

STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE

13x19 - "Disharmony"

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 18x19 - "LABYRINTH"

After the embarrassment at Venette, the Tzenkethi Autarch starts harrying colonies on the Federation border. *Enterprise* thwarts them by pretending to be a freighter in distress and luring them into a trap. The Autarch doesn't really care, as it was all just to entertain himself while he waits for his other plans to unfold. With the Vulcan unification movement growing on Romulus - and calls for Romulan reunification along with it - Praetor Tal'Aura tasks Tal Shiar leader Rehaek with learning who was behind the attempted assassination of Spock (TNG "Fair Weather Friends"). She implies that, since her goal of Romulan reunification would hurt both the Remans and Empress Donatra, they likely planned it together. But Rehaek begins to suspect that Tal'Aura herself was really behind it. When she suspects his suspicion, she tasks Sela with eliminating her superior (as he had done to Koval). Then she makes sure that the "evidence" implicating Donatra finds its way to Spock's hands...

TTN 2x19 - "IMPROVISATIONS ON THE OPAL SEA"

As the crew recover from recent events in the lounge, Riker is inspired to finally tell the tale of his and Troi's honeymoon on Pelagia, before taking command of *Titan* (TTN "Taking Wing"). As a wedding present, Picard had allowed the couple the private use of his yacht *Calypso*. But while innocently sailing the Opal Sea, Riker and Troi were kidnapped by pirates, and because the planet outlaws most forms of technology, they had only their wits to help them. Luckily *Titan's* security chief Keru had been keeping an eye on them from a distance, and was able to swoop in. Much swashbuckling and derring-do did commence. It is a tale of dubious credibility, as numerous crew protest, but Riker refuses to reveal whether any of this really happened or not. They are all having a great time, until Agent Ranjea receives a worrying report - the top secret Eridian Vault, where the DTI keeps all its most dangerous time-related artefacts, is under attack...

VOY 11x19 - "THE GARDEN OF EDEN"

Achilles brings Eden, Cambridge and the Doctor to the Mikhal Outpost (VOY "Darkling"). Eden immediately identifies several artefacts arranged in a Fibonacci spiral - mathematically

perfect like herself. While Cambridge and the Doctor discover an underground star map, Eden finds the ruins of the planet's original inhabitants. The Anschlasom were one of the earliest races, who discovered a spatial anomaly that was pure entropy, absolute nonexistence, a lack of anything - the Darkness. Their actions allowed the Darkness into our reality. Eden's fathers later encountered the same anomaly in the Beta Quadrant, and found her inside it as a baby. Now *Quirinal*, *Esquiline*, *Hawking* and *Curie* are investigating the same anomaly within Borg space. When Eden, in a fugue, attacks and shatters the Anschlasom's representation of the Darkness, the anomaly in space also shatters, and the four ships tumble into the Darkness...

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. ANDORIAN TENEMENT - DAY

SHAR bolts into a narrow alley, hurriedly pulling along an older Andorian woman ZH'THIIN by the hand. He is a trained Starfleet lieutenant, she is a terrified academic with no experience at all, but both are running for their lives.

He looks up at the buildings on either side - white-painted terraced houses, with metal fire escapes and back doors into the buildings. We can hear RIOTING in the distance, but this seems like a safe passage - for now.

SHAR

Come along, Professor zh'Thiin.

He puts on a new surge of energy, dragging zh'Thiin along in his wake as she struggles to keep up.

ZH'THIIN

Lieutenant, please slow down -

SHAR

We can't, Professor. I have to get
you to safety.

But as they run on, we hear the CREAK of a door opening...

...and then a deluge of dirty water SPLASHES to the ground right in front of them both, drenching the front of both their clothes. Shar skids to a halt, and looks up...

...to see an older Andorian *thaan*, an aproned SHOPKEEPER, holding the bucket whose contents he just threw at them.

SHOPKEEPER

Get away from here, you traitor!
You're not wanted here!

Shar has no idea what this guy's problem is. He makes sure to place zh'Thiin behind him, then holds his hands up, showing this stranger he is no threat.

SHAR

I'm not looking for any trouble.
I'm just -

SHOPKEEPER

I know what you're doing. I've
seen you on the news nets. You and
the other traitors, working with
the Federation to wipe away our
culture, our very identity!

At least now Shar knows what the old man's issue is. But
they don't have time for this, and this *thaan* is no match
for him. He takes zh'Thiin's hand again, begins to move.

SHAR

If you'll excuse us...

But the noise has brought another *thaan* out of another door
- this one younger and tougher. He could be trouble.

YOUNG THAAN

You heard him. You're not welcome.

SHAR

I understand. And we're leaving.
If you'll simply step aside...

YOUNG THAAN

(steps closer)

I mean you're not welcome on this
planet. Either of you. You're both
traitors to Andorians everywhere.

SHOPKEEPER

Maybe we shouldn't let you leave.

Shar's antennae prickle - he glances quickly behind him,
and sees that other Andorian strangers have come out of
their own doors and are watching the confrontation.

He pulls zh'Thiin closer to him, trying to keep her safe.
The shopkeeper, the younger *thaan*. They are surrounded...

Off Shar's reaction - he is going to have to fight.

CUT TO:

2 **INT. ROBINSON - BRIDGE**

SHAR at his science console along the back wall, several days earlier. A BEEP - he checks it, is intrigued. He turns and strides to the tactical horseshoe, calls down over it towards Captain SISKO, who sits in the centre chair.

SHAR

Captain...

(Sisko looks up)

...there is a communication coming in, direct from the office of the Starfleet C-in-C.

Sisko looks to his first officer ROGEIRO, sat beside him on this Galaxy-class bridge. This is a big deal.

SISKO

Is it marked captain's eyes only?

SHAR

No, sir.

SISKO

Then on screen, Lieutenant.

Shar returns to his console, works it. Sisko stands. A moment, and the main viewscreen changes to show Adm AKAAR.

AKAAR (screen)

Captain Sisko. Ah, and Lieutenant ch'Thane as well. Excellent.

Shar reacts - what does the Starfleet C-in-C want with him?

SISKO

What can I do for you, Admiral?

AKAAR

The *Robinson* has new orders, Captain. You're to leave the Romulan border at once and head straight to the Andorian system.

SISKO
(not understood
at all)
Understood. May I ask why?

AKAAR (screen)
A conference will be taking place
in six days - you will coordinate
with the local authorities to
provide the necessary security.

SISKO
...I see. Forgive me, Admiral, but
surely there are other ships that
are closer to Andor that could do
the same job. Why the *Robinson*?

AKAAR (screen)
Because, Captain, the conference
is to address Andor's fertility
problems once and for all. As
one of the Federation's leading
experts on the subject, Lieutenant
ch'Thane will be a key speaker.

Sisko looks up to ch'Thane - this is news to them both.

SISKO
Very well, Admiral. We'll get
underway immediately.

AKAAR (screen)
Starfleet out.

The signal drops. Shar is stunned - he is going home. But
does he want to go? And will he be welcome when he does?

FADE OUT

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

3 EXT. DEEP SPACE NINE

Focusing on the Ops dome at the top of the station...

4 INT. DS9 - MAIN OPS CENTRE

Cmdr RO exits from her office and heads down to the central table, where Major CENN awaits. She hands him a padd...

RO

Here you go - the final crew assignments for while I'm away.

CENN

You realise you're leaving me with not a single senior staff member?

CHAO

Excuse me?

They turn to see CHAO, the temporary chief engineer, at her station and looking back down at them quite put out.

RO

You tell him, Lieutenant. Shame on you, Major.

CENN

I apologise, Lieutenant Chao.

They all smile - it's just banter. Ro heads up to the turbolift, calling out as she does...

RO

Right - see you in a week. Don't blow the place up while I'm gone.

(to computer)

Defiant.

CENN

Aye, sir. I'll try my best.

The turbolift takes Ro away. Cenn looks around Ops - Chao is the only familiar face, everyone else is EXTRAS. Then he turns back to the Ops table and gets back to work...

5 **INT. DS9 - CANDLEWOOD'S QUARTERS**

Lt CANDLEWOOD dashes around the room, throwing bits and pieces into his travelling bag. HETIK watches amused.

HETIK

How is it you can organise an alien computer system in seconds but you can't organise your own belongings with a week's notice?

CANDLEWOOD

Because you constantly distract me with your big bulging muscles.

HETIK

Ah. Maybe I and my big bulging muscles should go away?

Candlewood throws one last thing in the bag and steps up close to his boyfriend, caressing those bulging muscles.

CANDLEWOOD

Don't you dare. Unwarranted cruelty aside, I don't want any part of this going anywhere. Is that understood, Mister Hetik?

HETIK

Understood, Lieutenant Candlewood.

They kiss warmly, then John pulls back, grabs his bag.

CANDLEWOOD

I'll see you in a week. Don't blow the place up while I'm gone.

HETIK

I promise nothing.

One last quick peck, then Candlewood EXITS.

6 INT. DS9 - TENMEI'S QUARTERS

TENMEI stands with her own travelling bag on her shoulder, gazing over the still prone body of her father, VAUGHN.

TENMEI
Tenmei to Chao - energise.

Tenmei prepares - but it is Vaughn who DEMATERIALISES, all his life support machinery going with him. Tenmei nods.

TENMEI
Doctor?

7 INT. RUNABOUT - REAR CABIN

BASHIR stands over Vaughn's body where it now lies - in the place of the conference table. He scans with a tricorder...

BASHIR
Transport complete, Lieutenant.
No sign of any problems. Captain
Vaughn's condition is unchanged.

TENMEI (comm)
Acknowledged. I'll be right there.

8 INT. DS9 - DOCKING RING CORRIDOR

Ro strides along the corridor towards the airlock. QUARK appears out of a turbolift, dashes to follow her.

QUARK
Laren!
(she stops, turns)
You're not going to say goodbye?

RO
(flirty)
We said goodbye last night, Quark.

Quark BLUSHES, glances around at the other EXTRAS moving back and forth out of the airlock.

QUARK
Doesn't mean we can't do it again.

RO
It'll have to wait. Don't worry,
I'll be back before you know it.

QUARK
(wary)
And River only knows what shape
you'll be in when you do.

RO
I'm sure I'll be very stressed and
in need of relief.

CANDLEWOOD
Oh, get a room, you two.

They turn to see Candlewood arriving with his travelling bag and a salacious grin. He heads on into the airlock. Ro turns back to Quark, who doesn't like his style cramped.

RO
Gotta go. Bye, Quark.

She heads into the airlock. Quark harrumphs, turns to go.

9 INT. RUNABOUT - COCKPIT

Tenmei enters through the hatch, drops her bag onto an empty chair and takes the pilot's seat, immediately begins working the panels. Meanwhile Bashir appears from the rear cabin and takes the second seat.

TENMEI
Rio Grande to Ops - we're ready.

10 INT. DEFIANT - BRIDGE

The room is already busy with crew - ALECO at tactical, PERMENTER at engineering, MINNAR at helm, EXTRAS elsewhere as needed. Ro enters the bridge, Candlewood right behind her. He takes sciences, Ro takes her command seat.

RO
Defiant to Ops - we're ready too.

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

Cenn works the central Ops table...

CENN

Defiant and *Rio Grande* - you are
both clear to depart. Walk with
the Prophets.

12 **INT. RUNABOUT - COCKPIT**

The runabout rises out of the station into open space...

TENMEI

Acknowledged, Major.

13 **INT. DEFIANT - BRIDGE**

Ro in command...

RO

Minnar, you know what to do...

The Betazoid male Ensign at helm works his console...

14 **EXT. DEEP SPACE NINE**

The *Defiant* pushes back and heads off in one direction...

The *Rio Grande* lifts off and follows the same way...

15 **EXT. BAJOR - SISKO'S HOUSE - DAY**

Establishing the Sisko house among the bucolic landscape...

16 **INT. SISKO'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY**

KASIDY wears her work clothes and crouches down to the
ground, bringing her level with five-year-old REBECCA.

KASIDY

You going to be a good girl for
Jasmine while I'm away?

REBECCA

Of course, mommy. I'm always good.

KASIDY

Actually, yes you are. And I love you very very much. I'll be home in a week - that's no time, right?

REBECCA

I guess. When will daddy be home?

Pause. Kasidy doesn't want to give anything away. From the kitchen doorway, JASMINE looks on in sympathy - she knows.

KASIDY

I don't know, sweetheart. He's a very busy man, but I'm sure he'll be home as soon as he can. And he loves you very much too.

JASMINE

(change the subject)

We'll have lots of fun, won't we, Rebecca? And we'll work hard too.

KASIDY

Ah yes - plenty of school work to keep you occupied and make you a big, strong and clever girl.

Kasidy hugs Rebecca tight. Then she stands, grabs her own travelling bag off the sofa, heads to the door, and waves goodbye to Rebecca. Jasmine goes with her...

17 EXT. BAJOR - SISCO'S HOUSE - DAY

Kasidy and Jasmine emerge onto the porch, closing the door gently so that Rebecca will not hear...

JASMINE

I'm sorry about that.

KASIDY

Can't be helped, I guess. I just don't know how long I can hold off telling her the truth.

JASMINE

I'll keep her distracted.

KASIDY

Thanks, Jas - you're the best.

A half hug of friendship, and Kasidy walks off down the path. Jasmine watches her go before re-entering the house.

Once Kasidy reaches a safe distance, she pulls out a comm.

KASIDY

Yates to *Xhosa* - one to beam up.

She DEMATERIALISES, leaving us on the sunny landscape...

18 EXT. BAJOR - VANADWAN MONASTERY - DAY

Establishing the monastery clinging precariously to the top of the mountainside...

19 INT. VANADWAN MONASTERY - BEDROOM - DAY

RAIQ the Ascendant sits on the edge of her simple bed - she is heavily pregnant, her silver skin stretched tight over a distended belly, and not happy at RANSEL, the head nurse-ranjen who works here, checking and fussing all over her.

RAIQ

Will you leave me be, woman!

Ransel pulls back, sighs with exasperation, looks up at...

KIRA, who stands by the door in her Vedek's robes, watching the process. VEXH, the male Ascendant, is also nearby.

KIRA

You're getting close to delivery, Raiq. Ransel is just checking to make sure you're alright.

VEXH

(roll eyes)

It is pointless - none of us knows what "alright" looks like in this.

RANSEL

He does have a point, Vedek. I've never midwived an Ascendant baby before - no-one has.

Kira can't really deny that. OPAKA appears in the doorway.

OPAKA

Nerys - they're here...

20 EXT. VANADWAN MONASTERY - SHUTTLE PORT - DAY

Kira emerges onto the open air docking platform extending out from one side of the monastery. She looks up...

...and sees the RUNABOUT coming in to land. It eventually touches down on the docking platform with a puff of dust. Kira is already striding forwards even as the hatch opens.

21 INT. RUNABOUT - COCKPIT

Kira ENTERS the runabout just as Tenmei and Bashir get up from their seats. They all head to the rear cabin...

BASHIR

Good to see you, Nerys. He's just through here...

22 INT. RUNABOUT - REAR CABIN

All three ENTER the rear cabin, see Vaughn's body and life support systems. Tenmei works the station on the wall...

KIRA

(quietly shocked)

I thought I was prepared, but...

BASHIR

I know. But at least he's alive.

TENMEI

Energising...

Vaughn's body and machines once again DEMATERIALISE...

23 INT. VANADWAN MONASTERY - HOSPICE ROOM - DAY

...and REMATERIALISE into a private room in the monastery. Opaka is there to receive him, and immediately begins checking over his body, controlling her own emotions...

24 EXT. VANADWAN MONASTERY - SHUTTLE PORT - DAY

Kira, Tenmei and Bashir exit the runabout, hatch hissing closed behind them. They walk back to the monastery...

TENMEI

Thanks for doing this, Nerys. I just thought, with Julian and I both away from the station -

KIRA

I'm happy to help however I can, Prynn. This place is already set up as a hospice, it's perfect.

25 EXT. VANADWAN MONASTERY - TRANSPORTER PLAZA - DAY

A moment later, they emerge onto the opposite open plaza. The place is crowded with REFUGEES of various species, all with their travelling bags and eagerly excited.

BASHIR

Will you be able to provide the captain with full-time care with all these refugees on your hands?

KIRA

Well, that won't be a problem much longer, will it?

RO (comm)

Ro to Bashir - is Kira with you?

KIRA

(into Bashir's
combadge)

Hi, Ro - everything's ready here.

RO (comm)
Thanks, Vedek - stand by. *Defiant*
to *Xhosa* - Captain Yates?

KASIDY (comm)
Ready on your signal, Commander.

A couple of the nurse-ranjens corral the refugees onto the transporter coils, then press a control in the wall.

KASIDY (comm)
Energising...

And the first batch of refugees DEMATERIALISE, Kira waving them goodbye, emotional. Bashir grips her arm in support.

The nurses corral the next group onto the transporters. Bashir and Tenmei leave them and Kira to it...

26 INT. VANADWAN MONASTERY - HOSPICE ROOM - DAY

They gently push open the door to Vaughn's new room, and enter. Opaka is moving quietly around, settling him in.

TENMEI
Sulan...?

OPAKA
Oh, Prynn - come in, come in!

Opaka hugs Tenmei in welcome. Bashir checks on Vaughn...

BASHIR
Good, still no change. Well... you know what I mean.

TENMEI
Just wanted to say a quick goodbye to him before we go.

Tenmei lays a gentle kiss on Vaughn's unresponsive brow.

TENMEI
See you soon, dad.

With a last thanks to Opaka, Tenmei and Bashir leave again. Opaka sits quietly by Vaughn's side and opens a book...

27 INT. RUNABOUT - COCKPIT

Tenmei enters the runabout again, holding her emotions in. Bashir sensitively takes the seat next to hers while she works the pilot console...

BASHIR
He'll be fine, Prynn.

TENMEI
I know. Just... hard to let go.
(taps comm)
Rio Grande to Defiant - Captain Vaughn is safe and sound, and we are setting course for Andor.

RO (comm)
Thanks, *Rio Grande*. Transports are complete... aaand we are setting course for Cardassian space.
(beat)
Prynn - say hi to Shar for me.

TENMEI
Will do. *Rio Grande* out.

Tenmei completes her preparations and launches...

28 EXT. VANADWAN MONASTERY - SHUTTLE PORT - DAY

Kira has come to say goodbye, as she watches the runabout LIFT OFF again and surge up into the sunny sky...

FADE OUT

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

29 EXT. SPACE - ANDOR ORBIT

The icy-blue class-M moon in orbit of the huge gas giant, as seen in previous eps. But now there is no space station in orbit, and dark smudges of destruction on the surface.

30 INT. PARLIAMENT ANDORIA - CORRIDOR

A broad passageway, statues of legendary Andorian warriors on the walls, and real-life Andorian warriors keeping guard beneath them, dressed in ceremonial *chan* warrior armour.

Into this MATERIALISE Sisko, Rogeiro and Shar. The guards react to this by instantly drawing their daggers, but Shar has prepared the others for this so they do not react.

SHAR

We come seeking the hospitality of the *Sha* of clan Thalís, Presider of the Parliament Andoria.

The GUARD LEADER sheaths his dagger, strides to the large doors at the far end of the corridor, and opens them, welcoming the Starfleet visitors into...

31 INT. PARLIAMENT ANDORIA - PRESIDER'S OFFICE

...the office of the head of Andor's government. Behind the crescent desk stands SH'THALIS, the Presider, with three more Andorians beside her. Sisko leads his own set of three into the room, offers a shallow bow as Shar taught him.

SISKO

Sha Presider. I am Benjamin Sisko, captain of the USS *Robinson*.

SH'THALIS

You are most welcome, Captain. I am Iravothra sh'Thalís.

She gestures to her left - CH'LHREN, another politician...

SH'THALIS

My personal security advisor,
Minister Threlas ch'Lhren...

To her right - stern THIRIN (12x05 "Trial and Error")...

SH'THALIS

Commodore Ilthirina th'Deminesh,
head of the Andorian Guard...

And beyond Thirin, ZH'THIIN (whom Shar has not met yet)...

SH'THALIS

And Professor Marthrossi zh'Thiin,
of the Andorian Science Institute.

SISKO

May I present my first officer
Commander Anxo Rogeiro, and my
chief science officer Lieutenant
Thirishar ch'Thane.

Nods of acknowledgement. sh'Thalis turns to Shar...

SH'THALIS

All of us in Parliament mourn *zha*
Charivretha's loss, Lieutenant.
Despite this, you honour us with
continued service to Starfleet.

ZH'THIIN

And of course, your name is well
known in our scientific community.

Shar is uncomfortable with all this. He nods politely.

SHAR

It is an honour to serve however I
can, *zha*.

SISKO

Presider, I read numerous reports
on the way here, regarding certain
activist groups and the opposition
to Professor zh'Thiin's work.

CH' LHREN

You're referring to the *Treishya*,
of course. I have been collecting
information on them for some time.

SISKO

In that case, might I suggest that
cha Threlas and *tha* Ilthirina join
Commander Rogeiro to discuss the
arrangements for the conference
immediately? No time to waste.

sh'Thalis looks to Thirin...

THIRIN

I have no objection. Commander
Rogeiro and I have worked well
together in the past.

Rogeiro, Thirin and ch'Lhren all half bow...

THIRIN

Presider.

ROGEIRO

Presider.

...and leave. sh'Thalis leads Sisko, Shar and zh'Thiin over
to a seating area, warmly invites them to sit.

SH'THALIS

You have been well taught in the
art of Andorian titles, Captain.

SISKO

All thanks to Lieutenant ch'Thane.

SH'THALIS

I am somewhat less formal than my
predecessors in this office - in
fact it wasn't this office at all.
I led a low-level committee...

(re building)

...and this was the local office
for Lor'Vela regional government.
But after the Borg attack...

She shrugs - it's obvious what happened. Sisko and Shar are both suitably sombered, since they were there.

ZH'THIIN

That same attack worsened Andor's already precarious population problem greatly. I have continued Doctor sh'Veileth's search for a potential solution, but my work has faced certain... roadblocks.

SHAR

The *Treishya* - they objected to her experiments on the Andorian genome using the Yrythny ova I brought from the Gamma Quadrant.

ZH'THIIN

There are also those who blame the Federation for not doing enough to help Andor, considering the vast resources at their disposal.

SISKO

I don't mean to minimise your concerns, Professor, but those resources are stretched pretty thin. Andor was only one of dozens of worlds attacked by the Borg.

SH'THALIS

That is why I called for this conference at all. I know we are doing everything we can, but the naysayers need to see that we are. I dare say the Federation Council agreed for much the same reason.

SISKO

I hope you don't think that the Federation's involvement in this conference is purely a public relations exercise, Presider. We are as committed to finding a permanent solution as you are.

SH'THALIS

(sly smile)

One servant can serve two masters,
Captain, as my friend Threlas is
often pleased to remind me.

ZH'THIIN

Ever since the attack, I've turned
over every stone I can find for
anything that may lead to a clue.
I would be very happy to exploit
your skills in the run-up to the
conference, Lieutenant ch'Thane.

SHAR

Of course, Professor.

SH'THALIS

I understand another specialist is
on his way to add his expertise -
a Doctor Julian Bashir? I believe
you know him.

SISKO

Yes, very well. He's a scientist
of unparalleled ability.

SH'THALIS

Well, he'll be here soon with a
Lieutenant... Tenmei, I believe.

Shar blanches - Prynne is coming...

32 INT. ARGAYA BASE - LEGATE'S OFFICE

Cardassian-styled, but not so dark and oppressive as they
would have been in the past, with plenty of bright windows
out onto the world. The door opens...

...and EVIK walks in, in civilian dress. MACET gets up from
behind his desk to greet him warmly, grasping forearms.

MACET

Commander Evik, welcome to Argaya.
You're earlier than I expected.

EVIK

Please, Legate, call me Nath. I'm no commander, not for now anyway.

Macet guides Evik to a refreshments table under the window.

MACET

Will you join me? I only just got this office completed in time - I understand the next convoy should be arriving later today?

EVIK

That's right... but I couldn't help notice as my shuttle came in that a number of Cardassian warships are already here...?

MACET

Logistical support only.

EVIK

I see. Because on Solarion, there is still significant resistance to the colonisation happening at all. And I'm forced to wonder...

MACET

I promised the agreement will be adhered to, and it will.

Macet seems distinctly defensive, and Evik sees through it.

EVIK

Legate... as I said, I'm not here as a Starfleet officer. I'm here to represent those on both sides who might be feeling... ignored by the authorities. I can't do that if I don't know who needs my help. Please... be honest with me. I won't betray your confidence.

Like Ro, Macet instinctively feels like he can trust Evik.

MACET

I'm in a difficult position, Nath. When Admiral Akaar suggested that not everyone in the Cardassian Union would support this alliance, I denied it as firmly as I could. But he was right. Not only do our civilians resent being asked to look after the Federation's homeless, they also have sympathisers in the military. So far I've been able to quell any discontent, but even a Legate's authority cannot suppress it forever - not if they have good reason to be concerned.

Evik places a friendly hand of support on Macet's arm...

EVIK

Then it's a good thing I'm here.

Off Macet's gratitude for the offer...

33 EXT. PARLIAMENT ANDORIA BUILDING - DAY

SHAR sits on a bench, looking around at this nice location - the grounds of the Presider's office. Crystal and stone paths, grand statues, wide green spaces, all under a clear blue sky with a slight breeze in the trees. It's beautiful.

FLASHBACK - 12x22a "LOST SOULS"

-- Shar kneels on the blasted ground, gazing out over the shattered shell of Laikan city, where his zhavey lived...

BACK TO SCENE

Shar shakes at the memory and the emotions it evokes...

FLASHBACK - 12x20 "FUTILE"

-- Shar kisses his baby Lata on the head, surrounded by his bondmates Anichent, Dizhei and Thia, on the starbase

-- Shar leans in close to his zhavey Vretha, touches his antennae to hers, in her office in Laikan

BACK TO SCENE

Shar shudders - they are all dead.

FLASHBACK - 10x13 "THE CASE OF THE FLAMPING FLURBLE"

-- In the runabout, Shar and Prynn kiss for the first time

BACK TO SCENE

Shar reaches inside his shirt, pulls out the *shapla*, the betrothal locket as seen in 10x04 "Easy Come, Easy Go". He opens it, reveals one strand of black hair (Prynn's) and one strand of white hair (his own), woven together.

ROGEIRO (o.s.)
Lieutenant?

Shar looks up to see Cmdr Rogeiro approaching. He quickly closes the *shapla* and stashes it back under his shirt, pulls himself together, stands to attention.

SHAR
Commander.

ROGEIRO
Sit, Shar, sit.
(they both do)
I just wanted to check up on you.
I can't imagine this mission is an
easy one for you, considering.

SHAR
(stiffens)
I will perform my duty as you and
Captain Sisko expect, Commander.

ROGEIRO
Oh, I don't doubt that. But I've
seen what your emotions can do to
you when you don't let them out.
So if you need someone to talk to
- as a commander or as a friend -
I'm here for you, Shar. Okay?

SHAR

(hesitant)

I appreciate the offer, Commander.

ROGEIRO

Alright. I've spoken to Commodore Thirin and we've decided to beam down more crew from the *Robinson*, including as many Andorian crew members as are willing.

SHAR

(nods)

To send a message that Starfleet and Andor are in this together.

ROGEIRO

Exactly. If the *Treishya's* message is that Starfleet isn't doing enough to help, then we'll counter that by example.

SHAR

You mustn't underestimate them, Commander. The *Treishya* have a way of taking anything their political opponents do and twisting it to serve their own purposes.

ROGEIRO

(nods, agreeing)

And according to ch'Lhren, given how desperate things are becoming, even the *Treishya's* more extreme viewpoints are gaining traction.

SHAR

But if you crack down more tightly on security...

ROGEIRO

...they'll call it an attack on their civil rights. We're walking a tightrope over a volcano while carrying a political powder keg.

Suddenly a shrill ALARM sounds, echoing all around the grounds. Shar leaps to his feet, muscles tensed to fight...

SHAR

Intruder alarm - someone must have attempted to breach the Parliament security gates...

In the distance, several FIGURES are running, wearing the black uniforms of the Imperial Guard.

Before Rogeiro can stop him, Shar begins to run, intending to join them...

But then movement catches his eye, and he turns to see...

...another figure dropping down from a high balcony into the hedge row along the side of the parliament building.

This INTRUDER - an Andorian civilian, not Starfleet or Guard - emerges from the hedges and stops in surprise to see Shar right there looking at him.

SHAR

(slaps combadge)
ch'Thane to security! Intruder alert, quadrant three!

At this, the Intruder pulls out a long curved blade...

...and CHARGES right at Shar.

BLACK OUT

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

34 EXT. PARLIAMENT ANDORIA BUILDING - DAY

The Andorian INTRUDER comes right at SHAR...

Shar catches the knife arm in one hand...

...PUNCHES with the other, hitting his assailant right in the ribs and forcing the air out of him....

...TWISTS the arm up the back, making him drop the knife...

...KICKS a leg from under him, driving him to the floor...

...and KNEELS on the Intruder's back, pinning him to the ground. Shar is perfectly calm, it's all done in seconds.

...until another INTRUDER comes out of nowhere and BARRELS Shar off his compatriot. Shar goes rolling...

...and HITS his head on the stone path. He is dazed...

The intruders are up and ready to fight...

Shar struggles up to a knee, woozy but determined...

The two INTRUDERS are lit up with PHASERS from behind...

Shar looks up to see his saviour...

And as the intruders collapse to the ground unconscious...

NOG is revealed, holding the phaser that fired the shot.

SHAR

Nog...?

NOG runs up and catches Shar just as he begins to collapse to the ground. Meanwhile ROGEIRO and THIRIN finally arrive with a handful of Andorian Guards.

ROGEIRO

Lieutenant ch'Thane!

NOG
He needs a doctor...

THIRIN
We have medics inside - I'll help.
(to his guards)
Take those two to the stockade.

Thirin, Rogeiro and Nog help Shar up off the ground...

35 INT. PARLIAMENT ANDORIA - INFIRMARY

Shar sits on a bed as an Andorian NURSE fusses over him....

NURSE
You were stunned by the blow to
the head, but you've suffered no
serious damage. I'll give you
something to help with the pain.

Shar nods his understanding - which instantly makes him
feel worse. The Nurse injects him with a hypospray.

Sisko, sh'Thalis and ch'Lhren ENTER the room, joining Nog,
Rogeiro and Thirin who were already there.

SISKO
What happened?

ROGEIRO
Two intruders. Shar fought them.

CH'LHREN
Were they *Treishya*?

THIRIN
We don't know for sure. They have
said nothing, and they carried no
identification either.

SH'THALIS
They couldn't expect to simply
climb the wall and gain access to
the Parliament, could they?

THIRIN

Not unless they are idiots, no.
Perhaps they were simply testing
our response to the alarm.

SHAR

And you don't believe they are
idiots, do you, Commodore?

THIRIN

What I believe... is that this is
just the beginning.

That ominous note quiets the room. Then from off-screen...

TENMEI (o.s.)

Where is he? Let me see him!

TENMEI dashes into the room, ignores everyone else and goes
straight for Shar. BASHIR enters more politely.

TENMEI

Shar - I heard - Are you okay?

SHAR

Prynn... I will be fine.

Bashir offers a smile to Sisko, and a bow to sh'Thalis...

BASHIR

Our apologies for barging in, *Sha*
Presider. I am Doctor Bashir, and
this is Lieutenant Tenmei.

(re Shar)

May I?

The Nurse nods permission, so Bashir moves to inspect Shar.

TENMEI

What happened, Shar?

SHAR

There was an attack. Nog saved me.

Tenmei looks up, for the first time noticing Nog is even
there. She had been too focused on Shar.

TENMEI

What? Nog? What are you -

CH'LHREN

He should not have interfered.

NOG

They could have killed him!

CH'LHREN

Unlikely. Either way you should have allowed the Guards to handle it. A Starfleet officer shooting two Andorian civilians - the *Treishya* will make full use of the propaganda you've provided them.

Bashir has finished his scans, closes up his tricorder...

BASHIR

He'll be fine.

SH'THALIS

In that case, may I suggest we return to planning the conference? These events suggest the *Treishya* fully intend to press us.

CH'LHREN

Of course, Presider.

SISKO

(to Rogeiro)

Go ahead, Commander. I'll check in with the *Robinson*.

ROGEIRO

Aye, sir.

Sisko, Rogeiro, Thirin and ch'Lhren leave the room. Tenmei helps Shar off the bed, and sh'Thalis smiles ironically...

SH'THALIS

Doctor Bashir, Lieutenant Tenmei.
Welcome to Andor.

TENMEI

It's nice to be back, Presider.
I'm sorry for -

SH'THALIS

No apologies required, Lieutenant.
Andorians are hard to offend. Now,
Doctor - Professor zh'Thiin awaits
at the Science Institute. She is
eager for your input on her work.

BASHIR

And I'm eager to see it. Lead on.

SHAR

I'll join you once I've freshened
up, Doctor.

SH'THALIS

Actually, Lieutenant ch'Thane, I
have another task for you. A new
report came across my desk, and I
think you'll be very interested...

Off Shar's intrigue at that...

36 EXT. ANDOR ATMOSPHERE

On the runabout, as it travels through the Andorian sky,
over ground that is increasingly blasted by weapons fire...

37 INT. RUNABOUT - COCKPIT

Tenmei piloting, Nog beside her, both happy to see each
other. Shar is further back, looking out of the window...

TENMEI

What are you even doing here, Nog?

NOG

Once my mission on the *Challenger*
was over, I decided to join the
Corps of Engineers team on Andor,
since I knew they were working on
cleaning up the atmosphere.

TENMEI

(peers outside)

It is looking a little... thick...
out there.

NOG

That's what six Borg cubes will
do, I guess. I had my choice of
assignments, but this was a good
chance to help out a friend.

SHAR

(wistful)

You have always been a good friend
to me, Nog. I am grateful.

(reacts)

Prynn... could you hold position
here, please?

Tenmei checks her instruments, confused...

TENMEI

But I thought we were going to the
northern polar region to meet the
Presider's archaeologist friend...

SHAR

We are, but... a moment. Please.

TENMEI

(shrug)

Alright. Cutting impulse power,
going to station keeping...

Tenmei works her pilot controls...

38 **EXT. ANDOR ATMOSPHERE**

The runabout glides to a halt in the foggy, grimy sky, with
THRUSTERS firing to keep it from falling to the ground...

PULL BACK more and more until we reveal...

...that the ship is now hovering above the ruined shell of
Laikan city, as seen in Shar's flashback earlier.

39 INT. RUNABOUT - COCKPIT

Nog and Tenmei have now joined Shar in gazing out of the windows, down at this haunting sight...

TENMEI

Oh Shar... is this...?

SHAR

Laikan, the former capital city.
Where my family...

TENMEI

You didn't have to come here.

SHAR

Yes, I did. I needed to see it.
I have not come home since...

NOG

That's okay, Shar. I haven't been home in over a year either. We've both been busy, Starfleet needs -

SHAR

You were busy, Nog. I told myself I was... but I was running away. Professor zh'Thiin works day and night to save our entire species. While I... I have been wasting my time at the Romulan border.

NOG

Starfleet service is still an honourable thing to do with your life, Shar. Regardless of where you do it.

TENMEI

And anyway, isn't that the whole point of this trip? Helping zh'Thiin with her research?

SHAR

If the report is accurate...

TENMEI
So let me get back on our way
then, yeah?

Shar nods silently. Tenmei moves back to the helm...

40 **EXT. ANDOR ATMOSPHERE**

The runabout moves off again, away from the devastation...

41 **EXT. SPACE**

A CONVOY of freighters, transports and passenger liners
drops out of warp, with the *Defiant* at its head...

42 **INT. DEFIANT - BRIDGE**

Ensign MINNAR at helm...

MINNAR
Entering the Argaya system now,
Commander.

RO in the captain's chair...

RO
Thanks, Ensign. John?

CANDLEWOOD at sciences...

CANDLEWOOD
All the convoy ships are present
and correct.

ALECO at tactical reacts to a gentle alert...

ALECO
I'm reading three Cardassian war
ships in orbit of Argaya Three,
Commander. And the lead ship is
hailing us...

RO
Okay. On screen.

VIEWSCREEN

Gul MOGAD (12x07 "Old Flames") sits on his bridge...

MOGAD (screen)
Commander Ro. I am Gul Mogad.

BACK TO SCENE

Ro smiles diplomatically. She remembers Mogad as the one who wanted to torture Natima Lang. But she also knows that Mogad didn't know she was there, so she has to play this cool. Mogad is just as slimily threatening as last time.

RO
A pleasure, Gul Mogad. And thank you for the welcoming committee.

MOGAD (screen)
This is no welcome, Commander.
This is a blockade.

RO
I'm sorry? I don't understand.

MOGAD (screen)
Then I will explain. We will not allow any of your Federation dregs to set foot on this Cardassian world. If you attempt to breach the blockade and beam them to the surface despite this warning, then you... and they... will be fired upon. Is that clear, Commander?

As Ro reacts to this...

BLACK OUT

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

43 EXT. SPACE - ARGAYA ORBIT

Three Cardassian Galor-class warships looming ominously...
...in the face of a convoy of largely defenceless passenger
cruisers, with only the *Defiant* to protect them...

44 INT. DEFIANT - BRIDGE

Where we were, as Ro struggles to keep her temper...

RO

Forgive me, Gul Mogad, but I'm not
sure you have the authority to
make such a declaration.

(emphasising
"Legate")

Legate Macet signed the agreement
to allow these colonists to settle
on Argaya. As far as I know that
agreement is still in effect.

Mogad's insincere smile freezes to ice - he *hates* Macet.

MOGAD (screen)

The legate is not here. I am. And
I have three Galor-class warships
ready and willing to follow my
orders. I suggest you turn around,
and take your... colonists... back
to Federation space. Mogad out.

The signal drops, and Ro seethes. The crew reacts...

ALECO

The *Defiant* has taken on Galor-
class ships before, Commander.
Even three of them.

MINNAR

I'm certain I can get us past the
blockade, closer to the surface.

CANDLEWOOD

We could even use the cloak.

RO

The *Defiant* could do all of that, sure. But the colony ships can't. We can't leave them undefended.

CANDLEWOOD

But Commander -

RO

We're in Cardassian space here, John. I won't start a war with one of the few nations in this galaxy that is still on our side. But... there are other ways to solve our problems than with weapons.

Ro gets up from her command chair and throws out orders...

RO

Minnar, hold position. Aleco, go to yellow alert, keep an eye out for any sign of them charging weapons. John, watch closely...

Ro goes to the science station, begins entering commands over Candlewood's shoulder...

45 INT. ARGAYA BASE - LEGATE'S OFFICE

An ALERT on Macet's computer. Confused, he goes to check...

MACET

Somebody's trying to send us a comm signal... but I can't make any sense of it. It's not on any channel I've ever seen...

EVIK is still in the room. He comes to look...

EVIK

May I see the telemetry?

Macet presses a few buttons, Evik peers at the readouts... and then GRINS broadly.

EVIK

Oh, I know what this is. May I?

Macet steps aside, and Evik starts working the controls. After a few moments, the comm screen changes to show...

...Ro, on the *Defiant's* bridge, anxious.

RO (screen)

Nath, you are there. Thank the Prophets.

EVIK

Commander Ro - what's going on? I haven't seen that kind of comm configuration since -

RO (screen)

Since advanced tactical training, yeah. But it was the only way to get through without them seeing. Is Macet there?

Macet steps back into view...

MACET

Is there a problem, Commander?

RO (screen)

I'm afraid so, Legate. I'm in orbit right now, but I've got a Gul Mogad refusing to let me beam the colonists down. I'm gonna assume that wasn't your idea?

MACET

(tensing)

Definitely not. Please stand by, Commander. I will do what I can.

The signal drops, and Macet seethes. All his worries about rebellion from within have come true...

46 **EXT. ANDORIAN SCIENCE INSTITUTE - EVENING**

Not the same science institute as in 12x05, since that was destroyed in the invasion...

47 **INT. ANDORIAN SCIENCE INSTITUTE - LABORATORY**

Professor zh'Thiin's laboratory, where no expense has been spared to have every possible machine science can invent.

zh'Thiin is showing Bashir some of her records, while white-coated underling EXTRAS work in the background.

BASHIR

It's fascinating work, Professor.
Very advanced. I'm seeing some references to the work of Richard Galen, Carol Marcus, Arik Soong...

ZH'THIIN

I began with Doctor sh'Veileth's studies of the Yrythny genome, of course. But that was ultimately non-viable, so I began to cast in every direction I could. President Bacco even authorised access to all the data they have on genetic engineering, of the sort that the Federation banned centuries ago.

Bashir reacts - he is a result of that banned research.

BASHIR

I see. I can't imagine that was without its controversy.

ZH'THIIN

Precisely why that aspect of my research is highly classified.

BASHIR

And is this... artificial DNA?

ZH'THIIN

As I said, Doctor, all options are on the table.

BASHIR

Including re-engineering the
Andorian genome into only two
sexes instead of four?

zh'Thiin cools - it feels like Bashir is judging her.

BASHIR

I'm not judging you, Professor.
But as scientists we must consider
the ethical context of our work,
as well as the practical.

ZH'THIIN

Do you have children, Doctor?

Bashir pauses - clearly she is trying to manipulate him
emotionally, but he can see her point.

BASHIR

No. Not yet, anyway.

ZH'THIIN

Nor me. Several of my colleagues
at the Institute are parents. I
had hoped to experience that joy
myself one day. But my bond was
fruitless, and now I am too old.

BASHIR

I'm sorry.

ZH'THIIN

That is why I have dedicated my
life to ensuring that Andorians
everywhere can have the children
cruel nature denied to me.

BASHIR

By any means necessary?

ZH'THIIN

Would you not do the same in the
face of extinction, Doctor?

BASHIR

I... have been known to skirt the line on occasion. I try not to.

ZH'THIIN

If only we all had that luxury.

zh'Thiin moves to another system, hoping to change the subject. She gestures to new data for Bashir to see...

ZH'THIIN

Now, I am not concerned simply with theory, as you can see.

BASHIR

(surprised)

Practical trials? Are you ready for that?

ZH'THIIN

No time to waste, as your Captain Sisko put it. Both patients are progressing nicely. It was my hope to announce the success of this new therapy at the conference.

BASHIR

Was? You're afraid of another protest from the *Treishya*?

ZH'THIIN

You must not think of it as that straight-forward, Doctor. There are protesters on all sides, and any positive news is drowned out in all the noise.

BASHIR

Then what's their solution?

ZH'THIIN

(sad smile)

Solutions are not their area of expertise - only blame. And that goes to anything non-Andorian.

BASHIR

So they're protesting what you are
doing, and protesting that you're
not doing enough?

zh'Thiin spreads her arms as if to say, "Welcome to Andor."

BASHIR

I don't envy you your position,
Professor.

ZH'THIIN

I would never disrespect my
colleagues, but it does sometimes
feel like I alone bear the burden
of saving my entire species.

BASHIR

Not anymore. If you'll allow me to
take a copy of your research, I'll
get to work immediately.

ZH'THIIN

The Presider did mention you had
experience in genetic engineering.

BASHIR

By necessity, yes.

Off Bashir's evasive expression...

48 EXT. SPACE - ANDOR ORBIT

The Galaxy-class *Robinson* in orbit of Andor...

49 INT. ROBINSON - BRIDGE

SISKO is in the command chair, unhappily reading from a
PADD. His usual bridge crew is around him - PLANTE at Ops,
UTELN at tactical, SIVADEKI at helm, EXTRAS elsewhere.

The turbolift opens and ROGEIRO steps onto the bridge,
walks down to join Sisko in the command well, sits.

SISKO

Welcome back, Commander.

ROGEIRO
Thank you, Captain. Did I miss
anything interesting?

In response, Sisko hands Rogeiro the padd. Rogeiro reads...

ROGEIRO
Typhon Pact fleet movements.

SISKO
The Tzenkethi are harrying our
colonies along the border, after
whatever happened in the Venette
Convention. Tensions are rising
between the two Romulan empires...

ROGEIRO
And nobody is actually talking to
anybody else.

SISKO
It makes me nervous. Especially
with us being here, not there.

ROGEIRO
Captain... I just wanted to say
that it's nice to see you out on
the bridge. Given our earlier
conversation on the subject...

It makes Sisko uncomfortable, but he nods acknowledgement.

The turbolift opens again, and a young non-com crewman in
operations yellow enters - SCALIN, a fresh-faced BAJORAN
male. He eagerly walks down to Sisko, hands him a PADD.

SCALIN
Captain Sisko. Commander Relkdahz
asked me to bring the engineering
status report to you, sir. He says
it needs your signature before he
can file it, sir.

SISKO
That's fine, crewman...?

SCALIN
Scalin, sir. Crewman Scalin Resk.

SISKO
(eyes on padd)
Alright, Mister Scalin. Is there a reason for such a bright smile?

SCALIN
(flustered)
Oh. No, sir. I'm sorry, sir. I mean, yes, there's a reason, but I didn't mean to, sir. It's just... it's an honour, sir, to meet the Emissary of the Prophets.

Sisko sharply stands, thumbs his approval to the padd, and hands it back to Scalin. He wants this over with asap.

SISKO
Crewman Scalin, I understand your appreciation. But I am not the Emissary of the Prophets.

SCALIN
(bashful)
I've heard how humble you are, sir.

SISKO
(darkening)
I'm not being humble. I may have been the Emissary at one time... but I am not any longer.

Scalin is not convinced. He tries to be encouraging...

SCALIN
I've heard that might be how you feel now, sir. But that's alright - the rest of us still believe.

Sisko is on the verge of exploding right on the bridge. But Rogeiro is suddenly on his feet and interjecting...

ROGEIRO

Mister Scalin. Captain Sisko has informed you that he is not the Bajoran Emissary. But he is the commanding officer of this ship. You will treat him as such, and only as such. If you cannot keep your smiles and your beliefs to yourself, perhaps we can find you another starship where you can. Do I make myself clear, crewman?

Scalin snaps to attention, horrified at being yelled at in front of the entire bridge. No sign of a smile anymore.

SCALIN

Yes sir. Very clear, sir.

ROGEIRO

Good. Carry on with your duties.

SCALIN

Yes, sir.

Scalin immediately scuttles back up the ramp and into the turbolift. Everyone is very uncomfortable at what happened.

SISKO

Thank you, Commander. If you'll excuse me...

Sisko heads right back into his ready room without looking at anyone, lets the door close behind him.

Rogeiroy watches him go with a sigh. All his good work to bring Sisko out of his shell, now ruined...

BLACK OUT

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

50 EXT. ANDOR - NORTHERN WASTES - DAY

The extreme northern arctic of the Andorian homeworld, as seen in ENT "The Aenar". Mountains of ice and snow as far as the eye can see, shining with reflected sunlight.

A small collection of huts clings to the icy ground, the type of micro-settlement occupied by mountain climbers or extreme explorers. The *Rio Grande* has set down next to it.

51 SHAR

wears Starfleet cold weather gear (as in VOY "Timeless"), trudging up a narrow path away from the runabout and into the ice mountains. He pauses, looks to his left...

...and sees a sheer cliff so deep he cannot see the bottom.

TENMEI (o.s.)

That is a long way down.

Shar glances behind him, sees TENMEI and NOG, dressed the same. Ahead, the Andorian *zhen* ZH'YEMRE, their guide.

ZH'YEMRE

Yes, you'll want to watch your step on this path. Any slip up here would be quite unfortunate.

TENMEI

Pretty sure this is the coldest I have ever been in my entire life.

SHAR

It's actually quite mild for this time in the season. Particulate matter thrown into the atmosphere must have affected the climate.

NOG

I'm working on fixing that.

ZH'YEMRE

Come on - it's not much further.

zh'Yemre leads them on up the narrow path, deeper into the glaciers. Tenmei mutters darkly under her breath...

TENMEI

This had better be worth it...

52 INT. ANDORIAN SCIENCE INSTITUTE - LABORATORY

Night now, the end of the working day. Professor zh'Thiin is just saying goodbye to her underlings as they leave...

ZH'THIIN

Enjoy your evening. I'll see you early tomorrow, lots to do.

She closes the door behind them, and heads back to her station. She hesitates, unhappy about having to do this. But it must be done, no choice in the matter.

ZH'THIIN

Computer, retrieve and decrypt private correspondence.

The computer BEEPS, and the screen changes to show an image of a male GALLAMITE, an information broker named SINTAY.

SINTAY (screen)

Greetings, Professor zh'Thiin. It is my pleasure to pass along the regards of our mutual benefactors.

zh'Thiin darkens - she hates having "benefactors" at all.

SINTAY (screen)

Our friends have reviewed the information you've sent, and they are most pleased with the progress you've made. They are delighted that your practical trials are advancing just as you projected.

She gave these strangers her data about the anonymous trial subjects - and she feels sick about it.

SINTAY (screen)
As to your request for additional information on gene manipulation, my clients remain reluctant to provide that at this time. Given the controversial nature of the research, our friends prefer to avoid drawing undue attention... at least for the time being.

In other words, she is at their mercy and cannot proceed without their say-so.

SINTAY (screen)
For now, you are instructed to continue on your current course. If it becomes necessary to offer additional guidance, rest assured that it will be provided. Until then, we wish you all success with your work. Good day, Professor.

The signal drops, and zh'Thiin hisses in frustration. But what choice does she have? She gets back to work.

53 EXT. SPACE - DEFIANT AND CONVOY

Still holding position on the edge of the Argaya system...

54 INT. DEFIANT - BRIDGE

Ro in command, biting her lip with impatience. An ALERT...

ALECO
Commander, the *Xhosa* is hailing.

RO
On screen.

The viewscreen reveals KASIDY on her bridge, also anxious.

KASIDY (screen)
Commander Ro? What's going on? My helmsman tells me we entered the Argaya system hours ago.

RO
That's true, Captain Yates. But
I'm afraid there's a delay with
beaming people to the surface.

KASIDY (screen)
What kind of delay? I thought
everything was agreed weeks ago.

RO
Just some last minute red tape,
Captain. I've every reason to
believe it'll be resolved soon.

KASIDY (screen)
I hope so. Because I've got a ship
full of colonists here that were
told this would be a short flight.
They already spent weeks trapped
in cargo holds to get to Bajor,
and they're not eager to repeat
the experience, believe me.

RO
I understand, Captain. Please try
to reassure your passengers that
I am working on it. *Defiant* out.

The signal drops on an unconvinced Kasidy. Ro seethes...

RO
What the hell is Macet playing at?

Off Ro's frustration...

55 INT. ARGAYA BASE - LEGATE'S OFFICE

Macet stands at the window, looking out into the night of
this unfamiliar and undeveloped world. The door CHIMES...

MACET
Enter.

The door slides open, and EVIK enters, likewise frustrated.

EVIK

Legate. I hope you don't mind my pointing out, but several hours have passed and I have seen no colonists. What's going on?

Macet reluctantly turns to Evik - he knows the Bajoran will not be happy to hear what he has to say.

MACET

I have been unable to persuade Gul Mogad to rescind his ultimatum.

EVIK

Persuade? Aren't you the Legate? Order him to stand down.

MACET

It's not that simple. Mogad and I were equal until a few months ago, and he always resented my tendency towards peace over war. Now I have been promoted over him, he resents me all the more.

EVIK

So? Are you a flag officer of the Cardassian military or not?

MACET

Of course. But I am trying to be a figurehead for a new Cardassia, Commander. One that doesn't force its soldiers to commit atrocities and then rationalises it with "I was only following orders."

Evik calms himself, ponders the conundrum. He empathises.

EVIK

The progressive dilemma - how to fight extremism without becoming an extremist yourself. We may "go high", but they have no qualms about taking advantage of that.

MACET

Exactly. The Cardassian people do not want this. The Cardassian military don't want it either. If I don't order them, they win. If I do order them, it's proof I'm just as bad as them... and they win.

EVIK

And if they do win, the Khitomer Accords alliance never happens.

MACET

So what do I do? I'm powerless.

EVIK

No, Legate. You're not powerless. You're simply afraid to use the power you have. And that is what these people rely upon.

Macet takes that on board...

56 **INT. DEFIANT - BRIDGE**

Ro still in her command seat, waiting. An ALERT...

ALECO

Gul Mogad is hailing us again.

Ro sighs with relief - finally the wait is over.

RO

Put him through.

The viewscreen shows MOGAD on his bridge again...

RO

Gul Mogad. May I assume our little misunderstanding is resolved?

MOGAD (screen)

There was no misunderstanding on our side, Commander Ro. I told you to leave. You have not done so.

RO
But I thought... Macet -

MOGAD (screen)
You have one minute to leave the Argaya system and set course for Federation space, Commander. If you do not, I will open fire... and all those civilians you are here to protect... will die.

The signal drops, and so does Ro's jaw. ALERTS go off...

ALECO
All three Cardassian ships just powered up their weapons arrays, Commander. And they're targeting the civilian ships.

Ro can hardly believe it has come to this, but here we are. She settles comfortably into her command chair...

RO
Red alert. Battle stations.

As the *Defiant* goes to RED ALERT...

57 **INT. ANDORIAN ICE TUNNEL**

Shar, Tenmei, Nog and their guide zh'Yemre trudge through the icy tunnel, hoods and goggles now removed.

TENMEI
What exactly are we looking for?

SHAR
The report the Presider showed me was almost purposefully vague.

ZH'YEMRE
With good reason, I assure you. Until we're ready to share what we've found, we'd prefer not to have too many people up here disturbing the site.

NOG

Is it me or is it getting warmer?

ZH'YEMRE

We're so deep underground here that the ice itself acts as an insulator, keeps it warm. You can stash your coats just up ahead.

They reach a small working area built into the tunnel - a couple of desks, computers, lockers, a portable replicator. zh'Yemre stops, takes off her coat, stashes it in a locker, welcomes the others to do the same. They do. Once everyone is back down to normal clothes, they proceed...

TENMEI

Forgive me for being blunt, Doctor zh'Yemre, but with everything that's going on in the Federation, was this really the time for this kind of archeological expedition?

ZH'YEMRE

You're not the first to ask that question, Lieutenant. But Presider sh'Thalis not only authorised the expedition, she encouraged it once the initial discovery was made.

SHAR

You still haven't said what was discovered, Doctor zh'Yemre.

ZH'YEMRE

(grin)

That's because I'm trying to build anticipation, Lieutenant ch'Thane.

They reach a turn in the tunnel, and zh'Yemre leads Shar, Nog and Tenmei excitedly into...

58 INT. AENAR UNDERGROUND CITY

A stunning underground vista, larger and more elaborate even than that seen in ENT "The Aenar." Straight lines, sweeping curves, gleaming crystal structures.

An enormous complex consisting of hundreds of elegant Aenar habitats, long deserted, built into towering walls of ice.

Standing on a ledge looking out over this view, zh'Yemre grins proudly. Shar, Tenmei and Nog are stunned.

SHAR

An Aenar city. I had no idea...

ZH'YEMRE

That any still existed? We didn't either. There are no records. But an ice-cutter studying the ruins of L'Uvan read refined metals and structures deep under the surface.

NOG

It's beautiful...

TENMEI

I'm sorry, who are the Aenar?

ZH'YEMRE

A sub-species of Andorians. They faced a choice between renouncing their isolation in cities like this... or facing extinction. They chose the latter.

SHAR

I can only hope that the rest of our people, when faced with the same choice, will have the sense to learn the Aenar's lesson.

FADE OUT

END OF SHOW