

STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE

10x10 - "In Two Minds."

Screenplay by Martyn Dunn

Based on characters from the series

Star Trek: Deep Space Nine

and from the post-finale novels
by Pocket Books

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 INT. DS9 - SECURITY CELLS AREA

Close on TARAN'ATAR, as he ROARS into camera. He's in the security cell where we left him, in the throes of madness.

He TURNS, as if hearing something inside his cell. RUSHES the invisible something, SLAMS it against the wall --

-- but there is nothing there. He looks down at his empty hand, confused and frustrated... but then he SPINS again at another non-existent sound, goes through it all again.

He turns, RAMS his hands right into the forcefield, as if trying to twist and break it. Pushes his face right into the forcefield as well, SCREAMS into the sizzling energy.

VANNIS in the centre of the room, arms folded, watching the Jem'Hadar soldier carry on, no idea what to make of it all. Confused, worried, but not about to show it in front of...

RO, who stands nearby, watching them both curiously...

RO

Have you seen anything like this
with other Jem'Hadar?

VANNIS

Superficially, it reminds me of
ketracel white withdrawal. That
can sometimes lead to uncontrolled
violence and hallucinations.

RO

But Taran'atar hasn't used white
for more than two years.

VANNIS

Delayed reaction, perhaps?

RO

Delayed by two years? I doubt it.

TARAN' ATAR

continues to rage in his cell, attacking invisible enemies.

...while L'HAAN sits calmly on the bench, gazing at him.

L'HAAN

You are wasting your energy,
Taran'atar. There is no way for
you to destroy me.

Infuriated, he turns and launches towards her --

-- but she sharply stands, faces him. He JERKS to a halt...

L'HAAN

It's your own fault.

FLASHBACK - 9x23 "THE SOUL KEY"

Taran'atar snaps the real L'Haan's neck...

BACK TO SCENE

Quick as a cat, L'Haan CLAMPS her hands to either side of
Taran'atar's face - forced double mind-meld style...

ANGLE

Ro and Vannis watch him JERK and FLAIL in response...

VANNIS

When did this start?

RO

It only got this bad yesterday.
But I'm starting to think it's
been building for a while. Kira
said he'd been using a Vulcan
meditation program.

VANNIS

A Jem'Hadar? Meditating?

Ro shrugs. But now they look to Taran'atar again --

-- because he's gone quiet. The torture seems to be over...
he slumps, exhausted, then crumples to the ground.

Ro cautiously approaches the cell. Crouches down to his
level, peers through the forcefield at him...

RO
Taran'atar? Are you alright?
(no response)
Taran'atar... Can you hear me?

TARAN'ATAR
I hear you, Lieutenant.

Ro backs away, still unsure. Taran'atar straightens, slow
and smooth, pulling up to his tallest height, eyes closed
as he centres himself. Takes a deep breath, opens his eyes,
looks out at Ro and Vannis, completely in control...

RO
Are you okay now?

TARAN'ATAR
Forgive me. My behaviour must have
been quite disconcerting for you.

RO
You're not going to attack us?

TARAN'ATAR
Of course not, Lieutenant. Why
would I? It would be...
(beat)
...illogical.

On Taran'atar, as he cocks a Vulcan-esque eyebrow...

BLACK OUT:

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

2 EXT. DEEP SPACE NINE - ESTABLISHING

...with Jem'Hadar vessel 288 parked at an upper pylon.

3 INT. DS9 - WARD ROOM

The VIEWSCREEN shows a high-angle cam image of Taran'atar, sitting calmly in his cell, possibly even meditating...

BASHIR (o.s.)

Wait - are you saying you think
Taran'atar's holding a *katra*?

WIDER to reveal a senior staff meeting, with KIRA, VAUGHN, Ro, Vannis, BASHIR, MATTHIAS and CENN present...

CENN

Hold on - what's a *katra*?

MATTHIAS

It's a part of Vulcan psychology and mysticism. When they're near death, they have the ability to pass on an imprint of their psyche as a kind of telepathic record. The more religious among us might describe it as their "soul."

BASHIR

The ideal option is to download the record into what's called a katric ark for posterity. But if that's not possible, they can implant it telepathically into another person instead.

RO

And why would you think that's what's going on here?

VAUGHN

Because of T'Pol.

Vaughn hits some keys, and the viewscreen adds a second image - the personnel record of a Vulcan woman in a movies-era red uniform, caption LT CMDR T'PRYNN, DECEASED 2349.

VAUGHN

A treasured friend and colleague for many years. She introduced me to Ruriko... we named our daughter after her. What's relevant here, however, is that long before I met her, she had been *val'reth*.

Some baffled looks around the table. Bashir explains...

BASHIR

Someone who holds another's *katra* against their will.

VAUGHN

Like most Vulcans, T'Prynn had been betrothed at a young age, to a man named Sten. As an adult, she had no intention of going through with it. Unfortunately, Sten decided to force the issue.

MATTHIAS

He invoked *koon-ut-kal-if-fee*.

VAUGHN

Ritual combat, usually involving a champion to fight to the death on behalf of the woman. T'Prynn, however, fought for herself.

KIRA

Good for her.

VAUGHN

Quite. Sten was not so impressed. But even after she killed him, he wasn't willing to concede defeat. Sten used his last breath to force his *katra* into her mind... and continue the fight from within.

RO

So she just had to live with him
in her head?

VAUGHN

The elders of Seleya were unable
to help. Sten refused to let go.
She repressed him as much as she
could, but in effect she was
suffering constant, telepathic
rape for almost fifty years.

On Kira, appalled...

FLASHBACK - 9x21 "FEARFUL SYMMETRY"

Dukat advances on the memory-wiped Iliana, in her cell on
Letau, he with a sadistic grin, her screaming in terror...

BACK TO SCENE

Kira shudders from the memory. Vannis speaks up, snippy...

VANNIS

Forgive my ignorance, Commander
Vaughn, but what has been the
point of this little story?

VAUGHN

The point is, if the death is both
unexpected and violent, then the
katra - this snapshot of the
psyche - can become "corrupted."
It's capturing an image of the
mind at its most traumatised,
after all.

BASHIR

So if this is what happened to
Taran'atar, then who is he...
"carrying" ?

VAUGHN

L'Haan, of course. The Intendant's
handmaiden.

4 FLASHBACK - 9x23 "THE SOUL KEY"

The Intendant's stateroom. TARAN'ATAR leans against the wall, asleep, L'Haan's hand pressed against his face...

VAUGHN (v.o.)

According to Taran'atar's report,
L'Haan engaged in a mind meld with
him, trying to gain his alliance.

Taran'atar forces himself awake by sheer force of will.
L'Haan JERKS back in surprise, hand pulling away...

BASHIR (v.o.)

And my guess is, when he surprised
her by breaking out of it, she
didn't have time to properly close
down the connection.

He GRABS her, SPINS her, PINS her against his chest, grabs
her chin in a rough grip... and he SNAPS her neck.

MATTHIAS (v.o.)

So when he killed her, her *katra*
automatically flew into him, along
the still-active connection.

5 INT. DS9 - WARD ROOM

Back to the meeting. Vaughn nods sadly...

VAUGHN

It probably wasn't intentional on
her part. He couldn't have known
the consequences of his actions.

KIRA

Doctor, is there any way to test
Vaughn's theory?

BASHIR

A deep brain scan would show up
any changes in his neuro-electric
patterns. But it's not the kind of
scan I can do in a security cell.
He'd need to be in the Infirmary.

6 **FLASHBACK - 10x09 "BLANK SLATE"**

Taran'atar on the Promenade, fighting invisible phantoms,
three security (CENN, BOWERS and SEVAK) firing at him...

CENN (v.o.)

That's where he was heading when
he had his breakdown on the
Promenade.

VAUGHN (v.o.)

Perhaps that's not a coincidence.

BASHIR (v.o.)

You think L'Haan knew we'd find
her out? And deliberately tried to
stop him from going?

VAUGHN (v.o.)

Which would imply she has no more
intention of leaving than Sten did.

Taran'atar finally collapses to the deck... L'Haan stares
down at him in disdain...

7 **INT. DS9 - WARD ROOM**

Back to the meeting...

KIRA

So what do we do? How did T'Pol
get rid of Sten? She did get rid
of him, right?

VAUGHN

Eventually, yes. But you have to
understand, there have only been a
handful of cases like this in all
of recorded history, which for the
Vulcans is a long time. There's
simply nobody left alive who knows
the necessary rituals.

MATTHIAS

There must be something we can do.

VAUGHN

Only one thing I can think of. If we can't force L'Haan to leave, we have to persuade her instead.

BASHIR

Another Vulcan?

CENN

We have Sevak...

VAUGHN

Another Vulcan, yes. Sevak, no. We'd need somebody L'Haan has reason to believe and trust.

RO

Who would that be? She doesn't know anyone here. She's an entire universe away from home.

VAUGHN

True. So there's only one option.

A moment... then Kira gets the answer. Vaughn sees it, and smile with her...

KIRA

L'Haan.

CENN

I don't understand...

VAUGHN

The L'Haan currently inhabiting Taran'atar is an alternate version. The Intendant to our Kira. So we need to find this universe's version of the same person.

KIRA

It could work. Alright, I think we've got a plan...

She turns and gives orders to everyone in turn...

8 INT. DS9 - SECURITY CELLS AREA

TARAN'ATAR stands peacefully in his cell, hands behind his back, face calm and composed. One might say... unemotional. PAN around him, across the forcefield, into the cell...

KIRA (v.o.)
Lieutenant Ro, you work on getting
Taran'atar safely out of the cells
and into the Infirmary.

...until the FRITZ of the forcefield covers the changeover - and now L'HAAN stands calmly in the cell, looking out at RO and SEVAK. Ro taps her combadge, talks into it MOS...

ANGLE

...and Taran'atar disappears in a transporter beam. Ro takes a deep breath, lets some of the tension out...

9 INT. DS9 - INFIRMARY

The transporter delivers TARAN'ATAR onto a bio-bed. Bashir directs RICHTER, TARSES and ETANA to move large scanning machines into place around Taran'atar's head...

BASHIR (v.o.)
Doctor, once he's there, you do
your scans and confirm all this.

Bashir passes across camera, briefly blocking our sight of Taran'atar -- to reveal L'HAAN lying on the bio-bed and watching their every move...

10 INT. DS9 - MATTHIAS'S OFFICE

Matthias sits at her desk, Vaughn opposite, both scanning through file after file on their computers...

KIRA (v.o.)
Counsellor, work with Vaughn to
try and track down anything you
can find on these rituals.

She turns her computer to face Vaughn, showing him the file she found. Vaughn peers at it, but shakes his head...

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

CENN at the central table, working hard. SHAR at sciences,
NOG at engineering, BOWERS at tactical, extras as needed...

KIRA (v.o.)

Major, comb every Federation
record and find L'Haan. Explain
the situation to her and do your
best to convince her to help.

12 **INT. DS9 - WARD ROOM**

KIRA

Alright, everyone. Get to work.

Dismissed, the meeting breaks up. Kira and Vannis are the
last ones left. Kira approaches Vannis tactfully...

KIRA

You were awfully quiet...

VANNIS

Frankly, Captain, this entire
situation strikes me as the kind of
pseudo-scientific nonsense Starfleet
seems to regularly find itself mired
in. And now you're pulling the
Dominion down along with you.

KIRA

This wasn't our fault, Vannis.

VANNIS

Perhaps. But it never happened
before we allied with you.

KIRA

We're trying to help him.

VANNIS

Another peculiarity. In the
Dominion, we would simply kill
him and be done with it.

And with that she exits. Kira is left a bit disquieted...

13 **INT. DS9 - SECURITY OFFICE**

RO enters from the cells, SEVAK following. She nods him out onto the Promenade, follows him, makes sure he's gone...

...goes to her desk, opens a drawer, pulls out a HYPOSPRAY. Pushes it to her neck - it makes no hissing sound. Looks at it, confused. Shakes it. Tries again. Nothing. Empty.

Throws the hypo back, KICKS the drawer closed, stomps to the replicator. She speaks quietly, conspiratorially...

RO

Computer. Hypospray, fifty cc's of triptacederine, to be delivered in doses of ten cc's. Please.

COMPUTER

Unable to comply. Requested material can only be replicated by registered medical staff in station infirmary.

RO

Security override. Authorisation
Ro gamma six two.

COMPUTER

Security override not permitted.
Chief Medical Officer has final
authority on requested material.

RO

Okay... how about morphenolog?

COMPUTER

Unable to comply. Requested
material can only be --

RO

Look, just give me any kind of
painkiller, will you?!

COMPUTER

Unable to comply. Requested --

RO
Oh, forget it!

She THUMPS the replicator's panel in frustration, and slumps against her desk. Not what she needed today...

14 INT. DS9 - MAIN OPS CENTRE

Kira steps off the turbolift into Ops, walks down to the central Ops table. Cenn is a bit worried and nervous...

KIRA
Major. Have you found anything?

CENN
Umm... no, Captain. I've scanned the entire Vulcan database, didn't find anything. So I widened the search to the entire Federation, in case she was born somewhere else, like a colony or something -

KIRA
Major, get to the point.

CENN
Sorry, sir. What I'm saying is... this woman I'm supposed to find, this universe's version of L'Haan... there's no sign of her anywhere. Far as I can tell, she doesn't exist. And she never has.

Off Kira's worried reaction...

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

15 INT. DS9 - MATTHIAS'S OFFICE

Vaughn sits back with a sigh, thoughtful...

VAUGHN

Counsellor, you're part Vulcan. Do you hold to this idea of the *katra* as a person's "soul"?

MATTHIAS

(ponders)

Telepathy is one of those weird phenomena that defies any useful categorisation. You think it's all a matter of synaptic displacement and neuro-chemical differentials, then it confuses you by flouting the normal scientific rules.

VAUGHN

Kind of like the wormhole aliens versus the Bajoran Prophets.

MATTHIAS

I suppose. I can't say if I have a soul or not. So I certainly can't say if I have a *katra*.

VAUGHN

I've worked with Vulcans on and off for most of my professional life. I have enormous respect for their intellect, their loyalty, the strength of their convictions. But I never could get a handle on this contradiction between the logical, empirical side of them, and the mystical, ritual side.

MATTHIAS

I guess they just don't see it as a contradiction.

MATTHIAS (cont)
There's plenty of empirical evidence
that they have telepathic abilities.
It's only logical to incorporate
that into their culture.

Vaughn ponders. Still not entirely convinced...

KIRA (comm)
Kira to Vaughn.

VAUGHN
(taps combadge)
Go ahead.

KIRA (comm)
Come to my office, Commander. We
have a problem.

Off Vaughn's worried reaction...

16 INT. DS9 - KIRA'S OFFICE

Kira and Vaughn stand watching the wall-screen, which shows
a live feed from the Infirmary. Bashir and co continue to
work around Taran'atar's bio-bed, ALECO on guard nearby...

KIRA
How can there not be any L'Haan in
this universe? It doesn't make
sense. There's always a double of
everybody!

VAUGHN
The degree of similarity between
us is already so statistically
unlikely as to be verging on
impossible. It has to break down
somewhere.

KIRA
I guess. And of course it had to
be now. So what do we do?

VAUGHN
Maybe Sevak can help after all.

KIRA

Won't that just leave him with the same problem?

VAUGHN

Vulcans are used to repressing things. But even T'Pol had an almost complete mental breakdown eventually. And believe me, she was no soft target. What chance does a Jem'Hadar have?

KIRA

(re screen)

He seems to have it under control now though...

VAUGHN

(frown, uncertain)

Yes. He does, doesn't he?

Vaughn stares at the screen, at Taran'atar...

17 **INT. DS9 - INFIRMARY**

RO enters from the Promenade, carrying a small metallic CANISTER, trying to subtly keep it hidden behind her hand. She stops, watches Taran'atar on the bio-bed. ETANA notices her, steps through to talk to her. Ro flinches, caught...

ETANA

Laren? You need anything?

RO

Oh... no. Just thought I'd come in and check on him. How's it going in there?

ETANA

Taran'atar's neural patterns show all classic signs of telepathic activity. Vaughn was right.

RO

I almost wish he wasn't. You should get back to work.

Etana knows Ro doesn't want to talk about it. She nods and heads back into the surgical suite.

With everyone's backs turned, Ro moves quietly towards the pharmacy area. Finds a row of metal canisters, quietly removes one towards the back, replaces it with hers, hides the new canister in her grip.

Tries to control her nerves enough to walk out of there without looking suspicious. She glances again towards the surgical suite as she walks...

...their backs are still all turned. They haven't noticed, she got away with it. Gets out of there while she can...

18 INT. DS9 - MAIN OPS CENTRE

Cenn hovers around the science console, working with Shar. They both look up as Kira and Vaughn exit onto Ops...

CENN
Captain! Umm... I'm sorry, I can't explain it...

KIRA
Explain what, Major?

CENN
Lieutenant ch'Thane has managed to find our objective. We have a contact for L'Haan.

VAUGHN
Why didn't you find it before?

CENN
I really don't know, sir. I swear to the Prophets, I went through those databases down to the last quad of information. There was nothing there. But when I asked Shar for help... he found it straight away. It's right here.

Vaughn frowns again - that's curious. Something weird is going on here. But he keeps his own counsel for now...

KIRA
So? Where is she?

SHAR
The Vulcan citizen database lists
L'Haan as a statistical analyst
working for the local government
in Shi'al Province.

KIRA
It doesn't matter who found it.
Good work, both of you. Now get
on the comms and get her here.

CENN
Yes, sir. Should I explain exactly
why we need her?

Kira glances to Vaughn - he subtly shakes his head...

KIRA
Not all of it. Just enough to
convince her, nothing more.

CENN
Understood.

19 INT. DS9 - TARAN'ATAR'S QUARTERS

Vannis paces back and forth, anxiously waiting. After a few
moments, the computer bleeps...

COMPUTER
Connection established.

Vannis is relieved - at last. The screen on Taran'atar's
desk changes to reveal the smiling face of WEYOUN...

WEYOUN (screen)
Vannis - a delight to hear from
you as always. Do you have a
report for the Founder?

VANNIS
A very important one, Weyoun. I
do not appreciate the delay.

WEYOUN (screen)

The Founder's time is his own to do with as he wishes. He has many tasks demanding his attention, as you well know.

VANNIS

Of course I do. But this particular report will be of primary interest to him, I am certain. It involves his... "chosen one."

WEYOUN (screen)

The Founder is not available to speak to you now. You may deliver your report to me, or not at all.

Vannis purses a little. There is definite tension here, as the two Vorta subtly compete over who is the better...

VANNIS

Very well. First Taran'atar has become afflicted with a mental deficiency that prevents him from performing his function here. I seek the Founder's permission to terminate him and take over the mission myself.

WEYOUN (screen)

(chuckle)

Taran'atar is Odo's favourite, Vannis, you are quite right about that. You and I do not have to understand why to accept it. I think you will be disappointed.

VANNIS

That is the Founder's decision to make, not yours, Weyoun.

WEYOUN (screen)

The Founder made his decision when he gave Taran'atar this mission in the first place.

VANNIS

The circumstances have changed.
He deserves to have all available
information in case he wishes to
change his mind, don't you think?

Annoyed pause. Weyoun knows she is right...

WEYOUN (screen)

Submit your report. I will pass it
on to the Founder, and let you
know his decision.

Vannis taps keys on the panel in front of her...

VANNIS

I am sending the details to you
now. Make sure to emphasise to the
Founder the part about how Vulcans
are seemingly capable of affecting
a Jem'Hadar's mind telepathically.

WEYOUN (screen)

(smug smile)

The Founder already knows that,
Vannis. He's known for a while.

What he means is, "I knew, and you didn't. Ha."

VANNIS

Why was I not informed?

WEYOUN (screen)

If the Founder had wished you
informed, you would have been.

VANNIS

As I recall, the Founder was not
the one who passed along my
orders.

Weyoun smiles, nakedly insincere as always. Then he cuts
the connection. Vannis is left to hiss in frustration...

20 **EXT. DEEP SPACE NINE - ESTABLISHING**

A small Vulcan-design transport vessel, a shuttle of the kind seen in TNG 5x08 "Unification pt 2", approaches the station and settles gently onto the docking ring...

KIRA (v.o.)
Station log, stardate 55238,
Captain Kira Nerys recording.

21 **INT. DS9 - SECURITY CELLS AREA**

Taran'atar is back in the cell, behind a forcefield. He is pacing back and forth, irritated, and generally acting more like Taran'atar than he has in a while...

KIRA (v.o.)
Doctor Bashir has confirmed
Vaughn's hypothesis. Counsellor
Matthias has pulled together her
best guess for the Vulcan rituals.
And L'Haan is on her way.

22 **INT. DS9 - PROMENADE**

From this point on, we will refer to the version of L'Haan we have seen so far - the one living in Taran'atar's head - as MU-L'HAAN (as in "Mirror Universe"). The one from this universe will be RU-L'HAAN (as in "Real Universe").

The Promenade airlock rolls open, and a clutch of people step out. Among them is RU-L'HAAN. Identical to her MU counterpart, but this woman is shy, reserved and demure.

She looks around a little nervously. She has never done anything like this before, it's all a bit overwhelming. She goes to one of the information boards, reads it, trying to figure out where she is supposed to go. Over the above...

KIRA (v.o.)
I only hope between them they can
help. If we lose Taran'atar, Bajor
could lose the alliance with the
Dominion. And that's something we
can't afford.

23 INT. DS9 - SECURITY OFFICE

RU-L'Haan enters the security office, ready to meet Ro... but she stops and cocks an eyebrow as she realises Ro isn't there. The room is deserted.

24 INT. DS9 - RO'S QUARTERS

Ro enters her quarters, glancing over her shoulder again to make sure she's not noticed. She quickly rushes to her bed, kneels down and rummages underneath it. She comes back with the metal canister from the Infirmary...

KIRA (v.o.)
I can't help thinking about Iliana
Ghemor. She had someone else's
mind and memories forced upon her
as well - mine.

Shaking slightly with withdrawal, Ro opens the canister lid. Inside are several smaller containers - the type that fit into hyposprays, filled with drugs to be injected. She pulls one of them out, trots to the bathroom...

BATHROOM

...opens the cabinet, grabs the empty hypospray, jams the new drug cartridge into it, and pushes the injector to her neck. She sighs, breathes deeply and gets her nerves under control as she feels the painkiller flowing into her...

KIRA (v.o.)
I think that's part of what drove
her insane.

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

25 INT. DS9 - KIRA'S OFFICE

RU-L'Haan perches on a couch, still a bit nervous and wide-eyed. Kira and Vaughn sit opposite, gentle and soothing...

RU-L'HAAN

To a Vulcan, service is a virtue.
But I am not certain what service
I can offer. I am only a low-level
administrator. I am not Starfleet.
I have no diplomatic expertise.
This is only my third time leaving
my homeworld. How can I help?

VAUGHN

I'm afraid you're the only one who
can help us. Have you ever heard
of Starfleet's encounters with an
alternate universe? One where all
the same people seem to exist, but
have lived very different lives?

RU-L'HAAN

I have heard tales. I imagine much
of Starfleet's work is not for the
average Federation citizen's
consumption. Yet some unconfirmed
rumours inevitably trickle down.

KIRA

And what do you think?

RU-L'HAAN

Some say those from the other universe
are our... what is the human phrase...
"evil twins." I myself do not place
much stock in such moral absolutes. We
are all the sum of our choices, and
those choices are made in response to
our circumstances at the time.

Kira smiles. Relaxes a bit. Gets to the point.

KIRA

There's a Jem'Hadar soldier in one of our security cells... and he's holding a *katra*.

RU-L'HAAN

(blink)

That is... unexpected.

KIRA

(chuckle)

That's putting it mildly. What's even more interesting is that we believe the *katra* he's carrying is yours - or more accurately, the alternate version of you. We need your help to remove it.

RU-L'HAAN

If I understand you correctly, Captain... you wish me to meld with this Jem'Hadar. And persuade this other version of myself to join with me instead of... it.

KIRA

If you're willing.

VAUGHN

(hands her a PADD)

Here's everything we've been able to piece together about possible rituals and techniques.

KIRA

Obviously it's not the kind of thing we can force you to do. But I hope you will help us. You're the only solution we can think of.

RU-L'Haan takes a moment to think it over. It's definitely a tall order. But she makes a decision...

RU-L'HAAN

I am willing to try.

KIRA
Thank you.

RU-L'HAAN
May I see the subject before I begin?

Kira and Vaughn share an uncomfortable glance...

26 INT. DS9 - SECURITY CELLS AREA

Taran'atar is back behind a forcefield, pacing back and forth, a tiger in a cage. Ro stands watching, Sevak still on guard behind her. Kira ENTERS, leading RU-L'Haan --

-- and Taran'atar instantly reacts to the Vulcan woman's presence, launching himself at the forcefield, ROARING in fury. RU-L'Haan flinches back, tries to control her fear...

RO
Taran'atar! Calm down!

TARAN'ATAR
That is her! The Vulcan! Do you
see her?

KIRA
It's okay. We all see her. This
is the L'Haan from this universe.
She's going to help us fix you.

RU-L'Haan tentatively steps towards his cell, fascinated, but staying just far enough away. Taran'atar gazes back, breathing heavy, unsure. His eyes flick to the side...

TARAN'ATAR
She tells me not to trust you.

RU-L'HAAN
My intention is to remove her from
your mind. Assuming she does not
wish to be removed, it is logical
that she would attempt to dissuade
you from allowing me to help.

TARAN'ATAR
She says you will hurt us.

RU-L'Haan turns back to Kira and Ro...

RU-L'HAAN

Curious. Though I would hardly claim to be an expert, I had not expected the *katra* to manifest as an entirely separate persona within the host body. Are you certain of your diagnosis?

KIRA

Doctor Bashir found evidence of telepathic activity, and two distinct neural patterns.

RU-L'HAAN

Very well. I would like now to meditate to prepare myself.

KIRA

Absolutely. Whatever you need. Ro, can you find L'Haan some empty guest quarters to use?

RO

Sure. Come on.

Ro leads L'Haan out of the room. Kira stays behind...

KIRA

Just hold on, Taran'atar. Help's on the way.

Then she turns and leaves too. Sevak remains, at the back.

ANGLE - with a sneering growl, Taran'atar returns to pacing. MU-L'Haan sits on the bench, watching him...

MU-L'HAAN

You must trust me, Taran'atar. It is not safe.

TARAN'ATAR

I trust nothing you say.

Off MU-L'Haan's calm yet calculating expression...

27 INT. DS9 - HABITAT RING CORRIDOR

Ro leads, with RU-L'Haan carrying Vaughn's padd and looking around, still perplexed by the situation she found herself in. They reach a set of quarters, and Ro taps the control to open the door. Inside is an empty set of guest rooms...

RO
It's got all the usual facilities.
A replicator if you're hungry.
Just use the comm system if you
need anything, and let us know
when you're ready to go.

RU-L'HAAN
I will, thank you.

Ro turns to leave, but L'Haan calls after her...

RU-L'HAAN
Lieutenant...
(Ro turns back)
...emotional displays are not my
area of expertise. But from my
brief observations, you appear
quite anxious about the situation
with the Jem'Hadar. More so than
your crewmates. Why is that?

RO
(tense, closed)
He and I... have a history.

RU-L'HAAN
And you dislike seeing your friend
in distress. I understand. If it
eases your mind, I am sure he
appreciates your help.

Ro does not want to talk any more. She gives a terse nod and walks away. Unoffended, L'Haan enters the quarters...

28 INT. DS9 - SECURITY CELLS AREA

Taran'atar stands firm in the cell, hands behind back...

TARAN'ATAR

You have often been assigned as my escort, crewman. Is there a particular reason, I wonder?

SEVAK stares back, alert and at attention, not rattled...

SEVAK

Vulcans have much greater physical strength and endurance than humans or Bajorans.

MU-L'HAAN stares out of the cell from under heavy brows...

MU-L'HAAN

A not especially subtle message from Lieutenant Ro, no doubt.

SEVAK

As you say, Ambassador. I was also one of those chosen to join the retrieval team who attempted to capture you on Harkoum. A position I was given in so small part because of my experience fighting Jem'Hadar during the war.

Taran'atar, looking out at Sevak, eyebrow cocked...

TARAN'ATAR

A message from Commander Vaughn as well, then. Clearly they are taking no chances with my... "security".

SEVAK

You are an honoured diplomat. "Security"... is your due.

Taran'atar grins in sour amusement...

29 INT. DS9 - GUEST QUARTERS

RU-L'Haan kneels before a Vulcan meditation lamp on the empty floor. She stares calmly into the tiny flame at its centre, trying to order her thoughts and prepare...

30 **INT. DS9 - SECURITY CELLS AREA**

Taran'atar watches Sevak from behind the forcefield...

TARAN'ATAR
Tell me, Sevak...

ANGLE - MU-L'Haan continues Taran'atar's question...

MU-L'HAAN
...Do you believe that this woman,
this other L'Haan, can do what
she claims? As a Vulcan, do you
believe she is capable of it?

SEVAK
Starfleet is a very resourceful
organisation. Once they identify
a problem, they inevitably find
a solution.

MU-L'HAAN
She is not Starfleet.

SEVAK
But she is part of their plan. She
shares their values. All Vulcans do.

MU-L'HAAN
Fascinating. My people also share
a vision inspired by Starfleet...

ANGLE - Sevak steps forward, closer to the security cell.
He is having an interesting conversation, and Taran'atar is
behind a forcefield. There couldn't possibly be any risk...

SEVAK
A Jem'Hadar's values are simply to
do what the Founders tell them to.

TARAN'ATAR
Yes, that's true.
(muttered aside)
I'll have to break him of that...

Sevak eyebrows, confused, and steps closer again...

31 **INT. DS9 - INFIRMARY**

Bashir et al are getting ready for the coming operation.
VAUGHN enters, goes straight to Bashir, speaks firmly...

 VAUGHN
Doctor, are you busy?

 BASHIR
Umm... well, I was in the middle
of getting ready for --

 VAUGHN
Your staff can handle that. I need
to speak with you. In private.

Vaughn turns away. Bashir is obviously supposed to follow.

 BASHIR
Etana, carry on the preparations.
I'll be back in a bit.

 ETANA
Yes, Doctor.

A bit baffled, Bashir follows Vaughn onto the Promenade...

32 **INT. DS9 - SECURITY CELLS AREA**

Sevak is close to the forcefield now, standing directly in
front of Taran'atar, intrigued by their conversation...

 TARAN'ATAR
Vulcans are telepaths. Can you not
sense her presence in my mind? Do
you not recognise each other?

 SEVAK
We are not Betazoids. Mental
communion requires physical
contact between us.

 TARAN'ATAR
You would not know for certain
that she was even here, without
touching me directly?

SEVAK
That is correct.

TARAN'ATAR
Then allow me to demonstrate.

Quick as lightning, his arms shoot forward, PASS THROUGH the forcefield. His hands grab for Sevak's neck...

ANGLE

...MU-L'Haan shudders and grits her teeth against the pain of the forcefield. Her hands on Sevak's neck, she quickly and efficiently performs a double Vulcan neck pinch...

ANGLE

Caught off guard, Sevak slumps to the ground. Arms leading the way, Taran'atar GRUNTS and ROARS as he forces his way through the forcefield... it SIZZLES and SPLUTTERS around him as he does... but it's not enough to stop him.

He is outside the cell. He stands and stares down at the unconscious Sevak at his feet. MU-L'Haan steps out from behind him, looks down too...

MU-L'HAAN
We must go. Now.

ANGLE

Alone, Taran'atar leaps agilely into the air, SHROUDing as he goes. In the ceiling of the security area, a vent slams open and closed again. Taran'atar is gone.

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

33 INT. DS9 - MAIN OPS CENTRE

RED ALERT sirens scream, bright lights flash. Kira EXITS her office, rushing directly to BOWERS at tactical...

KIRA
What's going on?

BOWERS
Automated alarm. Tracking now...

VIEWSCREEN - a high-angle view of the empty cell, Sevak unconscious on the floor. Kira's face drops in horror...

34 INT. DS9 - RO'S QUARTERS

RO had been in the midst of lifting another hypospray to her neck. She hears the alert, reacts in surprise...

KIRA (comm)
Kira to Vaughn and Ro. Security breach. Taran'atar's out, and Sevak's down.

VAUGHN (comm)
Acknowledged.

She throws the hypospray aside, runs for the door...

35 INT. DS9 - HABITAT RING CORRIDOR

Taran'atar and MU-L'Haan jog as red alert SIRENS sound...

TARAN'ATAR
How was I able to escape?

MU-L'HAAN
I was able to briefly retune your biorhythms. I would have done it sooner, but your high level of agitation did not help.

TARAN'ATAR
Where are you taking me?

MU-L'HAAN
To remove an obstacle.

They continue along the corridor...

36 INT. DS9 - HABITAT RING CORRIDOR

Vaughn stands by a WEAPONS LOCKER, handing out phasers to Cenn, Aleco and half a dozen security EXTRAS. Meanwhile...

VAUGHN
Captain - get Shar and Nog on the sensors. Remember when we tracked Kitana'klan using the emissions from his personal shroud?

37 INT. DS9 - MAIN OPS CENTRE

Kira nods to Nog and Shar, sat at their usual stations...

KIRA
We're on it.

Shar works his panel hard, concentration clear as a bell...

SHAR
There's no trace, Commander.

NOG
He was there last time, that's why he won't do the same thing twice. He'll keep it simple, no shroud.

SHAR
Tracking Jem'Hadar life signs... Habitat ring, section twelve A.

BOWERS
Guest quarters.

KIRA
(realising)
He's going after L'Haan.

38 INT. DS9 - HABITAT RING CORRIDOR

Vaughn closes up the weapons locker - they're ready.

 VAUGHN
Understood, Captain. We're moving
out. Vaughn to Ro...

39 INT. DS9 - HABITAT RING CORRIDOR

Ro replies as she strides quickly down the corridor...

 RO
I know, Commander. I'm on my way
there now.

 VAUGHN (comm)
Negative. Stand down.

Sneering, Ro taps her combadge to close the channel...

 RO
Screw that.

And she forges on, determined...

40 INT. DS9 - HABITAT RING CORRIDOR

Taran'atar and MU-L'Haan stride urgently side by side...

 MU-L'HAAN
My earlier offer remains open,
Taran'atar. Return with me to my
universe and join the fight.

 TARAN'ATAR
What fight?

 MU-L'HAAN
All the Vulcans of my universe are
slaves, like you. We fight the
domination of the Alliance.

 TARAN'ATAR
More lies. You placed yourselves
into slavery voluntarily.

MU-L'HAAN

To serve as spies within the belly
of the beast, yes. We work for
freedom nevertheless.

TARAN'ATAR

Then why would I join you? I am
not meant to be free!

MU-L'HAAN

Very well - if you want orders, we
will give you orders. But you have
no place here. Come with me!

Taran'atar considers that... then suddenly, he bumps off a
FORCEFIELD. They turn the other way - another forcefield
pops up at the other end of the corridor. Trapped.

41 INT. DS9 - TARAN'ATAR'S QUARTERS

The red alert SIREN continues to sound in the background.
Vannis is speaking on the comm with Weyoun again...

VANNIS

Taran'atar is out of control! He
is running amok as we speak.

WEYOUN (screen)

The Founder trusts Starfleet to
handle the problem.

VANNIS

And what of the Vulcans? One of
them is here right now to force
herself into his mind. It is
unacceptable!

WEYOUN

(insistent)

The Founder trusts Starfleet. He
insists they would never abuse
the power. You will do nothing,
Vannis. That is the Founder's
order. Will you question it?

Infuriated, Vannis STABS the controls to cut the signal.

42 INT. DS9 - HABITAT RING CORRIDOR

A raised PHASER leads the way around a corner... preceding Vaughn. He takes up defensive position, peers down the corridor... forcefields at either end, but no Taran'atar.

VAUGHN

We're here. But he's not. Shar,
you're sure this is right?

SHAR (comm)

That's his last location. But the
signal has disappeared.

He taps his combadge to close, turns to Cenn and Aleco...

VAUGHN

He's there, but he shrouded again.
You two, aim your phasers. When I
drop the forcefield, cover the
whole corridor in continuous fire.
Even cloaked, he can't avoid that.

Cenn and Aleco nod nervously, creep forward to the force field, aim their phasers... Vaughn presses a control...

The forcefield drops. Cenn and Aleco sweep continuous PHASER FIRE back and forth across the entire length and breadth of the corridor. They fire for 10 seconds or more.

VAUGHN

Cease fire.

They do. There is still no sign of Taran'atar. No sound, no body. Vaughn approaches warily, phaser held out...

CENN

Shouldn't being hit with a phaser
force him to drop the shroud?

VAUGHN

Ordinarily, yes...

The three of them move slowly and stealthily further into the corridor, keeping a sharp eye out for anything...

ALECO
You know this is a trap, right?

VAUGHN
I know...

Slowly PAN UP, until we are looking at the ceiling...

...and a half-visible SHAPE on the corridor ceiling, hands and feet pressed against the walls. It SWINGS down, a fast complex gymnastic manoeuvre that catches Vaughn, Cenn and Aleco unawares with swift, spinning karate kicks.

Cenn is slammed sideways against the bulkhead, SCREAMS, the bones of his arm shattered. Vaughn OOFs to the ground.

Aleco is the least affected - he rolls to a kneel, FIRES his phaser again at the quickly retreating shrouded figure. But he only hits bulkhead. Taran'atar is gone...

43 INT. DS9 - HABITAT RING CORRIDOR

Ro PUNCHES the door chime, HAMMERS on the door. Red Alert lights flash around her. Finally the door opens...

RU-L'HAAN
Lieutenant? What is wrong?

RO
You're in danger.

RU-L'HAAN
Surely not. Who would --

Ro is barrelled down by an invisible force, knocked off her feet with an OOF. RU-L'Haan staggers back in fear.....

...as Taran'atar UNSHROUDS in the doorway. He HISSES at Ro on the floor, turns to RU-L'Haan, starts to advance... but then STOPS, as if reasserting control over his own body...

TARAN'ATAR
No! I will not do this!

MU-L'Haan steps out from behind him...

MU-L'HAAN
Kill her and let's get out of here!

TARAN'ATAR
I have sworn not to hurt these
people, and I will not!

MU-L'HAAN
I can take control and force you.

TARAN'ATAR
No!

Taran'atar looks down at Ro, who is still on the floor...

RO'S POV - watching Taran'atar argue with thin air...

TARAN'ATAR
If I promise to go with you...
freely, of my own will... will you
spare them?

Ro is surprised, and a little touched... RU-L'Haan cowers
in her quarters... MU-L'Haan steps up to Taran'atar...

MU-L'HAAN
Very well. Diplomacy at work.

Taran'atar looks back to Ro, almost apologetic...

TARAN'ATAR
Goodbye, Lieutenant. Be safe.

And he runs off again, SHROUDing as he goes. Ro turns to
watch him go, ambivalent how she feels about this...

44 INT. DS9 - CARGO BAY

The large double doors open just a crack... then two green
and scaly hands reach in and begin HEAVING the door open
with a SQUEAL of resisting servos.

Finally the doors are open enough, and Taran'atar slips
through. He runs to the far wall, where there is a large
cargo transporter, and immediately works the panels...

45 INT. DS9 - MAIN OPS CENTRE

Nog is working hard on his own panels. Kira hovers near...

 NOG
 He's in a cargo bay on level ten.
 He's accessed the transporter...

Kira trusts him to handle it...

46 INT. DS9 - CARGO BAY

Taran'atar is at the panel, working hard...

 MU-L'HAAN
 Do you recall the sequence for
 multi-dimensional transport?

 TARAN'ATAR
 Of course. I remember everything.
 But they are trying to block me.

He keeps working the panels...

47 INT. DS9 - MAIN OPS CENTRE

Nog's fingers are flying over the keys as he tries to keep up with Taran'atar...

 NOG
 Dammit. He knows the computer
 systems as well as I do...

48 INT. DS9 - CARGO BAY

Taran'atar is getting frustrated... but he finally hits one last key with a victorious growl.

 TARAN'ATAR
 They have failed. We are free to go.

He steps up to the large transporter pad. The colourful and complex dimensional transport signal forms, twisting and turning Taran'atar inside and out...

...until he disappears.

49 INT. DS9 - MAIN OPS CENTRE

The transporter stage in Ops hums to life... the twisting signal forms...

...and Taran'atar rematerialises on the platform. Realising where he is, he ROARS in fury.

Bowers and the security extras are all there to point their phasers directly at Taran'atar. From outside her office, Kira looks across Ops, sad for him.

Nog stands up from his station, smiles smugly at him...

NOG

Maybe I couldn't stop you from activating the multi-dimensional transporter. But it was as easy as chewing a gree worm to activate the multi-dimensional shield I designed. Your signal bounced off it... and came right back here.

Furious, Taran'atar moves forwards, on the attack... but bounces off another FORCEFIELD around the transporter.

NOG

And you won't get through that forcefield either. It's on a randomly shifting frequency.

KIRA

Shar...

Shar hits keys on his panel... and a GAS begins to seep out from the air vents over the transporter platform. Contained inside the forcefield, the gas gets thicker and thicker...

Taran'atar fights against it, refusing to choke or succumb, but it is getting stronger, and he is getting weaker...

Finally he SLUMPS to the deck, unconscious. Bowers hits the keys on his tactical panels, and the Red Alert is silenced.

It's now eerily quiet, as they catch their breath. They all stare down at the unconscious Jem'Hadar...

50 **INT. DS9 - INFIRMARY**

Taran'atar JERKS back to consciousness... and finds himself strapped to a hi-tech chair in the surgical suite.

His entire body is held by countless low-tech but powerful fabric straps, covering his arms, legs, chest, everywhere. He struggles against them, but they don't budge. The chair itself is bolted to the deck in several places too.

Kira, Ro, Vannis, RU-L'Haan, Vaughn, Matthias and Bashir stand around him, watching...

KIRA
Welcome back.
 (to RU-L'Haan)
Are you ready?

RU-L'HAAN
I believe so, Captain.

Tentatively, still somewhat scared of him, the Vulcan woman steps towards Taran'atar. He ROARS in frustration, strains against the straps covering his body... but it's no use.

RU-L'Haan lifts her hand, arranges the fingers into the proper position, presses them against Taran'atar's face, gently at first, getting firmer...

RU-L'HAAN
My mind to your mind...

He struggles against it... but she's in.

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

51 EXT. FOUNDERS' WORLD

Looking out from inside the Great Link, through the golden flowing liquid to the air beyond it... and a FIGURE stands there on the shore, its hand outstretched...

Taran'atar struggles forward from the gooey mass, desperate to escape... he breaches the surface, GASPS for air...

...it's MU-L'HAAN, holding out her hand. He GRASPS it, the changeling sea relents, and he HEAVES himself free at last. She helps him the last of the way... and Taran'atar stands.

TARAN'ATAR

You saved me.

MU-L'HAAN

Remember that.

RU-L'HAAN (o.s.)

No. Ignore her.

They turn, and see that RU-L'HAAN is also on the island...

52 INT. DS9 - INFIRMARY

Taran'atar is strapped to his chair. RU-L'Haan crouches in front of him, fingers on his craggy face. Their eyes are open, staring unblinkingly into each other's as the meld continues. Everyone else is silent and on edge...

KIRA

Any way to know how it's going?

BASHIR

(off readings)

Something's definitely happening
in there... but I couldn't tell
you what.

Vannis watches the proceedings, tense and unhappy...

INSERT - HER HAND

Held in her hand, half hidden up her sleeve, Vannis grips a sharp and deadly looking KNIFE...

BACK TO SCENE

She sneers, trying to decide if she should intervene...

53 EXT. FOUNDERS' WORLD - DAY

The two L'Haans face off across the small rocky islet, both cold and logical, Taran'atar caught between them...

RU-L'HAAN

Ah. The world of the Founders.
Understandable, if predictable.

MU-L'HAAN

He is a Jem'Hadar. One expects
little in the way of imagination.

RU-L'Haan looks curiously at her counterpart - this is a mental contact, so she knows the other's mind...

RU-L'HAAN

Strange. You have lived a very
different life to mine. Quiet
service to a despotic tyrant...

MU-L'HAAN

You are the more strange to me...
there are barriers. Why do you
keep yourself hidden from me?

RU-L'HAAN

Perhaps you are not as skilled a
telepath as you would claim.

MU-L'HAAN

Or perhaps I am not the only one
who lives a life of secrets.

RU-L'HAAN

My life is not the issue here.
Neither is yours. It is his.

...to Taran'atar, who stands watching their exchange, a little bewildered,, uncertain and unable to interfere...

MU-L'HAAN

My people need his strength and power. The good of the many outweighs the good of the one.

RU-L'HAAN

An aphorism I would agree with, but one which you misuse out of self-service. You simply do not wish your existence to end.

MU-L'HAAN

Can you name one who does?

RU-L'HAAN

Come with me, L'Haan. Let me take you home, to a Vulcan where your people are already free.

MU-L'HAAN

Perhaps I should take control of your body instead. I could return to my role as a spy in the Alliance, with no-one the wiser.

RU-L'HAAN

To cling so desperately to life when it is so clearly over is illogical. Even your people must know the ways of Surak.

MU-L'HAAN

We do. They teach us that what is necessary is logical. For example, I found it logical to use our dialogue to provide the time and distraction required to identify the weaknesses in your psychic barriers. And now I know for certain that I will never join with one such as you.

MU-L'Haan suddenly PUSHES forward, GRABS RU-L'Haan's face in a double mind-meld hold, like she did Taran'atar...

54 INT. DS9 - INFIRMARY

RU-L'Haan JERKS, reacting instinctively to the psychic attack. Vibrating, trembling with the effort, breathing troubled and irregular. Kira looks to Bashir, worried...

BASHIR

His readings are going haywire.
This can't be healthy for him.

KIRA

Should we try and break them up?

MATTHIAS

I very strongly advise against
that, Captain. Interrupting a mind
meld can cause serious damage to
both participants.

BASHIR

It's also what got us into this
mess in the first place.

KIRA

So that's a no, then.

Vannis is more tense than ever now, as they watch RU-L'Haan and Taran'atar tremble and jerk and struggle. She glances to each side, trying to see if anyone is watching her...

INSERT - HER HAND

She starts to draw the knife out from inside her sleeve and take a stronger grip on it, getting ready to use it...

BACK TO SCENE

Kira steps forward a bit to speak. Vannis flinches, worried she is about to be caught. But Kira talks to Matthias...

KIRA

If I talk to him, can he hear me?

MATTHIAS

Subconsciously, yes. He won't be
able to respond, though.

Vannis curses herself and returns the knife to concealment. She watches nervously as Kira approaches, crouches down...

KIRA

Taran'atar, it's Kira. You have to fight. It's your mind, your body. Don't let her control you. Go into battle, and reclaim your life.

Kira looks up to Ro...

55 EXT. FOUNDERS' WORLD

On Taran'atar, as he stands half-collapsed against a rock wall, watching the two L'Haans locked in some weird mind-meld wrestling match, struggling for control of him...

Marshalling his will, he forces himself to stand upright...

56 INT. DS9 - INFIRMARY

Taking Kira's cue, Ro crouches by his other side as he shudders and stares unblinkingly into RU-L'Haan's eyes...

RO

It's Ro. I'm here. You can beat this, Taran'atar. You're stronger than this!

Taran'atar and L'Haan don't react, still locked in...

57 EXT. FOUNDERS' WORLD

The two L'Haans don't even notice Taran'atar standing, and approaching them with a furious growl...

TARAN'ATAR

Get out of my head!

He grabs their heads, ROARS as his hands FORCE the two heads towards each other... they are caught by surprise, eyes flaring in shock... but he is too strong for them...

...he CRUSHES their heads into one another. The two L'Haans cross over like two SCREAMING photographs super-imposed...

...until finally they fade from view, screams echoing over the rocks, and Taran'atar is left alone.

He brings himself under control, straightens with pride and satisfaction...

58 INT. DS9 - INFIRMARY

...RU-L'Haan GASPS and comes back to herself. She slowly releases her hand from its grip, breaking eye contact. She staggers back, almost toppling until Ro catches her...

KIRA
What happened?

RU-L'HAAN
It is over. He broke the meld
himself. He has a remarkable will.

Taran'atar slumps in his straps, unconscious. Bashir moves in to begin scanning the Jem'Hadar's brain again...

KIRA
What about L'Haan? The other
L'Haan, I mean.

RU-L'HAAN
She is within me. I feel her,
beating against my mind...

Vannis relaxes, lets out a long breath of relief. Closes her eyes, clenches her jaw, silently berating herself...

KIRA
Doctor...?

BASHIR
Too soon to tell. I'll need to do
the full scan again to be sure.

VAUGHN
I'll stay with him.

Kira nods her assent. She gently moves to lead RU-L'Haan and Ro out of the surgical suite...

MAIN INFIRMARY

Sevak and Cenn both sit on bio-beds, a greenish bruise and a broken arm in a futuristic sling apiece, with Tarses and Richter attending. Kira and Ro enter, leading RU-L'Haan...

KIRA

You two okay?

SEVAK

I wish to apologise, Captain. I am responsible for Taran'atar's escape, and for Major Cenn's injury.

KIRA

Could have happened to any of us, crewman. Don't beat yourself up.

CENN

(re broken arm)

I guess you and I finally have something in common, eh, Lieutenant?

RO

If you think a broken arm's even remotely comparable to what he did to me, Major, then we really don't have a thing in common.

Cenn gulps at the icy brush off. And then Ro, Kira and L'Haan are gone.

SURGICAL SUITE

Bashir and Etana move the heavy brain-scanning equipment into place around Taran'atar again. Vaughn stands to one side, observing. Vannis is on the other side, likewise...

59 INT. DS9 - DOCKING RING CORRIDOR

Kira and Ro escort RU-L'Haan back to the docking port...

KIRA

What will you do now?

RU-L'HAAN

Return to Vulcan, and seek the assistance of the Elders of Gol to remove the *katra* from my mind.

KIRA

Will you be able to control her?

RU-L'HAAN

It will take heavy meditation and emotional control, but I will do so. Nevertheless, it would be best to be home as soon as possible.

KIRA

We understand. Thank you again for everything you've done. If you need anything from us, don't hesitate to ask.

RU-L'HAAN

I have everything I need, thank you. Live long and prosper, Captain. Lieutenant.

With a nod to both, RU-L'Haan steps into the airlock and heads back to her shuttle. Kira turns to Ro...

KIRA

You alright, Lieutenant?

RO

Great. Excuse me, Captain.

Ro turns and walks away. Kira watches her go...

60 INT. DS9 - TARAN'ATAR'S QUARTERS

Vannis stands alone, battling silently with herself, raging over nearly disobeying the Founders, relieved she didn't have to, indignant she was ever placed in the position... she is a whirlwind of confused and conflicting emotions.

She SLAMS her hand down on Taran'atar's computer console in frustration. This mission is not going how she planned...

61 INT. DS9 - RO'S QUARTERS

Ro enters the bathroom, goes to the mirror cabinet, grabs the hypospray... She stops, stares at her reflection...

FLASHBACK

Earlier - Ro is barrelled down by an invisible force. Then Taran'atar unshrouds and hisses down at her on the floor...

BACK TO SCENE

She pants and grits her teeth against the memory...

FLASHBACK

Ro crouches with Taran'atar, deep in the mind meld...

RO
You can beat this, Taran'atar.
You're stronger than this!

BACK TO SCENE

Ro looks at herself, looks at the hypospray... then subtly shakes her head. No. She's not stronger than this.

She pushes the hypospray to her neck, injects the drugs. Breathes in relief as they flood into her bloodstream...

62 INT. DS9 - KIRA'S OFFICE

The main door opens, and Bashir pokes his head in...

BASHIR
Captain? You wanted to see me?

Kira and Vaughn are both there. By the looks on their faces, something is obviously wrong. There's bad news...

KIRA
Yes, thank you, Doctor. Take a seat.

He does...

BASHIR

I've finished the scans. The double brain wave patterns are gone. What's left matches with the readings I took last year. There's just him in there now.

KIRA

That's good to know, but that's not the reason I asked you here.

Bashir is slightly confused and starting to worry...

BASHIR

What's going on, Captain?

KIRA

Julian... I thought you should know... we received a report from Admiral Ross. He said... there's been an accident on the USS *Luna*.

Bashir tries not to jump to any conclusions. It might be nothing. Kira continues...

KIRA

We don't have all the details yet. What we do know is, there was some kind of overload in the engine room. There were... casualties.

BASHIR

Dax...

On Bashir's quietly stunned face, as he wonders whether to believe the worst...

BLACK OUT:

END OF SHOW