

STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE

12x17 - "Army of Me."

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 17x17 - "SHATTERING SEA"**

Approaching the Azure Nebula, *Enterprise* is set upon by three Borg cubes at once, and is almost overwhelmed with many casualties, but is saved by the unexpected arrival of *Aventine*. Crusher and her team fight to save survivors. Dax reports that she returned to the Alpha Quadrant via a subspace tunnel - perhaps that is how the Borg have been getting here as well. While chief engineers LaForge and Leishman work on repairs to both ships, *Enterprise's* science officer Elfiki and ops manager Kadhata work together on detecting another tunnel at the nebula - only to find dozens, each leading somewhere different in the galaxy. Dax suggests mining the nebula like they did the wormhole ([DS9 5x26 "A Call to Arms"](#)), but simulations say the region is too unstable for mines to work. Picard orders the crew to find a way to destroy all the tunnels, no matter their potential for exploration - an order which pleases no-one.

### **TTN 1x17 - "POWERLESS"**

2381: *Titan* is trapped in orbit of the shelled planet, unable to move or communicate. The Caeliar will not let the Starfleet ship go in case they tell others what they found. On *Axion*, Hernandez explains her backstory to Troi, who continues to suffer from her deteriorating pregnancy. 1519: The city-ship *Axion* drifts through space, on a years-long journey to find a new homeworld. The gestalt - the Caeliar's shared consciousness - is weakened after so many died in the Cataclysm. The humans are not to blame, as readings suggest the feedback pulse was caused by one of the other lost city-ships, *Kintana*, making the whole thing a predestination loop. The four remaining human women are given every comfort but are unable to leave, and the lack of purpose wears. To fill the time, Hernandez begins helping Inyx in the search for a new homeworld. 2381: Vale, Keru and the away team start planning their escape.

### **VOY 10x17 - "RATTLESNAKE FLATS"**

Dr Kaz proposes fooling the Borg into destroying themselves via a 'critical failure' bug. Counsellor Cambridge objects - isn't this genocide? Chakotay won't lose any sleep, which only worries Cambridge more. Kaz and Vorik work on the technical

aspects while Kim hunts for a target. *Voyager* sets course for a small tactical probe, and Paris pilots the *Delta Flyer* as distraction - enough to drop the Borg's shields, beam five drones off, then destroy the probe. Kaz injects the captured drones with modified nanoprobes, then they lure another cube into a Badlands-like region where mines and plasma storms disable the cube enough to beam the captured Borg back aboard. As *Voyager* runs and the cube pursues, it looks like the plan hasn't worked - but Drone Five reaches the central plexus, injects the nanoprobes, and the cube explodes. Chakotay is disappointed that it didn't spread to the entire collective, while Cambridge is quietly relieved - for Chakotay's sake.

## TEASER

FADE IN:

### **1**     DAX

Seated in her command chair, looking calm and steady, hands resting relaxed on her armrests. But unquestionably focused on the main viewscreen before her.

### **2**     VIEWSCREEN

...shows weapons fire being exchanged in the distance, too far at this range to identify who the combatants are.

DAX (o.s.)  
Magnify.

The image shifts, zooming in on the battle scene...

...revealing a BORG CUBE chasing the USS *Enterprise* at warp and firing on it repeatedly, while the Federation starship desperately tries to evade at this high speed.

### **3**     INT. AVENTINE - BRIDGE

The entire bridge is on edge, RED ALERT lights flashing silently. They are all trying their best to control their anxiety - the last time they faced the Borg, a third of their crew were killed.

MAVROIDIS (Ullian female) at helm. MIRREN (human female) at Ops. HELKARA (Zakdorn male) at science. KEDAIR (Takaran female) at security, and first officer BOWERS.

DAX  
Time to intercept?

MAVROIDIS  
Two minutes, Captain.

BOWERS  
I feel like a dog chasing a shuttle. Even if we catch up to them, what do we do then?

DAX

Sink our teeth in, Sam. As deep as we can.

KEDAIR

We've just been scanned by a Borg sensor beam.

BOWERS

So much for a surprise attack.

DAX

Mirren, signal *Enterprise*. We need to coordinate our attack.

MIRREN

Aye sir. Hailing them now.

MAVROIDIS

Sixty seconds to firing range.

MIRREN

Incoming signal from *Enterprise*.

DAX

On screen.

The daunting image of the Borg cube on the viewscreen is replaced by a HASH of static and a WAIL of feedback noise.

DAX

Can we clean that up?

MIRREN

I'm trying, Captain. The Borg are jamming us.

Mirren works her panels again, and after a few seconds, the hash of static on screen resolves into a view of Captain PICARD looking rather harried as the *Enterprise's* bridge shakes and judders around him. He is surprised to see her.

PICARD (screen)

Captain Dax? I thought your ship was in the Gamma Quadrant.

DAX

Long story. We're coming up fast on the Borg. How can we help?

PICARD (screen)

Our targeting sensors are damaged, we need you to be our eyes.

(nods off-screen)

We're sending you our targeting protocols. After we fire, you'll have to arm and target the transphasic torpedoes for us.

MIRREN

Data received. Decrypting now.

HELKARA

I'll have to recalibrate the sensors.

DAX

How long?

HELKARA

Three minutes.

DAX

(back to Picard)

Hang on, Captain. We're on our way. *Aventine* out.

The signal drops, returning the screen to the ongoing battle scene between *Enterprise* and the Borg.

DAX

Sam, let's give the Borg something new to think about for the next three minutes.

BOWERS

Aye, sir. Tactical - arm phaser cannons one and two, stand ready on quantum torpedoes. Helm, set attack pattern Alpha Tango... and engage.

The Borg cube looms ever closer... closer... and then it FIRES. A spinning green light shoots out and hits *Aventine*, making the ship LURCH and the impact RING through the ship.

DAX  
(deadpan)  
I think they're in range now, Sam.

BOWERS  
We'll only get one shot, Captain.  
I plan on making it count.  
(to Kedair)  
Fire at will.

#### 4 EXT. SPACE

*Enterprise* twists and turns, trying to escape the Borg.

The Borg relentlessly pursue the *Enterprise*...

...and the *Aventine* pursues the Borg.

*Aventine* FIRES its two forward-mounted phaser CANNONS with their new advanced super-powerful phaser beams.

The Borg's shield bubble FLARES under their assault, and quickly COLLAPSES. In split-second timing, four quantum torpedoes follow through the hole, punching through the Borg cube's hull with EXPLOSIONS.

#### 5 INT. AVENTINE - BRIDGE

Dax hisses a victorious "Yes!" under her breath, too quiet for her officers to hear. Bowers turns to Kedair...

BOWERS  
More! Keep firing!

Kedair does, and on screen, we see two more torpedoes shoot out from *Aventine* towards the Borg cube...

...and FLARE harmlessly against the instantly regenerated shields. Two more phaser cannon blasts suffer the same pointless fate. Dax's victory is diminished.

HELKARA

Sensors ready!

BOWERS  
Signal *Enterprise*.

MIRREN  
(works panels)  
*Enterprise* confirms. Torpedoes  
away in ten.

DAX  
Helm, all ahead. We need to get in  
close and arm the warheads before  
the Borg realise what we're doing.

Mavroidis complies, bringing the ship ever closer to the  
Borg. Bowers looks grim. He doesn't like this, but he knows  
not to question Dax's orders. He just gets on with the job.

BOWERS  
Helm, show the Borg our port side.  
Ops, reinforce the port shields  
for the fly-by. Tactical, arm the  
*Enterprise's* torpedoes as soon as  
they're away, and lock them onto  
the Borg cube as fast as you can.

KEDAIR  
Incoming!

More Borg weapons impact on *Aventine*, making panels EXPLODE  
and screens SCRAMBLE and engines WHINE.

MIRREN  
Six torpedoes away!

On screen, six twinkling lights shoot out from *Enterprise*.

KEDAIR  
Acquiring control... Armed...  
Target acquired!

BOWERS  
Hard to port, full evasive!

As *Aventine* twists out of the way, the twinkling lights of the transphasic torpedoes suddenly become bright shining blue balls of fire. They turn and head towards the Borg...

The Borg try to shoot them down, but the torpedoes twist and turn, corkscrewing past the Borg's defensive fire...

...until all six hit, and a blinding pulse of light WHITES OUT in a massive explosion.

**7**     **INT. AVENTINE - BRIDGE**

The SHOCKWAVE hits the ship, LIFTing everyone off their seats for a moment before being dumped unceremoniously back onto the deck in a tumble. The viewscreen shorts out from the overload, and lights FLICKER as power is interrupted.

DAX  
Stations!

They all scramble to get back into their seats...

DAX  
Mirren, get the viewer back on.  
Mavroidis, new evasive pattern.  
Kedair, report!

KEDAIR  
Target successfully destroyed.

The screen sputters back to life, offering the image of a Borg cube blown into chunks and tumbling debris.

KEDAIR  
Permission to finish the job,  
Captain?

DAX  
(grin)  
Permission very much granted.

Kedair works her panels...

**8**     **EXT. SPACE**

*Aventine* swoops around, firing more of its own torpedoes and phasers, blasting all the remaining bits of Borg ship until there is only dust.

9 **INT. AVENTINE - BRIDGE**

As everyone recovers, Mirren's console chimes...

MIRREN

*Enterprise* is hailing, Captain.

Off Dax's nod, the viewscreen changes to show Picard again.

PICARD (screen)

My thanks and compliments on a fine rescue, Captain Dax.

DAX

The pleasure was all ours, Captain Picard. I have medics and damage-control teams standing by...

PICARD (screen)

I'm not too proud to say we're in need. Any help you can offer will be gratefully received.

DAX

Understood. I'll have my chief engineer handle the details.

PICARD (screen)

Thank you. Meanwhile, I'd like to invite you and your first officer to meet with me aboard *Enterprise*. We came to the Azure Nebula on a mission, and I'm afraid I need to ask for your help completing it.

DAX

Of course, Captain. Commander Bowers and I will beam over as soon as you're ready.

PICARD (screen)

An hour, then. *Enterprise* out.

The signal drops, returning us the starfield.

DAX

*Enterprise* took some heavy damage  
in that fight. Make sure Mikaela  
knows to prioritise their repairs.

BOWERS

Will do.

(turns away,  
then turns back)

I suppose it would be awkward to  
ask them to loan us a few of those  
transphasic torpedoes?

DAX

Not as awkward as it'll be for me,  
seeing Worf again. Last time we  
spoke, I was congratulating him on  
being made first officer of the  
*Enterprise*. Now I outrank him.

BOWERS

Maybe he'll just be happy for you,  
as a friend.

DAX

Maybe. But you know what they say.  
Rank is like sex - it changes  
everything.

BLACK OUT

**END OF TEASER**

**ACT ONE**

FADE IN:

**10 INT. VEDEK ASSEMBLY CHAMBER**

The chamber is in chaos as the vedeks all SHOUT over each other, clamouring and arguing and gesturing wildly. Present among them are BELLIS, SOLIS, YEVIR and PRALON.

SOLIS

You tried to get Starfleet to leave?! Are you insane?

YEVIR

You could have at least told us what you were planning, Bellis.

BELLIS

Would you have allowed me to continue if I had?

PRALON

Of course not.

BELLIS

Well then. But as it happens, that heathen Starfleet commander Ro Laren refused to take my advice.

SOLIS

Good. That you could imagine -

BELLIS

At least I was doing something to help Bajor! No-one else here has made any suggestions at all.

KIRA (o.s.)

I have a suggestion.

The new voice cuts through the clamouring, and everyone turns to see KIRA, standing a little bashful. She is very much the junior in this august company, and she knows it.

BELLIS

Kira Nerys. Of course you run to your old crewmates' defence. Sadly for them, as a mere prylar you are here to listen and to learn, not to imagine you have the right to tell us what to do.

SOLIS

I have never known Kira Nerys to keep silent when something needs to be said.

YEVIR

You should listen to her, Bellis - you might learn something.

PRALON

The prylar may speak...  
(sly smile)  
...this once.

Bellis sits back down with a grumble. Kira takes a deep breath, nervous now that everyone is looking at her.

KIRA

Thank you, Kai Pralon. And thank you to the entire Assembly.  
(beat)  
Vedek Bellis is correct. Something needs to be done to help Bajor get through this difficult time. But sending Starfleet away is not it. They have stood with us through everything the galaxy has thrown at us. We cannot abandon them now. But... I have been speaking with many of our citizens the last few weeks. And they are terrified. Bajor has never had to face the Borg directly, thank the Prophets. But everyone has heard stories. Everyone knows there is little chance of stopping them if they decide to come for you. And that knowledge is tearing us apart.

YEVIR

I have heard much the same. I try to minister as best I can, to help them keep calm and trust in the Prophets... but fear too often drowns out the words.

SOLIS

It's true. Family members, life-long friends and neighbours... fighting over inconsequential bits of nothing, just out of the sheer emotional strain.

BELLIS

Clearly, this Assembly has set a bad example, then. This is what happens when Ohalavaru, Oraliens and...

(sneer at Kira)

...you are allowed to enter it.

YEVIR

Opaka Sulan herself studies with the Eav'oq in the Gamma Quadrant, Bellis. Do you know the will of the Prophets better than her?

PRALON

This squabbling ends, now.

(to Kira)

If you have a suggestion, Prylar Kira, we are willing to hear it.

KIRA

When the Cardassians came, we fought. When the Klingons came, we fought. When the Ascendants came, we fought. Now that the Borg are coming, are we really just going to sit here and wait for them to kill us all? We need to fight.

BELLIS

Are you suggesting we send Bajoran citizens out against the Borg? I

hardly think that will make them  
less terrified.

KIRA

No, I'm not suggesting that. But we do need an army. That's what has always held us together before - that and faith. And I can only think of one army that even has a chance of standing up to the Borg.

PRALON

And who is that?

Kira takes another deep breath. This is the crux of it.

KIRA

The Dominion.

The room explodes into more clamouring and arguing. Pralon has to bang her GONG repeatedly to bring it to order again. As the shouting dies down, Pralon chooses her words...

PRALON

Prylar Kira... I would think you of all people can understand why that idea would cause a little... consternation.

KIRA

Of course I can. But we've worked with them before, against the Ascendants. We can do it again.

BELLIS

They have banned anyone from the Alpha Quadrant from even speaking to them! How exactly do you expect to persuade them to go to war against the Borg on our behalf?

KIRA

I'll speak to Odo.

BELLIS

Ah, we come to the truth of it.  
The prylar thinks her changeling  
lover will ride to her rescue.

PRALON

About this at least, Vedek Bellis  
is correct. The Dominion wants  
nothing to do with us.

KIRA

So I'll change their minds. The  
Jem'Hadar are strong, sure. But  
sooner or later the Borg will come  
for them too. Helping us now would  
be helping themselves later.

BELLIS

And you believe that telling the  
Bajoran people that we can save  
them from one murderous enemy by  
calling in another murderous enemy  
will help to keep them calm?

YEVIR

Knowing they have an army willing  
to fight to the death for them  
might just do that, Vedek Bellis.

BELLIS

It's insanity!

SOLIS

The entire Alpha Quadrant may be  
at death's door, Bellis. What harm  
can it cause to try?

Kira looks towards Pralon, who has the final say. The whole  
room does. Yevir, Solis, Bellis and Kira all looking to  
Pralon for guidance. What will she do?

**11    EST. DEEP SPACE NINE**

Returning us back to the familiar environs of the space  
station, with *Defiant* and several other vessels docked.

**12    INT. DS9 - COMMANDER'S OFFICE**

Commander RO looks up from her work as the door CHIMES.  
Major CENN is there. She beckons him on in.

RO

Afternoon, Major. What disasters  
have befallen us all now?

CENN

Funny you should put it that way.  
I thought you should know that  
another shuttle is on its way up  
from Bajor.

Ro gestures for Cenn to sit, and sighs resignedly.

RO

I should have known Bellis would  
never let me get away with it.

CENN

You were kind of brutal with him.

RO

You heard that, huh?

CENN

Most of Ops heard it. Your voice  
tends to carry.

RO

Yeah, well, he got me mad.

CENN

You got him mad too, believe me. I  
think I managed to talk him down  
on the walk back to the shuttle,  
though. Get him to take a deep  
breath before calling for your  
public execution.

RO

Well, you've got more patience  
than I do.

CENN

Which is why I'm going to try to do the same for you.

RO  
(tensing)  
You think I was wrong?

CENN  
I think you made some excellent points... that you could have phrased more delicately.

RO  
Come on, Major. He tried to blame me for millions of deaths.

CENN  
And I told him he was wrong about that. But you said some pretty unfair things too, Commander.

RO  
I guess. He just wound me up so much and it all came out.

CENN  
I understand. But being in charge, from what little I know on the subject, sometimes means you have to suck it up even when you'd rather spit it all out.

RO  
You think I should apologise?

CENN  
I wouldn't go that far. At least not right now. Bellis probably wouldn't hear it anyway. But it might do you some good to figure out a way to work better with the recognised religious authorities.  
(stops, ponders a moment)  
And the political authorities, for that matter. Not to mention the

military authorities. We may be  
detecting a theme here.

Ro sighs again. She knows he's right, and she just has to  
suck it up. Might as well just get on with it.

RO

Alright, fine. Whose ass am I  
kissing today? The First Minister,  
the Kai or the Over-General? Who's  
on that shuttle?

CENN

(smile)

None of them. It's just Kira.

RO

(jaw drops, annoyed)

Why didn't you just tell me that  
when you walked in the door?

CENN

Because it made for an easier way  
into this conversation.

RO

It's not too late to throw you off  
the station as well, you know.

With a smirk, Cenn gets up and leaves.

BLACK OUT

**END OF ACT ONE**

**ACT TWO**

FADE IN:

**13 INT. DS9 - NOG'S QUARTERS**

Lieutenant NOG moves around his quarters, quickly throwing bits and pieces into a travel bag - including his Marauder Mo figurine. TENMEI and CANDLEWOOD are there with him.

TENMEI

So just all of a sudden you're going into the Gamma Quadrant?

NOG

Kira wants to go and talk to Odo. And Ro can't just hand over a runabout to a lowly prylar, even if she used to be our captain.

TENMEI

Yeah, but... you're not the pilot here. I am.

NOG

But Odo doesn't really know you. He knows me. And Ro suggested that maybe I might be able to persuade Meera to help us out as well.

CANDLEWOOD

Ooo-ooo-oooh!

Nog stops what he's doing and looks confused at Candlewood.

NOG

What does that noise mean?

TENMEI

John is trying to suggest in his typically subtle way that this might be more about you seeing Meera than about helping Kira.

NOG

What are you, twelve?

CANDLEWOOD  
Emotionally speaking, yes. You did  
tell us you liked her.

On Nog as he remembers...

**14 FLASHBACK - DS9 11x04 "SEPARATION MANOEUVRES COMPLETE"**

Nog and Meera, the teenage changeling girl, say goodbye on board the *Even Odds*. As they part, they [touch hands](#) briefly but affectionately.

**15 BACK TO SCENE**

Nog pushes the memory aside. He goes back to packing.

NOG  
I also told you all the reasons  
why it's a bad idea. And after the  
debacle with Leishman, I'm really  
not looking for love right now.  
Besides, Meera has experience with  
the Borg, so she knows what we're  
up against. Remember on *Defiant*,  
when we found Prynn's moogie?

**16 FLASHBACK - DS9 8x22 "GREATER GOOD"**

Assimilation tubules LEAP out of a Borg corpse as it lies on a bio-bed in *Defiant's* sickbay. They sink into Meera's changeling flesh and [inject Borg nanoprobes](#).

Meera SCREAMS, her form losing control, thrashing all over the room. She pulls her flailing appendages under control, pulling tighter and tighter until she forms a ball, a black mass visible at its centre, vibrating on the deck.

The changeling-ball stops vibrating and grows back to its humanoid shape. Meera extends a third arm out of her chest and opens the hand to reveal a black pebble - nanoprobes.

**17 BACK TO SCENE**

Nog shudders with revulsion at this memory. Then he looks across at Prynn and sees that she is similarly haunted.

NOG

Frinx it, Prynn, I'm sorry. I  
didn't mean to -

CANDLEWOOD

Hey, look at that. I wasn't the  
one who made a massive social *faux*  
*pas* for once. Yay me.

TENMEI

(pats him on back)

The day is young. Don't worry  
about it, Nog. When do you leave?

NOG

Whenever I'm ready. Kira wants to  
get out there and contact Odo as  
soon as possible.

CANDLEWOOD

No time to lose, I suppose. I just  
don't like the idea of you being  
out there in the Gamma Quadrant on  
your own. It's dangerous.

TENMEI

We're all in danger these days,  
aren't we? Leishman's gone, Shar's  
gone, Bowers is gone...

(shrug)

Well... good luck, Nog. On both  
counts.

She goes and gives him a hug. Candlewood does likewise.  
Then they turn and leave the room together. Nog sighs.

NOG

Thanks, guys. I'll need it.

**18**    **EXT. DEEP SPACE NINE**

A runabout lifts off from its padd on a crossover bridge of  
the station and heads out towards the wormhole. It curves  
around, the wormhole BURSTS open, the runabout dives in,  
and the wormhole closes up again.

19 **EST. AZURE NEBULA**

Against the rich blue swirls of gas and particles that make up the Azure Nebula, the Sovereign-class *Enterprise* and the Vesta-class *Aventine* hold position side by side.

20 **INT. AVENTINE - READY ROOM**

Captain Dax sits behind her desk. Captain Picard paces the room in front of her. Both are tired and frayed from the long days of tension and little sleep. Tempers are short, but Dax must defer to the vastly more experienced captain.

DAX

I think you're making a mistake, Captain. It's like using a photon torpedo to swat a fly.

PICARD

I would hardly call the threat of a massive genocidal Borg invasion a 'fly', Captain.

DAX

But your people found dozens of subspace tunnels intersecting the Azure Nebula. Think of where some of those tunnels might lead. Their value to science is immeasurable.

PICARD

(frustrated)

As is their threat to our very survival. If there was some way to know which one the Borg are using to enter Federation space, I might consider a surgical strike. But there's no way to be certain. We have to destroy them all.

DAX

We could open them up, go through, and scout ahead. If we could save even a few of the passages...

PICARD

We don't have that luxury. Your science officer said it could take hours to calculate the frequency to open just one aperture, and they all resonate at different frequencies. It could take days to scout them all, and I have reason to suspect the Borg won't give us that much time. Collapsing every tunnel is the swiftest and safest means of ending this invasion.

Dax turns away, looking out of the window to the nebula outside. She considers his argument, finally turns back.

DAX

Alright. I see your point. All the research opportunities in the galaxy don't mean much if we're not here to enjoy them. Do you have a plan for how to proceed?

PICARD

I'd like our science, engineering and operations teams to continue working together. This is a new phenomenon, and we need to figure out how it works before we can figure out how to dismantle it.

DAX

That'll still take time.

PICARD

Yes. So in the meantime, we take advantage of the fact that all the apertures surround a central point within the nebula. If we mine that area heavily enough, we can prevent any further incursions while we do our research.

DAX

A minefield? Inside a nebula filled with sirillium gas?

PICARD

Exactly. Make the environment work for us, and use it to amplify the impact of the mines.

DAX

At this range, the blast effects of a full scale detonation would probably cripple both our ships.

PICARD

I've already made it clear to my crew that the *Enterprise* is to be considered expendable if that's what it takes to seal this breach in our defences. I need to know that you and your crew share this commitment.

A suicide mission? Dax doesn't like the sound of that. But she has little choice. She stands from her seat, a little intimidated and cowed by this powerful and driven Picard.

DAX

Aye, Captain.

PICARD

Good. Make it so.

Picard gives a curt nod and turns to leave.

**21**    **EXT. SPACE**

The runabout holds position in open space, quiet and tiny against the vast backdrop of stars.

**22**    **INT. RUNABOUT - COCKPIT**

Nog and Kira sit in the two forward seats. Kira checks something on the panels in front of her, seems frustrated.

KIRA

The signal's still transmitting. It's been three hours. Somebody should have responded by now.

NOG

Maybe they're trying to figure out what to do about it.

KIRA

And maybe they're putting together an army to blow us to pieces.

NOG

Do you want to go back?

KIRA

(ponders)

No. This was my idea, I'm going to see it through.

NOG

What did you put in the message?

KIRA

I said who I was, explained the situation, and that we need help. No point lying about it.

NOG

Is it a good idea to put your own name on it? You said the other changeling held you personally responsible for ruining his life.

KIRA

(sad chuckle)

Yeah. Laas never was my biggest fan. But it's also the quickest way to get Odo's attention. We don't have time to mess around.

Nog pauses, seems to gather his courage.

NOG

Can I ask you something? I mean... something personal? You can say no if you want. I still think of you as the captain, really, so if it's too awkward...

KIRA

Nog. What do you want to know?

NOG

Okay. Just... are you looking forward to seeing Odo again?

KIRA

(smile)

Of course. Why wouldn't I?

NOG

I just mean... you haven't really been a couple for four, nearly five years. Do you still care about him that much, even though you barely ever see him?

KIRA

(as if just realising)

Yes. I do. I suppose I always will. I think you do, when you find the right person, no matter how long you spend apart.

NOG

And what if, when you do finally see them again, you find out they don't feel the same way?

KIRA

I guess there's nothing else to do but move on. Carrying a torch can burn you if you're not careful.

(beat)

Nog, I've known you since you were a child. You've never spoken like this, to me or anyone. Why now?

NOG

(big admission)

I'm twenty-eight years old. And I've never been in love.

KIRA

(gently)

I didn't think Ferengi cared much about love. Relationships are just a business transaction, same as any other.

NOG

I guess that's the Ferengi ideal. But my dad loves Leeta. He loved my mom. Even uncle Quark loves Commander Ro, in his way. But I never loved anybody. And the way things are going... I'm not gonna get the chance.

Kira can't really say anything to that. It's too sad.

An ALERT sounds. They both jerk to attention. Nog checks...

NOG

Proximity alert. A ship's coming out of warp.

They both look forwards out of the front windows...

**23    EXT. SPACE**

A ship drops out of warp and slows to a stop not far from the runabout - a JEM'HADAR CRUISER. The giant warship looms threateningly over the tiny Starfleet ship.

**24    INT. RUNABOUT - COCKPIT**

Nog and Kira both GULP with nervousness. Are they both about to be blown to bits?

BLACK OUT

**END OF ACT TWO**

**ACT THREE**

FADE IN:

**25 EXT. SPACE**

The giant Jem'Hadar cruiser continues to loom threateningly over the much smaller runabout...

**26 INT. RUNABOUT - COCKPIT**

Kira and Nog both stand nervously in the as-yet-otherwise-unoccupied runabout cockpit. Kira looks to Nog, daunted...

KIRA

You ready for this?

Nog nods uncertainly. Kira works the controls...

...and the transporter alcove powers up, depositing the two changelings ODO and MEERA onto the platform.

Kira beams wide and rushes to hug Odo. Meanwhile, Nog and Meera's reactions are more like shy flirty smiles.

KIRA

Odo!

NOG

Hi, Meera.

MEERA

Hello, Nog.

Odo allows Kira's hug, revels in it for a moment, but then pushes her away again.

KIRA

Odo...? What's wrong?

ODO

You shouldn't be here, Nerys.

Odo seems worryingly stern. Kira looks back and forth between Odo and Nog, worried about what this means...

27 **EST. AZURE NEBULA**

Re-establishing the *Enterprise* and the *Aventine* against the backdrop of the rich blue swirls of the Azure Nebula...

28 **INT. AVENTINE - CREW GYM**

The door opens, and Sam Bowers steps into the doorway. Across the room, on her own and not noticing his arrival at first, is Dax. She is wearing a white *gi* and going through a basic pattern of exercises with a *bat'leth*.

Though the weapon is standard size, it looks far too big for Dax's diminutive frame, and she has trouble swinging it about and keeping her balance. The failure is frustrating.

Finally as she slashes towards him, she notices Bowers.

DAX

Sam.

BOWERS

Captain. Looks a bit on the heavy side for you, don't you think?

DAX

It was a gift from Worf. One of these years I'll get the hang of it, like Jadzia did.

BOWERS

I may never have met her, but from everything I've been told, she was several inches taller than you. And she began her martial arts training at a much younger age.

DAX

So I should accept my limitations and not try to punch above my weight, is that it? I thought I left Julian behind on DS-Nine.

It's clear that Dax is stressed and in a bad mood, so Bowers lets that go with patience.

BOWERS

No. What I'm saying is - perhaps you should fight with your own weapon, not with someone else's.

Dax smiles and relaxes - she shouldn't judge others by her insecurities. She moves over to a bench, rests the *bat'leth* against the wall, and wipes her face of sweat with a cloth.

BOWERS

I just wanted to let you know that Helkara is aboard the *Enterprise*, working with Lieutenant Elfiki on a way to collapse the subspace tunnels. Meanwhile Leishman is showing Commander LaForge around the *Aventine's* engine room.

DAX

(bites tongue)

Understood.

Bowers comes over, strokes the edge of the *bat'leth*. It is a magnificent weapon. Dax sees this, smirks.

DAX

Want to spar? We can replicate one for you, go a few rounds...

BOWERS

No, I don't think so. Not really my weapon either.

DAX

What's your preference? I'm flexible.

Dax seems oddly eager to fight, to get her aggression out. It worries Bowers.

BOWERS

Are you feeling okay, Captain?

DAX

We're alone, Sam. You can drop the formality in here.

BOWERS

I just seems a bit weird, this sudden need to spar. Have you tried the holodeck?

She picks up the *bat'leth*, returns to the centre of the floor, begins going through the exercises with it again. Her arms quake with the effort of handling the heavy blade.

DAX

What's the point of the holodeck? There's no satisfaction in it.

BOWERS

You mean a holodeck character can't hang out in the lounge and tell the crew he got his ass kicked by the captain.

Dax's concentration is broken. She drops the *bat'leth* in anger and frustration - at herself as much as at him.

DAX

Gods dammit it, Sam. I'm just trying... I just want to get my focus back so I can feel like I'm in control.

(sigh)

Maybe you won't understand this. But I feel like I'm faking my way through every minute of the day, and that everyone around me knows it. Five weeks ago, I was the second officer of this ship. Third in command. Then one direct hit by the Borg, and it was like I was back on the *Defiant* watching Tiris Jast die all over again.

BOWERS

If your moment on this ship was anything like the one you had on the *Defiant*, you deserve to be in the centre seat.

DAX

It's not just that one incident. It feels like my whole career's been like that. Just one lucky coincidence after another. What if Brinner had taken the Dax symbiont on the *Destiny*? Then I'd just be Ezri Tigan now, counsellor un-extraordinaire. If Jast hadn't been killed, I'd still be wearing medical blue instead of command red. Or what if Dexar or Tovak hadn't been killed at Acamar?

BOWERS

Bullshit.

The blunt curse gets Dax's attention - as Bowers intended.

BOWERS

Who cares how or why you ended up in those situations? What matters is what you chose to do each time you faced a challenge.

He steps close, bends down to pick up the dropped *bat'leth*, and offers it back to Dax grip-first.

BOWERS

You're in command because you're a natural leader. When others shrink back, you step up. And you've got the advantage of eight lifetimes of experience. That's seven-and-a-half more than most captains. You're a hell of a good CO, Ezri. And I bet the man who gave you that sword would tell you the same - if you let him.

DAX

Thanks Sam. And you're a damn good XO too.

She smiles gratefully, and takes the *bat'leth* back off him.

29 INT. RUNABOUT - COCKPIT

Kira pleads with Odo. Nog and Meera stay out of the way.

KIRA

Odo, we need you. Bajor - the entire Federation - needs you.

ODO

Nerys, you're lucky to be alive right now. Laas was already furious enough from the Vorta detecting a Starfleet ship around a nearby world a few days ago.

NOG

That'd be Dax in the *Aventine*.

ODO

He wanted to send the Jem'Hadar the moment we got your message.

NOG

What stopped him?

MEERA

Odo promised that we would come to meet you where you are - outside the Dominion's borders. That your ship would never enter our space.

KIRA

I can't worry about how much Laas hates me right now. This is bigger than that. It's not just one Borg cube this time. There have been more than a dozen attacks in the last month alone. Entire planets' worth of people have died already. We will not survive without help.

ODO

Nerys, it's not that simple...

Kira has to bite her tongue. She turns to Nog and Meera.

KIRA

Nog, could you and Meera give Odo  
and I a moment alone please?

NOG

Umm... yeah, I guess. Meera, would  
you like to see my rear cabin?

As Meera's eyes widen in surprise, Nog blushes furiously.  
She smothers a smirk and gets up to leave the cockpit with  
him. He turns to lead the way, covering his embarrassment.

NOG

(mutter to self)

Must be hanging out with John too  
much. Picking up his bad habits.

Nog and Meera EXIT, leaving Kira and Odo alone. She sighs  
and takes a seat, trying to keep control of her emotions.  
Sadly, Odo joins her.

ODO

Nerys...

KIRA

Don't you love me anymore?

ODO

(appalled)

How can you ask me that? I've  
always loved you. Everything I've  
done has been for you.

KIRA

Then why won't you help me? The  
Borg are coming for everyone.  
They're going to exterminate the  
entire Federation, and they won't  
stop there. Don't you care?

ODO

That's not fair. I sent the  
Dominion to war against the  
Ascendants for you. You're the  
only reason I agreed to that.

KIRA

So, what - it was a one-time thing? Ascendants trump Borg?

ODO

You know I love you, Nerys. But the Jem'Hadar are not my personal army to do with as I please.

KIRA

You're a Founder!

ODO

I'm not the only Founder. Laas has as many Vorta and Jem'Hadar to follow him as I do, more perhaps. If I try to order them into war to help the 'monofirms' again, it'll split the Dominion even worse than before. The Gamma Quadrant would be just as war-torn as the Alpha Quadrant. And that helps no-one, least of all the Federation.

(beat)

I'm sorry, Nerys. As much I want to give you everything you want and more... I can't.

KIRA

So what am I supposed to do?

ODO

You could always stay with me.

Kira is stunned. She had never even thought of that. But is she thinking about it now?

BLACK OUT

**END OF ACT THREE**

## ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

### **30 EST. AZURE NEBULA**

Back to the blue swirls and wisps of the nebula, but this time focusing on the *Enterprise* rather than the *Aventine*...

### **31 INT. ENTERPRISE - MAIN ENGINEERING**

Dax weaves between various engineers and crewmen working hard to repair the ship. Worf is standing near the warp core, conferring with deputy chief engineer [TAURIK](#). Dax waits until they're finished.

Taurik finally nods acknowledgement of Worf's orders and leaves. Worf turns, and his eyes flare in surprise at seeing Dax there. But he continues out of engineering and towards the turbolift. Dax falls into step beside him.

WORF

Are you returning my chief engineer?

DAX

He'll be back any minute. But I'm actually here to talk to you.

WORF

Is there something you need, Captain?

They exit engineering, cross the corridor to the turbolift, and step directly into it. Worf has kept himself fully professional the whole way.

### **32 INT. ENTERPRISE - TURBOLIFT (CONTINUOUS)**

The doors close and the turbolift begins to move.

DAX

Worf... can we drop the ranks and just go back to being friends for a minute?

WORF

Computer, hold turbolift.

The computer bleeps affirmatively, and the turbolift glides to a halt. Worf turns to Dax, warmer.

WORF

I apologise. Tracking repairs is time consuming. Are you alright?

DAX

I'm fine. It's just that you and I haven't talked since you became a first officer. And suddenly I'm a captain. Must be weird for you.

WORF

How so?

Dax doesn't know how to respond. Worf has just perfectly punctured her pretensions in a second without even planning to. She chuckles and gathers herself.

DAX

Let me start over. The truth is, I have no idea how you feel about my promotion. I was projecting my own feelings onto you. Again. I should have known better.

WORF

You do not need to apologise.

DAX

No, I do, Worf. I'm sorry. I was just afraid you'd resent me for making captain ahead of you.

WORF

Because of my reprimand after [saving Jadzia on Soukara](#).

DAX

Well, yes.

WORF

I regret nothing that I did for Jadzia. You earned your command by leading in battle. Jadzia would be proud of you... as am I. Your success honours her.

DAX

Thank you, Worf. That means a lot to me. And for what it's worth, I've never seen you more relaxed and content than you are now.

WORF

(ponders)

The *Enterprise* is where I belong. I consider it a great honour to be Captain Picard's first officer.

(out loud)

Computer, deck five.

The lift begins to move again. Dax and Worf both return to professionalism, just in case any ensigns should enter.

DAX

It's funny, isn't it? Just at the point you and I are both finally living up to our potential, the Borg are trying to exterminate us. What would you call that - irony?

WORF

Bad timing.

**33**    **EXT. SPACE**

The giant Jem'Hadar cruiser continues to loom threateningly over the much smaller runabout against a backdrop of stars.

**34**    **INT. RUNABOUT - REAR CABIN**

The lights are low, all the better to make the stars stand out. Nog and Meera both perch side by side on the edge of the conference table, legs dangling, staring companionably out at the view beyond the rear windows.

MEERA

I love looking at the stars. Most of my people hate it. They'd much rather stay in the Link where it's safe. But to me, the stars are... excitement. Adventure.

NOG

There's definitely adventure. But there's danger too.

MEERA

I know. But it has to be better than just sitting in a puddle for aeons on end.

(turns to him)

It's good to see you again, Nog.

NOG

We do seem to keep running into each other, somehow.

MEERA

What is the solid word for it - Fate? Destiny?

NOG

Either works. I have to admit... I was looking forward to seeing you again too.

MEERA

(intrigued)

Really? Why?

NOG

...I like you. Which is weird, I know, because you're a changeling and I'm a Ferengi...

MEERA

Would this make it less weird?

Meera MORPHS, her changeling form suddenly growing giant Ferengi ears and head bulges, a wrinkly forehead and buck teeth, though still Meera beneath. Nog laughs in delight.

NOG

Actually no. That just makes it  
even more weird.

Meera MORPHS back to her previous changeling appearance.

NOG

You don't need to change for me.  
I like you the way you are.

(nervous)

Not that you can't change if you  
want to. I mean, I wouldn't want  
to stop you from -

MEERA

Nog.

He rambles when he gets nervous. She smiles shyly. It's  
flattering to have someone so interested in her.

MEERA

I like you too.

NOG

Really? Well... great.

Nog turns back to look out at the stars, relieved and  
happy. Reality sets in soon enough.

NOG

Of course, it won't matter much  
if the Borg wipe out all life in  
the Alpha Quadrant. Are you sure  
there's nothing you can do?

MEERA

I'm sorry, Nog. I wish I could.  
But Odo's right - it wouldn't  
work. Unleashing the Jem'Hadar  
would only make things worse, not  
better. The Dominion is balancing  
on a knife's edge. One slip either  
side - we'd all be cut to pieces.

Nog nods sadly. It's what he expected.

35 INT. RUNABOUT - COCKPIT

Kira gazes in shock and amazement at Odo.

KIRA

Stay with you? But the Link -

ODO

If it means keeping you safe, I'd leave the Link in an instant. You and I can go somewhere, on our own where no-one from the Dominion would ever find us. You'd be safe from the Borg, the Jem'Hadar...

KIRA

But what about Bajor?

ODO

Nerys, you said yourself the Borg can't be stopped. If they're coming anyway, you should save yourself while you can...

KIRA

Odo... I can't do that. I can't leave Bajor now, not when they need me most.

(accepting)

Any more than you can leave the Dominion.

ODO

And I can't just send you back to your death...

KIRA

It's okay. The Prophets have always protected us before. I'm sure they'll protect us again.

ODO

(sigh)

Sometimes I really envy you your faith, Nerys.

36 INT. RUNABOUT - REAR CABIN

Nog and Meera still sit where they were. The comm chimes...

KIRA (comm)  
Kira to Nog. Odo's ready to leave.  
And we should really be getting  
back to the Alpha Quadrant.

Nog jumps down off the table to the deck, helping Meera to do the same. He looks at her, then taps his combadge.

NOG  
I'll be there in a moment,  
Captain... prylar... sir.

Rolling his eyes at his Candlewood-esque ineptitude, Nog taps to close the channel. He goes back to gazing at Meera.

MEERA  
So... here we are saying goodbye  
all over again.

NOG  
I know. Thank you.

MEERA  
For what? I didn't give you  
anything.

NOG  
You did. In fact, you gave me  
something I've never had before.

Meera smiles, understanding his meaning.

MEERA  
Well then... perhaps there's one  
more thing I can give you before  
you go.

She gently takes hold of his face, brings their lips slowly together... and they KISS against the backdrop of stars.

Hold as they indulge the long-awaited moment. Then they reluctantly separate. It's time to go.

MEERA

Do you mind if I stay a moment?  
I'd like to look at the stars some  
more, while I can. I promise I  
won't touch anything.

NOG

It's okay. I locked everything out  
before you came onboard.

(shrug)

I'm still a Starfleet officer.

After another extended hand-holding, Nog turns and walks  
towards the front of the ship, exiting to the cockpit.

Meera turns back to the stars and takes a deep breath.  
After a moment of silence...

MEERA

You were awfully quiet. Thank you.  
I was afraid Nog would hear.

Beside her at the window, TARAN'ATAR suddenly unshrouds  
into view. The Jem'Hadar soldier stands tall, but relaxed.  
Meera obviously knew he was there.

TARAN'ATAR

I believe he was... distracted.  
(looks towards cockpit)  
The humanoid preoccupation with...  
affection... has always perplexed  
me. Such things are of no concern  
to Jem'Hadar.

MEERA

Most changelings would say the  
same. It's not true.

TARAN'ATAR

These Borg seem to be a formidable  
enemy. Victory against them would  
be most satisfying.

MEERA

There's nothing you can offer them, Taran'atar. You're an army of one, without weapons, or ships, or troops.

TARAN'ATAR

Even so, I would gladly join Kira Nerys's army.

MEERA

I know you would. And that does you credit. But she thinks you're already dead. You should return to the *Even Odds*. They're doing good work, and they need you.

TARAN'ATAR

As you wish, Founder.

NOG (comm)

Beginning transport.

Taran'atar steps close to Meera, disappearing into his SHROUD as he does so. Then he and Meera are captured in a transporter beam. Part-way through transport...

CUT TO:

**37**    **INT. RUNABOUT - COCKPIT**

Odo is also mid-transport, on the runabout's transporter platform. As he fades, his eyes never leave Kira. She waves him a small goodbye... and then he is gone.

Kira turns to Nog, who was operating the controls from a polite distance. She steels herself, returns to her seat, and they get the ship moving.

BLACK OUT

**END OF ACT FOUR**

## ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

### **38**    EST. AZURE NEBULA

Back to the blue swirls and wisps of the nebula, but this time focusing on the *Aventine* rather than the *Enterprise*...

### **39**    INT. AVENTINE - READY ROOM

The door whooshes open, and Picard strides in again. Dax is there to greet him. After her pep talks by Bowers and Worf, she is feeling more confident in herself, and that informs how she relates to Picard - no longer cowed, now an equal.

PICARD

You requested to see me, Captain?

DAX

Yes, thank you for coming, sir.  
Please, take a seat. I'll get you something from the replicator.

PICARD

No, thank you.

Dax picks up a padd from her desk, and then they sit on the couches together, rather than with a desk separating them.

PICARD

I've apprised Admiral Nechayev of our tactical options. Teams at Starfleet R and D, the Daystrom Institute, and the Vulcan Science Academy are studying our readings and working to find a means of destroying the subspace tunnels, while our two crews continue to construct the minefield.

DAX

Well, that's why I asked to see you. We need to stop trying to collapse the tunnels.

PICARD

(stern)

Captain, I've made my decision.

DAX

Based on incomplete information. Lieutenants Helkara and Elfiki have been continuing their analysis, and as a former science officer myself, I have too.

PICARD

And what have you found?

DAX

All the passages resonate at different sub-harmonics of the same interphasic frequency. So, any attempt to collapse one of them will have a domino effect that will collapse all of them.

PICARD

Perfect. Exactly what we need.

DAX

Except that since the tunnels only exist in subspace, the shockwave from it would propagate throughout subspace, having disastrous effects on galactic space-time.

PICARD

Such as?

DAX

Stars could explode. Whole systems could vanish. Spiral arms could disperse into the void. Pluck the wrong string on this instrument, Captain, and you could wipe out an entire quadrant in one note.

Picard grits his teeth. He wants to destroy these things. Plus it feels like Dax has gone behind his back. But he knows she has not lied to him.

PICARD

*Merde.*

(beat)

Why didn't Elkifi tell me this?

DAX

I asked her and Helkara to let me.  
I felt it would be better coming  
from a fellow captain.

Again subtly emphasising their equal rank. It does not go unnoticed. But having made her case, Dax now steps back.

DAX

What are your orders, sir?

PICARD

(grinds teeth)

Suspend production on the mines.  
I'll tell LaForge to do the same.  
But I want both crews to continue  
looking for safe ways to collapse  
the tunnels. I'm not willing to  
entirely abandon that option yet.

DAX

Understood.

PICARD

So then we return to your first  
suggestion - explore the tunnels  
instead. At the least, we can  
shift the front line in this war  
away from Federation space.

DAX

A counter-attack?

PICARD

(thinking it through,  
step by step)

A holding action. We identify the  
tunnel the Borg have been using to  
enter our space. We advance to the  
other side of it. We hold the line

there until we have a means to collapse the tunnels safely. Then we fall back and implode the tunnel behind us.

DAX

It'll still take time to scout the tunnels and be sure we've got the right one. Just calculating the frequency to open the apertures takes time and processing power.

PICARD

We have *Enterprise* and *Aventine*. Two computers are better than one.

DAX

We can't both go at the same time. One of us will have to stay at the nebula in case more Borg come through, while the other explores the tunnels. And you're the only one with transphasic torpedoes.

PICARD

The *Enterprise* is several hours away from completing its repairs.

DAX

(deep breath)

Then I guess it's down to me.

Dax gets up and moves to her personal computer terminal. She looks up reports, peruses them. Picard stands.

DAX

My engineering teams will be done helping yours in two hours. But it might take longer than that to pick the lock.

PICARD

Then we'd best get started. We have a long road ahead. And heaven help us all if the Borg strike the next blow before we do.

Off Dax's trepidation...

**40    EST. IDRAN**

In orbit of the Eav'oq planet, the world at the Gamma end of the wormhole. The runabout sits in orbit.

**41    EXT. EAV'OQ CITADEL - DAY**

Kira now sits downcast, upon one of the low stone walls that weave along the paths of this bucolic paradise.

KIRA

I failed. The Borg are going to kill us all.

OPAKA

You mustn't think that way, Nerys.

OPAKA sits beside her on the wall. Behind them is the gleaming marble of the Eav'oq citadel, and a handful of EAV'OQ themselves moving around in the background in their strange lolloping multi-limbed gait.

KIRA

How can I not? I made such a big deal about bringing back an army to take on the Borg. I get everyone's hopes up and I come back with nothing. And I tried to guilt Odo into helping by accusing him of not loving me anymore. I'm no better than Bellis.

OPAKA

(patient)

Well, first, you shouldn't compare yourselves to others. You can only do what you can do. And second - if it was meant to be, then it would be. Seemingly the Prophets do not want the Dominion involved in this dreadful business, and we must trust that They know best.

KIRA

But Bajor will be destroyed! I refuse to believe the Prophets would protect us all through the Occupation, the war and the Ascendants, would send us the Emissary to guide us into the Federation, only to let us all be annihilated by the Borg.

OPAKA

Exactly - They wouldn't. Which only means the solution has yet to be found. Not that there is no solution.

KIRA

You haven't seen it, Sulan. The Borg haven't even reached us yet, and the whole world is eating itself up with fear. The vedeks are too busy bickering among themselves to do anything to help.

OPAKA

Perhaps they need a sign from the Prophets. Something to prove to them that there is hope, a way forward. To bring them together.

KIRA

(shakes head)

Sisko's gone. He went back to Starfleet. And Kai Pralon - she's fine, I guess. But she's no you.

While Opaka smiles demurely at the compliment, Kira's jaw drops. Just like that, the answer has come to her.

She turns to look at Opaka, thunderstruck. Opaka wonders what just happened...

**42**    **EST. BAJOR - DAY**

Returning us to the safety of the Bajoran capital city...

43     **INT. VEDEK ASSEMBLY CHAMBER**

Voices continue to clamour over each other. Crowd WALLA as no-one has anything substantive to say - it's all pointless noise. Bellis, Solis, Yevir and Pralon present as before.

The doors at the far end of the chamber BURST open suddenly and Prylar HAIM, the kai's regular messenger, rushes in. She runs straight to Kai Pralon and whispers into her ear.

Astonished at what she has been told, Pralon nods for Haim to continue. The messenger returns to the door and beckons. Kira enters, to the general consternation of the room.

PRALON

Prylar Kira. You have returned.

KIRA

I hope you'll forgive the intrusion, Eminence. But I have brought what Bajor needs.

BELLIS

Have you? Then show us, prylar. Where is this army of Jem'Hadar you boasted of? The ones who will lay down their lives to save us?

KIRA

I have no army.

The crowd talks over each other again, drowned out by Bellis's smug gloating.

BELLIS

As I told you all! This woman has repeatedly placed herself above this Assembly, considered herself better than us. Now we see her arrogance for the empty bluster it is.

KIRA

(calm, but firm)

I have no army, Bellis, because I realised that's not what we need.

BELLIS

You said it was the only way to  
hold Bajor together.

KIRA

I said it had worked in the past,  
yes. But I also said we had faith.  
That's what we need now. And  
that's what I've brought.

Kira turns back towards the door to the chamber. At her summons, Opaka strides through the double doors.

A GASP goes up around the room. All the vedeks step aside, making a path for Opaka to walk slowly through the chamber and towards the Apex Chair. She is bashful and a little embarrassed at all the attention and adoration.

Even Kai Pralon steps down from her podium and up to Opaka. The current kai takes her predecessor's hands in her own...

...and then KNEELS down before her. Taking her cue, the rest of the vedeks do the same. Throughout the chamber, vedeks kneel in worship of their legendary leader.

Standing behind Opaka in the wake she has left, Kira looks around at all the vedeks around them. All behaving the same, all having faith in the same thing. Her plan worked.

Kira finally kneels as well, smiling beatifically...

BLACK OUT

**END OF SHOW**