

STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE

13x07 - "Wooden Shoes"

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 18x07 - "FAIR WEATHER FRIENDS"

In his hideout deep beneath Romulus' surface, Ambassador Spock is attacked and nearly stabbed to death by a Reman. He is saved by his colleagues from the Vulcan unification movement, and the Reman captured. Above ground, Praetor Tal'Aura vows to reunite the two Romulan states, and to help do so she reinstates the full Senate. The powerful Ortikant family considers selecting Gell Kamemor as their senator, but eventually goes with Xarian Dor instead. Recovered, Spock turns the Reman in to the Romulan police, hoping it will engender trust. But the Reman drops dead and Spock is arrested. He arranges to speak with Tal'Aura, and tries to persuade her that their two goals are compatible - for Vulcan unification to happen, Romulus must necessarily be unified itself. To that end, he asks her to decriminalise his movement, and she agrees. But they still don't know who hired the Reman, or who killed him to cover their tracks...

TTN 2x07 - "SONG OF THE UNIVERSE"

All life on Droplet is acting strangely - the sqaules say their "song" is out of tune. Eviku realises that the effects of their own weapons on the asteroid disturbed the planet's magnetic field. Syrath scientist Cethente dives to the depths of the oceans, far below where the sqaules live, and discovers a whole separate ecosystem poisoned by run-off from the asteroid impact. Pazlar and Ra-Havreii design probes to fix the problem, but since they hate all technology, the sqaules attack the probes before they can work. With Riker dying of malnutrition, Lavena is the only one who can convince the sqaules to let *Titan* fix the disaster they inadvertently caused. That done, Riker and Lavena return to *Titan*, just as Ree and Troi return as well, bringing with them baby Natasha Riker-Troi. Riker is still worried about the Prime Directive, but a newly promoted Lavena explains that the sqaules are already aware of outer space and have even created their own biological space capsule...

VOY 11x07 - "SNATCHED"

The Indign send transport coordinates, and *Galen* beams aboard a metal canister. The Doctor, with his new medical assistant Meegan, turns off Seven's new neural inhibitor for a check-up,

and she hears a voice coming from the canister. She opens it, and Meegan intones, "I have come to speak for the Indign." Eden and Batiste confer with the intelligence, who asks the fleet to leave them in peace. Conlon brings a deflector problem to B'Elanna - there are errant protocols in the system, including ones to access fluidic space. Eden worries that it is Seven, under the control of the "voice" in her head. Suddenly systems fail all over *Voyager*, while the slipstream drive powers up and drags them out of the system. *Hawking* fires on *Voyager's* deflector to stop it. As the crew investigate the possibility that Seven may be a saboteur, a figure accosts Batiste and hisses - "I know what you are. Now you are going to help me."

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. SPACE - CAPELLA ORBIT

In orbit of a green-blue world that is obviously not Earth.

2 INT. JANUS MINING CORP OFFICE

A small window-less space, primitive and almost unfinished, with corrugated iron ceilings and temporary computer banks.

A short human woman named NICOLA GREENBLATT sits at her desk going over some reports. A male Zakdorn named JIR stands nearby rifling through a filing cabinet. Both are civilian engineers, not Starfleet.

GREENBLATT

Jir, why is T'Lis taking the main computer core offline again?

JIR

Because the diagnostic programme works better if she does. She's been experiencing problems with the switchover to the isolinear systems. But she did say this might be the last time she has to take it offline for that reason.

GREENBLATT

Might be?

JIR

What can I tell you? The Capellans haven't upgraded these systems in more than a century, since the height of the duotronic age. They are woefully outdated.

GREENBLATT

You know, I was excited when we got this gig. Those glory hogs in the Starfleet Corps of Engineers usually get all the best jobs.

JIR

Yes, but you know the Capellans hate Starfleet. Something to do with an exiled king of theirs.

GREENBLATT

My point is, I'm starting to wish they got the job after all. Mines that are a century out of date, an infuriating Vulcan technician who constantly looks at me like I'm a science experiment gone wrong -

JIR

Maybe you are.

GREENBLATT

And the Capellans themselves. Why do they all have to be so... tall? I'm getting tired of staring up people's nostrils all day long.

(sigh)

That Ferengi trader yesterday. It was a different ship from the one we got last week, wasn't it?

JIR

I noticed that, but I asked one of the Teer's people about it, and he said it's not unusual. The "big-eared bringers" change ships all the time, he said.

A tall male Capellan named KUUN enters without preamble. A good 7 ft tall, tribal styled with his long hair tied up.

KUUN

Greetings!

Greenblatt jumps to her feet - and barely reaches chest height on the enormous Capellan. Staring up his nostrils...

GREENBLATT

Can I help you?

KUUN

I am Kuun. I was sent by the Teer.
You are to teach me how to run
your new machines.

GREENBLATT

I'm sorry, Kuun, but we're nowhere
near that point yet. Training you
on the new mine's operations is on
my agenda, I assure you, but it's
not ready.

KUUN

The Teer sent me now. You will
teach me now.

GREENBLATT

There's nothing to teach. Right
now all we've got is machines that
don't do anything and computers
that don't work properly.

JIR

Actually, the refinery is due to
be completed today...

GREENBLATT

(sigh)

Yes, but there's nothing for it to
refine yet.

KUUN

You will show me the refinery.

GREENBLATT

I'm not free until after lunch.
I have a meeting -

JIR

No - Firee cancelled that. He's
still pumping out water after the
rain last night.

GREENBLATT

(grits teeth)

Fine. If you'll come with me...

Hating Jir, Greenblatt steps around her desk and leads the Capellan twice her size back to the door.

3 **EXT. CAPELLA SURFACE - DAY**

Greenblatt steps out into the daylight, Kuun behind her, and pauses for a moment. The view is rocky and austere but bright and clear, pleasant and refreshing after the stuffy office. As annoyed as she is, it is a beautiful planet.

A few hundred yards away from them is the REFINERY, a large industrial complex that has been old and rundown but has recently been upgraded with modern Federation technology.

Then the refinery EXPLODES.

The shockwave knocks Kuun back onto his ass, although the shorter, sturdier Greenblatt can stand against it.

Jir rushes to the doorway. Seeing Kuun on the ground, he reaches to offer him a hand, but the proud Capellan knocks the hand away and struggles upright by himself.

As fires ROAR and smaller explosions ROCK the building in front of them, the three stand and watch in horror...

FADE OUT

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

4 EXT. CAPELLA SURFACE - DAY

The refinery continues to burn...

5 INT. TOPALINE REFINERY

Kuun HEAVES a large piece of rubble aside, revealing the body of a Vulcan woman, presumably T'LIS, with a GIRDER pierced through her chest leaving a puddle of green blood.

Jir crouches and scans her with an old-style tricorder. He looks up at Greenblatt, shakes his head, then moves off. Greenblatt looks down on the body with crushing guilt.

GREENBLATT

T'Lis... what was she even doing here in the refinery?

JIR

Yinnik said the control consoles weren't working right. That is, before he and five of his crew...

She nods. He doesn't need to finish that sentence.

GREENBLATT

The last thing I thought about her was unkind. Almost everything I ever thought about her was unkind.

JIR

I'm not reading any life signs that aren't the rescue party.

GREENBLATT

Tell Hruok I need autopsies. And we need to scan for explosives.

JIR

(double take)
Explosives?

GREENBLATT

Topaline isn't volatile, Jir. It doesn't explode, and even if it did, the refinery had no topaline in it yet. Plus we're on a planet full of people with a rich history of disdain for the Federation.

She looks askance at Kuun, afraid he might be insulted. But he is unreadable. Greenblatt has a job to do. Meanwhile Jir is still scanning the rubble of the explosion...

JIR

There is an element that shouldn't be here - cabrodine.

GREENBLATT

Jir, my last chemistry class was ten years ago. You're going to have to enlighten me.

JIR

I can tell you it isn't indigenous to Capella Four, and it isn't in anything we use. It has a bunch of uses, and it's possible that the explosion caused a chemical reaction that created it, but...

GREENBLATT

But...?

JIR

It's also a common ingredient in explosives.

KUUN

Then you believe this is sabotage.

GREENBLATT

Maybe. Jir, contact Tovis-Urzon at head office and fill him in.

JIR

Right.

KUUN

I will inform the Teer of this.

GREENBLATT

Thank you, Kuun.

As Jir and Kuun move off, Greenblatt looks down at T'Lis...

6 EXT. SPACE - USS AVENTINE

The Vesta-class Starfleet vessel *Aventine* flies at warp.

7 INT. AVENTINE - READY ROOM

EZRI DAX sits alone behind her desk, looking at the screen which features an ongoing NEWS REPORT by Trill reporter OZLA GRANIV (last seen 12x12 "Life of a Statesman").

OZLA (screen)

An isolationist faction known
as the Toora Maab has claimed
responsibility for the blast -

Dax immediately reacts to that - it doesn't make sense.

OZLA (screen)

(continuing)

- which set back topaline mining
by at least three months. Experts
do not believe the damage can be
repaired and the mine brought back
to full operating capacity in any
less time than that. However the
project manager for Janus Mining,
Nicola Greenblatt, has said that
she intends to reduce that delay
by at least a month, and that the
experts, and I quote, "don't know
their asses from their elbows".

Dax grins - she likes this woman already.

MIRREN (comm)

Captain, there's an incoming
message from Starfleet Command,
from the office of the C-in-C.

DAX
(impressed)
I'll take it in here, Lieutenant.

Dax shuts off the news report and waits for the Federation seal to be replaced by the image of ADMIRAL AKAAR.

DAX
Admiral. How can I be of service?

AKAAR (screen)
Captain Dax. I am redirecting the *Aventine* to Starbase Ten, where you are to pick up some mining equipment that needs delivering immediately to Capella.

DAX
To Capella? I take it this is to do with the mine explosion? I just saw the news report.

AKAAR (screen)
That is correct. As time is of the essence, you are authorised to use the slipstream drive once you've departed the starbase. You will rendezvous at Capella with a Janus Mining Corporation vessel called *Hecate*. However, under no circumstances are any Starfleet personnel to set foot on Capella Four, Captain - is that clear?

DAX
Absolutely, sir. If I may ask, the news report said the Toora Maab claimed responsibility...?

AKAAR (screen)
(tensing)
Indeed. Apparently the terrorists who were responsible for my own exile from Capella have reformed.

DAX

All due respect, Admiral, but that doesn't make sense. The Toora Maab haven't been active for a hundred years. They haven't needed to be, because - well, sorry to be blunt, but they won. You were exiled.

AKAAR (screen)

I am forced to agree. If only Starfleet were not unwelcome on the surface, someone could look into that fascinating question.

DAX

(smirk)

Understood, Admiral. I'll get the *Aventine* underway immediately.

AKAAR (screen)

Thank you, Captain. C-in-C out.

The signal drops, and Dax sits back to ponder - another curious mystery has been dropped into her lap.

DAX

Dax to bridge.

BOWERS (comm)

Bowers here, Captain.

DAX

Set course for Starbase Ten at maximum warp, Commander. Then get me everything we have on the Capellans and the Toora Maab.

BOWERS (comm)

Confirming you said Capellans, Captain?

DAX

I know - interesting, right? Get it moving, Commander. Dax out.

As Dax returns to pondering...

8 EXT. SPACE - USS DA VINCI

The Sabre-class SCE vessel *Da Vinci* flies at impulse.

9 INT. DA VINCI - CORSI'S QUARTERS

The private (and single) quarters of DOMENICA CORSI, the former security chief and now XO of the *Da Vinci*. She sits at her desk in uniform, with FABIAN STEVENS on the screen.

STEVENS (screen)

How are you liking the red collar?

CORSI

(affectionate
roll-eyes)

Are you gonna ask that every time
we talk?

STEVENS (screen)

No, just when you're in uniform.
Consider it an incentive to
contact me in a slinky negligee
or something.

CORSI

I don't have a slinky negligee.

STEVENS (screen)

(grin)

Then consider it an incentive to
get one.

CORSI

Very funny. How are things on the
Musgrave?

STEVENS (screen)

They're still trying to get me to
tell them how you guys made the
entire world of Troyius disappear.

CORSI

Did you tell them?

STEVENS (screen)
Hell, no. First of all, I don't
even know how you did it, although
I have a few guesses. Secondly,
I'm loyal to my wife and my ship.

CORSI
The *Musgrave* is your ship, Fabe.

STEVENS (screen)
Only because I lost the coin toss.
So did they let you guys paw over
the *Columbia*?

CORSI
They practically had to pry it out
of Gomez's hands. But everyone had
a grand old time crawling around
it on the way back from the Gamma
Quadrant. And we saw the captain.
A bunch of us had dinner at the
house while we were all on Earth.
Retirement suits him.

STEVENS (screen)
I can imagine.

CORSI
Conlon was there too - you know
she's out in the Delta Quadrant
now? She's *Voyager's* new chief.

STEVENS (screen)
Good for her! *Voyager's* lucky to
have her.

CORSI
And we're unlucky not to. I may
have to kill Bennett.

Suddenly we feel the ship ramp up power, and the stars out
of the window stretch out into WARP SPEED. Corsi reacts -
something must be going on. Stevens sees her reaction...

STEVENS (screen)
What's going on?

GOMEZ (comm)
SCE team, report to the briefing
room, please. We have a situation.
Commander Corsi, you too.

CORSI
Looks like I gotta go.

STEVENS (screen)
Okay. Be safe. Love you.

CORSI
Love you too.

She closes the comm signal, gets to her feet and heads to
the door, tapping her combadge on the way.

CORSI
I'm on my way, Captain.

And she heads out, worried about the sudden change...

FADE OUT

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

10 EXT. SPACE - USS DA VINCI

The Sabre-class SCE vessel *Da Vinci* is now at warp...

11 INT. DA VINCI - BRIEFING ROOM

Much like any other starship's, but smaller. Captain SONYA GOMEZ sits at the head of the table (in a yellow uniform but with captain's pips), Corsi to her right and Tellarite male TEV (seen 12x20 "Futile") to her left.

Also around the table are the Bynar male-ish SOLOMAN, the Nasat female P8 BLUE, and Stevens' replacement as tactical engineering specialist, the Bolian male RIZZ. Suspended over the table is a HOLOGRAM of a planet, Maxia Zeta Four.

TEV

Since I assume most of you know
little to nothing about Maxia
Zeta Four, I will explain.

P8 BLUE

I know it's the fourth planet in
the Maxia Zeta system.

TEV

(glower)

Perhaps Nasat humour escapes me.

SOLOMAN

Is that not the site of a major
dilithium mining operation?

TEV

In theory you would be correct.
Well done, crewman. However when
they opened up a new dig site to
handle the increase in demand
caused by Starfleet's rebuilding
efforts, they sadly uncovered a
deposit of farantine.

CORSI

As Captain Gold might once have
said... Oy.

RIZZ

I'm afraid I'm not familiar with
that substance.

TEV

(like he's diseased)
Farantine creates a duonetic
field.

SOLOMAN

Which stops anything electronic
from working.

RIZZ

Okay, that's bad, I take it.

TEV

(sigh)
Yes. It is bad.

GOMEZ

(points to hologram)
We only know about it because
there's a monitoring station on
their moon that was unaffected.

P8 BLUE

How could there be farantine on
their planet and they didn't know?

SOLOMAN

Standard scans are not always
capable of detecting it.

GOMEZ

Our job is to remove the farantine
contamination without the use of
any technology whatsoever. Luckily
for the Maxians, we already dealt
with a farantine contamination
back on Maeglin.

TEV

A colony supporting the stupidest
Tellarites in the galaxy.

RIZZ

How did you fix it on Maeglin?

GOMEZ

We came up with a resistant paint
we could cover our equipment in,
that allowed us to clear enough of
the farantine that their machines
would work some of the time... but
it wasn't a perfect solution.

TEV

With the SCE team now under my
command, I have little doubt the
outcome will be far superior.

GOMEZ

(grits teeth)

Mister Rizz, please get to work on
recreating the paint - it should
be on file.

RIZZ

Aye, Captain.

GOMEZ

The rest of you have one day to
come up with other options.

P8 BLUE

Is throwing our pincers in the air
and going to get our dilithium
from somewhere else an option?

CORSI

No. The Federation needs all the
dilithium it can get, plus there
is the small matter of this being
an order. Dismissed.

Most of them get up to leave, but Rizz approaches Corsi.

RIZZ

Um, Commander? I'm new to the SCE,
but is this kind of thing normal?

CORSI

What kind of thing?

RIZZ

Being asked to do the impossible.

CORSI

Not at all, crewman. On a normal
day, the *Da Vinci's* SCE team do
three or four impossible things.

Corsi strides out to the bridge, leaving Rizz daunted...

12 EXT. PALAIS DE LA CONCORDE - DAY

The centre of Federation government...

13 INT. PALAIS - PRESIDENT'S OFFICE - DAY

President BACCO leads one of her regular briefings. Admiral
Akaar and her chief of staff PIÑIERO are settling into
seats in the relaxing area.

BACCO

Okay, talk to me.

AKAAR

The situation on Capella is dire,
Madam President. Topaline is a
necessary component in atmospheric
domes, which as you know are in
high demand. We have replacement
mining equipment on its way -

BACCO

The *Aventine* again, right?

AKAAR

Correct, ma'am. Unfortunately the
Capellans still refuse to allow
Starfleet to assist them directly
- because of me.

BACCO

Don't suppose we could tell them you've resigned?

AKAAR

It would not matter, ma'am, or I would do so immediately. But Starfleet's acceptance of me into their ranks has permanently poisoned the organisation in the minds of my people.

PIÑIERO

Another concern, ma'am, is that we sell half the topaline we mine from Capella to the Klingons. If we can't do that, they'll be just as inconvenienced as we are.

BACCO

Arse. See if you can get hold of K'mtok, Esperanza.

PIÑIERO

Yes, ma'am.

Piñiero steps away to do that; Bacco continues the meeting.

BACCO

Anything else?

AKAAR

Relief efforts to Tezwa are being scaled back. The *Khwarizmi* has been recalled, and its SCE team will instead begin an atmospheric reclamation project at Andor.

BACCO

(sigh)

I know our own house has to be in order before we can help anyone else, but I hate it. The invasion didn't just damage the worlds the Borg fired on. Go ahead.

AKAAR

Deep Space Four has reported an unusual rise in warp activity in and out of the Typhon Expanse.

BACCO

Do we know why?

AKAAR

Not as yet, ma'am. Captain Shilam is continuing to monitor. Starbase 375 also reports that, according to their observations, Cardassia is behind schedule - excuse the phrase - assimilating the Argaya, Lyshan and Solarion systems.

BACCO

The which, now?

AKAAR

The three systems you turned over to Cardassia in return for their support at the Azure Nebula.

BACCO

Ah, right, yes. Lot on my mind.

AKAAR

Of course, ma'am.

PIÑIERO

(cutting in)

Ambassador K'mtok is on his way, ma'am.

BACCO

Meeting adjourned then. Send him straight in, Esperanza.

(Akaar gets
up to leave)

Actually Leonard, could you...?

AKAAR

Ma'am?

BACCO

K'mtok is unlikely to be happy,
and I think it'll go better for
me if I have a Starfleet officer
from a warrior culture around.

AKAAR

As you wish. Although I have no
doubt that the ambassador deeply
respects you, ma'am.

Piñiero heads to the main doors and opens them to see the Klingon ambassador K'MTOK arriving. He storms in, Bacco's regular bodyguard WEXLER right behind him.

Bacco and Akaar are already standing, so K'mtok launches right into it.

K'MTOK

Madam President! Why has our
delivery of topaline been delayed?

BACCO

That's exactly what I asked you
here to discuss, Ambassador. The
topaline mine on Capella was
bombed, and -

K'MTOK

I am aware of that!

BACCO

(calm but deadly)

Please allow me to finish, Mister
Ambassador, or I will have Agent
Wexler restrain you.

K'mtok bristles, but Bacco clearly means it, and one look at Wexler suggests he is capable. K'mtok reins himself in.

K'MTOK

Madam President, our need for
topaline is great. The treaty
between our two nations -

BACCO

I'm aware of the terms of the
Khitomer Accords, Ambassador,
and the *Aventine* is on its way to
Capella right now, delivering
materials to help them get their
mines operational again.

K'MTOK

(brightening)

The *Aventine*? I assume Captain Dax
is still in command of that ship?

AKAAR

That is correct. The same Captain
Dax who, in her former lives, was
the great diplomat Curzon and the
wife of our former ambassador to
Qo'noS, and who is still a member
of the House of Martok.

K'MTOK

Excellent! I have confidence that
Captain Dax will do all she can.

BACCO

Glad we could help. If that's all?

K'MTOK

Of course, of course! *Qapla'*,
President Bacco! *Qapla'*!

And the Klingon sweeps out of the room, a totally changed
man. Wexler closes the door, leaving Bacco and Akaar alone.

The two exchange a look of muted amusement at the Klingon,
and then go to look out of the window together, at the view
of Paris beyond.

AKAAR

This view is impressive, ma'am,
yet it always makes me sad.

BACCO

Why is that?

AKAAR

My people live in what you would consider huts. They fight with *kligats*. They wear clothing they sewed themselves, they plant and hunt and gather their own food.

BACCO

Is that so terrible?

AKAAR

Contact with the Federation should have been the dawning of a new age for the Ten Tribes. Instead they are still ruled by superstition and feudal foolishness.

(re Paris)

We should have been able to build a city like this. But we have made appallingly little progress in the last century.

BACCO

(quiet)

You really miss it, don't you?

AKAAR

With my very soul. I have not set foot on my homeworld in a hundred years, yet not a day passes when I do not think of it.

Bacco inspects the admiral a moment, while he gazes out over the view. Then she nods, and turns to look with him.

FADE OUT

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

14 EXT. SPACE - USS AVENTINE

The *Aventine* is back at warp...

15 INT. AVENTINE - READY ROOM

Dax stands gazing affectionately upon the *bat'leth* hanging on her wall, a gift from Worf. The door CHIME sounds...

DAX

Come in.

The door opens and Lt KEDAIR enters.

KEDAIR

Captain, we've just heard from the *Hecate*. They're waiting in the Capella system's Oort cloud, and they're ready for the transfer as soon as we arrive. Ten minutes at our current speed of warp two.

DAX

Why so slow?

KEDAIR

The slipstream drive is still not as accurate as we'd like. We came out a couple of light years shy of Capella, so Commander Bowers said to cover the difference at warp.

DAX

Better safe than sorry, I guess. But have Leishman and Tharp look at the telemetry to see if we can shave that down a bit.

KEDAIR

They're already installing some new suggestions we received from the Full Circle fleet, Captain.

Dax smiles - she has a good crew. She heads back to her seat, gestures for Kedair to do likewise. Kedair does.

DAX

Have a seat, Lieutenant. I need a second opinion - specifically a security chief's opinion.

KEDAIR

What can I do for you, Captain?

DAX

Something about what happened on Capella is... itching at me.

KEDAIR

I thought it was just an explosion in a mine - a hundred-year-old mine at that.

DAX

But it was the new refinery that exploded, and it did so before it even started refining anything. Plus, the scans found cabrodine.

KEDAIR

Okay, so it was an explosive. Doesn't Capella have a history of extremism along those lines?

DAX

A long time ago, sure, but... it doesn't feel right. The topaline mines are a huge part of Capella's economy, and production could be increased tenfold if the upgrades went ahead. They need those mines.

KEDAIR

So you think outside sabotage?

DAX

I think there's enough doubt that we need to investigate further.

KEDAIR

Don't we have orders not to set
foot on Capella?

DAX

Yes. The Capellans are willing to
let Federation civilians on the
surface, just not Starfleet. But
the Janus Mining people will be
mostly concerned with getting the
mine back up and running, and the
Capellans themselves don't really
have the resources to do a proper
investigation. It has to be us.

KEDAIR

That's a big risk to take based
just on a hunch, Captain. But...
the notion of eight people being
killed without an investigation
does rankle. If you ask me, I'll
make sure the truth comes out.

DAX

Then consider yourself asked.

KEDAIR

I'll prepare immediately.

At Dax's grateful nod, Kedair gets up and heads out of the
room. Dax sits back and ponders it all...

16 EXT. SPACE - MAXIA ZETA ORBIT

The *Da Vinci* is now in high orbit over the world previously
seen in the holo-display from sc 11...

17 INT. DA VINCI - BRIEFING ROOM

Another briefing, but more active - the crew stand and move
about the room as they demonstrate the options, including
more holo-displays over the conference table. Captain Gomez
holds the room, with Corsi, Tev, Soloman, P8 Blue and Rizz.
Fast, quippy exchanges as they bounce ideas back and forth.

GOMEZ

It's more complicated than we thought. In fact, we have two new problems. Tev?

TEV

(re display)

I have completed a full scan of the Maxia Zeta star - and there is no farantine to be found.

P8 BLUE

So? Just because an element isn't present in the star doesn't mean it can't be on the planet.

TEV

I am aware of that, crewman. But it was enough to raise concern, so I also scanned Maxia Zeta Three.

SOLOMAN

(another display)

Current theory holds that the third and fourth planets in this system were once one world, until a cataclysm split them in two.

RIZZ

So there's dilithium on the third planet too?

TEV

Yes, but before you ask, we cannot construct a mine there.

GOMEZ

It's too tectonically unstable. Digging a mine there would make the entire planet uninhabitable in a matter of days.

TEV

That does not matter as much as what my scan revealed - the third planet also has no farantine.

P8 BLUE
(revelation)
Oh... I see.

GOMEZ
Exactly. If there's no farantine
on the third planet -

SOLOMAN
- and the third and fourth planets
are geologically identical -

RIZZ
(gets it now)
- then the farantine on the fourth
planet can't be natural. It must
have been put there on purpose.

CORSI
So this wasn't an accident, it was
sabotage. That changes everything.

TEV
It changes nothing! Our mission
remains the same regardless of the
source of the farantine - to wit,
we must get rid of it.

CORSI
(challenging him)
What if whoever did it is still
there? They might get a bit upset
when we take their sabotage away.

P8 BLUE
Assuming we even can. Nothing
we've tried so far has worked.

RIZZ
(trying out the
playful attitude)
Speak for yourself. The paint
worked in the lab, which is more
than can be said for your ideas.

SOLOMAN

Crewman Rizz is correct. Neither force-fields, astatine particles nor weaponry were sufficient.

CORSI

Weaponry didn't work?

SOLOMAN

(another display)

In a manner of speaking. It would destroy the farantine - and most of Maxia Zeta Four along with it.

P8 BLUE

We need to experiment on an actual sample, not a holo-recreation. Especially if it's artificial.

GOMEZ

Which brings us to the second problem - we can't beam down to collect that sample. Or we can, but we can't beam back up again.

CORSI

So take a shuttle - no, once it's landed, it can't take off again.

P8 BLUE

Oh that's easy - thrusters.

TEV

Thrusters will not work either!

P8 BLUE

Not standard thrusters - chemical.

(new display)

Attach a series of rockets to a shuttle to take over once the duonetic field kicks in. Easy fix.

TEV

(grudging)

Very well. But any tests must be done onboard the shuttle -

RIZZ
- using equipment covered in the
magic paint -

TEV
- rather than contaminate the *Da
Vinci* with farantine.
(toothy sneer)
I apologise, crewman, for speaking
while you were interrupting me.

Rizz gulps - maybe he hasn't got the hang of this yet.

CORSI
I also want anyone who lands on
the surface to be accompanied by
a security guard, just in case.

GOMEZ
Agreed - assign a security team.
Tev, Pattie, make your shuttle
modifications. Rizz, get the paint
replicated. Soloman, I think you
should stay here as the away team
liaison, don't want the farantine
affecting you too. Get to it.

The crew make their acknowledgements and head out to their
various tasks. Gomez stays, staring at the holo-displays...

18 EXT. SPACE - OORT CLOUD

A field of floating, gently rolling rocks in outer space.
The *Aventine* sits facing a mining vessel, the *Hecate*.

19 INT. AVENTINE - BRIDGE

The large viewscreen shows Greenblatt in her office on the
surface. Dax is on her feet speaking to her, with the usual
senior officers at their usual positions - except Kedair.

GREENBLATT (screen)
Captain Dax, why the hell are you
holding my equipment hostage?

DAX

And you are?

GREENBLATT (screen)

Highly pissed off that Starfleet is sticking their nose in again, is what I am. My name is Nicola Greenblatt, I'm in charge of this project for Janus Mining Corp, and I don't appreciate you refusing to deliver what the project needs.

DAX

I'm not refusing, Ms Greenblatt. I'm simply delaying until you allow me to send someone down to conduct a thorough investigation.

GREENBLATT (screen)

That's out of the question.

DAX

Eight Federation citizens have been killed, Ms Greenblatt, and we need to know why before I can release this equipment.

GREENBLATT (screen)

We know why!

DAX

No, we know how. That's not good enough. So you don't get these supplies until I am certain there is no more danger to Federation citizens on Capella Four. It's for your own good - if these supplies just get blown up again, you'll be right back where you started.

GREENBLATT (screen)

Look, what you're saying makes sense, Captain, I admit that. But it's not up to me. If they see anyone in a Starfleet uniform they'll shoot them on sight.

DAX

My chief of security is from a non-Federation world. She'll be out of uniform. Just tell them she's a civilian investigator from the Corporation.

GREENBLATT (screen)

(grumble)

Fine. If it's the only way to get this over with, then I guess I've got no choice. But if your agent gets discovered, I'll deny all knowledge, and you'll risk losing your precious topaline altogether.

DAX

Thank you, Ms Greenblatt. I'll have her beam to the *Hecate*, and they can bring her to you.

Greenblatt mutters like Marge Simpson, and cuts the line.

DAX

Dax to Kedair - you're up.

KEDAIR (comm)

Aye, Captain.

That done, Dax settles back into her command chair to wait. BOWERS shares a worried look - this is a dangerous game.

FADE OUT

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

20 EXT. CAPELLA SURFACE - DAY

The fires at the refinery have been put out, for now.

21 INT. TOPALINE REFINERY

Kedair is out of uniform, unarmed and wearing an identical boiler suit to other employees of the Janus Mining Corp. As she steps bit by bit around the explosion site, scanning with her tricorder, Greenblatt and Jir stand nearby.

GREENBLATT

You Starfleet people and your power trips. You think the whole galaxy revolves around you, don't you? Well let me tell you, there's nothing you can do that civilians can't do just as well, alright?

KEDAIR

(not paying attention)

Yes, ma'am. When you guys did your scan, what percentage match did it turn up for the cabrodine?

JIR

A hundred, why?

KEDAIR

Because I'm only getting ninety-six percent. And my sensors are better than yours.

Smiling insincerely, Kedair pulls a comm device out of her pocket and taps it, working her tricorder at the same time.

KEDAIR

Kedair to Helkara.

HELKARA (comm)

Helkara here, go ahead.

KEDAIR

I'm transmitting a scan to you, Gruhn. Could you do a detailed breakdown?

HELKARA (comm)

Sure, but it'll take an hour.

KEDAIR

That's fine. Thanks. Kedair out.

She puts away the comm, but keeps the tricorder scanning.

GREENBLATT

It's just cabrodine. What's the big deal?

KEDAIR

If I knew that, I wouldn't have asked for the scan. What evidence did you have to implicate the Toora Maab in the explosion?

GREENBLATT

Well, first of all, they said they did it. And second, the graffiti.

KEDAIR

I'm sorry?

JIR

We found writing on the walls.

Jir directs the party towards a wall of concrete, where the words TOORA MAAB KLIGARO have been daubed in some kind of red paint. Kedair scans the wall and the words.

KEDAIR

What did they use to do this?

JIR

A dye from a local plant - they use it to colour their clothes.

KEDAIR

Which plant?

GREENBLATT

What difference does it make?!

JIR

It's called *jorni* bush. There's crops of it all along the river.

KEDAIR

(off tricorder)

Alright. According to my detailed scans, there's a patch of *jorni* about half a kilometre from here, outside some caves. Thank you for your assistance, Ms Greenblatt.

Kedair puts away her tricorder and heads for the exit.

GREENBLATT

Whoa whoa whoa - you're not going anywhere on Capella without me.

KEDAIR

Like hell. Look, I appreciate your need to supervise but the saboteur who killed eight of your people might be in that cave. I'm trained to handle this - you're not.

GREENBLATT

If you don't take me with you, I'll tell the Teer who you are, and that'll be it for topaline.

Kedair glowers in annoyance...

22 **EXT. CAPELLA SURFACE - DAY**

Kedair and Greenblatt stride across a stony plain towards a rock face in the distance. The tall Takaran woman is making no effort to wait for the much shorter-legged human woman.

GREENBLATT

I'm surprised you didn't try to use your pheromones on my people.

KEDAIR
I beg your pardon?

GREENBLATT
Your pheromones.

KEDAIR
I have no idea what you're talking about.

GREENBLATT
Don't get cute with me. I know all about Orion women and -

KEDAIR
(burst of laughter)
Just because I'm green doesn't mean I'm Orion. I'm Takaran.

GREENBLATT
I've never heard of that species.

KEDAIR
Precisely why you shouldn't make assumptions. Stay behind me.

By now, they have reached the rock face. Through the heavy red ivy-like plant that drapes over the rock, they can make out the entry to a CAVE. Kedair's hand instinctively goes to her hip for the phaser... that isn't there.

Annoyed at that, Kedair forces Greenblatt flat against the rocky wall, then slowly grabs a handful of the plant and pulls it aside. They edge carefully into the cave...

23 **INT. CAVE**

With the entrance blocked by the plant, it soon grows dark as Kedair and Greenblatt creep into the cave. Luckily they spot a couple of BURNING TORCHES jammed into the rock face.

By the flickering light of these, they can make out some BRANCHES of the plant, a BUCKET of the red dye, scraps of PAPER scribbled with the dye, and a FIGURE lying seemingly asleep on a primitive bedroll, back turned to them.

Never taking her eyes off this figure, Kedair puts one hand behind her and emphatically gestures for Greenblatt to STAY where she is. The human woman does as she is told.

With amazing speed, the mysterious figure suddenly ROLLS over into a kneeling position and smoothly HURLS a *kligat* - a large three-pronged throwing star - right at Kedair.

The *kligat* plunges right into Kedair's chest...

The young CAPELLAN male assailant grins with victory...

Kedair looks down at the *kligat* in her chest, plucks it out - it does hurt, but she won't show that - and inspects it happily. Greenblatt and the Capellan man are both stunned.

KEDAIR

Thanks! I've been wanting a new one of these.

CAPELLAN

How are you not dead?

KEDAIR

By still being alive. You must be the fearsome Toora Maab. You're coming with me, young fella.

CAPELLAN

I will go nowhere with you, you alien filth!

KEDAIR

(re *kligat*)

I'll use this if you don't. And I guarantee you I'll get a better result with it than you did.

CAPELLAN

(defeated mutter)

I will go with you. But the Teer will see that I was right!

KEDAIR

Yep. Sure.

Kedair tucks the *kligat* safely in her boiler suit, grabs the taller Capellan by the arm and drags him out of the cave. Greenblatt follows, gazing amazed and worshipful.

GREENBLATT
How did you do that?

KEDAIR
Just one of the many ways in which
I'm not an Orion.

24 **INT. JANUS MINING CORP OFFICE**

Kedair and Greenblatt re-enter the office, dragging the Capellan terrorist. But they are all drawn up short to find that Kuun, the Teer's agent, is waiting for them. The tall male snaps to attention at the sight of an unfamiliar face.

KUUN
Greetings! Who are you?

GREENBLATT
Oh, yeah. Kuun, this is Kedair, an
investigator sent by my company.
Kedair, Kuun - works for the Teer.

Kuun steps up close to Kedair, the only person out of the entire mining company who has ever come close to meeting him eye to eye. She is unintimidated, perfectly calm.

KUUN
(to Kedair)
You are not Starfleet?

KEDAIR
I'm not even Federation. But I did
catch your terrorist, and I took
this from him.

She pulls the *kligat* from her pocket, uses it to point to the younger Capellan who she is holding firm. Kuun inspects Kedair up and down, nods approvingly.

KUUN
Impressive. I will take him to the
Teer for further questioning.

Kuun takes hold of the terrorist, pulls him from Kedair and drags him back out of the room without further ado.

With him gone, Greenblatt is in a much more cooperative mood, sharing a look of "Phew! Got away with it" with Kedair. Then Kedair's comm BEEPS...

HELKARA (comm)
Helkara to Kedair.

KEDAIR
(wrestles out comm)
This is Kedair, go ahead.

HELKARA (comm)
That scan you sent me to look at?
It isn't cabrodine.

GREENBLATT
That's impossible.

HELKARA (comm)
I'm afraid not. It's been altered
to look like cabrodine to less
sophisticated sensors, but it's
definitely not.

Greenblatt darkens at the implied insult; Kedair covers a smug smile and tries to remain professional.

KEDAIR
Can you tell what it actually is?

HELKARA (comm)
Not for sure, but all indications
are that it's nitrilin.

KEDAIR
Damn...

GREENBLATT
I don't understand. Instead of one
explosive, it's another one. What
difference does it make?

KEDAIR

The difference is that cabrodine is fairly common. Even a lunatic in a cave could probably get hold of it. But nitrilin? It only comes from one place - a Ferengi planet called Oorfir. It's very expensive and there's no way our friend back there could get his hands on it, or make it look like cabrodine.

GREENBLATT

So that young man might have set the explosives, but he must have obtained them from someone else. Why would someone from off-world want to sabotage these mines?

KEDAIR

To keep us and the Klingons from getting the topaline we need, obviously.

GREENBLATT

So, what - eight of my staff died for some political nonsense?

KEDAIR

Something like that. Didn't one of your staff tell me you get your supplies from a Ferengi service?

GREENBLATT

That's right...

(realising)

...and the latest one was a face I hadn't seen before. First time we ever had a woman Ferengi, in fact.

KEDAIR

Could you give me all the data you have on her company? It's probably fake but it's worth a look anyway.

GREENBLATT

Of course.

KEDAIR

Helkara, tell the captain I'm on my way back, the terrorist is in custody, and she needs to hand over the mining equipment ASAP.

HELKARA (comm)

Will do, Lieutenant. *Aventine* out.

Greenblatt goes to the filing cabinet, rummages, pulls out the old-fashioned paperwork she needs, hands it to Kedair.

GREENBLATT

Thank you for your help on this. I'm sorry I wasn't more receptive.

KEDAIR

And I'm sorry you got caught up in something you shouldn't have.

GREENBLATT

Do me one favour? Catch them.

KEDAIR

Count on it.

Kedair strides out of the office...

FADE OUT

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

25 EXT. SPACE - OORT CLOUD

The *Aventine* is still in the asteroid field, facing the mining vessel *Hecate*.

26 INT. AVENTINE - CONFERENCE ROOM

Dax, Helkara and Kedair are gathered.

DAX

So we think this Ferengi trader woman is the one who sold the explosive to your terrorist?

KEDAIR

That's the current theory. But the records of her employment with the supply company and the ship she used were fake, as I expected.

DAX

Any luck tracing the nitrilin?

HELKARA

No. But whoever altered it to look like cabrodine had access to some state-of-the-art technology. I've heard of research being done into this by the Breen, but I didn't think they'd perfected it yet.

DAX

So we're left not knowing who this woman was, or why she wanted to sabotage our rebuilding efforts.

KEDAIR

Anyone else find it interesting that we're talking about Ferengi again? The captain of the *Kovlessa* was freed from a Ferengi prison.

HELKARA

That might not mean anything. Not to stereotype, but it's hardly unexpected that a Ferengi would be involved in shady dealings. It's a badge of honour to them.

KEDAIR

(quoting Dax)

I think there's enough doubt that we need to investigate further.

DAX

(smile, then...)

Wait... I'm remembering something.

(racks brains)

Computer, search all Starfleet dispatches, captain level and above, from the last seven days, for any references to mining or sabotage. Display this station.

COMPUTER

Working.

A moment later, a new HOLO-DISPLAY appears over the table, showing half a dozen official Starfleet reports. Dax SWIPES through them one at a time, eventually finding the one...

DAX

I knew something was itching at me. Here - a report from the *Da Vinci* that they're dealing with a farantine contamination at the dilithium mine on Maxia Zeta Four.

HELKARA

That can happen.

DAX

A fake farantine contamination, though?

KEDAIR

Capella wasn't the only target.

DAX

Yep. A topaline mine gets blown up by cabrodine that isn't cabrodine, and a dilithium mine gets poisoned by farantine that isn't farantine.

HELKARA

Sorry to be the naysayer, but that still doesn't prove anything.

KEDAIR

What about the fact that half of the output from both those mines, the topaline and the dilithium, gets shared with the Klingons?

HELKARA

I'm not saying you're wrong. I'm just saying you need more evidence to prove there's a connection.

KEDAIR

Computer, new search - all police records for the last two years, for any references to farantine.

COMPUTER

Working.

Another moment, and the holo-displays change to a series of police reports. Kedair SWIPES through, finally finding the one she wants with a victorious grin.

KEDAIR

Here we go. A Ferengi woman named Sekki was arrested for attempting to pass off artificial farantine as real. She tried to sell it, plus a special containment unit, to a scientific research group called the Matter of Everything.

DAX

Computer, call up all information from any database about a Ferengi woman named Sekki.

COMPUTER
Working.

Another moment, and the displays change again, revealing a headshot - SEKKI, the same Ferengi woman from 13x04 - and associated information. Dax reads through it, face falling.

DAX
Dax to bridge.

BOWERS (comm)
Bowers here, Captain.

DAX
Is the transfer of equipment to the *Hecate* complete?

BOWERS (comm)
Checking...
(beat)
Chief Lessard confirms transfer was completed five minutes ago.

DAX
Then tell Leishman and Tharp to fire up the slipstream drive. I want our best speed - and I mean best - to the Maxia Zeta system.

BOWERS (comm)
Understood, Captain. Bridge out.

Dax stares at the image of Sekki displayed before her...

27 **EXT. SPACE - MAXIA ZETA ORBIT**

A small Starfleet shuttle, the *Erickson*, sits in orbit over the planet, with chemical rockets attached to every corner.

The *Da Vinci* looms a safe distance away, larger than the shuttle but still pretty small as starships go.

Then the sky RIPS open into a BLUE SWIRL of energy and the *Aventine* shoots out of its slipstream corridor, quickly moving to a relative stop and dwarfing both vessels.

28 INT. AVENTINE - BRIDGE

Dax in her command chair, Gomez on the screen...

DAX

Captain Gomez, good to see you.
Sorry to drop in unannounced.

GOMEZ (screen)

Good to see you too, Captain Dax.
What's up?

DAX

We've just come from investigating
some mining sabotage on Capella
Four, and I think we know how and
why your farantine was placed on
Maxia Zeta as well.

GOMEZ (screen)

If you're referring to the Ferengi
woman Sekki, we're already on it.

Dax blinks in surprise, but then laughs to herself.

DAX

My apologies, Captain. I shouldn't
have underestimated you.

GOMEZ (screen)

In fact I was about to contact the
SCE liaison at the admiralty, let
him know somebody's interfering
with the Federation's primary
source of dilithium right when we
need to rebuild an entire fleet.

DAX

I'm starting to worry this goes
higher than the Tucker Building,
Sonya. Can you come aboard the
Aventine? I think we should talk.

Off Gomez's intrigue and worry...

29 INT. AVENTINE - CONFERENCE ROOM

Dax, Helkara and Kedair are now joined by Gomez and Tev, all looking at the various holo-displays suspended over the conference table, including the image of Sekki.

KEDAIR

If I may ask, how did you work it all out?

GOMEZ

We found the same arrest record you did. It didn't prove she was the culprit, but it seemed likely.

TEV

And even if she was not, the same report mentioned a containment unit, which would be of great use to us in the present situation.

HELKARA

How's your mission going?

GOMEZ

Slowly, I'm afraid. I was hoping if we could find Sekki, we could ask about this containment unit.

DAX

I don't think she'd be disposed to help you, Captain. We have reason to believe she was responsible for the explosion on Capella as well.

KEDAIR

Plus we've had no luck tracking her down anyway. Happy to share my readings from Capella though, if they're of any use to you.

HELKARA

There's a full analysis of how they made the nitrilin look like cabrodine - could come in handy.

TEV

(huff)

This is an SCE operation. Your assistance is not required.

GOMEZ

(glare at him)

But it also couldn't hurt. Thank you, Lieutenants.

Kedair works the display controls to send all their data to the *Da Vinci*, with a sideways glare at Tev - she is getting fed up with people thinking they don't need her help.

DAX

So now all we need to know is...
who is this woman, and why is
she screwing with us?

Dax goes back to glaring at the image of Sekki...

30 INT. JANUS MINING CORP OFFICE

Greenblatt sits behind her desk, working eagerly on her computer. Jir enters carrying a sheaf of papers, just as Greenblatt SHOUTS in victory and THUMPS the table, making Jir JUMP in surprise and throw his papers willy-nilly.

JIR

What the hell, Nicola?

GREENBLATT

I told them! I told that reporter too! Two months, I said, and I was right. I hate to say it but those Starfleet people put together some pretty solid equipment. If these numbers are right, we'll be back on our feet way ahead of schedule.

JIR

That's great news.

GREENBLATT

Damn right it is.

JIR
Anyway, I thought the Starfleet
woman was quite nice, actually.

GREENBLATT
(askance)
She's not an Orion, Jir.

Blushing furiously, Jir moves to pick up his scattered
papers, while Greenblatt chuckles.

31 INT. DA VINCI - CORSI'S QUARTERS

Corsi is making another call to her husband, Stevens.

CORSI
So after thirty-five test runs on
the *Erickson*, we were finally able
to alter the molecular structure
of the farantine sample and turn
it into an inert substance.

STEVENS (screen)
Well, I always say thirty-sixth
time's the charm.

CORSI
Fabe, honestly, I really believe
you do always say that. Couldn't
have done it without those scans
from the *Aventine*, although of
course Tev hogged all the credit.

STEVENS (screen)
Ha! You made a joke. I'm proud of
you, babe.

CORSI
(glare, then...)
Anyway, we just need to modify a
few torpedoes and detonate them
in the upper atmosphere. An hour
later, the farantine should be
inert, and the dilithium mining
can get back on track.

STEVENS (screen)
Sounds great! But you can't talk
about the why of it all?

CORSI
Sorry. I'm a command officer now,
you're only an enlisted crewman.
You're not even on the same ship.

STEVENS (screen)
Keep that up and I'll tell them
how you made Troyius disappear...

They chuckle together...

32 **INT. AVENTINE - READY ROOM**

Dax sits behind her desk, Akaar on the screen before her.

AKAAR (screen)
I must thank you again, Captain.
You and the *Aventine* have done
the Federation a great service.

DAX
We're happy to help, Admiral.

AKAAR (screen)
I will inform the president that
with the topaline and dilithium
mines working again, rebuilding
efforts can recommence. And this
was accomplished without any
Starfleet presence on Capella?

DAX
Yes, sir. You can safely tell
the president that no Starfleet
uniform was ever seen on Capella.

Akaar lets the tiniest sliver of a smile slip through -
they both know how it really went down.

DAX
As to the other matter...?

AKAAR (screen)
I have distributed an order to the security chiefs of all Starfleet vessels and outposts to be on the lookout... but to do so quietly.

DAX
Should I speak to Quark again?

AKAAR (screen)
I do not believe that would be prudent at this time. You are to return to your regular duties... until I call on you again.

That was *when* he calls, not *if*. Dax likes that.

DAX
Understood, sir. If that's all?

AKAAR (screen)
It is, Captain. C-in-C out.

The line drops, returning to the Starfleet seal.

But then Dax taps at the computer again, bringing up the image and criminal record of Sekki. She sits back in her chair and considers the Ferengi woman's face...

33 EXT. SPACE - USS AVENTINE

The *Aventine* zooms away from us at warp...

FADE OUT

END OF SHOW