

STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE

14x05 - "Insecurity"

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 19x05 - "THE SONS OF SOONG"

Worf, Choudhury, LaForge and Noonien Soong infiltrate an industrial complex on a world near Breen space. This is where Lore was building android bodies to transfer his Borg followers into (TNG "Descent"). Now the Breen have discovered it, but they cannot create working positronic brains to bring the androids to life - hence why they raided Maddox's lab. In orbit, *Enterprise* evades discovery by a Breen ship. On the surface, the team is discovered, and the Breen commander executes Choudhury on the spot, enraging Worf. The Breen order Soong to activate the android brains at gunpoint, which he does - with instructions to attack Breen. As the androids battle the Breen, Soong works on upgrading B-4's failing body. He cannot do it with Data's memories in there... so he lets Data overwrite his own android body, sacrificing his life to save his sons. Data is back from the dead... but is he still the man they knew?

VOY 12x05 - "PROTECTORS"

Janeway's assistant brings several items to her attention. Some of their comm relays to the Delta Quadrant are dead; *Vesta* will be rebuilt on schedule; Starfleet Medical personnel are being strangely reassigned; and she has a new counselling date. Janeway resists, but finally admits she is afraid she could do what her alternate from "Endgame" did. She has to forgive herself. On *Voyager*, Kim, Seven and Conlon train the waveforms to cultivate new plants, move animals to better environments, and alter weather patterns. Torres' mission to mine dilithium leads waveforms to attack Paris's away team, leaving B'Elanna terrified - she can't raise Miral and their unborn baby alone. Janeway visits Julia Paris, Tom's mother and Owen's widow. Julia is enraged that Tom lied about B'Elanna's death (DES "Grace"). In fact, she believes her son is not fit to raise his daughter, and intends to challenge him for custody of Miral...

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. DEEP SPACE NINE

A tight shot on the station, such that we don't see what ships might be docked along its extremities.

2 INT. DS9 - TURBOLIFT

Captain RO and Major CENN stand as the turbolift takes them through the station. Ro is tense about what is coming, Cenn simply curious about what got his captain in such a state.

RO

When did the ship dock?

CENN

About ten minutes ago. She'll probably be waiting.

RO

She'll live.

CENN

Captain... far be it from me to tell you how to run your command, but this is a momentous occasion. Being late for greeting our new exchange officer doesn't exactly give the best first impression.

Ro just grinds her teeth. Cenn gently pushes...

CENN

What is your problem with this woman, anyway?

RO

I know her.

CENN

Really? You've met before?

RO
(grudging)
Not in person, no. But we've had dealings.
(off Cenn's look)
You weren't there. You'd only just come to the station and I was not about to tell you anything that was going on in my life.

CENN
Ah yes. Hard to believe there was ever a time you weren't the bright ball of sunshine you are now.

Ro is not really in the mood for jokes. As the turbolift approaches its destination, Cenn pulls himself together...

CENN
Well, Captain Ro, commander of one of the most crucial outposts in the whole Federation and highest ranked Bajoran in Starfleet. Time to represent your entire species.

Ro knows he's right... but she's not happy about it.

3 INT. DS9 - DOCKING RING CORRIDOR

The turbolift door opens - Ro and Cenn stride out and head down the corridor towards an open airlock, where a steady flow of civilian EXTRAS emerge into the station. Ro is wearing her professional face, if a little strained.

One of the new arrivals has been waiting expectantly with a travelling bag over her shoulder. At the sound of Ro and Cenn's approach, she turns to see them, revealing...

A FERENGI FEMALE, wearing what passes for a smart business suit in her fashion-challenged culture, plainer than Quark might wear but still distinctly Ferengi. Her name is RWOGO, and she smiles wide and toothy to see her welcoming party.

RWOGO
A-ha! You must be Captain Ro.

Ro stops, performs the traditional Ferengi gesture - wrists together, half bow. Rwego performs it back with relish.

RO

Inspector Rwego. Welcome to Deep Space Nine. I apologise for keeping you waiting, I'm afraid I couldn't get away from Ops.

RWOGO

Entirely understandable, Captain.
(re the arriving hordes)
Deep Space Nine is quite the hub of activity. One of many reasons I'm excited to be here.

Ro smiles tensely. Cenn covers it...

CENN

Well, I'm Major Cenn Desca, first officer and Bajoran liaison, and we're certainly happy to have you here, Inspector. Your belongings are still on the transport?

RWOGO

(grin)
What few meagre riches a humble investigator such as myself has managed to acquire, yes.

CENN

I'll arrange for them to be taken to your new quarters.

RWOGO

Thank you, Major, I'd appreciate that. I'm eager to settle in and get to work.

Rwego notices that Ro has not said much...

RWOGO

Captain? Is something wrong?

RO
(fake smile)
Oh no. Please, let me take you to
the station's command centre.
(nod to Cenn)
Carry on, Major.

CENN
Captain.

Ro after-you's for Rwego back down the corridor the way
they came, and the Ferengi woman happily strides on. Ro
follows, leaving Cenn a bit concerned for them both.

As Ro and Rwego walk on towards the turbolift...

RWOGO
Are you sure everything's alright,
Captain? You seem distracted.

RO
It's just that I never really
expected to meet you in person.

RWOGO
You've heard of me?

The turbolift doors open, and they enter, Ro standing firm
and straight as Rwego talks on...

RWOGO
I've heard of you, of course. All
over the news last year during
that whole business about Zek...

And the doors close on Ro's tense face...

FADE OUT

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

4 INT. SALAVAT COLONY - INTERROGATION ROOM

SARINA slumps forward, retching, shuddering. Naked but for her underwear, limbs bound to the cold metal chair, sweaty hair hanging over her face, blood drooling from her mouth.

She drags her head up, and we move into...

5 SARINA'S POV

Blinding light, bleeding to dark at the edge. A shape LEANS down, silhouetting against the light - her BREEN INQUISITOR (from 14x04). His vocoder BUZZES, translated into flat, uninflected English by some unseen computerised device.

BREEN INQUISITOR
I don't have to kill you to change
the shape of your existence.

Sarina is genuinely terrified. The Inquisitor straightens and moves around the back of her, where she can't see him.

BREEN INQUISITOR
Tell me about your partner. The
one named Bashir.

Unable to follow his progress, she looks back to front... where BASHIR smiles at her in his blood red medical smock.

6 ON SARINA

...in the complex medical torture device which Bashir used to mend her brain in 7x05. Against the black, he soothes...

BASHIR
It won't hurt. I promise.

The BREEN INQUISITOR leans in from the darkness, BUZZING in her ear, the translation still coming from off-screen...

BREEN INQUISITOR
And I can promise it will hurt.

7 SARINA'S POV

Bashir is up close, intimate and whispering in the dark.

BASHIR

I love you.

The Breen's voice continues in our ear...

BREEN INQUISITOR

Is that what will save you? Or is
it what will defeat you?

Bashir's face recedes into the dark, Sarina whimpering in fear as he grows out of reach. At the same time, the heavy STOMP of boots as the Breen moves back into the light...

...except that it is L'HAAN, the Section 31 agent with the Cleopatra haircut. The Vulcan woman gazes calmly at her...

L'HAAN

I told you I would return.

This is no better. Sarina struggles against her bonds...

L'HAAN

You set your mind free once, from
the prison of genetic engineering.
Then again by joining Section 31.
(re her bonds)
Surely this situation can be no
match for you.

8 ON SARINA

As L'Haan also recedes into the dark, Sarina's terrified breathing calms, as she realises the Vulcan woman is right.

She stands from the Breen's torture chair, bonds tumbling loose to the floor with a metallic clatter. She turns...

...and sees the Breen Inquisitor standing in the dark.

SARINA

You're no match for me.

BREEN INQUISITOR

No?

The Breen reaches up and tears off the face of his mask...

...and reveals BASHIR. Sarina gasps in horror...

...and Bashir JAMS a neural truncheon into her soft belly. A FLASH of light, a CRACKLE of power, a SCREAM of agony...

CUT TO:

9 INT. DS9 - BASHIR'S QUARTERS - BEDROOM

Sarina JERKS awake in bed, the scream caught in her throat. Arms around her belly, skin sweaty, bedclothes tossed aside in her writhing. She looks around the darkened room...

...and it is the familiar Cardassian shapes, not the Breen torture chamber. Her breathing slows, and she turns to see BASHIR beside her in the bed, half-roused by the noise. He looks at her with sympathy, which makes her feel guilty...

SARINA

I'm fine.

BASHIR

No, you're not. I still say you should see Counsellor Matthias.

SARINA

I'm fine, Julian. I can handle it.

BASHIR

You don't have to handle it alone.

Sarina gets out of bed, determined to shake the nightmare off. She pulls on a robe, moves to the 'fresher...

SARINA

Time we were up anyway. Illira's due back from Bajor today. Then we can finally get the official debrief finished, and move on.

BASHIR
Move on to where?

Sarina pauses, awkward - they haven't had that conversation yet. Then she rallies and carries on with her ablutions.

SARINA
Let's just get this debrief out of
the way first, then we'll talk.

Bashir doesn't know what to make of that, but he gets out of bed and starts preparing for the day as well.

10 EXT. DEEP SPACE NINE

A RUNABOUT approaches the station, settles onto its docking platform, and sinks into the body of the station.

11 INT. RUNABOUT - COCKPIT

Lt TENMEI shuts down the runabout's systems at the end of the flight. Next to her is Cmdr DEEL, the Betazoid female Starfleet Intelligence agent in a black-collared uniform.

TENMEI
And we're back.

DEEL
Good. And thank you, Lieutenant -
for taking me to see him. Hard to
believe it's the same man I knew.

TENMEI
You're welcome, Commander. And
please, call me Prynn. Any friend
of my father's... well, you know.
(beat)
I wanted to ask you -

DEEL
(gently)
No, Prynn. I didn't read anything
from him. I wish I could tell you
I did, but... no. I'm sorry.

Tenmei absorbs that calmly - it's only what she expected.

TENMEI

Worth a shot. And for what it's worth, all the medical evidence agrees with you. Ranjen Opaka is the only one who's tried to tell me he's still in there.

DEEL

It's not wrong to have hope, Pryn. And... call me Illira.
(quibble)
When we're off duty.

TENMEI

Deal.

They get up and head for the door...

12 INT. DS9 - CAPTAIN'S OFFICE

Inspector Rwego sits in Ro's guest chair in front of the desk. Ro herself sits behind it, polite but cool. Rwego is still a Ferengi, but she is also a grown-up professional woman, and is trying to present herself as best she can.

RWOGO

...of course they were nothing but whip-wielding thugs who could take a bribe with the best of them but hadn't a clue how to solve crimes. Thankfully it was one of Grand Nagus Rom's many reforms to create a proper investigatory arm -

RO

(breaking in)
I'm aware of your service record, Inspector. And that Rom was the one who gave you your chance.

RWOGO

Excellent, I appreciate a well-prepared colleague. So! Shall we move along to the security office?

RO
(cold smile)
Why would we do that?

RWOGO
That is the chief of security's
place of business, isn't it?

RO
Yes. But you're not my chief of
security.

Rwogo is thrown - has she done something to offend Ro?

RWOGO
If you doubt my qualifications,
Captain, I can show you proof that
I've served a full five years as
an Investigator, rising steadily
through the ranks to Inspector -

RO
I already told you I've read your
record. I know what you've done.

RWOGO
Then I'm afraid I don't under-
stand. When I was assigned here, I
was promised a position of respect
and responsibility. And to be
blunt, you do have an opening -

RO
(ice cold)
Don't you dare talk about Evik
like that. Don't ever. And I don't
care about what you were promised.
You may have been assigned here
against my will, but now you're
here, you'll serve as I dictate.
And I am not prepared to assign
someone I don't know... or
trust... as my security chief.

Rwogo takes a deep breath, unsure how to rescue this.

RWOGO

Captain... it was not my intention to drop names on my first day. But I was assigned here by Ambassador Derro himself, as part of the new Khitomer Accords exchange program. The Federation has agreed to -

RO

(slaps panel)

Major Cenn - report to my office.

A moment of tense silence, then Cenn jogs up the stairs from Ops and enters the office, bright and happy.

RO

Escort Inspector Rwego on a tour of the station. A security guard needs to know their way around.

CENN

Security guard...?

RO

Thank you, Major. Dismissed.

Accepting defeat for the moment, Rwego stands from the guest chair and heads out to Ops with Cenn. Ro stews...

13 EXT. SPACE - STARBASE SIERRA

A Starfleet space station - a smaller, simplified version of the familiar mushroom-shaped Starbase - hangs in space against the backdrop of a shattered planet, ALGERON III.

This world was the victim of a devastating isolytic weapon attack that literally broke it in half, leaving a gas cloud and hundreds of large asteroids still drifting years later.

14 INT. STARBASE SIERRA - ADMIRAL'S OFFICE

This view is also clear out of the admiral's window, and it keeps drawing SISKO's eye despite his best intentions.

The *Robinson's* captain sits facing Admiral T'NEA, a female Vulcan flag officer, as she regards him dispassionately.

T'NEA

Your and your crew's reports were most thorough, Captain. My thanks.

SISKO

You're welcome, Admiral. I'm only sorry we weren't able to break through the Romulans' new advanced phase-cloak system. My engineering and science teams are continuing to work the problem.

T'NEA

Their efforts are appreciated, but recent events rendered the issue somewhat less urgent. Besides, the *Robinson* has earned its leave.

SISKO

On that subject, may I ask where the *Robinson* will be sent next?

T'NEA

(eyebrow)

The Romulan border, Captain. Were you expecting another assignment?

SISKO

Not expecting. Hoping, maybe. If I can be blunt, Admiral, patrol duty seems like a waste of resources for a Galaxy-class and its crew.

T'NEA

I'd agree with you, Captain, were it not for our current political situation. The Galaxy, Sovereign and Vesta classes are required along the Federation's borders with all the Typhon Pact nations.

SISKO

To "show the flag". I understand.

Sisko tries to hide his disappointment, but T'Nea sees.

T'NEA

If this is unwelcome, Captain, I suggest you allow this shore leave to reinvigorate you and your crew.

SISKO

Of course, Admiral. Thank you.

At T'Nea's stiff nod, Sisko knows he is dismissed and gets up to head out.

15 INT. STARBASE SIERRA - CORRIDOR

Sisko strolls along a broad corridor inside the starbase, until he reaches a large picture window. He stops and gazes out of the window at the sight of the shattered planet. It is a daunting view, a monument to death on a massive scale.

KIRA (o.s.)

Benjamin...?

Sisko turns in surprise, and sees KIRA approaching quietly. The Bajoran woman, his former first officer, wears normal clothes rather than her vedek's robes, smiling tentatively. Sisko is thrilled to see her, rushes to greet her happily.

SISKO

Nerys! What are you doing here?

KIRA

I came to find you, Benjamin. We need to talk.

That sounds ominous. Off Sisko's reaction...

FADE OUT

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

15 EXT. SPACE - STARBASE SIERRA

The starbase against the shattered planet backdrop...

16 INT. STARBASE SIERRA - CORRIDOR

Sisko pulls back from Kira, suddenly worried...

SISKO

What does that mean, we need to talk? Is everything alright? Has something happened to...?

He can't finish the sentence. Kira comes to his rescue.

KIRA

Oh no, Benjamin - I'm sorry, I didn't mean to scare you. Nothing happened - Kasidy, Rebecca, Jake, Rena, they're all fine.

Sisko relaxes, but it still leaves an unanswered question.

SISKO

Then why are you here? Starbase Sierra is a long way from Bajor. How did you even know where I was?

KIRA

Believe it or not, I still have some friends in Starfleet. And I was already at Corat III checking up on the new refugee colony, so when Kasidy called me -

Sisko starts in surprise...

KIRA

She got your message, Benjamin. The one with the divorce papers attached.

Sisko turns and looks back out at the shattered planet. It seems to fit his mood. Kira approaches gently...

SISKO

She must hate me by now.

KIRA

That would probably make it all easier, wouldn't it? She's angry, yes. Frustrated. But she doesn't hate you. In fact, she told me... she misses you. So does Rebecca.

SISKO

How can she? After so long, she probably doesn't even remember me.

KIRA

Of course she does. Kasidy hasn't let her forget she has a father.

SISKO

Is that why she sent you here? To try to convince me I've made a terrible mistake?

KIRA

She does think that, but it's not why I'm here. Kasidy may love and miss you, but she doesn't want you coming back to her out of anything but your own free will. She'll give you what you want, Benjamin - on one condition.

Sisko turns back to Kira in surprise - what's that?

KIRA

Rebecca. She needs her father.

(anticipates
his protest)

The Prophets warned you against spending your life with Kasidy, not against being there for your daughter.

SISKO

It's too dangerous. If I go back to Bajor, Kasidy will push for us to be together again -

KIRA

No, she won't. You don't have to go back to Bajor, not permanently. You don't have to leave Starfleet, or even leave the *Robinson*. You just have to take regular leave to spend time with Rebecca. You're on leave right now, aren't you?

Sisko desperately wants to do that, but also knows it's a terrible idea. Kira sees the struggle on his face...

KIRA

This is your daughter, Benjamin. Are you really going to abandon her? Is that who you are now?

Off Sisko's indecision...

17 EXT. DEEP SPACE NINE

Bringing us back home to the station...

18 INT. DS9 - QUARK'S BAR / PROMENADE

QUARK works hard, pouring drinks and mixing cocktails and working the replicators. His Ferengi waiters rush back and forth taking his creations out to the busy evening crowd - humans and Bajorans and others, enjoying their night out.

At the bar waiting their turn are TENMEI and CANDLEWOOD, turned back around to watch the milling crowd while they wait. Tenmei peers wistfully through the crowd, towards...

...a table across the bar at which sit the four familiar engineers - CHAO and PERMENTER (human females), K'UHLLO (Damiani cogenitor) and the youngest and newest, TH'SHANT (Andorian *thaan*). They chat as they wait for their drinks.

TENMEI

Do you think th'Shant is cute?

Not expecting that, Candlewood refocuses on the table.

CANDLEWOOD

I guess. Never thought about it.

TENMEI

I think he's cute. He's all quiet,
and gentle. Makes me want to break
through his walls and see inside.

CANDLEWOOD

Oh, I see what's going on.
(off Tenmei's look)
He's not Shar, Prynn.

TENMEI

(indignant)
I never said he was.

CANDLEWOOD

One Andorian you loved from afar
quits Starfleet, another Andorian
comes to the station, and suddenly
you're crushing on him. You don't
have to say it.

TENMEI

They're not even the same gender.

CANDLEWOOD

Like that would stop you. Trust me
on this, Prynn. You don't want to
go replacing your lost love with
the next best thing. You'll always
end up with an inferior copy.

He points over towards the *dabo* table, where TREIR and the
replacement Nausicaan *dabo* boy SEBRIGAR thrill the crowds.

CANDLEWOOD

It'd be like me falling for Sebrigar
just because he replaced Hetik as
Quark's new *dabo* boy. And because
he has some... serious muscles.

Tenmei side-eyes her friend while Candlewood shakes himself free of that thought. Finally Quark arrives to serve them, placing six individual drinks onto two trays of three.

QUARK

Here you go. Sorry for the wait.

TENMEI

That's okay, Quark. It gave John time to make a really good point and then completely undermine it.

Quark pushes a PADD at them, they both place their thumbs on it, and then Quark moves off. Tenmei and Candlewood pick up a tray each and push into the crowd towards their table.

Tenmei reaches the table first, Candlewood behind. They place down the trays and sit. Everyone picks up their drinks, and Candlewood raises his in a toast...

CANDLEWOOD

I propose a toast. It's about time we name this thing - the only time in the week all six of us are off-duty at the same time. It deserves a good strong name, something with dignity and gravitas. I hereby christen this noble gathering... Candlewood's Collective.

TENMEI

We are not calling it that.

PERMENTER

You could call it Prynn's Party.

CHAO

Excuse me, I'm the actual chief engineer here. If anything, it should be called Chao's Chats.

TENMEI

How about th'Shant's th'shindig?

Tenmei smiles warmly at th'Shant, gently flirting. th'Shant bashfully smiles back. Candlewood just rolls his eyes.

TH'SHANT

Oh no, don't make it my fault.

K'UHLLO

(glass still raised)

My arm's getting tired here...

CANDLEWOOD

Fine. To... us.

They all drink - and Tenmei RETCHES at whatever was in her drink, HURKING and BLECHING and SPLUTTERING. Candlewood LAUGHS - it was his prank - so Tenmei grabs the front of his uniform and COUGHS the last few drops onto his chest.

CHAO

(long-suffering)

What did you do now?

CANDLEWOOD

Swapped her drink out when she wasn't looking.

(to Tenmei)

Don't worry, I ordered you a new one. And paid for it.

TENMEI

(still recovering)

We have got to get you a new man.

For some reason that gives Candlewood genuine pause...

CANDLEWOOD

Why do you say that?

TENMEI

Because you only act out like this when you're single. The best thing about you dating Hetik was that it stopped you pranking your friends. So if I'm not going to kill you in your sleep, you need a new man.

Candlewood is thrown - he hadn't realised the connection.

CANDLEWOOD

No... no, I don't want another
boyfriend. Not yet. Too soon.

(deflecting)

But maybe you do...

Tenmei glares - don't you dare. th'Shant blushes...

Meanwhile, CENN and RWOGO enter the bar on their tour. She
pauses in the doorway, looks back across the Promenade...

RWOGO

So the security office is directly
across from the bar's entrance.
Probably a wise precaution.

CENN

Things have been known to get a
little rowdy in here. But it's not
Quark's bar you need to worry
about - it's Quark himself.

RWOGO

Ah yes, the great ambassador.

Rwogo turns back and looks to the bar, where Quark is still
busily concocting. She takes a deep breath - this could be
a difficult meeting. But she steels herself and strides on.

At the bar, Quark turns from his work... to spot Major Cenn
and this unfamiliar Ferengi woman standing there. He looks
her up and down, curious. She is nervous, a bit starstruck.

QUARK

Evening, Major. Who's your friend?

CENN

Quark, this is Inspector Rwogo of
the Ferengi Investigation Agency.

RWOGO

Ambassador. It's an honour.

QUARK

Ah... so you're the new exchange
officer and security chief.

RWOGO

Not according to your Captain Ro.

CENN

I have to apologise, I don't know what's going on there. The captain told me she knew you, but -

QUARK

Oh, I think I can explain it. You see, Major, Rwego here was part of a conspiracy to unseat my brother Rom as Grand Nagus five years ago, and Laren was the one who helped unravel it and save his throne.

Rwego blanches - this is exactly the moment she feared.

RWOGO

Ambassador, you must understand, I was a young investigator, my first job as a free woman. I thought I was doing the right thing -

QUARK

Of course. You took a bribe, what could be more natural than that?

CENN

So this isn't a problem for you? It's your own brother, Quark.

QUARK

(shrug)

Rule of Acquisition number 200 -

QUARK / RWOGO

(together)

A Ferengi chooses no side but his own.

RWOGO

Or her own.

Rwego relaxes - she is not in trouble with the boss.

QUARK

That's why I was so happy when I heard you'd been assigned here - finally, a security chief I can understand and work with. The only thing that confuses me is that Derro assigned a female to do this job. He's always telling me how he's an "old-fashioned Ferengi".

RWOGO

Oh, he's practically prehistoric. But he's also smart enough to realise that the Federation would be impressed if he sent a female.

CENN

Ro doesn't seem too impressed.

RWOGO

She probably thinks she can't trust me as security chief. After all, who could possibly expect a Ferengi to follow the law?

QUARK

So what are you going to do?

Rwogo stands tall and proud, makes her decision.

RWOGO

I'll do what all good Ferengi do
- I'm going to make her a deal.

Off Rwogo...

FADE OUT

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

19 INT. DS9 - CAPTAIN'S OFFICE

Ro is not impressed.

RO

Excuse me?

RWOGO

I said, I'll make you a deal. Give me a task - just one, but it has to be something important. If I complete it to your satisfaction, you'll assign me as your chief of security. If I don't, I'll return to Ferenginar and have Derro send someone... more to your taste.

Ro sits back in her office chair, kind of astonished at Rwego's sheer nerve, but willing to see where this goes.

RO

And what kind of task would that be, exactly?

RWOGO

I thought the upcoming debrief of the operatives you sent into Breen space would be suitable.

Ro is genuinely amazed. She shuts down cold.

RO

I have no idea what you're talking about.

RWOGO

Ambassador Derro told me all about it, Captain. I think he was trying to impress me with the important secrets entrusted to his care... by letting those secrets out.

Rwogo rolls her eyes at these foolish males. Ro refuses to confirm or deny anything. Rwogo continues...

RWOGO

Of course, one should hear all and trust nothing. So I came here, and I... heard. The nurses complaining about how busy they were when the doctor was away. Bar chatter from your juniors about him returning with a new girlfriend, the one he saved from catatonia and turned into a genius like him. It wasn't hard to put the pieces together. Honestly, Captain, your crew need some training in discretion.

None of this is making Ro better disposed to Rwogo.

RO

You took a bribe to help unseat a sitting head of your government.

RWOGO

I did what I thought I had to do to get ahead. And do you have any clue how hard it was to come back from? Both as one of the traitors who tried to oust the Nagus, and as a female? Males would insist it was proof that females can never be trusted. Meanwhile they did far worse and were applauded for it.

This is starting to get through, and Ro is softening...

RWOGO

I had to be the best. Flawless. Unimpeachable! I had to work twice as hard as any mediocre male just to get in the room, all to make up for one youthful mistake. But if you're not even going to give me a chance, then maybe I will just go home. At least there I'm used to them not taking me seriously.

Ro doesn't want to give in, so comes up with an excuse...

RO

I've already assigned someone to handle the debrief.

RWOGO

That would be Commander Deel, of Starfleet Intelligence. Arrived shortly after I did. A Betazoid, I believe. The perfect partner.

RO

How do you know all these things?

RWOGO

Because I'm an investigator. And a damn good one, if I say so myself.

RO

I'm still not convinced.

RWOGO

(cajoling)

Oh, come along, Captain! Didn't you make foolish mistakes as a youth? Didn't you have doubters as a result? And didn't you prove them all wrong, given the chance?

Rwogo doesn't know if Ro did or not, she's just trying to push her case. But Ro is given pause for thought...

20 **INT. DS9 - WARDROOM**

Commander DEEL sits calmly at the conference table...

DEEL

So you saw this as your chance...
to prove yourself?

ANGLE on Rwogo, as she holds herself cool and collected...

ANGLE on Bashir, who doesn't especially like the question - it feels uncomfortably personal - but he is under orders.

BASHIR

Yes. I suppose that's true.

ANGLE on Deel and Rwogo, who are actually sat next to each other on one side of the table, with Bashir facing them.

DEEL

There's no shame in that, Doctor. Self-awareness is a valuable quality in an agent. It helps us to recognise our limitations.

Bashir looks to his side... and SARINA sits there, being debriefed alongside him. She smiles thinly, cursorily...

RWOGO

I'm curious about this Bank of Ferenginar you say you visited.

BASHIR

(quietly indignant)

I don't say we visited it. We did visit it.

RWOGO

Regardless of semantics, Doctor, did you get any sense of how long the branch had been there?

Bashir takes a deep breath, thinks back...

BASHIR

The senior accounts supervisor who dealt with us, Lag, did seem quite comfortable with the Breen as a race. The office was established, not new. The safety boxes scuffed from use. That could imply he'd been there for quite some time.

SARINA

Surely that's not a surprise? I thought the Ferengi and the Breen had a long-held relationship.

RWOGO

That's the interesting thing, Lieutenant. The fact that there was a Bank of Ferenginar branch on Salavat means at least some of my people knew about this supposedly secret Breen colony all along.

DEEL

And apparently chose not to inform their new Khitomer Accords allies.

RWOGO

Exactly. Something to bring up to Ambassador Derro the next time we speak, perhaps.

Deel smiles, quite pleased both with Rwego's catching of that detail, and her seeming desire to keep the Accords honest. Meanwhile Bashir slumps tiredly, rubs his eyes...

BASHIR

How much longer is this going to take?

RWOGO

(wry)

If you have somewhere else to be, Doctor...

BASHIR

(quick glance
at Sarina)

There are some personal issues I'd like to get resolved, yes. You've read our reports, and interviewed us separately. Why do we need to go through it all again together?

Deel smiles sincerely - she's not here to be the bad guy.

DEEL

Sorry about that. We're usually pretty thorough about this sort of thing anyway. But in this case, given the gravity of your mission

and the continuing potential for fallout, we need to make doubly sure that we're clear on every detail of what took place.

BASHIR

(darkly)

In case the Federation ends up going to war over actions we took.

Bashir's guilt over what he did on Salavat is clear. Sarina places a comforting hand on his arm.

SARINA

It won't come to that, Julian.

DEEL

Lieutenant Douglas is correct. Neither the Typhon Pact nor the Khitomer Accords has publicly admitted to violating each other's space, or to conducting undercover actions once there.

RWOGO

Which is not to say both sides don't know exactly what happened, of course. Just that they're not admitting it out loud.

SARINA

Which means neither side is ready to go to war.

Bashir nods, it makes sense. But he can't help worry...

21 EXT. BAJOR - SISKO'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

SISKO stands on the path, travelling bag over his shoulder, looking towards the large house that he designed and Kasidy built in his absence. Is it even his house anymore?

He is trying to build up the courage. He is not ready to go to war either, but it may be inevitable. He steels himself, hefts the bag and heads on. A door CHIME is overlaid...

22 INT. SISKO'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

...and the door opens from the inside to reveal KASIDY. Her welcome is neither warm nor cold, just neutral and even...

KASIDY
Hello, Ben.

So many things he wants to say, but he can only manage...

SISKO
It's good to see you, Kasidy.

KASIDY
Come in, it's cold out there.

She steps aside for Sisko to enter the house. He does. She closes the door behind him, watches him looking around the house as if he's a stranger there. Re his duffel bag...

KASIDY
You're not staying.

Is that a question or a command? Sisko can't tell.

SISKO
It's not an overnight bag. I just brought some things for Rebecca.

KASIDY
She'll be home from school soon.

SISKO
Sergeant Tey's with her?

KASIDY
Rebecca doesn't go anywhere without either me or Jasmine.

SISKO
Of course. I'm sorry.

KASIDY
Sorry for what? Questioning my abilities as a parent? Better not look in the mirror, then.

Kasidy closes her eyes, steadies herself, steps away.

KASIDY

I'm sorry. I didn't mean to ambush you. And I don't want to argue.

SISKO

I'm sorry for everything. And you have every right to be angry.

KASIDY

Oh, I am. Though maybe not as much as when you first left. Mostly I'm just hurt.

SISKO

I never wanted to hurt you. I left to prevent that from happening.

KASIDY

But why couldn't you tell me that? Instead you presumed to know what was best for me - again. That's not how a marriage works, Ben.

SISKO

I couldn't tell you because I was afraid you'd convince me to stay. That I wouldn't be strong enough to go, and you and Rebecca would pay the price for my weakness.

KASIDY

Ben, bad things happen in life. Do you really think that your father wouldn't have died if we hadn't been together? That Elias wouldn't have been hurt by the Borg? Our marriage had nothing to do with any of those things.

SISKO

I know you don't understand. I'm not sure I do either. I just know what I feel. I can't risk you.

Kasidy takes Ben's hands and leads him over to the sofa. They sit together, and she turns to engage with him.

KASIDY

Ben, you're the man who stood up to the Cardassians for the sake of the Bajoran people. You fought the Klingons and Jem'Hadar to save the Federation. You led an outgunned, outmatched squadron against the Borg to protect the Andorians.

(beat)

Why can't you fight like that for Rebecca and me? For our family?

SISKO

Fight who? Fight what? How can I combat existence? The natural forces of the universe itself?

KASIDY

I'm talking about the Prophets.

SISKO

The Prophets are not the enemy, Kas. They're just the messengers. And they've stopped talking to me anyway - I've tried, believe me. For years I've tried. But I guess I'm not their Emissary anymore. And that means there's nothing I can do to fight this. Nothing... but leave you to save you.

Off Kasidy's reaction...

FADE OUT

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

23 INT. DS9 - PROMENADE

Quark is outside his bar, gathering up used glasses onto a tray. He glances over towards the security office...

...and spots Ro inside the room, arms folded, watching something on one of the screens.

Intrigued, Quark flags down one of his waiters, hands over the tray, and heads off to investigate further.

24 INT. DS9 - SECURITY OFFICE

The door opens and Quark enters. Ro barely grunts hello. He comes to stand beside her, looking at the same screen...

... it is a LIVE SECURITY FEED of the wardroom with Bashir, Sarina, Deel... and Rwogo. Quark nods with understanding.

QUARK

So how's she doing?

RO

You can't possibly be okay with...

(re screen)

...this.

QUARK

Why not? She took a bribe. That's what you're supposed to do.

RO

Oh, I get it - now you want her to do it again, for you.

QUARK

The thought had crossed my mind.

RO

Tough luck - she's not taking bribes anymore.

QUARK

Then what are you worried about?

Ro doesn't have a good answer for that.

QUARK

Although honestly, the best part is how much it would drive Odo crazy. Can you imagine - a Ferengi chief of security? His head would explode in a big gooey mess.

Quark laughs at the image - Ro remains stony. Quark shrugs.

QUARK

Well... I guess you didn't know him like I did.

RO

I still don't trust her.

QUARK

You trust me, don't you?

(no answer)

Answer me, Laren. Do you trust me?

Ro grudgingly takes her eyes off Rwego and turns to him.

RO

Yes. Yes, I trust you.

QUARK

Well, I trust her.

RO

How, after what she did to Rom?

QUARK

I trust her... because she reminds me of you.

With that, Quark takes his leave and heads back to his bar.

Ro turns back to the screen - that's twice somebody has said that she and Rwego are the same. Are they right?

25 INT. DS9 - WARD ROOM

The four officers are sat around the table, as seen on Ro's screen. Deel is talking to a polite, professional Sarina...

DEEL

Then you believe it is possible to tell the species of a Breen even through the suit?

SARINA

Oh yes. Once you watch them for a while, you start to recognise the different postures and gaits. There's also a kind of basic sign language, I guess you'd call it - micro-gestures that serve the same function as facial expressions or tone of voice. Change the meaning.

RWOGO

Aren't the suits specifically designed to hide all that?

BASHIR

(re himself and Sarina)
Not from us.

SARINA

(gently chiding him)
It doesn't take being genetically enhanced to see it. It just takes practise. And enough exposure.

Bashir looks at Sarina... she subtly looks away.

BASHIR

Yes... I suppose there are always ways to see what someone's trying to hide from you.

Deel, being a Betazoid, is not unaware of the subtext here. But she chooses to push past it with another question.

DEEL

Can you give me an example?

Sarina reluctantly pulls up a memory...

FLASHBACK

The Breen Interrogator up in her face, as she is trapped...

BACK TO SCENE

SARINA

The interrogator who captured me
after Julian and I were separated.
I could tell he was a Fenrisal.
The body language was all wrong
for an Amoniri, and he was too...
powerful... for a Silwaan.

The hesitation implies more than it says. They all hear it.

DEEL

My apologies, Lieutenant. I have
no wish to make you relive that
experience. I was just curious.

But it has captured Bashir's notice - he knows the basics,
but nothing more. He speaks quiet and plaintive...

BASHIR

Is that why you can't look me in
the eyes? Do you blame me?

SARINA

Blame you? For what?

BASHIR

For not keeping you safe. If we'd
stayed together -

SARINA

It's not your job to keep me safe.
And it was my idea to split up.

BASHIR

But we've barely spoken about it
since we got back, and now you're
having those nightmares -

SARINA
Julian, this really isn't the time
or place -

BASHIR
I know. And I'm sorry Commander,
Inspector...

He nods to Deel and Rwogo, who exchange a look - this is no longer a debriefing. Then Bashir turns back to Sarina...

BASHIR
(continuing)
...but I need to know the answer
to this question.

SARINA
What question, Julian?

BASHIR
Will you ever be able to forgive
me?

Off Sarina's discomfort with that question...

26 INT. SISCO'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

...to Sisko and Kasidy wrestling with the same question. They sit apart on the sofa, awkward silence between them.

Then the sound of happy LAUGHTER just outside. Sisko almost jumps to his feet, desperately eager to see his daughter again. It's the whole reason he's here.

The front door SLAMS open, and young REBECCA barrels into the house, holding the hand of JASMINE TEY. But when they see who is there, they both stop in muted shock...

SISKO
Hello, Rebecca.

...and Rebecca retreats behind Jasmine for protection. He is quietly heartbroken - is his daughter afraid of him? Has she forgotten who he is? Is he a stranger to her?

KASIDY

It's okay, sweetie. You knew your father would be here when you got home from school.

REBECCA

I forgot.

KASIDY

Well, now you remember. So why don't you come and have a hug?

Rebecca lets go of Jasmine's hand, goes to the other side of the sofa from Sisko... and jumps into Kasidy's arms instead. Kasidy offers an uncomfortable look to Sisko. He absorbs the blow and turns politely to Jasmine instead.

SISKO

Sergeant Tey. Good to see you.

JASMINE

Good to see you too, Mister Sisko. I take it you won't be needing me the rest of the day, then, Kas?

KASIDY

No thanks, Jaz. we'll just see you in the morning for school.

Jasmine nods again at Sisko and heads out.

Sisko can't help noticing how much more warmly Jasmine talks to Kasidy than she does to him. He can't really blame her. Sisko goes into his bag, pulls out two TOYS, and sits carefully on the couch near to Kasidy and Rebecca.

SISKO

Would it help if I told you that I brought you something, Rebecca?

KASIDY

Did you hear that? Daddy brought you a present.

REBECCA

What present?

SISKO

Why don't you look for yourself?

Rebecca does... and sees to her delight that Sisko is holding two STARSHIP MODELS. He hands one to Rebecca...

SISKO

That's a replica of my starship, the *Robinson*. I'm the captain.

REBECCA

Mommy's a captain too.

SISKO

Yes she is. That's why I brought you this as well -

(hands her
second toy)

That's the *Xhosa* - mommy's ship.

Rebecca takes both ships eagerly, and looks up to Kasidy...

REBECCA

Can I play with them in my room?

KASIDY

Sweetie, your father came here to visit you. And you haven't thanked him for the ships yet.

REBECCA

(eyes on ships)

Thank you daddy!

SISKO

You're welcome, Rebecca. Maybe it would be okay with your mom if you went to your room now, and I can come and read to you later?

KASIDY

If Miss Rebecca minds her manners.

REBECCA

I promise.

KASIDY
Alright, then. Off you go.

Kasidy barrels off-screen, carrying her new starship toys, soon followed by the SLAM of her bedroom door.

KASIDY
I'm sorry about that.

SISKO
It's not your fault. It's mine for staying away so long.
(beat)
I think we need to tell her.

KASIDY
Tell her what? That her daddy left because he was afraid she'd die if he didn't? Do that and she'll be scared every time you come to visit. And she'd also most likely interpret it as her fault.

SISKO
(sigh)
I see your point.

CUT TO:

27 INT. DS9 - WARD ROOM

Sarina insistent, exasperated, a little embarrassed...

SARINA
I keep telling you it wasn't your fault, Julian.

Bashir continues to plead his case, while Deel and Rwego sit in awkward silence...

BASHIR
Then what is it? You've kept something hidden from me since we got back from Breen space. You've held something back.

SARINA
(glance at Deel)
I don't want to do this right now.

BASHIR
Are you bored? Do you want to be
back out there, fighting the good
fight, battling evil? Is that it?

SARINA
Julian...

BASHIR
(turns to Deel)
Alright, if that's what it takes,
then I'm in.

DEEL
In, Doctor? In to what?

BASHIR
I was already thinking of making a
change before you came to me. So
if it means staying with Sarina -
and I guess saving the Federation
into the bargain - then it makes
sense for me to quit Deep Space
Nine altogether, and transfer to
Starfleet Intelligence full time.

Off everybody's reaction to that, not least Sarina's...

BLACK OUT

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

28 INT. DS9 - WARD ROOM

Picking up from Bashir's announcement. Sarina's jaw has dropped, unable to speak. Deel gently chimes in...

DEEL

Doctor... please understand that I have been in no way pressuring you to join us. But I cannot deny that a man of your abilities would be a tremendous asset to Intelligence.

Bashir nods as if to say, "Well then, that settles it." But Sarina reaches out to take his hand...

SARINA

Julian...

BASHIR

We could be together, Sarina.

SARINA

But you don't want this.

BASHIR

I know of only one thing in this universe that I do want.

Sarina glances to Deel, her commanding officer. Something seems to pass between them... something that Rwego notices.

SARINA

Commander... would you mind giving us a few moments?

DEEL

Of course. We were about done here anyway, other than to discuss your return to action. If you choose to join us, Doctor, we should be able to process your transfer quickly.

SARINA

We'll let you know.

Deel nods, and gets up to leave. Rwego joins her, although with an expression of mild suspicion. Following them...

29 **INT. DS9 - CORRIDOR**

...into the corridor, where they allow the door to close.

DEEL

Thoughts, Inspector?

RWOGO

I don't know. Something feels...
off. In her tone of voice.

DEEL

Really? I didn't sense anything
from either of them, other than
the obvious - that they're both
intensely in love with each other.

RWOGO

You're the telepath, I guess...

30 **INT. DS9 - WARD ROOM**

Where Sarina holds Bashir's hands, eyes and heart prisoner.

BASHIR

We're going to stay together.

SARINA

Yes, Julian, yes we are. But not
at Starfleet Intelligence. That's
not right for you.

BASHIR

It could be, if you're there. I've
been stuck here for so long, maybe
it's time for a new challenge.

SARINA

But this is your home.

BASHIR

Sarina... you are my home.

SARINA

Then it doesn't matter where we go. So how about this - we stay here while we figure it out? I'll resign from SI, and find something to do here on the station.

BASHIR

No - I don't want you to give up on your ambitions for me.

SARINA

Julian... you may have learned how to be a spy from me, but I learned how to be a human from you. And you're right - this work is too hard. It makes you cross too many lines. This has been your home, Julian - let me share it with you.

Bashir is overcome, and throws himself into Sarina's arms, hugging her fiercely. Over his shoulder, Sarina smiles...

FLASHBACK - 14x04 "ZERO SUM GAME"

L'Haan up close and personal...

L'HAAN

Make him love you. Then we will have him.

BACK TO SCENE

And now Sarina's smile doesn't seem so innocent...

31 EXT. DEEP SPACE NINE

Time passing...

32 INT. DS9 - CAPTAIN'S OFFICE

Ro and Deel share a *raktajino*...

RO

So I'm keeping my doctor and I'm getting an intelligence agent?

DEEL

Sounds like a good deal for you, Captain. Even if it does mean me losing two good agents.

RO

Don't worry, we'll put her to good use. In fact we have a slot for a security chief - I think a former intelligence agent would fit well.

DEEL

(surprised)

I thought Inspector Rwogo was to be your new security chief?

RO

(cold)

I see no reason to agree to that.

DEEL

Why not? I've had the chance to see her in action. As have you. And I see no reason to deny her the position she's earned.

RO

You really think we can trust her? What, did you read her mind?

DEEL

(stern but respectful)

That would be unethical, Captain. Not to mention impossible between a Betazoid and a Ferengi. But you already knew both those things. So I suggest you stop projecting and start seeing Rwogo for who she is - a talented officer who could be an asset to you and this station.

Ro grudgingly takes that on board...

33 INT. DS9 - SECURITY OFFICE

Ro leads Rwego into the office, gestures to the desk and chair with another polite but tense smile...

RO

...And this will be your regular station. I know it's not much.

RWOGO

Not at all, Captain. It's like the Nagal Residence compared to what I had back home. I'm sure I'll be quite happy here, thank you.

Rwego strides to the chair, tests it out. She reaches under to PUMP the chair up to the right height - it moves with a rhythmic SQUEAK. Ro smirks, softening for a moment...

RO

I tried to fix that squeak for years. I'm afraid it defeated even the best engineers in Starfleet.

RWOGO

(sly smile)

I suspected that was why you were so protective of this office.

RO

(cooling)

I'm sorry?

RWOGO

That you were the security chief yourself before promotion. I meant what I said, Captain - thank you. For the trust you've placed in me.

RO

You came with good recommendations from Commander Deel... and Quark.

The office doors open again... and Sarina strides in, her black-collar uniform now changed to a gold-collar one.

SARINA
You wanted to see me, Captain?

RO
Yes, thank you, Lieutenant.
(back to Rwogo)
Lieutenant Douglas will be your
deputy security chief, Inspector.
She'll be able to help you with
any Starfleet protocols you may
be unfamiliar with.
(tiniest edge)
I trust her.

The implication being that Ro does *not* trust Rwogo after all. Rwogo absorbs this calmly, hiding her disappointment, then reaches out her hand to shake Sarina's human-style.

RWOGO
I look forward to working with
you, Lieutenant.

SARINA
Likewise, Inspector.

Off Sarina's warm smile...

34 INT. DS9 - DOCKING RING CORRIDOR

A new stream of passengers heading back into the airlock. Now Commander Deel is the one waiting to depart, and Ro, Rwogo, Tenmei, Bashir and Sarina are there to see her off.

RO
Thanks for everything, Commander.

BASHIR
Including bringing the woman of my
dreams back to me.

SARINA
Oh stop it, Julian.

She rolls her eyes, amused and flattered really. Deel shakes Sarina's hand...

...and once again something secret seems to pass between them. Bashir catches it, frowns a little, but lets it go.

DEEL

Best of luck, Lieutenant. Pryn, give my best to your father too.

(to Ro)

Permission to disembark, Captain?

RO

Permission granted, Commander.

Deel nods acknowledgement, and after a last glance towards Sarina, heads into the airlock. Ro turns to the others...

RO

I believe you all have work to do?

RWOGO

Absolutely. Lieutenant Douglas, if you'd join me please?

Sarina gives Bashir a quick peck on the cheek, then joins Rwego as they head down the corridor.

Ro turns the other way and walks off alone. Bashir and Tenmei follow together a few steps behind Sarina and Rwego.

TENMEI

I've been meaning to talk to you, Doctor. You know I went to visit my father on Bajor again while you were away?

BASHIR

(sympathetic)

You've been doing that a lot.

TENMEI

I was thinking about your advice - to let him go. And I wondered... if you might be right.

Bashir looks ahead down the corridor, towards Sarina and Rwego as they confer on security matters. He considers...

BASHIR
Don't make any rash decisions,
Prynn. There's been enough death
lately. I wouldn't want to be
responsible for more.

Off Bashir...

35 INT. SISKO'S HOUSE - REBECCA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

...to Sisko gazing with mixed love and worry at his young daughter Rebecca as he perches on the edge of her bed.

The girl is on the verge of sleep but fighting it to spend more time with her father. She clings to the two toy ships, and Sisko is touched to see that his peace offering worked.

SISKO
Go to sleep, sweetheart. I'll
still be here when you wake up.

REBECCA
Night night, daddy. Love you.

SISKO
Love you too, baby.

And she finally drifts off. Once he is sure she is asleep, Sisko gently removes the two ships from her grasp, stands.

He carries the toys to a shelf, makes a little room, gently places them down where they can be safely admired.

Then he picks up the *Xhosa* again, considers it, traces its lines. Kasidy's ship. Cradling it carefully, he looks at Rebecca, overcome with relief to be back with his family.

SISKO
Maybe this won't be so bad. Maybe
things will work out after all.

BLACK OUT

An on-screen caption says...

SIX MONTHS LATER

Under this, sounds of RED ALERT, WEAPONS FIRE being given and received, EXPLOSIONS and SCREAMS of injured people...

36 EXT. SPACE

The *Xhosa* ON FIRE, sparks and flames and escaping gasses, a horrific gouge in its side from god only knows what kind of brutal attack...

...and then Kasidy's freighter is destroyed by a massive EXPLOSION. Debris tumbles and burns out. The sounds of RED ALERT and SCREAMS continue over this, because...

37 INT. ROBINSON - BRIDGE

...the sight is being transmitted on *Robinson's* viewscreen. While the business of a starship at RED ALERT and in the middle of a pitched battle for its life continues in the background out of focus, we are instead looking at...

...SISKO, in uniform, in the centre of the bridge, useless with horror, staring stunned and brain-broken at what he sees. Finally the strength goes from his legs and he falls to his knees, the sounds of his bridge fading to silence...

SISKO
Kasidy... Rebecca... No...

BLACK OUT

END OF SHOW