

STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE

10x20 - "In the Stars."

Screenplay by Martyn Dunn

Based on characters from the series

Star Trek: Deep Space Nine

and from the post-finale novels
by Pocket Books

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 INT. EVEN ODDS - BRIDGE

The ship SHAKES, computer panels SPARK, smoke BILLOWS. A burned, smudgy HAND grabs urgently at the helm panel, pulls the body up - it is DEZ, the *Even Odds* captain.

He clambers back into the seat, quickly works the panels... another SLAM - the ship shudders and rings like a bell as it's hit again. Dez turns to look at FACITY...

DEZ

Fac! I need to know where they
are! I can't get us away if --

FAC

I don't know where they are! They
keep jumping around like Rakhari
springers. I can't even tell if
there is a they or just an it.

The ship SHAKES again, a groan rumbling all through its spaceframe. Another panel BLOWS...

DEZ

What about Prees?

FACITY

(slaps comm)
Prees! Status!

2 THE WA

PREES, the Karemma engineer, staggers against the bucking ship. But that's the least of her worries, because...

...the Wa is ERUPTING all around her. The peaceful cloudy white is gone, and instead the space is THROBBING with a fiery orange light, PULSING like an irregular heartbeat.

PREES

Status?! Nothing works! It's alive
down here... and it's going crazy!

3 INT. EVEN ODDS - CORRIDOR

The dog-like Aarruri PIF runs as fast as he can... winces against his damaged leg... skids around a corner...

...where BRAD, FEG and TRIV run the other way, towards him. The hulking Dosi female carries a heavy fire extinguisher, the two tiny Ferengi males lugging the long coiled pipe...

BRAD

Pif! Where are you going? It's this way!

Pif ignores her and keeps running. A section of a bulkhead BURSTS off its moorings, letting a finger of white-orange WA material reach out. Pif ignores it, keeps running...

4 INT. EVEN ODDS - PIF'S QUARTERS

Pif dashes in, straight to his wife SETT and their six tiny green babies. Sett is trying her best to hug them to her chest, comfort them, but they whine and whimper in fear...

SETT

Pif! You shouldn't be here!

PIF

No, Sett. You're my family. I couldn't be anywhere else.

He jumps onto the bed, curls himself around to protect them. The ship SHUDDERS again...

SETT

But who is it? Who's trying to kill us?

5 EXT. SPACE

The freighter *Even Odds* tries to run, its patchwork hull damaged and burning and smoking. It tries to swerve...

...an Ascendant ship JUMPS into its path, FIRES a massive bolt of white electricity from its pointed silver tip...

...and SLAMS into the *Even Odds*.

6 **INT. EVEN ODDS - BRIDGE**

Facity reacts to her panels with worry...

FACITY

The outer hull, it's starting to
degenerate... just like Nog and
Shar said it would.

DEZ

Don't talk about those damned
Alphies! This is all their fault!
We wouldn't be under attack if I
hadn't let Jake guilt me into it.

Facity knows it's not the time to argue...

FACITY

The hull's about to give...

7 **EXT. SPACE**

The Ascendant ship FIRES and FIRES on the *Even Odds*...

...the freighter's skin dissolving more and more...

...then blue PHASER FIRE pummels the Ascendant ship. The
Ascendant breaks off, loops away...

...the new attacker gives chase - a JEM'HADAR FIGHTER. *Even Odds* is left ignored for the moment...

8 **INT. EVEN ODDS - BRIDGE**

Dez and Facity watch amazed as the Jem'Hadar and Ascendant
ships exchange fire on the main viewscreen...

DEZ

Unbelievable...

FACITY

(w/ wonder)

Why does this keep happening to us?

DEZ

Don't count your pegs yet...

9 **EXT. SPACE**

The Jem'Hadar pursues the Ascendant, firing constantly...

The Ascendant JUMPS away, the last few shots are lost...

But the Jem'Hadar anticipates the Ascendant's move... does a fast heel-turn, spinning 180 degrees...

...and FIRES again at point-blank range, right down the Ascendant's surprised throat. The Ascendant ship EXPLODES.

The Jem'Hadar SURGES through the fire, out the other side, SWOOPS back around, approaches the crippled *Even Odds*...

10 **INT. EVEN ODDS - BRIDGE**

Dez and Facity watch the screen, tense - the Jem'Hadar ship looms closer and closer, Ascendant debris behind it. Maybe they were just fighting over who gets to kill them.

An ALERT on Facity's panels - she rushes to check...

FACITY
Incoming signal.

With a gulp, Dez nods. Facity presses controls...

And the screen shows TARAN'ATAR, on the Jem'Hadar bridge in one of the viewer-headsets, VANNIS visible behind him...

TARAN'ATAR (screen)
Captain Dez. Facity.

FACITY
(amazed)
Taran'atar...? What --

TARAN'ATAR (screen)
The *Even Odds* is now under the protection of the Dominion, by direct order of the Founders.

DEZ
Umm, thanks, I guess. But why?

11 INT. EVEN ODDS - PIF'S QUARTERS

The conversation sounds through the ship's comm system. Pif and Sett have their ears perked up, curious...

TARAN'ATAR (comm)
Jem'Hadar vessels have been
shadowing you for some weeks now.
This was the wish of the Founder
you call... Meera.

Pif and Sett both BARK loudly, excited and relieved and grateful. Picking up the mood, the puppies start to copy their parents with happy little YELPS and SQUEAKS...

12 INT. EVEN ODDS - BRIDGE

The Gaber family's happy barking sounds through the comm. Dez and Facility sag in blissful relief...

DEZ
(w/ feeling)
Taran'atar... thank you. You've
saved our lives, again. And please
pass on our thanks to Meera if you
see her.

TARAN'ATAR (screen)
Do you require assistance? Can you
manoeuvre?

FACILITY
Not as we are - the main engines
are fried.

TARAN'ATAR (screen)
Stand by. We will tractor you to a
repair facility.

13 EXT. SPACE

The Jem'Hadar ship casts a tractor beam over the *Even Odds*.

CLOSE on the freighter's hull - with its skin half melted away, the tractor beam has an unexpected effect. Sparks and tiny explosions start spreading over its surface...

14 THE WA

Prees reacts with alarm as the formless material of the Wa goes haywire again...

Electric bolts SPARK and jump around the room...

...the coloured patches transform into open MOUTHS and small BIRDS fly out of them, circling around...

PREES
(into comm)
Captain - no! Stop the tractor
beam! The Wa is --

The Wa CONVULSES like a living animal trying to buck off an unwanted rider. Prees is knocked off her feet and one of the electric bolts catches her full-on...

15 INT. EVEN ODDS - BRIDGE

The rear wall of bridge consoles bucks and convulses too, sparks and fires spreading right to left - approaching Facity's station. Dez runs to grab her...

DEZ
Facity, move --

But too late. The consoles EXPLODE. Dez and Facity are thrown back in a shower of sparks and flames...

BLACK OUT:

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

16 EXT. SISKO'S HOUSE - DAY

Spring, turning to summer. Mid-afternoon...

17 INT. SISKO'S HOUSE - BEDROOM

SISKO cross-legged on the bed, young REBECCA sat opposite him. He holds up a card with a Bajoran ideogram on it...

SISKO
Do you remember what this one is
called? It's a tough one...

REBECCA
(w/ difficulty)
...Shem? No wait - slem...

SISKO
That's it! Good girl!

With a sigh, Sisko puts down the cards, looks at Rebecca. Gazes into her face with a small frown. His mind drifts. Rebecca wonders what changed...

REBECCA
Daddy?

SISKO
It's coming, Rebecca. I can feel
it. I know you don't know what I'm
talking about. But whatever it
is... it's coming.

He reaches out for Rebecca, pulls her close. Hugs her tight while he can. Kisses her head. She allows it, giggles...

KASIDY (o.s.)
Ben? Ben! Jake and Rena just
arrived! Come and say hello.

Sisko's worry does not ease. His mind can't let it go...

18 **INT. SISKI'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM**

Sisko emerges from the bedroom, Rebecca hugged around his chest. JAKE and KASIDY sit on the sofa, and on the coffee table are some large charcoal-on-paper drawings...

JAKE
Hey, Dad!

SISKI
Hey, Jake-o...

KASIDY
Ben, come and look at these. Rena
drew them...

Sisko lowers Rebecca to the ground, she toddles off towards Mummy. RENA emerges from the kitchen, a mug of steaming tea in each hand...

RENA
Hi, Mister Sisko...

Sisko gazes at her, his worry increasing...

FLASHBACK - 4x03 "THE VISITOR"

Older Jake introduces his wife to his father...

ADULT JAKE
This is Korena... my wife.

BACK TO SCENE

Sisko blinks away the memory. But the worry stays...

SISKI
Rena...

JAKE
Dad, look. We had the morning off
today so we went up to Yyn. It's
always nice this time of year, and
it's kind of... "our place," now.
And Rena had been looking for a
new project...

By now Rena has delivered the teas, and Sisko has joined them in looking at the drawings...

RENA

So I started sketching the ancient
ruins, the statues and carvings.
This is what I came up with...

Sisko begins to slowly sift through the drawings, studying each one in turn. They depict the crumbling buildings, eroded statues and worn shapes, lovingly crafted in shades and lines of charcoal. Sisko stops at one in particular...

RENA

That was my favourite. It's a
single tall column, looked as if
it might have been a person before
it got eroded away. But here, at
the top...
(traces it
w/ finger)
...I'm probably imagining it, but
it kinda looks like an eye. One
big eye, gazing out at everyone...

Sisko studies the drawing... then looks up at Rena. She's occupied, chatting MOS with Kasidy and Jake. But Sisko is staring at her. She worries him. He doesn't trust her...

19 SECURITY SCREEN

The image of ETANA, still sat in her security cell. Alone, withdrawn, sad. This image is relayed on the screens in...

20 INT. DS9 - SECURITY OFFICE

RO sits in her chair, turned to watch the screens. Watching her friend locked in the cell. Not angry, not hateful, not upset. Just contemplative...

QUARK (o.s.)

So what are you going to do with
her?

ANGLE to reveal that QUARK sits in the other seat, watching RO watching Etana. He gives her space, doesn't push...

RO
Don't know. Kira hasn't decided.

QUARK
Kira isn't the one she betrayed.

RO
I'm not mad at her. Maybe I should
be. Usually am in this situation.
(pause to think)
With Taran'atar... I couldn't
handle my feelings. I ran away
from them with the painkillers.
Etana is... kinda the same thing.
Yes, she betrayed me... hurt me...
but she didn't mean to.
(sad chuckle)
In a way, she helped. Forced me to
face up to what I was doing. So,
upshot is... I don't know.

Quark nods solemnly. The Promenade door opens, and VAUGHN
enters. Ro stands to greet him...

RO
Quark... would you mind?

Quark gets the message - leave us alone. He gets up, with a
comforting smile to Ro...

QUARK
You know where to find me.

And then he's gone. Ro gestures for Vaughn to sit...

RO
Thank you for coming, Commander.
(braces herself)
I asked to see you... to tell you
that I'm afraid I won't be able to
work with you anymore.

Vaughn composes himself, responds calmly and certainly...

VAUGHN
No.

RO

Commander, I think you'd agree
that my recent actions... my
recent decisions... demonstrate my
unsuitability for the task you
assigned me.

VAUGHN

Lieutenant, I do not agree. As I
said, we've all made our mistakes,
and we all have our issues. It
doesn't change our obligations.

Ro sees she's not getting through to him. She tries her
best to explain, enunciating every word...

RO

Every step I take... it hurts.
Every thought I think... hurts.

VAUGHN

Lieutenant, I know you like to
think you have it worse than
everyone else. But I feel I must
point out that I have been doing
this job for longer than you've
been alive. Twice as long in fact.
And I'm still going. Your desire
to run away is exactly that -
running away. Again. You told me
your reasons for taking this
assignment. Those reasons still
apply. You are entirely capable
of completing the task to my
satisfaction, and that is an end
of it.

(he stands)

Carry on, Lieutenant.

He turns and walks out. Ro considers what he's said...

21 **INT. DS9 - INFIRMARY**

BASHIR and TARSES stand together in the Infirmary - Bashir
deferent and conciliatory, Tarses unhappy but civil...

BASHIR

I'm really sorry, Simon. I know this must be awkward for you.

TARSES

No no, it's fine, Doctor.

BASHIR

I can't really explain why, but to be frank, my resignation was fake. Kira and Vaughn have offered me back the CMO position... and I'd like to take it. But... I don't know where that leaves you.

TARSES

I'll figure something out.

BASHIR

I'd like you to stay. Till we know what's going to happen with Etana, we'll be a hand short around here.

(sudden worry)

Not that I'm talking about making you a nurse. Your promotion still stands. But I'd understand if you decided to look for another CMO position elsewhere.

TARSES

I'll figure something out.

BASHIR

Okay. Okay. So... what do we have on for today?

TARSES

Not a lot. I've made Ro promise to come back for regular checks. Dax, Prynn and Quark are all healed. Unless there's any last minute emergencies, that's it.

BASHIR

Good. Good. Looks like you've got everything under control.

TARSES

Yes, I do. Oh, before I forget...

Tarses reaches off and grabs a padd, hands it to Bashir...

TARSES

This came for you while you were away. I guess whoever sent it didn't realise you'd resigned. Or fake resigned, anyway.

Bashir looks at the padd - it features GARAK's face.

CUT TO:

22 FLAMES

Crackling and burning hot. But not chaotic - smooth and flowing against black night. Shapes begin to move across it, bodies blocking our view. **OPEN OUT** to...

23 EXT. ASCENDANT ENCAMPMENT - NIGHT

The Ascendant chief priest ESSK (10x12 "Heresy") stands silently praying over the flames in an iron brazier.

Another figure approaches, joining him in prayer. Essk looks up - it is BLAS, from 10x14 "Against the Odds"...

BLAS

Cardinal Essk. Blessings of the True upon you.

ESSK

And on you, Archquester Blas. How go the preparations?

BLAS

They proceed apace, Cardinal. Archquester Raiq continues to inspire the Knights to their sacred duty. More children of the True emerge from the stars to join the Quest every turn.

ESSK

Raiq... of course...

BLAS

Are you troubled, Cardinal? Do you
fear for the Quest?

Essk has to be very careful how he answers. Can't be seen
to be disloyal. He *is* the cardinal, after all. But still...

ESSK

It is not fear, Blas. Only...
curiosity. I wonder why Mistress
Iliana chose Raiq to lead this
Quest. She is an honest Knight,
dedicated and devoted to the True.
But she is only a Knight.

BLAS

Raiq leads the crusade against the
hated Eav'oq and Bajorans, yes.
But only that. She plays a purely
martial role. You still guide the
spiritual life of the Knights.

ESSK

Is there a difference? Does our
doctrine not state clearly that
we fight for the glory of the
Unnameable Ones with our every
thought? That our prayers do
battle among the stars against
the prayers of infidels for the
honour of being heard by Them?

BLAS

That is our custom, Cardinal. To
pray to the True is to fight for
Them, and to fight is to pray.

ESSK

Exactly. Yet now, Mistress Iliana
elevates a simple Knight to the
glory of leading a great crusade.
The crusade that may finally lead
us into the True's light. And I...

ESSK (cont)

...who have worked and prayed and fought for three hundred turns to rise to the role of Cardinal, leader of all Ascendants across the stars... I am left to pray alone by the flames, while Raiq trains and inspires... and leads. I find that... curious. Nothing more.

BLAS

(cautious)

She is the Fire, Cardinal. The Knights trust her. We have all been taught to do so since our first breath. You counselled belief in the Fire every day you have been Cardinal. You cannot doubt her now.

ESSK

I never doubt! Never again say such a thing, Blas. Never even suggest it. To even entertain such thoughts is high treason, punishable by the stake.

But that's fear underneath the anger. The truth is, Essk does doubt, and he also knows the potential punishment...

BLAS

(bows head)

I beg forgiveness, Cardinal.

ESSK

I grant it. My concern is for the Knights, Blas. I wonder if perhaps the Mistress Iliana does not... understand the Ascendants as well as she might. To fight is to pray, and to pray is to fight. These have been our ways for thousands of turns. She seeks to change them, at a time when we ought to be holding faster to them than ever. And perhaps that is my failing. If I had helped her to understand...

ESSK (cont)

(beat)

But I also wonder... if perhaps she cannot understand us. She is, after all... not one of us. She has not suffered what we have suffered. She cannot know the real, burning heart of the True's chosen people.

BLAS

She knows the True themselves. She came to us from them. That is a greater truth than any Ascendant can possibly know.

(reassuring)

Do not be troubled, Cardinal. The Knights will follow the Fire, with no doubt in their hearts. This is also our way.

(beat)

Blessings of the True upon you.

Essk bows his head at the traditional parting. Blas turns to leave... but not without a last look of concern. These are troubling thoughts for the Cardinal to have.

Essk is left alone over the flaming brazier once again. His worry has not abated. If anything it increased. He mutters into the flames...

ESSK

Yes... this is our way.

On Essk's troubled features, the lights of the flickering flames reflecting off his silver skin...

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

24 INT. SISKO'S HOUSE - KITCHEN

A gorgeous sunny day, sunlight streaming in. Rena stands gazing out of the kitchen window at the meadows, the large central tree waving gently. She smiles, comfortable here...

SISKO (o.s.)
What are you doing here?

She turns, surprised - Sisko stands against the wall, arms folded, watching her. Studying her. Inspecting her.

RENA
Just getting these plates and cups washed up. My grandfather always said your guests should feel comfortable in your home, but should never take advantage.

She carries on washing. But Sisko isn't done...

SISKO
I mean what are you doing here, in my house? Who are you?

RENA
I... don't understand.

SISKO
You confuse me, Azeni Korena. I don't like feeling confused.

Rena is a bit thrown. Sisko is starting to creep her out...

But the moment is broken when Jake enters, oblivious. He pecks her on the cheek, grabs a cloth from the sink...

JAKE
Crumbs on the sofa. Sorry.

...and heads out again. Sisko lets it go for now - with a last worried glance at Rena, he turns to join Jake...

25 **EXT. SPACE - THE WORMHOLE**

The wormhole bursts open - and Dominion Vessel 288 emerges. It moves slowly, carefully, dragging another ship behind it by tractor - the *Even Odds*.

26 **INT. DS9 - MAIN OPS CENTRE**

KIRA and VAUGHN outside the office. NOG and BOWERS at their usual stations. DAX reacts to readings on her panels...

DAX

It's Vannis's ship alright. But I don't recognise the other one. The transponder ID says it's --

NOG

That's the *Even Odds*! Only... it looked a lot better the last time I saw it.

BOWERS

It's had major weapons damage. Engines blown, hull compromised, shields non-existent, defence systems ruined...

(w/ horror)

...Ascendant weapon signatures.

KIRA

Oh, *kosst*.

DAX

Hail from Vannis's ship.

At Kira's nod, Dax puts the call on the screen. VANNIS appears, wearing the head-set, with Taran'atar visible...

VANNIS (screen)

Greetings, Captain. As you can see, we have guests. Their ship is in need of major repairs and there are substantial medical concerns among its crew.

Nog's face falls - these are Jake's friends...

KIRA

(into action)

Dax - get them onto a docking port
and tell Bashir and Tarses to get
there fast. Nog, Bowers - I want
a full tactical work-up on what
happened to them and how to fix
it. Vaughn - liaise with Ro and
Taran'atar on any security issues.

(back to Vannis)

Thanks for your help, Vannis. See
you in a few. Kira out.

The screen goes back to the external view...

NOG

Captain? Permission to put a call
through to Bajor... We should tell
Jake.

Kira realises he's right. She nods her permission...

27 EXT. DEEP SPACE NINE

Vannis's ship settles onto a docking port next to *Defiant*.
Work bees gently tractor the *Even Odds* to the next along...

28 INT. DS9 - DOCKING RING CORRIDOR

AIRLOCK 1 - a full medical team including BASHIR, TARSES
and RICHTER oversee, as non-coms guide anti-grav STRETCHERS
out of the ship - DEZ, FACITY, GLESSIN, all unconscious.
BRAD follows them into the corridor, sniffing away tears.

Once the medical team is clear, a team of SHAR and T'RB,
Bowers and ALECO, LEISHMAN and CANDLEWOOD board the ship.

AIRLOCK 2 - Vannis, Taran'atar and OPAKA step out, escorted
by two Jem'Hadar soldiers. Vaughn and Ro greet them...

VAUGHN

Ambassador, welcome back.

TARAN'ATAR

Thank you, Commander. I should
report to the Captain.

VAUGHN
I'll tell her you're coming.

Taran'atar nods simply, and heads off. Vannis slips in alongside him, supporting him without a word. Ro exchanges a glance with Vaughn - "wish me luck" - and follows them.

Vaughn turns to Opaka, warmly takes her hands...

VAUGHN
Sulan - what a pleasant surprise.
I had no idea you were coming.

OPAKA
It's wonderful to see you again
too, Elias. But I cannot stay.
Vedek Yevir has asked to see me.

VAUGHN
Yevir? What does he want?

OPAKA
He wasn't prepared to say over
subspace. But he did say it was a
matter of vital importance.

VAUGHN
Isn't everything a matter of vital
importance to him?

They smile, glad to be in each other's company. But Opaka is too spiritual and Vaughn is too professional to take it any further. He leads her down the corridor...

29 THE WA

The formless space in the belly of the *Even Odds* looks dead, or at least inactive. The white is a lifeless dull grey, the coloured splotches seeming to droop listlessly.

A hole opens in the middle, revealing the turbolift and TENMEI inside it. She steps out, and the hole disappears behind her.

She spots SHAR scanning with his tricorder...

TENMEI

Shar? T'rb said you were down here. I heard what happened...

SHAR

Prynn, hello. The situation is definitely not good - the Wa seems to be inactive.

TENMEI

Is it dead?

SHAR

I don't believe so. Its energy levels are very low, but it is already showing limited signs of repairing itself.

TENMEI

This is our fault, isn't it? The Ascendants attacked them because of us.

SHAR

We do not know that for certain. But it does seem likely. I found the translation equipment I gave to Prees - they were listening to the Ascendant comm channels just before they were attacked.

TENMEI

And the Ascendants realised we were ear-wigging. Where's Nog?

SHAR

Trying to contact Jake and Rena.

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

Kira stands behind her desk, all business...

KIRA

Did you get in touch with him?

ANGLE to reveal Taran'atar and Vannis opposite her...

TARAN'ATAR

Not directly, Captain. I was unable to speak with Odo in person, only to leave a message with the Vorta Weyoun.

KIRA

You have to keep trying. I didn't go through all this to be foiled by a Dominion answering service.

VANNIS

We had every intention, Captain. Then we received the distress call from the freighter. Protection of that vessel was also the Founder's wish. The Ambassador assured me that it would also be your wish.

KIRA

Okay. Yes, you're right. Thank you. It's just that it's one thing to agree to the alliance in principle. We need to make it happen in practice as well.

TARAN'ATAR

Perhaps if you were to return to the Link with us. Your presence might... catch Odo's attention.

Kira takes that on board... he might be right...

SHAR (comm)

ch'Thane to Captain Kira.

KIRA

Go ahead, Shar.

SHAR (comm)

Could you come to the *Even Odds* please, Captain? There's something I think you ought to see.

She frowns - that's a bit worrying...

31 **INT. SISKO'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM**

Kasidy sits on the couch with Rebecca. Sisko is trying not to pace the room. They're both waiting for word...

The door from the office opens, Jake and Rena emerge...

KASIDY
What did Nog say?

JAKE
It's the *Even Odds*. My friends
from the Gamma Quadrant. They were
attacked. They're at the station.

KASIDY
Who attacked them?

RENA
The Ascendants.

Sisko's head snaps up in alarm at that...

JAKE
I should go. I should be there.

RENA
I'll come with you.

SISKO
(quiet, menacing)
You're not going anywhere.

They all look at Sisko, confused and wary at the strange statement. Jake tries to keep the peace...

JAKE
Dad, what are you talking about?

SISKO
I'm talking about your... "wife."
I want to know who she is and what
she's doing here.

RENA
Mister Sisko, I'm not sure --

SISKO

You married my son in an alternate timeline that nobody but me even remembers. Then you turn up here. You marry my son all over again. I get back from the wormhole, and there you are, all of a sudden. And in a matter of weeks you've got Jake tied around your finger and you've wormed your way into my home. I want to know why.

KASIDY

(amazed)

Ben, what has gotten into you?

JAKE

Come on, Rena. We're leaving.

Jake is firm, annoyed at his dad. Rena is a little scared. Kasidy is just confused. As Jake begins to lead Rena to the door, Sisko steps forward, blocks their way...

SISKO

I said you're not going anywhere.
Not until I get some answers.

JAKE

Dad --

Determined, Sisko grabs for Rena, holds both her arms so she can't move. She flinches back, scared of him. He hisses his question at her, obsessed with this...

SISKO

Who are you? Why are you here?
What do you want with us?

KASIDY

Ben, let go of her!

SISKO

No! It's all coming, it's all starting right now, and she's a part of it! I need to know!

Jake steps between them, physically pushes his father back. But Sisko won't give up that easy, looms threateningly...

SISKO

Step out of my way, Jake. This
thing --

-- and Jake PUNCHES him in the face. Rena and Kasidy YELP. Sisko staggers back, stunned. Jake is furious, seething...

JAKE

Never talk about my wife like
that. Never. Do you hear me?

Sisko seems to have finally realised what he was doing. The punch has woken him up. He sputters, trying to apologise...

SISKO

Jake, I... Rena...

JAKE

Don't even bother. Come on, Rena.
We're leaving, now.

Jake grabs Rena's hand, leads the poor confused girl out of the front door of the house. And they're gone.

Sisko stands there, trying to understand what happened. He looks over to Kasidy for comfort, understanding...

...but Kasidy is looking at him with horror, clinging tight to baby Rebecca. When he takes a step closer to her, she actually flinches back, pulls the baby away from him...

KASIDY

Benjamin Lafayette Sisko, get out
of this house. And you had better
get your damned head on straight
before you ever come back into it.

Sisko is stunned at what has happened here. But he knows Kasidy is right. Without a word, he walks to the back door and out. Down the steps, into the fields, and gone.

Left alone now, Kasidy slumps to the sofa, holding Rebecca tight, and begins to softly cry...

32 **INT. DS9 - DOCKING RING CORRIDOR**

SHAR hands a padd to Kira, as Tenmei watches on...

SHAR
I was able to retrieve some of the
comm chatter from the *Even Odds'*
recording of the Wa.

KIRA
Okay. What does it say?

SHAR
Captain, understand this came in
after the attack. After Taran'atar
saved them and brought them here.

KIRA
Shar, what does it say?

SHAR
It says... "Nerys, press black."

A personal message, direct to her...

33 **THE WA**

A black WA PATCH wavering in the off-white spaceless space.
Kira reaches out, her fingers swim into the colour...

The wall solidifies, clarifies like a mirror. And standing
opposite Kira, her mirror image, is ILIANA, smiling warm...

ILIANA
Hello, Nerys.

Off Kira's reaction...

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

34 EXT. ASCENDANT ENCAMPMENT - NIGHT

The Ascendant encampment in the black ossified amphitheatre under a permanent night sky. A town of tents and pavilions has grown up, as more Ascendants come to join the crusade.

Bunks for sleeping, workshops for armour and weaponry, iron braziers aflame for both lighting and prayer. The Knights themselves train in groups wherever they find space.

ESSK dashes between the various structures and milling Ascendants. Dodges past flames and practice-dueling Knights, frantic to get where he's going. That being...

...an Ascendant SHIP, one among thousands on the outskirts of the encampment. Its canopy is open and ILIANA sits in the pilot's seat. RAIQ stands by her side, guiding...

ESSK

Mistress! I heard rumours that you
were training to fly our vessels.
Are you leaving us?

ILIANA

(dismissive)

Of course not, Cardinal. I just
thought I would like to get out
there and see the stars. Look at
them! Aren't they beautiful?

She smiles up at the night sky. Essk sputters to respond...

ESSK

Of course, Mistress. But they are
also fraught with dangers.

ILIANA

(chuckle)

You have no idea of the things
I've faced in my time, Essk. Of
the things I've done. I'm quite
sure I can take care of myself.

ESSK

Nevertheless, Mistress, I must protest. The Final Ascension approaches, by your own words. You should be here, with us.

ILIANA

(cold, sharp)

Have some dignity, Cardinal. I will do what I please, and the supposed High Priest of the Ascendants will not whine in my ear like a baby about it. Now get out of my way.

Shocked and insulted but covering it, Essk bows and backs away a few steps. Iliana nods to Raiq beside her...

ILIANA

Thank you, Raiq. I'm sure this will be fine.

Raiq bows her head, manoeuvres down to the ground. Iliana works the controls, the canopy closes...

...and the ship RISES smoothly off the ground as if by magic, turns gracefully and ZOOMS off into the dark.

Raiq turns to leave, but Essk calls after her angrily...

ESSK

Raiq. I am your Cardinal and you will show me the respect I am due.

Raiq turns languidly, bows her head, acts deferent...

RAIQ

I beg forgiveness, Cardinal.

Essk does not grant it.

ESSK

Explain to me, Archquester, why the Mistress Iliana has taken you - a mere Knight - to her bosom, as if you deserve the honour, while I am belittled and abandoned.

RAIQ

I would not presume to speak the Mistress's mind, Cardinal. I only know she came to us from the True, and it is our duty to follow her.

ESSK

I lead the Ascendants, Raiq. Not her. And not you. Remember that.

RAIQ

(innocent)

She is the Fire... is she not?

A challenge to his authority. Essk tenses, incensed...

ESSK

You are dismissed, child.

Raiq bows her head and backs away. Essk is left fuming...

35 EXT. SPACE

Iliana's borrowed ship gracefully slips through open space. Even at such high warp it seems practically effortless.

After a few moments, the ship drops out of warp and glides to a halt. There is nothing else around, no other ships or planets. Just the tiny silver dart on its own.

36 INT. ASCENDANT VESSEL

No larger than a standard shuttlecraft. Iliana waves a hand over the seamless silver panel, an amorphous BLACK smudge - a smaller, more focused version of what we see in the Wa.

The vessel reacts - the rear bulkhead grows in brightness, the white light of the Wa shining through. Iliana waits in her seat, gazing out of the window. Content, unhurried.

After a while, the rear bulkhead RIPPLES, light becoming brighter, the mirror becoming clearer. A message is coming through. Iliana stands, dives her fingers into the black...

...and there on the other side - is KIRA. Iliana smiles...

ILIANA
Hello, Nerys.

Kira's face falls as she realises who she's dealing with...

KIRA
Iliana... where are you?

INTERCUT WITH:

37 THE WA

Kira stands, talking to Iliana across the mirror...

ILIANA
I'm in an Ascendant ship...
(shrug)
...somewhere. I have to hand you
this one, Nerys. Finding an old
abandoned ship, disguised as a
freighter... using it to listen
in on us? Very clever. Kudos, I
believe is the human word.

KIRA
I'll make sure to pass on your
appreciation. If any of them are
still alive, that is.

ILIANA
(cheerful)
Oh, that wasn't me. The Knights
tracked down an echo in the...
something. I don't really know, I
wasn't paying attention. I only
heard about the attack after the
fact. Guess it was lucky your new
Dominion friends came along when
they did.

KIRA
(cagey)
What are you talking about?

ILIANA

Seriously, Nerys. You think I don't know all about it? But it's fine, make your alliances, doesn't change anything. Besides, I'm thrilled the freighter survived. I was worried I wouldn't have chance to talk to you before the end.

KIRA

You seem awfully confident this is going to be the end.

ILIANA

Well, of course I am. My mission was ordained by the Prophets, don't you remember? "I am the Fire."

KIRA

And I'm supposed to believe that means you're destined to win?

Iliana's cheerful demeanour shifts to cold and taunting...

ILIANA

I will complete my mission, Nerys. There's simply nothing you can do about that.

KIRA

Yes, there is. I'll stop you.

ILIANA

How? No, really - how?

KIRA

I'm the Hand of the Prophets.

Iliana breaks into raucous LAUGHTER. It worries Kira...

ILIANA

Don't you know what that means? You don't, do you? I hope you've not been hanging all your hopes on that, Nerys. Sisko told them you were his right hand, that's all.

FLASHBACK - 9x20 "SLAVE"

Kira has just woken up in the Infirmary, after her heart replacement. Sisko sits by her bed, holding her hand...

SISKO

What good would I be without my
right hand?

The phrase reminds Kira of what the Prophets called her...

BACK TO SCENE

Kira realises - they're just using Sisko's own phrase. She tries to remain defiant...

KIRA

It doesn't matter why They call me
Their Hand. It means They have a
role for me to play.

ILIANA

Oh, they do. It's called "blunt
instrument." You're not my equal,
Nerys. You're literally half of what
I am. Sisko - he's my equal. He's
the Emissary... I'm the Emissary.
You... you're just his assistant.

Kira is being shaken, much as she might not want to be...

38 EXT. BAJOR - FIELDS - EVENING

SISKO treads along a winding country road. He looks out at the gorgeous summer scenery, utterly untouched by it.

A motorised TRUCK rumbles past him, the back filled with happy, raucous Bajoran teenagers drinking and partying.

Sisko watches them go. Their happiness means nothing to him. He has been cast out. He keeps walking...

39 EXT. SPACE

A small Bajoran personal shuttle zooms up into orbit, leaving the glittering green seas of Bajor behind...

JAKE sits in the pilot seat, clearly still angry...

JAKE

I get it, he's the Emissary. He gets visions, or whatever. I've grown up with it for the last ten years, I know he gets carried away sometimes. But this is too far.

He turns to RENA, expecting her to agree with him. But she's quiet, thoughtful...

JAKE

Why aren't you angrier?

RENA

Because I know he must have had a reason. He's the Emissary.

JAKE

He grabbed you. He hurt you. He called you a thing.

RENA

Jake, there's something you have to understand about Bajorans. From the first story our parents read to us, we learn about the Emissary. He's part of our culture, our shared consciousness as a people. We trust him, because we know he is our direct link to the Prophets.

JAKE

I know all of that.

RENA

No, I don't think you do. Not like I know it. Jake, my generation is the first for who the Emissary is more than just a story. He's real. He walks among us, and he has done my whole life. Do you have any idea what that's like for us... for me?

Rena makes good points, forcing Jake to think about them...

RENA

So... I forgive him. And I would think that being your father would entitle him to the same from you.

JAKE

It doesn't. It makes it worse.

Jake drives the shuttle onwards...

41 **EXT. BAJOR - MONASTERY - EVENING**

Establishing the large monastery in Bajor's capital...

42 **INT. ASHALLA MONASTERY GARDEN - EVENING**

Vedek YEVIR and Kai SOLIS stroll gently around the paths, inspect the plantings and sculptures. They turn together...

...as OPAKA enters the garden. She bows her head at the high company - Yevir and Solis both do likewise to her.

OPAKA

Vedek... Your Eminence.

SOLIS

Please, Sulan, do not bow your head to me. You are far more eminent than I will ever be.

YEVIR

(warmly)

Eminences, then. Thank you both for agreeing to meet with me. I hope it was no trouble?

OPAKA

Once Commander Vaughn heard how important this was, he insisted on assigning a pilot and one of their runabouts to bring me.

YEVIR

Kai Solis, do you have the book?

SOLIS

The original book of Ohalu, yes.

Solis holds up an ancient bound tome - the BOOK OF OHALU.
Yevir brings two more items out from his own robes...

YEVIR

Thank you. I have brought two
equally important artefacts...
the jevonite figurine, found at
B'Hala, as the book was. And this
- a letter from Elim Garak.

OPAKA

Vedek... what is this about?

YEVIR

We three have worshipped the
Prophets all our lives. Yet in
recent years, we have all three
walked different paths. You, Opaka
Sulan, have lived among the Eav'oq.
Solis follows the path of Ohalu.
And I... I went to Cardassia and
learned the Oralian Way. I asked
you here today to explain what I
have finally come to understand.

SOLIS

Which is?

YEVIR

That they are all the same.

Ending on Yevir's beatific smile...

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

43 INT. B'HALA CAVES

The warrens and excavated spaces of the buried city, filled with Bajoran iconography and ancient statues. Monks work painstakingly by artificial light to reveal yet more.

Prylar EIVOS (last seen 8x06 "Fallout") steps along one of the opened passages towards us, calling out...

EIVOS
Emissary! This is a wonderful
surprise! Welcome to B'Hala.

SISKO plods slowly along, gazing absently at the excavated walls. Eivos can see he is troubled...

SISKO
Hello, Prylar Eivos.

EIVOS
You must call me Calan, Emissary.
I had no idea you were coming.

SISKO
No... I was just walking. I've
been walking for hours. And I
seemed to just... end up here.

EIVOS
We're all honoured to receive you,
of course. How can we help?

SISKO
I'm so tired... confused. I could
use a quiet place to rest. And
there was clarity here, before...

EIVOS
Then I know exactly the place.

Sisko just nods, relieved and grateful that somebody is willing to take care of him and not ask questions...

44 THE WA

As KIRA talks to Iliana in the Wa...

KIRA
Why did you bring me here? Why go
to all the trouble of making a
call halfway across the galaxy?
What do you want?

INTERCUT WITH:

45 INT. ASCENDANT VESSEL

As ILIANA talks to Kira in the cockpit of her ship...

KIRA (cont)
The Ascendants can't be very happy
about you chatting with the enemy.

ILIANA
Oh, don't worry yourself about
that, Nerys. They're easily
distracted. I called because I
wanted to offer some advice.

KIRA
Advice. From a madwoman like you.

ILIANA
Take revelation wherever you can
get it, Nerys. Now listen. Don't
try to stop us from reaching the
wormhole. Trust me. You'll only
make it harder on yourself.

As Kira reacts stoically to that...

46 INT. ASHALLA MONASTERY GARDEN - EVENING

OPAKA and SOLIS now sit on a stone bench, as the sky turns
towards night. YEVIR stands in front of them, passionate
and excited about his subject...

OPAKA
Linjarin, please...

YEVIR
I know. I had trouble grasping it myself at first. But the evidence is undeniable. Here -
(re Garak's padd)
- in this letter, Garak describes a spiritual awakening he recently experienced. You may have heard of the Vinculum, part of the Oralian Way that they described as another plane of existence, one that cuts through past, present and future, where everything is connected. I have come to believe that what they are actually describing... is our own Celestial Temple.

SOLIS
(how to be polite?)
That... seems a remarkable jump of deduction, Vedek.

YEVIR
Garak describes encountering the images of friends and family, be they alive or dead. And that those images conveyed messages of peace and wisdom. Does that not sound like our own Orb Experiences?

OPAKA
Perhaps...

YEVIR
Garak also describes the image of Oralius itself. He calls the figure...
(reads from padd)
...a shape of pure white, soft, tall and thin, with one warm and smiling eye at its top, and many pinkish ribbons for limbs, which it used to embrace the Hebitians.

On Opaka as she remembers...

FLASHBACK - 8x23 "RISING SON"

Meeting Itu the Eav'oq for the first time. The tall, white alien embraces Opaka close with his thin ribbon limbs...

BACK TO SCENE

Opaka is dumbstruck as she realises what Yevir is saying...

OPAKA

Oralius... was an Eav'oq?

47 THE WA

Where Kira continues her conversation with Iliana...

KIRA

You can't seriously expect me to give up. We're going to fight you, and we're going to win.

ILIANA

Of course I don't really expect that. I know you better than any being in existence, Nerys, because I am you. But it was worth a shot. I don't actually want you to die.

KIRA

Considering you were prepared to tear apart the whole of creation to get me less than a year ago, I have my doubts about that.

ILIANA

That was the old me. Since we last met, I've become... whole. I understand now. I'm Bajoran, I'm Cardassian, I'm Ascendant... and it all fits together. Everything is connected, Nerys. Even you.

Kira shakes her head, refusing to believe. Iliana smiles...

ILIANA
You don't see it, do you? The
patterns. The connections.

KIRA
I know the Ascendants worship the
Prophets... or at least their
version of the Prophets. Just like
the Eav'oq do. And like I do.

ILIANA
You're missing one.

48 INT. B'HALA CAVES

The cave containing B'Hala's grand *bantaca* spire. Now Sisko lies at the base of it, curled up on a bedroll, alone. He's asleep, but fitfully, head full of troubling dreams...

KIRA (v.o.)
It is the Sisko.

ON SISKO

As he now stands beside the spire, looking down at his own unconscious sleeping body. The image has become hazy and dreamlike - we're in a PROPHECY VISION.

Sisko looks to the voice that spoke - PROPHECY KIRA, stood likewise looking down at Sisko's sleeping form...

PROPHECY KIRA
The Sisko is troubled. Does the
game go badly?

SISKO
The game? You mean the plan. The
plan to stop the Ascendants.

PROPHECY KIRA
The game does not end. The game
continues until all players are
out. The Sisko taught us this.

To emphasise her point, Kira lifts a BASEBALL in her hand, and lobs it to Sisko. He catches it instinctively, and...

CUT TO:

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

Sisko catches the ball just as he did in 8x26 "Unity pt 3."
Prophet Kira stands behind her desk, having just thrown the
ball. All the crew of Ops silently observe the exchange...

SISKO
(realising)
This is when I returned from the
wormhole.

PROPHET KIRA
When the Sisko returned to the
linear. The Sisko knew the game.

SISKO
Yes. When I was with you, I felt
like I understood. I knew what
needed to be done. But it fades...
with time.

As Sisko struggles to remember what he needs to...

50 **INT. ASCENDANT VESSEL**

As Iliana listens to Kira...

KIRA
I'm not missing anything. The
Prophets reached out to three
races. The Bajorans, the Eav'oq
and the Ascendants. It's all
three, like there were three of us
in the wormhole.

ILIANA
Why would it be three, Nerys? Why
would there be two races on the
Gamma Quadrant side, but only one
on the Alpha side?

As Kira tries to figure this out...

51 **INT. ASHALLA MONASTERY GARDEN - NIGHT**

Full night now, as Yevir, Opaka and Solis hash it out...

YEVIR

Yes. Oralius... was an Eav'oq.

SOLIS

But how is that possible?

YEVIR

The same way that the writer of
that book you're holding tight...
was also an Eav'oq.

SOLIS

What?!

OPAKA

(thunderstruck)

By the Prophets... Alu.

Opaka remembers...

FLASHBACK - 10x11 "HARMONY"

Itu relates the escape from the first Ascendant crusade...

ITU

Many sacrificed themselves to
bring it to pass... My brother
Alu was among the lost.

BACK TO SCENE

Opaka works to absorb all of this again...

OPAKA

Itu, my friend and guide among the
Eav'oq. He told me that they used
their Orbs - he called them the
Eyes of Light - to hide themselves
from the Ascendants. His brother
Alu was in charge of the effort,
and was lost afterwards. I simply
assumed he'd been killed...

YEVIR

But perhaps instead of being
killed, he was transported.

SOLIS

To the Temple?

OPAKA

We know the Orbs have that power
when all working together. That is
how the Emissary returned to us...

52 THE WA

Kira is trying to understand what Iliana is telling her...

KIRA

You're saying there's another
Prophet race out there? On our
side of the wormhole?

ILIANA

Why not? Look at us, Nerys. You
and me. We're reflections of one
another. If there's a race right
on the Temple's doorstep on each
side, why wouldn't there be a race
a little further away on each side
too? Like... ten light years away,
for example.

The truth finally begins to dawn on Kira...

53 INT. ASHALLA MONASTERY GARDEN - NIGHT

Yevir, Opaka and Solis figure it out between them...

YEVIR

Alu went to the Temple... and from
there to Bajor...

SOLIS

...where he became known as Ohalu.
And his strange interpretation of
the Prophets was written down by
the Bajorans of the time...

YEVIR

After a while, I imagine he tried
to return to his own people. Perhaps
he got caught in the Denorios Belt
by accident, and whisked away in
its tachyon eddies, just like the
Emissary. And he ended up on...

54 THE WA

Kira finishes the thought...

KIRA

...Cardassia. By the Prophets.
It's not three... it's four.

ILIANA

Bajor and the Eav'oq... both
loving and peaceful. Cardassia and
the Ascendants...

KIRA

...both going to war.

55 INT. DS9 - KIRA'S OFFICE

Sisko looks out of the window. His reflection wavers... and
becomes Iliana. The Prophet Kira walks up behind Sisko...

PROPHET KIRA

She is the Fire.

SISKO

And the Fire will burn.

(back to Kira)

But what about you? I mean, what
about Kira?

PROPHET KIRA

She is the Hand. The Sisko taught
us this.

As if to demonstrate, Prophet Kira holds out her hand...
and another hand takes it. Silver and shiny, an Ascendant
hand - RAIQ. The two women turn to look at Sisko, who's
watching them both, trying to grasp the imagery here...

56 **INT. ASHALLA MONASTERY GARDEN - NIGHT**

Opaka, Solis and Yevir...

 SOLIS
 (re Opaka)
Alu...
 (re self)
Ohalu...
 (re Yevir)
...and Oralius.

 YEVIR
Exactly. Oralius brought knowledge
of the Fates to the Hebitians.

 OPAKA
He was their Emissary.

 YEVIR
Mister Garak also says that
Oralius left Cardassia when the
climate changed...

 SOLIS
 (figuring it out)
He returned to Bajor, bringing the
jevonite figurine as a symbol of
unity... and was buried at B'Hala.

 YEVIR
Yes. As for Garak himself, he said
that the figures he saw in the
Vinculum anointed him as the Hand
of the Fates.

57 **BLACK SPACE**

Sisko's Prophet vision has now darkened. He watches the
figures in front of him, three now - Kira, Raiq and ITU,
all holding hands. Itu holds out another pink limb...

...and a grey scaly hand takes it - GARAK. The Cardassian
man smiles warmly, takes Kira's hand, completes the circle.

Sisko watches, understanding coming to him...

58 **INT. ASCENDANT VESSEL**

Iliana explaining to Kira...

ILIANA

So you see, Nerys... this is going
to happen. The symmetry is perfect.
Cardassia raped and destroyed
Bajor, and now the Ascendants will
destroy the Eav'oq. And if you get
in our way, we'll destroy you too.
It's the will of the Prophets.

59 **THE WA**

Where Kira stands opposite Iliana...

KIRA

You really believe that.

ILIANA

Of course.

KIRA

And are you really so arrogant
that you think your beliefs are
the only ones that are right?

ILIANA

(smile)

They're your beliefs, Nerys. I got
them from you.

With that, Iliana's image whisks away. Kira is left alone.
Iliana is right. As much as she wishes she didn't believe
it, she does. The Ascendants are going to win...

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

60 EXT. DEEP SPACE NINE

The *Defiant*, the Dominion ship and the *Even Odds* all in a row around the docking ring. We focus on the *Even Odds*, crawling with work bees and repair crews...

61 INT. DS9 - DOCKING RING CORRIDOR

VAUGHN waits by the airlock, heavy-hearted. Other officers come and go from the ship, busy with repairs and analyses.

After a moment, KIRA emerges slowly into the corridor, a long way away, mind full of worries...

VAUGHN

Captain? Are you alright?

KIRA

Uhh... yeah. I, uhh... I need to speak to Benjamin.

VAUGHN

I thought you might. But that's easier said than done...

KIRA

Why? What happened?

62 INT. DS9 - PROMENADE

QUARK carries a tray of drinks out to a group of customers sat at an outside table. That done, he turns and JUMPS...

QUARK

Aah!

...because the Aarruri family are approaching. PIF leads the way, striding on confidently with his six tiny puppies following behind, and Sett bringing up the rear.

They gaze around, astonished, seeing the massive, bustling, sprawling array of the Promenade for the first time...

PIF
Come on, kids. We're on the other
side of the galaxy! Let's explore!

And they carry on their way, the nervous puppies making
sure to stay safely between their parents. All around, the
people watch in mild surprise, quickly turning to awws.

Quark however cowers back, holding up the tray to protect
himself. Nog wanders up, amused at his uncle's response...

QUARK
What are... they?

NOG
They're called Aarruri, Uncle.
They're from the Gamma Quadrant.

They smile tensely but politely as the dog-aliens pass on
their way to the windows. Quark mutters under his breath...

QUARK
Furry things creep me out.

NOG
(rictus grin)
I know. Just smile.

63 INT. DS9 - INFIRMARY

A sudden YELL - the Cardassian medic GLESSIN has jerked
awake, terrified and confused, looking around himself...

GLESSIN
What - ? Where am I?

Bashir rushes to his side, tries to calm him...

BASHIR
It's alright, you're safe. My
name's Julian, I'm helping you and
your crew mates.

GLESSIN
You're... human?

BASHIR
That's right.

GLESSIN
But this room - it's Cardassian.

BASHIR
Yes, this is Deep Space Nine.
You're in the Alpha Quadrant.

GLESSIN
This is Terok Nor?

And how does he feel about that? He doesn't know. Then the door opens and Glessin GASPS again. Bashir turns to see why - Taran'atar has entered, with Jake and Rena behind him...

BASHIR
Ambassador...

TARAN'ATAR
Doctor. Are they recovered?

BASHIR
Not yet. But they will be.

Rena steps closer to Glessin, who is a bit uncomfortable because of the Jem'Hadar. But Rena's soothing manner helps.

Jake approaches another bio-bed, carrying an injured DEZ...

JAKE
Dez... it's good to see you.

DEZ
That's funny, cause I wish I'd
never seen you in my life.

JAKE
Dez, I --

DEZ
Save it. I just hope you made your
precious father proud.

Jake exchanges an uncomfortable look with Rena...

64 **INT. B'HALA CAVES**

SISKO lies asleep on his bedroll at the foot of the *bantaca* spire, tossing and turning in his vision-dream...

 RENA (v.o.)
 The Sisko is linear.

65 **INT. SISKO'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM**

Back inside the vision. Sisko stands in his living room, grabbing a RENA PROPHET by the arms, as a JAKE PROPHET and KASIDY PROPHET (holding baby Rebecca) look on calmly...

 SISKO
 I know I'm linear! That's why I
 need your help. This body - Rena.
 Tell me who she is.

66 **EXT. SISKO'S HOUSE - GARDEN - DAY**

When Jake first introduced Rena to the family, by the tree behind the house, in 9x10 "Fragments and Omens"...

 JAKE PROPHET
 This is Azeni Korena... my wife.

 SISKO
 Yes, I get that. But what else?
 I know she's important. Why?

67 **EXT. SISKO'S HOUSE - GARDEN - DAY**

Now Sisko is sat at the base of the tree, discussing with Vaughn, as in 10x02 "Brave New World"...

 VAUGHN PROPHET
 The Sisko has forgotten. The Sisko
 is linear. But there are many
 lines. The Sisko taught us this.

 SISKO
 Many lines...

It's starting to dawn on him. The Vaughn Prophet gazes at him, as Sisko's memory starts to force itself forwards...

68 MONTAGE FROM PREVIOUS EPS

Flashes of memory, quick moments that come and go, building in speed and intensity...

- Adult Jake introduces time-displaced Sisko to his future wife (4x03 "The Visitor")
- Three comet fragments approach the Gamma end of the wormhole (3x15 "Destiny")
- In engineering, Sisko is caught in a warp core discharge and phases out of existence (4x03 "The Visitor")
- The four "Hands" standing in a circle (from earlier)
- Sisko stands in the white space of the Temple, as older Jake is unable to rescue him (4x03 "The Visitor")
- Raiq looks curiously into Kira's face, on the bridge of the *Defiant* (10x12 "Heresy")
- Rena's drawing of the figures at Yyn (from earlier)
- Vaughn punches Sisko in the face, by the old tree behind his house (9x24 "Ha'mara")
- Sisko standing in the circle of numerous other alternate Siskos (9x21 "Fearful Symmetry")
- In the open mouth of the wormhole, the *Defiant* bucks as it's rocked by a distortion wave (4x03 "The Visitor")
- Sisko curled up at the base of the *bantaca*, crying in the arms of Prylar Eivos (from later)
- In engineering, Sisko is caught in a warp core discharge and phases out of existence (repeated)

69 INT. B'HALA CAVES

EIVOS dashes urgently into the *bantaca* chamber, coming to see what the noise is. It's Sisko, awake now and wailing in anguish, a desperate crying, his heart broken...

EIVOS
Emissary... what's wrong...

Sisko can't answer. Eivos crouches by him and holds him...

EIVOS
Emissary, whatever it is, it will
be alright. The Prophets will take
care of us.

The sobs are slowly coming under control. Eivos doesn't want to pry, only to comfort...

EIVOS
Did you find what you sought?

SISKO
Yes... and I wish I hadn't.

As Sisko snuffles into Eivos's robes...

70 **EXT. ASCENDANT ENCAMPMENT - NIGHT**

Cardinal ESSK stands on a small dais at the bottom of the Ascendant encampment, surrounded by ceremonial flames...

ESSK
I wish I did not need to say these
things, my brothers and sisters. I
wish... I did not know the things
I know.

Now we see that Essk is orating for the entire Ascendant crowd that fills the arena. He is giving it all the power of his position, proclaiming with strength and dignity...

ESSK
I know it will be hard for you to
hear. But I believe... that the
Mistress Iliana has lied to us.

Confused and slightly alarmed mutters around the crowd. Can the Cardinal possibly be serious?

The edge of the encampment. As Essk continues his speech in the distance, ILIANA strides up from the shuttle park...

ESSK (o.s.)
She has tried to usurp your love
and faith from its due course -
the doctrine that has sustained
the children of the True in our
great Quest for millennia!

RAIQ is waiting for Iliana. The Archquester nods towards the centre of the encampment, where Essk holds court.

Down in the centre of the amphitheatre, Essk passionately preaches to his worried flock...

ESSK

It pains me to say it, but I do
not trust she has the interests
of the Ascendants at her core.

Iliana's VOICE echoes out from somewhere within the crowd,
amplified by the bowl formation of the encampment...

ILIANA (o.s.)

I knew you were jealous, Essk. But
I never thought you'd stoop so low.

The gathered Ascendants GASP, look around for the source of
the voice. WHISPERS continue to spread.

Essk puffs himself up to his greatest height. He is scared,
but determined to go on with what he believes is right...

ESSK

Jealousy is my least concern,
Mistress. I know where you have
been. I know with whom you have
been speaking.

Iliana makes her way between, strolling, not concerned in
the least. The crowd parts to let her through...

ILIANA

Your own fear and mistrust has led
you to spy on me. I feel sorry for
you, Cardinal.

ESSK

Fear for yourself, Mistress. Hear
me, children of the True. This
woman, who claims to light the
path to the Fortress, has even
today consorted with the heretics
who block that path.

Gasps of amazement around the crowd as Essk goes on...

ESSK

Do you deny it, Iliana? I heard it
myself, as you held your secret
meeting with the Bajoran, Kira.

ESSK (cont)

You spoke of meeting her before.
Of yet more races who shame the
True with their false names. I
heard you say... that you do not
wish her dead.

All this adds more confusion to the crowd of Ascendants.
But Iliana cuts through it with style and grace...

ILIANA

Do you hear that, Ascendants? The
fear in his voice? He knows he
speaks heresy. But he is so scared
of losing his position, of losing
your love, that he is willing to
keep you from your rightful place
in the Fortress simply to remain
your Cardinal.

ESSK

No! She lies to you!

ILIANA

Will you allow him to keep you
from the Fortress, Ascendants?
Will you let him desecrate the
very point of your existence for
his own selfish purposes?

At the back of the crowd, Raiq shouts out loud...

RAIQ

Never!

Other knights begin to pick up the sentiment, repeating
Raiq's oath. The crowd is turning against Essk, he knows
it. By now Iliana has reached the dais at the centre...

ILIANA

What do we do to those who have
lost faith? To the heretics who
profess faith, but have none?

BLAS

They die and burn!

ROARS of approval from the crowd. Essk's golden, segmented eyes flare in panic. Iliana turns to him, the baying crowd at her back, and smiles...

ILIANA

Then bring the stake!

Before Essk can protest any further, knights rush forward from the crowd, religious bloodlust inflamed.

They GRAB Essk roughly, drag him off the dais. Bring him in front of the crowd, hold him still.

By some unseen means, a gleaming silver STAKE bursts out of the ground. A knight waves a hand - silver metallic ROPES coil out from the stake, grab Essk by the arms and legs.

They tighten, pull him back against the stake. He struggles in desperation, but there's nothing he can do.

Their job done, the knights step back. The crowd roars, thrust their burning spears to the sky. Essk shouts...

ESSK

Wait! You cannot do this! I am
your Cardinal!

Iliana steps close to him, speaks confidentially...

ILIANA

They're not listening, Essk.

ESSK

Mistress... please...

ILIANA

Now you believe? Too late. The
funny thing is, you actually
played right into my hands.

(off Essk's
confusion)

I deliberately cut you out, Essk.
I raised Raiq above you precisely
to make you jealous. And it worked
like a charm.

ESSK

But... why?

ILIANA

To make sure they'll follow me.
Once they see what happens to
anyone who doubts me - even a
Cardinal - they'll all follow me
into the Fire without a thought.
Because I am the Fire, Essk. And
what does Fire do?

ESSK

(resigned)

It burns.

Iliana steps back. She makes eye contact with the weeping
Cardinal. He knows this is the end. Iliana waves a hand...

And flames BURST into life around the stake. He SCREAMS as
his flesh begins to crackle.

The ROAR of the crowd grows, building to a fever pitch as
they thrill to the sight of a heretic burning at the stake.

The flames grow higher and higher, swallow Essk completely.
His agonised SHRIEKS echo off the stone walls of the camp.

As the light of the flames flickers on Iliana's serenely
smiling, watching face...

ILIANA (v.o.)

I'm coming for you next, Nerys.

BLACK OUT:

END OF SHOW