

STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE

12x05 - "Trial and Error."

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 17x05 - "Q & A"

Enterprise is nearing the unexplored world of Gorsach 9. Though the crew can find nothing unusual, Picard feels something... *odd* about it. Away teams discover perfectly symmetrical foliage and geography - impossible in nature. Simultaneously as Picard enters a certain cave, *Enterprise* receives reports of a large number of spatial fissures opening all over known space, including here at Gorsach. Through them Picard and Worf observe endless numbers of alternate universes - just like Worf experienced in [TNG 7x11 "Parallels"](#). Suddenly Q appears and explains that Gorsach is an artificial world, a test set by 'Them', super-omnipotent entities who are to Q as Q are to humans. The crew - including counsellor T'Lana and new security chief Zelik Leybenzon - debate whether Q is telling the truth about any of this. Flashbacks reveal how every meeting Q has ever had with Picard was to prepare him for this moment, because if Picard fails the test, 'They' will destroy the universe.

TTN 1x05 - "THE RED KING"

Over a game of chess, Frane pokes holes in Riker's claim of Federation multicultural equality. All the highest ranked on board - Riker, Troi, Vale, Akaar, even President Bacco - are either human or human-like, which gives Riker pause for thought. Still comatose after the battle over Romulus, Keru dreams of his dead boyfriend [Sean Hawk](#) (TNG "First Contact"). Hawk tells him to stop wallowing and wake the hell up. Tuvok tries to put aside his bad blood with Akaar, but Akaar will not forgive. *Titan* and *Valdore* find the missing Romulan fleet, and beam aboard. They figure out that the extra-dimensional intelligence - the Sleeper - took control of the ships and made them attack Frane's vessel. Purging the computers inadvertently pushes the entity back out into space, causing the dissolution around them to increase. The anomalies are now heading straight for the Neyel's homeworld, and they will destroy the planet in about a week.

VOY 10x05 - "ILLUMINATING"

Admiral Kathryn Janeway appears as a guest on the political talk show *Illuminating the City of Light*, which discusses events in Federation government. Fellow guests include Vulcan lawyer Sorlak, Antedean councillor Quintor and Trill reporter Ozla Graniv. Topics include the first months of President Bacco's administration and Ambassador Spock's recent meeting with her regarding the Romulans, an upcoming summit with Chancellor Martok and Praetor Tal'Aura, the recent Borg incident (TNG 17x03 "Resistance"), Graniv's reports about post-invasion Tezwa, the Doctor's appearance before the Federation Legal Council in favour of [B-4](#)'s rights as a sentient being, and an incident where Reman refugees made a desperate run at Outpost 22 along the Neutral Zone, only to be destroyed. They also discuss the suggestion of sending *Voyager* back to the Delta Quadrant - over Janeway's dead body. But when they raise rumours about her relationship with Captain Chakotay, she refuses to answer.

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 INT. ANDORIAN SCIENCE INSTITUTE - LABORATORY

Lieutenant SHAR urgently pushes his friend and mentor, Professor SH'VEILETH, down to the floor behind a worktop, as the room around them SHAKES to the sound of PHASER FIRE.

SHAR

Get down!

sh'Veileth, an older [Andorian](#) shen and life-long academic, is unaccustomed to this kind of trouble, and she is clearly terrified. Shar keeps her protected with his own body, his antennae tensely reaching for more information.

Shar looks around the laboratory - it is filled with hi-tech equipment and computer banks, and more ANDORIAN scientists cower behind many of these devices, while SHOUTS and more phaser fire can be heard from outside the room.

SH'VEILETH

Shar, what is it? What's going on?

SHAR

I believe it's the protestors again.

SH'VEILETH

They've never come this close to the laboratory before.

SHAR

No - which leads me to wonder why the change.

Since there seems to be no immediate danger within the lab at the moment, Shar shoots to his feet and DASHES for the door, sh'Veileth calling after him anxiously...

SH'VEILETH

Shar, don't!

Shar reaches the closed door and pins himself to the wall beside it - the door has glass panels that allow him to see out into the other rooms beyond.

He carefully peers around the corner...

2 SHAR' S POV

A uniformed member of the ANDORIAN GUARD has his back to the door, blocking anyone from reaching it. He holds a PHASER RIFLE and is busy firing it - at whom, we can't see.

Angry shouts, YELPS as people are hit by weapons, WHIMPERS as civilians cower behind desks and cabinets in the other lounge areas of the laboratory complex - all this can be just seen and heard past the battling Guardsman.

Suddenly the Guardsman is SHOT and crumples to the ground with a SHOUT of pain.

3 BACK TO SCENE

Shar jerks away from the window, flattening back against the wall, seething at this sight. He quickly reaches for the LOCKS positioned at the top, middle and bottom of the door, and turns them one by one to be sure they are locked.

Then he presses a CONTROL by the side of the door, and the glass in the door shimmers, turning TRANSLUCENT and blocking the view of the room outside. It does nothing to block the sounds, however.

The other scientists poke their heads out of cover, looking to him for explanations. He speaks low, loud enough for his colleagues to hear but not so loud as to draw attention.

SHAR

The laboratory is under attack. I couldn't see who, but I think we can assume. The Institute guards are fighting them off, but at least one of them is down. I'm going to go out there and help.

SH'VEILETH

What?! Shar, no -

SHAR

I'm Starfleet, Professor. I've trained for situations much like this. Although I haven't had to use that training in some time.

(formulating
as he goes)

I will need someone to unlock the door for me, and lock it again the moment I am through. Then retake your cover and stay out of sight. Do not move, do not open the door again, not even for me, until you hear the all clear signal.

An older THAAN slowly stands on wobbly legs, offering to help. Shar nods his thanks. The *thaan* approaches the door, and stands against it while Shar demonstrates the three locks. The *thaan* nods his understanding.

The moment has come. While the *thaan* slowly turns the three locks in turn, Shar CROUCHES low at the door's opening seam. Adrenaline has brought clarity - his breathing is slow and regular, his eyes, ears and antennae wide open.

At Shar's nod, the *thaan* quickly jerks the door open. Shar does a quick FORWARD ROLL through the door...

4 INT. ANDORIAN SCIENCE INSTITUTE - LOUNGE AREA

Shar ROLLS out of the doorway, the door SLAMS behind him, and we hear the three locks slotting into place. PHASER FIRE flies over his head, hitting the translucent glass of the door which diffracts the weapon harmlessly.

Shar's motion is perfectly angled to roll past the fallen Guardsman, grab his dropped weapon, and keep on rolling to the next place of cover. As he comes back to a crouching position, he instantly raises the weapon and aims...

...But he cannot immediately identify any assailant. As his antennae search the room, a VOICE calls out...

VOICE (o.s.)

Nice move.

SHAR
(keeps cover,
calls back)
Your admiration is irrelevant in
the circumstance. Surrender now,
while you can.

VOICE (o.s.)
So soon? But I haven't completed
my mission yet.

SHAR
What mission is that? To terrify
and murder innocent people?

VOICE (o.s.)
I am no murderer.

SHAR
The Guardsman excepted.

VOICE (o.s.)
Self-defence. He was trying to
stop me completing my mission.

SHAR
I doubt the Judiciary would see it
that way.

VOICE (o.s.)
The Judiciary and I disagree on a
lot of things.

SHAR
What is your mission? Perhaps we
can find a way out of this that
doesn't require any more deaths -
yours, mine or theirs.

He looks around him, seeing more civilians - secretaries,
academics, ordinary Joe Andorians - cowering beneath desks
and gritting their teeth with anger. Some are terrified,
others would happily fight back if they had a weapon.

As the Voice talks, Shar doesn't really pay attention...

VOICE (o.s.)

My compatriots and I believe in
the true plan of Uzaveh the
Infinite. The experiments you and
your people are doing in this
place are an affront to Uzaveh.

Meanwhile Shar has shuffled sideways behind his cover
towards a desk. He casually tosses out, not caring...

SHAR

Really? How so?

VOICE (o.s.)

You pollute our genome with alien
DNA. You tamper with his creation.

Under this, Shar has got the attention of the young ZHEN
hiding under the desk. He gestures towards a device that
sits on the desk - a sort of intercom machine.

SHAR

That seems like a rather harsh
characterisation of our work.

The young *zhen* tentatively reaches up, grabs the device,
pulls it down and passes it to Shar, all without being seen
by the shooter. He immediately starts dismantling it.

VOICE (o.s.)

Uzaveh made us unique. No other
race like us exists in this
galaxy. You would pervert that,
make us just like all the rest.

SHAR

I would save us all.

With that, Shar works a certain control inside the intercom
device, and the room is suddenly filled with a SCREECHING,
THROBBING noise, enough to deafen everyone in the room.

The *zhen* under the desk cringes in horror at the sound, her
hands over her ears, her antennae shuddering and drooping
and spasming wildly.

Shar shoots to his feet, brandishing his weapon, and emerges from cover. All around the room, other Andorians are wincing and cringing. Shar is affected too, but his training allows him to withstand it - mostly.

5 **INT. LABORATORY**

Professor sh'Veileth, the older *thaan* and all the other scientists cringe and shudder against the noise as well. One YELPS in fear as a glass container SHATTERS in sympathy at the sound. Someone else VOMITS on the laboratory floor.

6 **INT. LOUNGE AREA**

Shar pushes on, staggering to the other side of the room, and looks behind another hiding place. He sees a hooded GUNMAN writhing on the ground, as affected as the rest.

The gunman looks up and sees Shar there. Trying to fight the cringing, ear-melting noise, he raises his weapon...

...and Shar SHOOTs him in the kneecaps, both legs. The gunman SCREAMS and drops the weapon, incapacitated. Shar quickly KICKS the weapon away.

SHAR
(shouts over noise)
Switch it off!

The young *zhen* reaches out from under her desk and yanks all the cables out of the intercom device. The horrible sound stops, and Shar breathes in relief. Around him, the civilians slowly realise it is over...

Still keeping his own weapon trained, Shar reaches down slowly and yanks off the gunman's hood, revealing another Andorian CHAN, hissing and seething in pain at the wounds Shar gave him. Shar looks down at him, quite calm...

FADE OUT

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN

7 EXT. SPACE

A blue-green GAS GIANT planet, with beautiful glittering silver rings. We move around it, following the curve of the planet, until the journey reveals...

A smaller terrestrial planet in orbit of the gas giant. This is ANDOR, the Andorian homeworld, with a watery equatorial region and substantial ice caps. We continue to move around this, until we see...

STARBASE 7, one of the large mushroom-shaped Starfleet orbital [spacedocks](#) as seen in the TOS movies, in orbit of Andor. Shuttles and transports and other small ships move back and forth between it and the planet. We continue to spiral around the station until we see...

The USS *James T Kirk* gliding towards the spacedock, whose doors open to allow the [Akira-class](#) ship into its core.

We join the *Kirk* and travel along with it, allowing us to identify it by the name stencilled on its hull. Together we pass through the doors, and into...

8 INT. STARBASE 7 - HANGAR (CONTINUOUS)

The giant hangar inside the starbase. A half dozen other starships can be seen docked, with one or two under repair as work bees buzz around them. One is identifiable as a [Saber-class](#), the USS *Cutlass*.

The *Kirk* moves slowly into a free dock position, thrusters firing to bring it to a halt. Docking connections extrude from the body of the starbase and connect to the *Kirk*.

9 INT. STARBASE 7 - COMMANDER'S OFFICE

A large picture window in this room opens out onto the internal hangar. Starfleet rear-admiral ZENKAR stands with his back to this view - a [SAURIAN](#) male, with that race's characteristic pointed face, green-brown reptilian skin and large orange goggly eyes.

Zenkar reaches out to shake hands with Captain VAUGHN, who has just entered the room from the opposite side, which features a door into the command centre.

ZENKAR

Captain Vaughn, welcome to Starbase Seven. I believe you already know *zha* Charivretha...

He indicates VRETHA, a mature and regal Andorian *zhen* (last seen [DS9 9x09 "Paradigm"](#)) who stands nearby. She is the former Andorian councillor to the Federation, a career diplomat by bearing if no longer by position.

VAUGHN

A pleasure, Admiral. And yes of course, Vretha. I was happy to hear from you. It's been too long.

Vretha bows slightly, inclining her antennae, with a smile. Zenkar then indicates another also present - a stern *thaan* in a starched Andorian Guard uniform, THIRIN.

ZENKAR

May I also present Ilthirina th'Deminesh, supreme commodore of the Andorian Guard.

Thirin likewise bows to Vaughn. All four take their seats.

VRETHA

I would like to begin by assuring you - Admiral, Commodore - that I intended no insult to either of you by asking Captain Vaughn here.

THIRIN

(small smile)

I am trying my best not to take it as such, *zha*.

VRETHA

It is simply that the captain has almost a century of experience in tactical matters.

VAUGHN

(warm)

And is a close personal friend of long standing.

THIRIN

My officers have been trying to rout these terrorists for years - with frustratingly little success.

ZENKAR

I'd like to ask you and yours to work with Commodore th'Deminesh, Captain. As the native security force, they have jurisdiction. But it's possible that an outside eye might help.

VAUGHN

I'm happy to do what I can. But I read the reports on my way here, and I'm a little confused - it was my understanding that the Treishya are a recognised political entity within your government. Yet you're also calling them terrorists?

THIRIN

They are responsible for numerous deaths, Captain - including one of my officers in the recent attack. His child is now without a *thavan*.

VAUGHN

Oh, please don't misunderstand me, Commodore. I have no sympathy with killers in a time of peace. It's just that history has seen many who were once called terrorists renamed as heroes in time. The Bajoran resistance, for example.

VRETHA

It is a complex situation, Elias. As are many on Andor.

VAUGHN

Then we'd best get to it. *Tha*, if you could provide a thorough tactical review of the situation, I'll have my first officer look it over and offer any suggestions. We'll follow your lead, of course.

(Thirin nods, Vaughn turns to Vretha)

And Vretha, perhaps you can give me the political perspective - over dinner?

VRETHA

Not tonight, Elias. Parliament obligations. But you certainly must join Thirishar and I for Deepening meal before you leave.

VAUGHN

The *Kirk* will be here a while, being restocked and refitted - thank you, Admiral - so we have plenty of time.

(stands)

With your leave, Admiral. Can I give either of you a lift back to the surface?

10 INT. STARBASE 7 - HANGAR

The *Kirk*, sitting in its docking place with the umbilicals still attached. A RUNABOUT launches from the wide shuttle bays along its leading edge, and curves around to fly back towards the main docking hangar doors.

We fly with the runabout back through the doors and out into space...

11 EXT. SPACE (CONTINUOUS)

The runabout emerges from the doors, a tiny speck against the massive spacedock, and turns towards the planet.

12 **EST. ANDOR CAPITAL CITY - DAY**

A modern and attractive city. Tall and shiny buildings, open green spaces, snowy mountains in the background. As seen in [DS9 9x08 "No Place Like Home"](#).

13 **INT. ANDORIAN SCIENCE INSTITUTE - LOUNGE AREA**

Two Andorian Guard officers are already here, scanning the room with their tricorders and inspecting every inch of the place. No civilians now - the room is under Guard control.

Commander Thirin leads Captain Vaughn into the room, with the *Kirk's* first officer Commander ROGEIRO following them.

THIRIN

Captain Vaughn, Commander Rogeiro,
please meet Shashikant ch'Bessa,
my deputy.

One of the two officers turns to greet them - a younger *chan* called SHASH. He is polite but a bit territorial.

SHASH

Well met, Captain. I was not aware
Starfleet was to be involved...

THIRIN

(gentle warning)

As a favour to Councillor zh'Thane
and Admiral Zenkar, Shash.

VAUGHN

We recognise this is an internal
Andorian matter, Lieutenant. We're
only here to advise and assist.

Shash bows, backing down for now, although he is clearly not convinced. Thirin begins to lead Vaughn around.

THIRIN

This is the location of the most
recent attack. At the Andorian
Science Institute, our finest
minds are working to solve our
reproductive crisis.

ROGEIRO

Then it's reasonable to assume
that's the target of the attacks.

THIRIN

There is no need to assume,
Commander. They declare it openly
and proudly. There have been
protests outside the Academy for
years now, though this is the
first time they've succeeded in
making it inside the building.

VAUGHN

I understand you have the culprit
in custody?

THIRIN

Medical custody. He was injured in
the attack. Lieutenant ch'Bessa
handled the interview personally.

VAUGHN

And?

SHASH

And he has given us nothing we
didn't already know. He repeats
his opposition to the 'offences to
Uzaveh' being perpetrated by this
establishment. But he has given us
no names or other information.

VAUGHN

Nevertheless, I'd like Commander
Rogeiro to speak to him as well,
if you wouldn't mind, Commodore.

THIRIN

Certainly. Lieutenant, please take
the Commander to the hospital to
speak to our detainee.

SHASH

Aye, Commodore.

Shash unhappily stashes his tricorder and heads towards the door, expecting Rogeiro to follow. Vaughn and Rogeiro share a subtle glance about the Andorian's apparent attitude.

Shash and Rogeiro leave. Thirin smiles apologetically.

THIRIN

Please don't take it personally.
Shash is a proud *chan* and does not
take well to anyone seeming to
question his skills.

SHAR (o.s.)

Captain Vaughn!

Vaughn turns to see Shar emerging from the laboratory. The young *chan* is wearing a scientist's smock.

VAUGHN

Lieutenant ch'Thane. A pleasure to
see you again.

SHAR

(shakes hand)

My *zhavey* informed me she had
asked you to come.

THIRIN

Ah yes of course, the councillor's
famous *chei*. You would have met.

VAUGHN

Not only that, we shared an
assignment for several years. You
work here now, Lieutenant?

SHAR

In an unofficial capacity. And
please, call me Shar, Captain. I
am not in uniform. Would you like
to come in?

Shar gestures for Vaughn and Thirin to follow him back into the laboratory. They do...

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

Shar leads the party back into the lab, where Professor sh'Veileth is working at a console.

VAUGHN

Oh, this doesn't look too bad.

SH'VEILETH

The gunman never made it in here,
thanks to Shar.

SHAR

Professor Laenatha sh'Veileth, my
teacher and colleague.

VAUGHN

(polite bow)

Professor. So what is it exactly
that you're doing here, that has
the Treishya so riled up?

SH'VEILETH

Gene therapy derived from the DNA
of the Yrythny ova. Using advanced
recombinant DNA techniques on
chromosome seventeen -

VAUGHN

(hands up)

Forgive me, professor, but I'm no
geneticist...

She and Vaughn look to Shar, who provides a translation...

SHAR

We're trying to save the world,
Captain.

FADE OUT

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN

15 INT. HOSPITAL - CORRIDOR

Lieutenant Shash and Commander Rogeiro exit a hospital room out into the corridor. Other guardsmen stand watch at the threshold, letting Shash and Rogeiro walk away.

ROGEIRO

Hmm... You're right. Repeating his supposed doctrine over and over again, just in different words.

SHASH

I told you it was a waste of time.

ROGEIRO

I did notice, however, that you seemed rather agitated yourself. Perhaps it might be better if I speak to him alone next time.

SHASH

(pause, annoyed)

This is Andorian business.

ROGEIRO

We're only here to help. Surely you want to stop these people.

SHASH

These are Andorians, Commander. Our own people. We shouldn't even be speaking about these things with... outsiders.

ROGEIRO

Well, I don't consider myself an outsider. I have several Andorian crewmembers on the *Kirk* - Ensign zh'Vennias is on my security team. I've got to know her fairly well, I'm sure she'd be happy to help.

SHASH

(quiet, withdrawn)

You do not understand. Our...
difficulties... are our own. The
parliament should have never told
the Federation. It's embarrassing.

ROGEIRO

(sensitive)

I'm aware of your 'difficulties'.
And if there are so few of you
left, then isn't it all the more
important to stop the terrorists?
They don't seem to hold life in
the same regard.

SHASH

Oh, they do, Commander. The
Treishya hold Andorian life in
very high regard indeed.

Shash walks on down the corridor, leaving Rogeiro confused.

16 EST. ANDOR CAPITAL CITY - DAY

Re-establishing the capital city...

17 INT. VRETHA'S OFFICE

Last seen in DS9 9x09 "Paradigm", with a nice view out over
the city and the park below. Vretha sits behind her desk,
when the intercom CHIMES. She taps it, and a voice says:

VOICE (comm)

He's here, *zha*.

VRETHA

Yes, thank you, send him in.

The line drops, and after a moment, the office door opens,
and Vaughn strides in.

VAUGHN

Good morning, Vretha. I wondered
if this was -

But he stops dead in surprise to see that there is another in the office, sitting in the guest chair opposite Vretha - Trill reporter OZLA GRANIV (DS9 12x02 "Read All About It").

Ozla and Vaughn struggle not to react to the surprise of each other's presence - they are not supposed to know each other, and were certainly not expecting to meet here.

VAUGHN

Oh, I'm sorry, I didn't realise you had company. I can come back another time...

VRETHA

Not at all, Elias, please come in. This is Ozla Graniv, a reporter for... The *Seeker*, was it?

OZLA

That's right, *zha*. I'm their correspondent at the Palais.

VRETHA

And as such, she has apparently been sent to interview the former Andorian council member.

VAUGHN

A pleasure to meet you, Ms Graniv.

OZLA

And you, Captain. But I was -

VRETHA

I'm afraid I must postpone our interview, Ms Graniv. Captain Vaughn is here to brief me on a matter of national security.

OZLA

(trying her luck)
Would that be the Treishya attack on the Science Institute?

VRETHA

I really can't say.

She's not going to get anywhere, so Ozla gathers her things and stands up. She reaches to shake Vaughn's hand.

OZLA

Well, in that case I'll leave you to it. Please do let me know when you'll be available again, *zha*.

VRETHA

I certainly will.

OZLA

(acknowledging)
Captain.

Vaughn nods politely, and Ozla heads for the door. As she reaches it, she looks back over her shoulder... and she and Vaughn exchange a significant look. Then she is gone.

VRETHA

(relieved sigh)
Oh, thank you, Elias.

VAUGHN

It actually wasn't about the attacks at all, Vretha - I was just going to ask if you wanted to share breakfast.

VRETHA

I don't care, I was just glad to have an excuse to get her out of here. I'm in no mood to talk to the press right now.

VAUGHN

You may not be the councillor anymore, but you're still a member of the Parliament. And your *chei* is leading the efforts to save your entire species. I'm afraid with that, comes attention.

(chuckle)

Why do you think I avoided promotion for so long?

Vretha pauses, relaxes for a moment with the reminder.
Vaughn takes the seat Ozla just vacated, warm and comfy.

VRETHA

I am so proud of him, Elias. His determination and his drive may save our people. Our entire race. And he has done it all with practically no support from me.

VAUGHN

Don't sell yourself short, Vretha. He inherited that determination from somewhere.

VRETHA

(overwhelmed)

And I have a grandchild!

VAUGHN

I heard.

VRETHA

For so long I worried it would never happen... and he is so beautiful. Perfect. Lata, they called him. I might have chosen something different, but... that's just me being a stubborn old *zhen*.

VAUGHN

Vretha... what is going on here? Surely Shar and his colleagues at the Institute, what they're doing is vitally important, isn't it? Literally vital. Why would anyone protest it?

VRETHA

(sigh)

The Treishya's aim, so they say, is to stop the experiments because they are contrary to Uzaveh the Infinite's plan for our people.

VAUGHN

You don't believe them?

VRETHA

I fail to see how Uzaveh, if one believes in a creator at all, would want his creations to die. He endowed us with intelligence and reason so that we may solve our problems and survive.

VAUGHN

I've said the same myself.

VRETHA

But they say that Uzaveh created us as we are - the four sexes, who can only be Whole when all four come together. And any attempt to interfere with that by inserting alien DNA into our bodies is an insult to Uzaveh's creation.

VAUGHN

Even if to not do so means you become extinct?

VRETHA

They would rather die as we are than live as something else.

VAUGHN

And what about the government? If the Treishya are a legitimate political party -

VRETHA

They are radicals. Extremists. The Visionists claim to abhor the Treishya's methods. But there are many of my Progressive colleagues who suspect the Visionists are secretly supporting the Treishya, because it will help them to oust us as the governing party.

VAUGHN

A secret coalition. It certainly wouldn't be the first time. What do you think?

VRETHA

(ponders)

I refuse to believe even the Visionists would condone the deaths of innocents. They may be my political rivals but they are not monsters. They know that every Andorian life counts. But... there may be those among them who would take more extreme measures.

(beat)

Did you know I was kidnapped, Elias? Three years ago, they sought to bring attention to their cause by holding me to ransom. The price was the truth - about what Professor sh'Veileth was doing. We managed to keep it out of the hands of people like Ms Graniv.

(beat)

Still, that's part of why I am no longer the Federation councillor. They got their pound of flesh... and it gave them a taste for it.

(beat)

I'm sorry, Elias. I shouldn't be putting all this on you.

VAUGHN

Nonsense. That's why you called me here - for help from an old friend. And I'll do everything I can to provide it, Vretha. Now - how about that breakfast?

VRETHA

(brightening)

That sounds like a wonderful idea.

They both stand from their seats, make as if to head for the door.

But Vaughn's COMBADGE trills with an incoming message.

ROGEIRO (comm)
Rogeiro to Vaughn.

VAUGHN
Go ahead, Commander. Is there a
problem?

ROGEIRO (comm)
I'm afraid so, sir. The detainee
at the hospital, the one who
carried out the attack on the
Science Institute?

VAUGHN
What about him?

ROGEIRO (comm)
He's dead, sir.

Off Vaughn and Vretha's reaction to that...

FADE OUT

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN

18 INT. HOSPITAL - CORRIDOR

Vaughn, Rogeiro, Thirin, Shash and Shar all stand in the corridor as Andorian Guard officers investigate and tape off the hospital room in which the gunman was being held. Vaughn is clearly agitated and annoyed.

VAUGHN

What the hell happened?

SHASH

The chirurgeon said he succumbed to his wounds.

SHAR

Impossible. I inflicted those wounds myself, I know they were non-lethal.

VAUGHN

Could some kind of infection have set in?

ROGEIRO

There was no sign of infection when I spoke to him yesterday.

VAUGHN

So what then? He was silenced? So he couldn't tell us anything?

THIRIN

He was under guard by my officers the entire time.

VAUGHN

(pointed)

Yes. He was.

THIRIN

I would remind you this is my jurisdiction, Captain.

VAUGHN

And Commander Rogeiro's review of your 'jurisdiction' flagged up several quite obvious weaknesses ripe for a terrorist's use.

THIRIN

Lieutenant ch'Bessa designed those plans himself. And he has my full confidence.

ROGEIRO

(break it up)

Captain, Commodore - please, we're on the same side here. Perhaps if we go over the security plans together -

VAUGHN

Yes. Excellent idea.

SHAR

I'll inform zhavey that Deepening meal will have to be postponed.

VAUGHN

Absolutely not. We do not change our plans for terrorists - that's how they win. Commander Rogeiro, you'll take that meeting.

ROGEIRO

Aye, sir.

VAUGHN

I also want the *Kirk* here right now, restock be damned. And tell Magrone I want armed security officers ready to beam down at a moment's notice - to supplement the Commodore's forces.

ROGEIRO

Understood.

VAUGHN

Now if you'll excuse me, I have
urgent matters to attend to.

Vaughn strides off down the corridor, leaving Rogeiro to
withstand the incensed looks of the Andorian officers.

19 **EXT. THERIN PARK - DAY**

One of the beautiful green outdoor recreational spaces
within the capital city. Vaughn sits on a public bench,
staring out at the trickling streams and herbaceous
borders, trying to let nature calm his troubled brow.

After a moment, another as-yet-unidentified figure comes to
sit on the same double-sided bench, back to back with
Vaughn. He does not react. After a moment...

VAUGHN

I wasn't expecting to see you.

Ozla sits facing away from Vaughn, talking casually but
quietly so as not to draw attention from prying eyes.

OZLA

It's not by choice, believe me. I
intended to be on Tezwa by now.

VAUGHN

Then why aren't you?

OZLA

You tell me. Farik was all ready
to give in, when suddenly this
assignment came up to interview
zh'Thane. One might almost think
somebody didn't want me there.

VAUGHN

(takes her meaning)

I am not your enemy, Ms Graniv.
But someone else might be.

OZLA

Who?

VAUGHN

Let me worry about that. What do you know about the Treishya?

OZLA

Not much. Political extremists, using religion to justify their atrocities. Tale as old as time. You see that statue over there?

Vaughn looks across the park, where a large cerulean statue depicts a short and stocky Andorian *thaan* - SHRAN.

OZLA

That's [Hravishran th'Zaorhi](#), the first Andorian on the Federation Council, two-hundred years ago. But the statue is only two years old. You know why?

VAUGHN

No.

OZLA

Because the Treishya bombed the original. It was a symbol of the Andorian people's turn away from Uzaveh, they said. People died.

VAUGHN

I see.

OZLA

What do you want me to do?

VAUGHN

For now, continue to act as if nothing is wrong. I'll talk to my people, and with luck you'll be in hell soon enough. And then maybe we'll both get the answers we're looking for. Good day, Ms Graniv.

Vaughn gets up from the bench, straightens his uniform, and walks off, leaving Ozla on her own.

20 **EST. ANDOR CAPITAL CITY - NIGHT**

Seeing the same city, now at dusk slipping into night.

21 **INT. VRETHA'S APARTMENT - DINING ROOM**

A modern updating of the traditional Andorian keep in the form of a 24th-century Federation apartment. The room is octagonal, small high windows, with at least two archways leading off to other rooms - no doors, just open archways.

Shar's bondmates - ANICHENT, DIZHEI and THIA (all seen DS9 9x09 "Paradigm") - move back and forth setting up a dining circle on the floor in the middle of the room. A central circular mat with six places laid out equally around it.

Vaughn is out of uniform, watching them as they bring bowls and cutlery out of one of the side rooms to place down.

VAUGHN

I hope I'm not putting you to too much trouble.

DIZHEI

Not at all, Captain. Deepening meal is a time for family and friends to share equally. It is a pleasure to set a wider circle.

ANICHENT

Zhadi has spoken of little else since she told us you were coming. She would never forgive us for not making you welcome.

Vretha enters from the other room, carrying more bowls, wearing the teasing smirk of an old friend.

VRETHA

Perhaps we should eat at the table tonight - Elias's old bones might not take sitting on the ground.

VAUGHN

Don't you dare. I'm in the best shape I've been for decades.

VRETHA
(out loud)
Thirishar! We have company!

SHAR (o.s.)
I am well aware, *zhavey*.

They turn and see Shar standing in the other doorway, holding a BABY Andorian male (approx 1 year old) to his chest. Everyone gasps or coos at the sight.

SHAR
Captain Elias Vaughn, I'd like
you to meet Thiarelata ch'Vazdi...
or Lata. My *chei*.

VAUGHN
(approaching)
Oh, Shar, he's so beautiful.
Congratulations - to all of you.

THIA
He is perfect, isn't he?

VRETHA
And perhaps he might one day have
a sibling just as perfect...?

SHAR
One thing at a time, *zhavey*.

ANICHENT
Besides, we all know Shar is
itching to return to Starfleet.

SHAR
I have said no such thing.

DIZHEI
You don't need to say it, *ch'te*.
We know you too well.

The child begins to whine - too many people in his space.
Vaughn gestures back towards the other room.

22 **INT. VRETHA'S APARTMENT - SLEEPING ROOM**

More mats are laid out on the floor - four sleeping mats with thin blankets over them, and one thicker pile of blankets against the wall. Shar carries his child over to this thicker pile and gently lowers him down into it.

Shar kneels by the bed, soothing the baby back to rest. Vaughn watches the scene happily, even crouching down (and wincing at his old bones, silently admitting the discomfort with an annoyed eye roll) to join Shar. They speak quietly.

VAUGHN

I wanted to apologise, Lieutenant.
For my behaviour earlier today.
It's just... there's a lot going
on at the moment.

SHAR

You misjudge us, Captain - we were
not offended. That is how most
Andorian conversations go.

VAUGHN

But this... this is what it's all
ultimately about, isn't it?
Creating a world you'd be happy
for them to live in. I remember
when Prynn was this age. Treasure
these moments, Shar. They're rare.

Speaking of which, Shar brings up an awkward question he has been unsure whether he dare broach.

SHAR

How is Prynn?

VAUGHN

In fine form, last I saw her. You
should give her a call.

SHAR

Oh no, I'm sure she's busy, I
wouldn't want to bother her -

VAUGHN

Shar - call her. She'd love it.

(pause)

You know, if you're serious about returning to active duty, I lost my science officer to a transfer recently. I'd be happy for you to take his place.

SHAR

Are you sure? It might look to others like nepotism, because of your friendship with zhavey...

VAUGHN

And I wouldn't give a damn what they think. You're a fine officer, and an excellent scientist, and the *Kirk* could use you.

SHAR

I will consider it, Captain.

VRETHA (o.s.)

Thirishar! Elias! Dinner!

Smiling, Shar gets to his feet, and offers Vaughn a hand to help him to his. They turn to leave...

23 INT. VRETHA'S APARTMENT - DINING ROOM

They emerge back into the main room, where all the food is now laid out on the dining circle.

THIA

Is Lata okay?

SHAR

He's fine, just a little overwhelmed I think.

CRASH - one of the small high windows suddenly EXPLODES in a shower of glass. Vretha and Dizhei YELP in surprise, but Shar is instantly on alert.

VAUGHN

What the hell was that?

A second window also EXPLODES. Then a third. Glass showers down onto the floor, and all six people cover their heads. Anichent and Thia run into the sleeping room...

ANICHENT

Lata!

Meanwhile Shar grabs a chair, pulls it to the wall, and stands on it to peek over the edge of one of the high small windows. The next moment, a PHASER SHOT barely misses him.

VRETHA

Thirishar!

Refusing to back down, Shar lets just his ANTENNAE peek over the edge of the window, uses them to feel around and sense... Then he gets back down off the chair.

SHAR

There are definitely people out there, too many to count.

DIZHEI

The Treishya? Here? But why - there are no experiments here.

Anichent reappears in the archway, holding Lata close. Another PHASER SHOT comes through another window, striking the stone-effect walls and burning a scorch-mark in them.

Shar turns to Vaughn - who nods his understanding. The captain runs to his jacket, hanging on the wall, reaches into it, and finds his combadge. He taps it...

VAUGHN

Vaughn to Rogeiro. Red alert.
We're under attack.

FADE OUT

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN

24 INT. VRETHA'S APARTMENT - DINING ROOM

Where we left it - the Thane family home is under attack. Vretha and Dizhei hide against the walls, under the windows where the phaser cannot reach them. Anichent and Thia cower in the archway, little Lata held tightly between them.

Six TRANSPORTER signatures form in the room. Vaughn and Shar tense, brandishing makeshift weapons - a candlestick, an iron poker from the fireplace - just in case...

...but the transporters reveal Rogeiro, Shash, and four Starfleet SECURITY officers, all armed. Rogeiro immediately appraises the battle ground and begins snapping out orders.

ROGEIRO
Siege positions, now!

VAUGHN
Everyone - into the bedroom. No windows, you'll be safe.

Vretha and Dizhei dash for the bedroom, bustling Anichent and Thia ahead of them with the still-crying baby.

The Starfleet officers take up positions at the edge of each window, angling their phaser rifles through the gaps.

SHAR
Lieutenant ch'Bessa, your weapon.

SHASH
Cha Thirishar...

SHAR
My *chei* is in danger, Lieutenant.
Your weapon.

Reluctantly, Shash hands his own weapon over to Shar, who takes it and joins the other officers at the windows. Shash backs away to block the archway - Vaughn joins him there.

25 **SHAR**

settles in, peering through his phaser sight.

26 **PHASER RIFLE SIGHT**

An infra-red style view of outside the apartment. Among the trees and statuary, Andorian FIGURES lurk, aiming their own weapons. One FIRES, a blinding white light coming straight towards us...

27 **SHAR**

moves aside only enough for the shot to miss him, then returns perfectly calm and FIRES back.

28 **PHASER RIFLE SIGHT**

The shot heads back along the first's trajectory - and HITS the assailant. He goes down.

29 **RETURN TO SCENE**

Starfleet security exchange more fire with the attackers. In the archway, Vaughn watches the scene unfold warily. Shash looks over his shoulder, into the sleeping room...

...at the rest of Shar's family, huddled tightly around the little baby, who is crying and crying as his parents try to keep him calm and safe.

Shash's expression is unreadable as he sees this tableau...

...then all their attentions are captured by a new noise outside. WHOOSHing, BUZZing, DRONEing of engines, coming from all sides. Then a voice, filtered as if shouting through a megaphone.

THIRIN (o.s.)

This is the Andorian Guard. Lay down your weapons now, or see the consequences. You are surrounded. You have ten seconds.

Shar looks through his phaser sight again...

30 **PHASER RIFLE SIGHT**

The shot WIDENS, allowing us to see an aerial hovercraft-type vehicle lowering to tree-level and hovering ominously. The remaining FIGURES drop their weapons and raise their hands in surrender.

31 **RETURN TO SCENE**

Rogeiro and the Starfleet security remain watchful, just in case. Vaughn's combadge sounds:

THIRIN (comm)
Captain Vaughn, this is
th'Deminesh. Is everyone alright?
The councillor?

VAUGHN
(taps to receive)
We're fine, thank you Commodore.
You do what you need to.

THIRIN (comm)
Understood. Ch'Bessa, take charge
down there. Thirin out.

Shash steps out of the archway, straightening his uniform. He steps towards Shar...

SHASH
Lieutenant ch'Thane. May I?

Shar looks at him. He really doesn't want to hand back the weapon, but it does look like the crisis is under control. With a grimace, he steps away from the window and hands the rifle back to Shash, who acknowledges with a nod.

ROGEIRO
(points)
You two, stay here just in case.
The rest, with me.

Two Starfleet security step away from the windows and follow Rogeiro and Shash out of the house.

Vretha, Anichent, Dizhei and Thia creep forward out of the bedroom, Lata cradled delicately between them.

Meanwhile Shar stands with Vaughn in the centre of the room, trying to get his seething fury under control...

32 EST. ANDOR CAPITAL CITY - DAY

The next day...

33 INT. ANDORIAN SCIENCE INSTITUTE - LOUNGE AREA

Vaughn, Rogeiro, Thirin and Shash stride into the lounge area. The room has been mostly tidied up now from its attack several days ago, but scorch marks mar the walls, and there are still no other civilians present.

VAUGHN

Have you been able to get anything out of the shooters you captured?

THIRIN

Sadly not. They are as tight-lipped as their dead friend, and we Andorians are a stubborn people at the best of times.

VAUGHN

What I want to know is why they attacked Vretha's house. Miss sh'Rraazh was correct - if their target is the Yrythny experiments, there are none going on at such a purely residential location. It doesn't make sense. So why?

SHAR (o.s.)

I believe I may be able to answer that question, Captain.

They turn to see that Shar and Professor sh'Veileth have emerged from the laboratory.

VAUGHN

Lieutenant. How is your family?

SHAR

Recovering, thank you Captain.

ROGEIRO

I've asked the *Kirk's* counsellor
to get in touch and offer her
services.

Shar smiles his gratitude, but it's clear he is still
tense. sh'Veileth steps forward.

SH'VEILETH

Commodore, I'm not happy about you
shutting down my laboratory.

VAUGHN

It's for your own good, Professor.
You ought not to be here yourself.

SH'VEILETH

If I was going to abandon my work
because somebody threatened me,
I'd never have left my keep forty
years ago.

SHAR

You said yourself we do not change
our plans for terrorists, Captain.

(gestures back
towards lab)

But I think I have an idea.

VAUGHN

(nods, turns
to Thirin)

Commodore, if I could ask the
Commander and the Lieutenant to
continue securing the area?

THIRIN

Certainly. Shash?

SHASH

Understood, Commodore.

Shar and sh'Veileth turn to re-enter the lab. Vaughn and Thirin follow them, closing the door. Rogeiro and Shash are left alone in the lounge area.

ROGEIRO

Always left out of the fun stuff,
eh? Life of a second in command.

Rogeiro smiles, clearly trying to lighten the mood. Shash does not want to laugh right now.

34 INT. ANDORIAN SCIENCE INSTITUTE - LABORATORY

sh'Veileth heads towards one of her computer consoles, which is up and running. Shar stands by her as Vaughn and Thirin explore the room a little.

THIRIN

What is your news, *cha* Thirishar?

SHAR

You wondered why the Treishya attacked the house. I wondered something similar during their last attack here at the Institute. They had always limited themselves to protests outside the building before, yet now they came inside and began shooting.

VAUGHN

They're not getting what they wanted, so they're stepping up their attacks.

SHAR

I believe that's part of it, but not all. There's one other thing the attacks have in common - me.

THIRIN

You brought the Yrythny genetic material to Andor. You are an obvious target.

VAUGHN

But I still don't understand why.
This is literally life-saving work
you're doing. Why protest it?

SHAR

Well, there's something I haven't
told you, Captain. The Yrythny
therapy... it's not working.

Vaughn and Thirin are shocked. Shar turns to look at
sh'Veileth, who is clearly anguished at this horrible truth
being revealed, her personal failure...

35 INT. ANDORIAN SCIENCE INSTITUTE - LOUNGE AREA

Rogeiro checks the windows out onto the courtyard beyond,
looks out for potential hiding spots for shooters. Shash
prowls the room behind him.

ROGEIRO

I've been trying to think through
everything. Put all the pieces
together.

SHASH

The Andorian Guard have been doing
that for some time, Commander.

ROGEIRO

So how do these Treishya guys keep
getting away with it? If they've
been violently bombing and
attacking people for years, why
are they still free?

SHASH

As I explained to you, it's not
that simple. We are all Andorians,
Commander.

ROGEIRO

You know what I think? I think
you've got a mole.

SHASH

A 'mole'?

ROGEIRO
A plant. A double agent. Someone
inside the Guard who's actually
working for the Treishya.

Off Shash's stern reaction to that possibility...

36 INT. ANDORIAN SCIENCE INSTITUTE - LABORATORY

sh'Veileth sits ashamed, in quiet tears at her console.

THIRIN
Professor...?

SH'VEILETH
It's true. Damn it, it's true.

VAUGHN
But, your *chei*...

SHAR
My bond was one of the first to
qualify for the trials, using the
Yrythny therapy. And Lata is
perfect, yes. The child all four
of us dreamed of. But some of the
other trials...

VAUGHN
(gently)
Birth defects?

SH'VEILETH
Deformities to make you weep at
the sheer horror. The ones that
survived to term, that is. There
were countless miscarriages.

THIRIN
Why had I not heard any of this?

SHAR
The trials are anonymous. No-one
is supposed to know, so that they
can avoid publicity.

VAUGHN
(putting it together)
But not you?

SH'VEILETH
Since his child was so perfect, I asked Shar to be the figurehead. To show the public how wonderful the Yrythny therapy could be, to counter the Treishya's nonsense.

SHAR
I even brought Lata here to the Institute, paraded him in front of the media.

VAUGHN
So the Treishya are not just attacking the research, or you. They're attacking your child.

Shar nods sadly.

37 INT. ANDORIAN SCIENCE INSTITUTE - LOUNGE AREA

Rogeiro is still moving around the perimeter, checking out of the windows. Shash continues to prowl the room.

ROGEIRO
Well, it just makes sense. The simplest explanation for how they keep slipping out of your grasp is that they have inside knowledge about where you're going to be.

Shash walks past in the background, keeping an eye on Rogeiro. The commander continues regardless...

ROGEIRO
And the guy at the hospital - it could have been a Guardsman who killed him. One of your people wouldn't have raised suspicion, they were supposed to be there.

SHASH

You could be right...

ROGEIRO

And zh'Thane's house - Vaughn and
Shar said they'd be having dinner
there right in front of...

Rogeiro drifts off, realising the truth with a disappointed
sigh. Shash steps up behind him.

ROGEIRO

It's you, isn't it?

Rogeiro turns to face Shash... and finds the Andorian Guard
officer pointing his weapon right into Rogeiro's face.

BLACK OUT

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN

38 INT. ANDORIAN SCIENCE INSTITUTE - LOUNGE AREA

Where we left it, with Shash pointing his weapon right into Rogeiro's face. Rogeiro stares back calmly.

SHASH

Your weapon, Commander. Slowly,
finger and thumb, hilt first.

Calm but annoyed, Rogeiro does as he is told - plucks the phaser from his belt using just finger and thumb, holds it out towards Shash. The Andorian takes it and tucks it into his own belt, his weapon never leaving its target.

39 INT. ANDORIAN SCIENCE INSTITUTE - LABORATORY

Shar, Vaughn, Thirin and sh'Veileth are as yet unaware of what is going on outside.

THIRIN

So you believe that a parent of
one of these failed Yrythny
experiments may be involved with
the Treishya?

VAUGHN

Thus explaining their move from
simple protest to violent action.

SHAR

With my *chei* as the target, out of
sheer spite.

VAUGHN

But if the trials are anonymous...

SHAR

Professor...?

SH'VEILETH

I conducted the trials, Captain. I
have the names.

VAUGHN

Then show us. The commodore can read through them, see if anyone looks or sounds familiar.

SH'VEILETH

(sigh)

You understand, of course, that this is confidential information. I'd be breaking any number of laws letting anyone but myself see it.

THIRIN

I appreciate your position, Professor. But this is a criminal investigation.

sh'Veileth nods sadly. She works the computer, calls up the records, then steps aside. Thirin and Shar move forward to read through the names on the screen...

40 INT. ANDORIAN SCIENCE INSTITUTE - LOUNGE AREA

Rogeiro and Shash continue to face off.

ROGEIRO

My commanding officer and yours are both on the other side of that door. I only have to shout...

SHASH

Make another noise and I'll kill you on the spot.

ROGEIRO

Do you really have it in you?

SHASH

I killed fellow Andorians. What makes you think I won't kill a human?

Rogeiro considers his next step...

41 INT. ANDORIAN SCIENCE INSTITUTE - LABORATORY

Shar and Thirin read carefully through the list of names.
Vaughn waits impatiently. sh'Veileth frets in a corner.

VAUGHN

Anything?

SHAR

This may take time, Captain...

But then Shar stops short, a small gasp in his throat.
Thirin likewise stiffens and blanches.

They look to each other, then turn to look at Vaughn...

42 INT. ANDORIAN SCIENCE INSTITUTE - LOUNGE AREA

Rogeiro and Shash are where they were.

ROGEIRO

So when you told me the Treishya
cared about Andorian life, you
were obviously a liar.

SHASH

They were all past birthing age.
They wouldn't have been able to
have any more children anyway.

ROGEIRO

That means they're expendable?

SHASH

It means they already fulfilled
one obligation, and are free to
take on another.

ROGEIRO

What about the Yrythny trials?
What about the children who'll
never exist because you stopped
the research? Don't those Andorian
lives count either?

SHASH

(disgusted)

Those aren't Andorians! If you'd
seen the monsters they produced...

The door from the laboratory suddenly BURSTS open and Shar
surges out of it, heading straight for Shash in a fury.

Shash turns in surprise, his weapon turning towards Shar...

In one smooth movement, Shar BATS the weapon out of Shash's
hand, GRABS the Guard officer by the throat and CARRIES him
all the way to the far wall, RAMming him into it.

Vaughn, Thirin and sh'Veileth emerge from the laboratory.

VAUGHN
(command voice)
Lieutenant ch'Thane! Stand down!

Shar ignores him. Shash gasps and splutters in Shar's grip,
but is not backing down...

SHAR
(seething)
You would murder my child.

SHASH
(furious hiss)
You already murdered mine.

SH'VEILETH
Thirishar, please...

Still ignoring them, Shar reaches across to grab Rogeiro's
phaser out of Shash's belt. He thumbs it on, ups the power,
and presses the business end against Shash's forehead. He
is in such rage that he might actually go through with it.

SHASH
Go ahead! It doesn't matter, my
bond is already destroyed!

SHAR
Explain.

SHASH

We saw you on the media. We applied for the trials. And the demon that came from it... that was no child. My *zh'yi* - she took her own life at having birthed such a creature. She is dead because of you!

On Shar's reaction to that...

43 FLASHBACK - DS9 9x09 "PARADIGM"

Shar looking through the window of the white marble coffin of his own *zh'yi*, Thriss, who also took her own life...

44 BACK TO SCENE

Shocked, Shar lets go of Shash and staggers back. Shash drops to the ground, the fight gone out of them both now.

Rogeiro rushes up and takes his phaser back off Shar. Vaughn places a firm hand on Shar's shoulder. *sh'Veileth* takes his other hand in comfort.

Between them, Rogeiro and Thirin pick Shash up off the ground, and Thirin begins to cuff his own lieutenant. He turns back to Vaughn and Shar, solemn.

THIRIN

I apologise for this, Captain, Professor. I had no idea. And that was my own failing.

Vaughn nods his acknowledgement. Rogeiro and Thirin lead Shash out of the lounge area, leaving Vaughn, Shar and *sh'Veileth* to their own devices.

45 EST. ANDOR ORBIT

The *Kirk* sits in orbit over the blue-white world...

46 INT. VRETHA'S APARTMENT - DINING ROOM

Shar comes out of the bed chamber - back in his Starfleet lieutenant's uniform and with a standard Starfleet carrying bag over his shoulder.

He stops at the sight of his family awaiting him in the main room - Vretha, Anichent, Dizhei and Thia - with Vaughn standing out of the way to let them have their moment.

Shar approaches Dizhei, who is holding little baby Lata. He gazes in wonder for a moment at his perfect child, assuring himself that all is well.

THIA

Actually, there is something I should tell you, Shar. A little surprise before you go.

Shar, Anichent and Vretha look at Thia confused - Dizhei giggles, because she already knows. Thia gently places a hand on her own belly, then looks up at her bondmates...

THIA

I am with child again.

They all gasp in amazement. Thia stalls their excitement.

THIA

I say this not to make you stay. I say it so you can go, happily, in the knowledge you have fulfilled all your obligations here at home.

ANICHENT

Do not worry, Shar. It is the *chan's* place to be far from the keep, providing for the family. And you do it magnificently.

DIZHEI

Go out and conquer the galaxy, Shar. We'll be here for you when you come home.

Shar is almost in tears. He grabs Thia, and they all have a nice big group hug.

As they twitter happily among themselves MOS, Vretha turns to Vaughn wearing a look of overwhelming pride, and they speak together quietly...

VRETHA

The Treishya have been dealt a heavy blow in the Parliament. The scandal will keep them quiet for a while. But I suspect they are not gone forever.

VAUGHN

What about the Yrythny trials?

VRETHA

The experiments will continue, if perhaps not the live trials. But Professor sh'Veileth will get all the resources she needs to make it work. I will make sure of it.

VAUGHN

I have no doubt of that.

VRETHA

Thank you, Elias. You have helped to save my family all over again.

VAUGHN

Always, Vretha. And I promise I'll take good care of him on the *Kirk*.

(aloud)

Lieutenant... it's time. We still have a refit to complete, and I could use your help with it.

With a last coochy-coo of Lata, Shar steps away.

SHAR

I love you all so much.

ANICHENT

We love you too, *ch'te*.

Shar looks again at his child, and an idea forms.

SHAR

Captain, before the *Kirk* leaves the system, I wonder if I might make one request?

Vaughn looks at him, curious what this is...

47 **EST. DEEP SPACE NINE**

On the other side of the galaxy, the familiar station sits.

48 **INT. PRYNN'S QUARTERS**

PRYNN TENMEI pootles about her quarters, brushing her hair out and getting ready for bed at the end of a long day.

The comm system trills, and a VOICE comes through:

VOICE (comm)
Ops to Lieutenant Tenmei.

TENMEI
(a bit confused)
Go ahead.

VOICE (comm)
There's an incoming signal for you, Lieutenant. It's from the USS *James T Kirk*.

Knowing that that is her father's ship, Prynn perks up and heads towards her comm screen.

TENMEI
Put it through to my quarters, please.

VOICE (comm)
Coming through now.

The screen changes, first to the Federation SEAL, and then to the image of SHAR, against a Starfleet background. Prynn is caught off guard, having expected Vaughn.

TENMEI
Oh! Shar! Wait, I thought they said this was from the *Kirk*...

SHAR (screen)
Hello, Prynn. Yes, I am calling
from the *Kirk*, although we are
docked at Starbase Seven, in orbit
of Andor. I've joined the crew -
I'm now the chief science officer
under Captain Vaughn.

TENMEI
Shar, that's wonderful news! I'm
sure my dad's putting you hard to
work already.

SHAR (screen)
That's certainly true. But I'm
actually calling to introduce you
to someone...

Shar reaches off screen, and comes back holding baby Lata.
He bounces the baby Andorian on his lap. Prynn gasps.

SHAR (screen)
Prynn Tenmei, meet Thiarelata
ch'Vazdi - my *chei*.

TENMEI
Oh Shar, he's beautiful.
(hesitant)
But - Thia...relata. I would have
thought you'd name him for Thriss.

SHAR (screen)
(sad smile)
We considered it. But we decided -
I decided - that it would serve as
too constant a reminder of what we
lost. We need no help to remember
Thriss. But Lata... he represents
the future. And without Thia, he
would never have existed.

TENMEI
Well, I'm happy for you. I know
it's what you've always wanted.

SHAR (screen)

Perhaps not always. There was a time I believed this would never be my path. But now that he's here... I can't think of anything I want more.

Prynn smiles, genuinely happy for him, no matter what awkwardness may still exist between them. She settles in for a long catch-up chat...

TENMEI

So! What have I missed?

SHAR (screen)

It has been quite the dramatic few days. I have been working at the Andorian Science Institute...

PULL BACK, letting Prynn and Shar talk on MOS, long into the night...

FADE OUT

END OF SHOW