOOD, BASHIR, NOG,  
ALECO and extras. Sisko takes the centre chair...

SISKO  
Helm, set course... for the wormhole.

BLACK OUT

**END OF SHOW**