

STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE

8x06 - "Fallout."

Screenplay by Martyn Dunn

Based on elements from the novels

Star Trek: Deep Space Nine: Abyss
by David Weddle & Jeffrey Lang

Star Trek: Deep Space Nine: Twilight
by David R George III

Star Trek: Deep Space Nine: Cathedral
by Michael A Martin & Andy Mangels

and

Star Trek: Deep Space Nine: Lesser Evil
by Robert Simpson

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. DEEP SPACE NINE - ESTABLISHING

The station hangs in space, without its lower core. *Defiant* is moored at the docking ring. As we watch, lights on the station go off, starting at the extremities and moving in.

2 INT. DS9 - INFIRMARY

BASHIR and Dr GIRANI are packing equipment and closing up lockers as lights continue to switch off throughout the Infirmary. He looks around sadly and heads out...

3 INT. DS9 - PROMENADE

KIRA approaches from one end of the Promenade as Bashir emerges with a case. Shopkeepers are also closing down their businesses and locking doors as lights go out in sequence and the station darkens.

RO stands outside the security office doors, checking that everyone is doing what they should. The three officers converge outside Quark's bar.

KIRA
Everything under control,
Lieutenant?

RO
Yes, Colonel. All non-essential
personnel evacuated to Bajor, and
all security lockdowns in place.

BASHIR
And since when is the Chief
Medical Officer considered non-
essential personnel?

KIRA
Since I have an Akira-class
starship nearby with a fully
staffed and equipped sickbay.

BASHIR
But you're letting Quark stay.

KIRA
This is going to be just as
delicate a bit of surgery as
you've ever done, Doctor.

RO
And all the techs and engineers
who are staying on board to do it
are going to need downtime over
the next few days.

KIRA
As much as I hate to admit it,
Quark's function on this station
can't be minimised. I need him. I
don't need you. Have a nice time.

She pats him on the shoulder and he walks off with a
grumble. QUARK approaches from inside his bar. He smiles
shyly at Ro, but only scowls at Kira.

QUARK
Colonel, will you please get that
Jem'Hadar monster out of my
holosuite? If we have to shut down
the station, then that means the
holosuites too, and I am not going
to be the one to tell him.

She sighs. Ro gives her a "better you than me" look, so she
reluctantly follows Quark into his bar and up the stairs.

As she does, DAX is coming down wearing the cocktail dress
she was in last episode. Quark gives her a leer, Kira give
him a scowl, and they head up to the holosuite corridor.

Quark gives Kira a wide berth as she taps at the panel of
one of the suites and the doors open...

4 EXT. BATTLE AMPHITHEATRE

...onto what looks like a Roman amphitheatre made of dark,
broken rock. Kira steps inside...

...emerging onto the top level of the bowl-like structure. Down on the bottom level, TARAN'ATAR battles a nightmarish CREATURE, all claws and teeth and dripping saliva.

The creature aims a CLUB at his head -- he dodges, LEAPS up and lands on its back, STABS it in the neck with his knife. Purplish blood SPURTS out. The creature WAILS and FLAILS but can't get to Taran'atar as he continues to stab at it.

Finally, the creature curls up into a ball and a dozen or so spikes SHOOT out in a circle around it. Kira flinches back, but Taran'atar is unconcerned - he jumps up high enough to avoid them, and the creature collapses, dead.

TARAN'ATAR

End program.

The environment dissolves into the standard holosuite array, and Kira and Taran'atar are now on the same level.

TARAN'ATAR

Good day, Colonel.

KIRA

Good day, Taran'atar. I hope I didn't interrupt your exercise.

TARAN'ATAR

The battle was won.

KIRA

Well, yes, that was obvious. What was that thing, anyway?

TARAN'ATAR

Those on the world where they lived called them something that translates to "Comes in the night, kills many." They would tunnel up underneath their prey, pull them down, and consume them.

KIRA

Did you create that simulation yourself from memory?

TARAN'ATAR

I knew the parameters, and was able to encode them onto a data rod.

Kira is suitably impressed with that.

KIRA

That one was using a weapon. That would suggest they possess some rudimentary intelligence.

TARAN'ATAR

Perhaps. That was not my concern. My orders were to kill them, not study them. They were decimating the population of a Dominion farming settlement. My unit was assigned to eradicate them.

KIRA

You wiped out a native species to establish this farming community?

TARAN'ATAR

(shrug)

It is the Founders' practice to assign races who are known to be superior farmers to worlds where they may best serve the needs of the Dominion. The Skreeans were transplanted from another world.

Kira reacts to the familiar name, but Taran'atar continues.

TARAN'ATAR (cont)

They were poorly equipped for combat, so my unit was sent in to secure the settlement.

KIRA

You mean commit genocide.

TARAN'ATAR

Our goal was to eradicate the species, yes. This disturbs you?

KIRA

It would disturb any of my people.
We were enslaved by invaders too.

TARAN'ATAR

We did not enslave these
creatures. We destroyed them.

KIRA

Can you tell me which is worse?

Taran'atar is confused by this whole direction...

TARAN'ATAR

Is it your wish to debate this
issue, Colonel?

KIRA

No. In fact, I came here to ask
you to finish your exercise. The
station needs to shut down to its
lowest possible power levels for
the core transfer from Empok Nor.
So we need to shut down the
holosuite. How much did Quark
charge you to use it, anyway?

TARAN'ATAR

Charge? When I learned of this
facility, I told the Ferengi I
would be using it today. He did
not mention a charge.

KIRA

Yeah, no surprise there. Come on.

Kira walks out of the holosuite, and Taran'atar follows...

5 EXT. BAJOR - ESTABLISHING - DAY

A large rustic HOUSE sits in amid beautiful, sun-drenched
countryside. Rolling hills, waving trees, birds fluttering,
babbling brook, wide stony path away from the house.

It is the house Sisko designed in 7x16 - "Penumbra"...

6 **INT. KASIDY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM**

Things are a bit cluttered, only half moved-in. CRATES of belongings are here and there, but it's starting to look like a home. A slightly pregnant KASIDY sits at a com-panel, which shows JOSEPH over a patchy signal...

KASIDY

We don't have much time to talk,
they're taking the subspace net
down all across the province later
this afternoon to put in some new
equipment.

JOSEPH (screen)

Well, they can just wait until
we're finished. I've been trying
to get through all day.

KASIDY

I know. It's harder here than it
was on the station. Sometimes it's
easy to take for granted how
efficient the Federation is.

JOSEPH (screen)

I guess I just thought all this
'wife of the Emissary' business
would give you some sort of...
I don't know, special status.

KASIDY

Oh, it does, more than I know what
to do with. Do you have any idea
how many people have come to my
door over the past couple of days,
just asking if they can help out?
And they're all so earnest and
polite, I can't turn them away.
I've had furniture movers, kitchen
cleaners, garden weeders...

JOSEPH (screen)

Sounds alright to me. The kitchen
cleaning part, anyway. Besides,
you should take it easy.

KASIDY

Joseph, I'm in the middle of my second trimester - the best part of being pregnant according to my doctor - and I've never felt better. I want to do things.

JOSEPH (screen)

I remember that. When my second wife got to that phase, there weren't enough hours in the day to do everything she wanted. I was grateful to go to the restaurant every day where I didn't have to work so damn hard.

They chuckle together over subspace...

KASIDY

Well, things will be better when Jake gets back. He's good at handling the visitors. He has a gift for putting people at ease.

JOSEPH (screen)

Ah, he gets that from me. Never was one of his father's strengths. Well, where is Jake? Not back on the station again, I hope. I'd much rather he stayed there with you on Bajor.

KASIDY

What do you mean? He's there with you, isn't he?

JOSEPH (screen)

What? No, of course not. What made you think he was here?

KASIDY

He told me he was going there.

Kasidy pauses, trying not to get upset. Deep breaths...

KASIDY (cont)
Wait, maybe we're talking about
the same thing, getting confused.
Two weeks ago, Jake took a ship
from DS-Nine straight to Earth.

Joseph opens his mouth, but can't find the words. He grasps
his chest and collapses back into a chair. Kasidy panics,
thinking he is having a heart attack, but he comes around.

JOSEPH (screen)
I swear to you, Kasidy, Jake never
called, never told me that he was
coming here. Two weeks ago?

KASIDY
But if he didn't go there, then
where could he have gone? And why
would he have lied?

JOSEPH (screen)
He wouldn't have. Jake would never
lie to you. Unless...

KASIDY
Unless what?

JOSEPH (screen)
Unless he was doing something he
knew we wouldn't want him to.

KASIDY
Joseph... Where can he be?

As they both stare at each other, scared and worried...

BLACK OUT:

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

7 EST. DEEP SPACE NINE - ESTABLISHING

DS9 hangs mostly dark; Empok Nor hangs *totally* dark nearby. A fleet of tiny WORK BEES buzz around both of the enormous structures, and ENGINEERS in space-suits are crawling all over the surface doing various repairs.

8 INT. DS9 - DOCKING RING CORRIDOR

KIRA stands alone, peering through an observation window in a quiet, darkened corridor, watching as the crews do their work. She's sad, wistful. She turns and walks away.

9 INT. DS9 - PROMENADE

Kira walks again through the quiet, deserted Promenade. As she nears the Shrine, she stops and looks sadly at the dark doorway. She's not allowed in any more. Reflexively, her hand goes to her ear, feels the lack of earring.

A civilian Bajoran WOMAN steps out of the doorway, carrying cleaning equipment. She catches Kira's eye and immediately looks away. The two women walk away in opposite directions without looking at each other. Kira's combadge CHIRPS...

SHAR (comm)
Ops to Colonel Kira.

KIRA
Go ahead, Shar.

SHAR (comm)
I have First Minister Shakaar on subspace, waiting to speak with you, Colonel.

KIRA
Route the call to my office. It'll take me a few minutes.

SHAR (comm)
Yes, Colonel. ch'Thane out.

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

Kira steps out of one of the auxiliary doors around the lower level of Ops, and heads up to her office. She nods hello to SHAR on the way - he is the only officer in Ops, keeping an eye on the master operations table.

11 **INT. DS9 - KIRA'S OFFICE**

Kira settles in at her desk, takes a deep breath and taps the comm controls. First Minister SHAKAAR appears on the screen. His manner is fairly stiff and formal, not the warm relationship you'd expect two ex-lovers to have.

KIRA

First Minister, thank you for waiting. We're experiencing some technical difficulties until the station's new core is online.

SHAKAAR (screen)

Hello Nerys. Yes, I know all about your core - I've been receiving regular reports from my staff. I'm on my way back to Bajor even as we speak.

KIRA

That's good news, sir. I trust your tour went well.

SHAKAAR (screen)

I think I made a good case to have Bajor's application for Federation membership revisited. We should hear something in the coming days. Although between you and me, all this politicking gives me a headache. Speaking of politics, how is the Jem'Hadar ambassador?

KIRA

He's... old. By Jem'Hadar standards at least. I suppose you could even say he's wise, after a fashion.

SHAKAAR (screen)

Well, perhaps I'll get to meet him before too long.

(beat)

So... the situation with Vedek Yevir went badly, don't you think?

KIRA

It's my problem, First Minister. I'll deal with it.

SHAKAAR (screen)

I'm afraid I don't agree, Nerys. This isn't just your problem. This will affect how every Bajoran on and off the station will deal with you in the future.

KIRA

I've earned the right to work this out for myself, First Minister.

SHAKAAR (screen)

Earned? This has nothing to do with what you've earned, Colonel. This has to do with what you owe. What you should be doing to bring the continuing chaos on Deep Space Nine under control.

KIRA

First Minister, my station was attacked only weeks ago by rogue Jem'Hadar who managed to destroy a Nebula-class starship and sabotage the power core. Since then we've spent twenty-six hours every day working to restore the station.

SHAKAAR (screen)

This attack, Colonel. Isn't it true that during it your first officer, close to seventy station personnel and residents and more than nine-hundred people aboard the *Aldebaran* were killed...

SHAKAAR

(screen, cont)

...due in no small part to your
allowing your upgrades to fall
behind, leaving DS-Nine vulnerable?

KIRA

We were understaffed and
inadequately protected. Neither
Starfleet nor the Militia took my
complaints seriously --

SHAKAAR (screen)

-- And afterward, two Jem'Hadar
soldiers successfully infiltrated
the station. Correct?

KIRA

Jem'Hadar are difficult to detect
while shrouded --

SHAKAAR (screen)

-- But not impossible. You had
just been attacked by them. Surely
infiltration was foreseeable?

KIRA

Their ships were all destroyed --

SHAKAAR (screen)

-- And just prior to the attack, a
prylar was murdered in public --

KIRA

She was assassinated --

SHAKAAR (screen)

-- And then your people withheld
a priceless historical document
containing potentially explosive
information --

KIRA

-- Evidence in the ongoing murder
investigation --

SHAKAAR (screen)

Which you uploaded to the Bajoran
comnet on your own authority --

KIRA

-- Because the Vedek Assembly was
trying to suppress --

SHAKAAR (screen)

- and meanwhile, the one Jem'Hadar
you did manage to detect escaped
and tried to destroy the station.
And your solution was to eject the
entire power core, which led
directly to the station's current
woes. Am I up to speed, Colonel?

KIRA

Your information seems decidedly
one-sided, First Minister. These
reports you've been getting - were
any of them from me? Or anyone
else who actually witnessed the
events? If not, may I respectfully
request that you, your staff and
the Vedek Assembly all just keep
your comments to yourself.

With the venom out loud now, Kira catches her breath...

SHAKAAR (screen)

Do you understand now why this
isn't just your problem, Nerys? Of
course the reports are one-sided.
Do you think I'm an idiot that I
don't see that? But you've made
enemies, Nerys. In the Assembly,
in the Militia, even in my own
government. And they will do
whatever they can to destroy you,
especially now that you've been...

Shakaar seems to search for the right word. Kira is out of
patience with him...

KIRA

Attainted. You can say it, Edon.
I've been attainted.

SHAKAAR (screen)

Do you feel that you're capable of
commanding the station, Colonel?
Not your station, the station. The
Bajoran people's station.

KIRA

Yes, First Minister. I believe I'm
still capable.

SHAKAAR (screen)

Because nothing can be allowed to
interfere with Bajor's admission
to the Federation. Bajor needs
Deep Space Nine, Colonel. Bajor
might not need you in command of
Deep Space Nine. Am I clear?

KIRA

Yes, First Minister.

SHAKAAR (screen)

I'd rather keep you there, Nerys.
You know the job, you know the
people. But you could stand to
learn some diplomacy. You do have
this tendency to make enemies...

KIRA

(quietly)

Are you one of them, Edon?

SHAKAAR (screen)

This is a very delicate time for
me, for all of Bajor. Everything
we've been working towards is
coming to a head, and it won't
take much to make it all unravel.
Especially if your enemies decide
I'm on your side. Do you under-
stand what I'm saying?

KIRA
(tightening)
Yes, I think I do. Will there be
anything else, First Minister?

SHAKAAR (screen)
(frustrated)
Why do you always have to be
damned impossible?

KIRA
I'm the commanding officer of Deep
Space Nine. It comes with the job.

SHAKAAR (screen)
Yes, that will be all. Be well,
Nerys. We'll talk again soon.

Shakaar signs off, and Kira sits back with an angry sigh.
She looks out of the window again at the repair work.

After a moment, the comm chirps again.

SHAR (comm)
Sorry Colonel, another call for
you. It's Captain Yates on Bajor.

KIRA
(sigh)
Doesn't anyone see the "Closed for
Repairs" sign? Alright, Shar, put
her through.

Kasidy's face appears on the screen...

KIRA
Kasidy. Tell me you're calling to
cheer me up. I could use it.

Then she sees the sadness and fear on Kasidy's face. Kasidy
doesn't even answer Kira, just looks at her, crying, as if
she can't bring herself to speak.

Kira's face slowly drops as she realises something must be
horribly wrong...

12 **EST. SISCO'S CREOLE KITCHEN - DAY**

Earth, New Orleans. Just enough to establish.

13 **INT. SISCO'S RESTAURANT - DINING ROOM - DAY**

Sun shines through the mesh curtains. Joseph walks slowly through the restaurant, just starting to get things ready for the day, trying to get on with things as best he can.

Heads to the kitchen, puts on a pot of coffee, looks around at the old pictures on the walls. He looks to one of the kitchen counters - there is a small TUB of tablets, his heart medicine. He doesn't take one.

He pours his coffee, stands at the back window, looks out onto the garden. He catches his reflection in the window, and he looks *dreadful*. Stares at it for a moment...

 JOSEPH
 Enough of this.

Trying to rally himself, Joseph grabs some garden shears off a hook and heads out the back into the garden...

14 **EXT. VEGETABLE GARDEN - DAY**

Joseph walks among rows of home-grown vegetables, decides on one particular patch, and grimacing at his aching joints, slowly KNEELS down to start tending to them.

He grouses for a while, struggles with the plants. An arm COLLAPSES under him, and he falls to the soil. And stays there, unconscious and unmoving...

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

15 EST. BAJOR - ESTABLISHING - DAY

A different angle on the Siskos' house, if possible.

16 INT. KASIDY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Kasidy stands at a window, looking out over the view. It's sunny, birds fluttering, stream trickling... but she has tears in her eyes. She looks around - the room looks empty.

She goes to a dresser and picks up a picture of the three Sisko men - Ben, Jake and Joseph, from 7x02 "Shadows and Symbols." She touches it lovingly. Are they all gone now?

She steps out of the house onto a veranda, takes a rocking chair and looks out over the countryside again. She's still cradling the picture, and pulls a shawl around herself.

DISSOLVE INTO:

17 INT. SISKO'S RESTAURANT - KITCHEN - DAY

The restaurant is closed. Blinds are drawn at the windows, chairs are up on the tables, the kitchen is quiet. JUDITH SISKO, Ben's younger sister, stands alone in the kitchen.

She looks around slowly. There is nothing to look at - everything is put away. It looks lonely, empty.

She takes her coffee out through the dining room, pausing at the bottom of the stairs to give another mournful look over the quiet room, before climbing the stairs slowly.

18 INT. SISKO'S - UPSTAIRS HALLWAY / BEDROOM - DAY

Judith walks down the hallway - the house is silent around her. She comes to a bedroom door, opens it tentatively...

...inside, Joseph is sat slumped in a chair, looking out of the window. He looks weak, shrivelled, old and beaten...

JUDITH

Dad?

(no answer)

Dad?

JOSEPH

The Crenshaws ain't gonna make it.
Some kind of grubs been chewing at
the roots. Gaby tries hard, but
she can't stay ahead of them.

JUDITH

Grubs need to eat too.

He gives a small bark of a laugh, but doesn't turn to her.

JUDITH

Nice to hear you laugh.

JOSEPH

It's just strange to hear someone
not nag at me about getting out of
this room.

JUDITH

I would if I thought it'd do any
good. But you've always known your
own mind.

JOSEPH

Finally, one of my children shows
some sense.

JUDITH

You're still thinking about Ben.

JOSEPH

I've always worked that garden
with my hands, since before you
were born. All the technology in
the world, that was the one place
where nothing but sun, water and
time made a difference. When Ben
was a little boy, he used to go
out there and wiggle his toes in
the dirt. You too if I recall.

JUDITH

Ben knew the risks that came with his job, Dad. We all did. We've all had to face the possibility he might not come home one day.

JOSEPH

Don't talk to me about risks! He wasn't killed by the Tzenkethi or vaporised by the Borg or blown to hell by the Dominion. Even that I could accept. I could make peace with it and move on. But he was taken from us, Judith. That damn planet and its so-called Prophets took him away from everything he loves, and everyone who loves him. And still they weren't satisfied. They had to take my grandson too.

JUDITH

We don't know that, Dad. Whatever happened to Jake, wherever he is, it may have nothing to do with Ben.

JOSEPH

Maybe you can convince yourself of that. I can't. The boy disappears the moment he leaves for Earth, and you want me to believe it has nothing to do with that damned thing... that wormhole.

(sniffle)

I told him not to take that assignment. Seven years ago, I told him. Stay on Mars. Build ships. At least you'll be close to Earth. Or forget the fleet and just come home. He still wasn't over Jennifer's death. He needed more time. But he went. And what's worse is he took Jake with him to that floating junkyard. And now they're both gone.

A pause, as the tears begin to fight their way out...

JOSEPH

God forgive me, sometimes I wish
Ben had never been born.

JUDITH

Dad, you don't mean that...

JOSEPH

I do. I know I shouldn't, but I
can't help it. They made him,
Judith. Used me and Sarah both,
just so we'd bring Ben into the
world, so that they could use him.
Like they've used all of us.

Joseph is openly crying now. Judith holds his head against
her, lets him cry. Eventually, he pushes her away.

JOSEPH

Go. Just go. I want to be alone.

Reluctantly, she leaves him. Before she closes the door
though, she give him one last glance in his chair by the
window, and he's looking even more diminished than ever.

19 EXT. DEEP SPACE NINE - ESTABLISHING

Focusing on the *Defiant* as it sits docked at the docking
ring. It is likewise crawling with repair engineers.

20 INT. DEFIANT - MAIN BRIDGE

VAUGHN sits in the centre seat. TENMEI is on her back under
the pilot's console, rummaging inside and fixing stuff. Lt
BOWERS works a console on the rear wall...

BOWERS

A call for you, sir. Colonel Kira.

VAUGHN

Put it through, Lieutenant.

BOWERS

You'll have to use the controls on
the arm of your chair, sir. I can
still only transmit text from here.

Vaughn peers at the controls, unsure which is which...

BOWERS

Channel three-eight-five, sir.

VAUGHN

(presses the control)

Vaughn here.

(nothing happens)

Nothing's happening.

BOWERS

You have to hold it down until the connection is made, sir.

VAUGHN

We're going to do something about this later...

Kira's face pops up on the main viewscreen.

KIRA (screen)

About what?

VAUGHN

About the whole ship, Colonel. I'm beginning to think it doesn't care much for me.

KIRA (screen)

Sorry to hear that. I hope you can work it out - I'd hate to have to choose between the two of you.

VAUGHN

Ouch. Duly noted.

KIRA (screen)

Defiant isn't much like the last few ships you served on, I bet.

VAUGHN

Not much, no. She reminds me of the ships of the old days - all engine and weapons.

KIRA (screen)
Those were the days, eh? So how's
it coming? Admiral Ross will be
expecting a progress report.

Vaughn presses a few more controls till a schematic appears
in the corner of the screen, carrying tech information...

VAUGHN
Well, all things considered. The
Defiant seems to occasionally...
(word?)
...resist refitting. She warmed
right up to the new bio-chem lab,
but she's being positively cranky
about the new stellar cartography
equipment. We think we've got it
sorted, although we blew a main
when we tried to connect the new
navigational controls earlier.
(calls out)
How's that coming, Tenmei?

Tenmei comes out from under the console and takes her seat,
checks the controls, all without looking at Vaughn...

TENMEI
Repair team estimates three hours
fifty minutes, sir.

VAUGHN
It'll be fixed by the end of the
day, Colonel. And we've swapped
out one of the old short-range
probe launchers for a long-range
tube. That seems to have gone
alright. No worries on the weapons
systems, of course.

KIRA (screen)
You should also know that we've
received a revised ETA for the new
warhead module. The *Gryphon* should
be arriving with it in seventy-
eight hours.

VAUGHN
Thank you Colonel, excellent news.

KIRA (screen)
Oh, and Ensign? I've manned that station. Be good to her.

TENMEI
(grinning)
Of course, Colonel. Although we're still only getting acquainted.

KIRA (screen)
(joking)
Maybe you could give the commander a few lessons. He seems to make a bad first impression.

TENMEI
(suddenly cold)
Yes, Colonel.

Tenmei's face shuts down. Kira wonders what she did wrong.

Vaughn, who knows very well what went wrong, rescues her...

VAUGHN
After I finish here, I'm going to get some dinner. Are you free?

KIRA (screen)
No, not tonight. I don't think I'd be very good company. Tomorrow?

VAUGHN
Tomorrow.

Kira signs off. Bowers calls from the rear of the room.

BOWERS
Commander, I've gotten as far as I can with this until the new units arrive. If you've no objection, I'm going below to check on the industrial replicator.

VAUGHN

No, let's call it, we're making good time. Go relax, Sam. You can worry about the replicator later.

BOWERS

Thank you sir. I'll be sure to get on it first thing.

Bowers packs his tools and leaves. Tenmei is still at the conn station, trying to lift a panel out of the housing and struggling with it. Vaughn approaches - she ignores him.

VAUGHN

Can I help you there, Ensign?

TENMEI

No sir. Thank you, sir.

VAUGHN

No really, that looks heavy.

TENMEI

It's not, sir. I'm fine.

VAUGHN

Are you sure? If you need help...

TENMEI

I'm fine, Commander. Thank you.
Dammit!

She YANKS her fingers out from the edge of the panel, shakes them, sucks on them.

VAUGHN

Are you hurt?

TENMEI

I'm fine. I don't need any help.

VAUGHN

Ensign, show me your fingers.

She grudgingly does - they are bruised and bleeding.

VAUGHN
Report to Nurse Richter in sickbay,
Ensign.

TENMEI
Yes sir.

She starts to leave. Vaughn wants to say something, isn't sure if he should, but decides to go for it...

VAUGHN
Prynn?

She freezes in the doorway, doesn't turn to him....

TENMEI
Yes, Commander?

VAUGHN
Would you have dinner with me?

Now she does turn, and her face is as icy as possible.

TENMEI
Permission to speak freely, sir?

VAUGHN
(knows what's coming)
By all means.

TENMEI
I accept the reality that you're my C.O. on this ship, and the first officer of the station. I respect and honour your rank, and I'll follow your orders without question. I'll even carry on the pretence in mixed company that I can stomach being in the same room with you. But beyond that... you can go to hell. Sir.

She turns sharply and EXITS. Vaughn can only sigh sadly...

VAUGHN
I'll take that as a no.

21 **EXT. BAJOR SURFACE - ESTABLISHING - DAY**

Just enough to establish again.

22 **INT. KASIDY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY**

Kasidy sits at the comm unit again - Judith Sisko is on the screen, which still pops and fizzles with static.

JUDITH (screen)

I don't know what to do, Kasidy. I knew Ben's disappearance hurt him, obviously. But then Jake vanishing without a trace so soon after... He hasn't been in his kitchen in days. He just sits in that chair staring out the window. I think... I think he's waiting to die.

KASIDY

It's going to be hard on everyone. But Joseph... he loves his boys so much. I wish I knew what to say, Judith. I've tried calling him myself, but I think hearing from me is only making his pain worse.

JUDITH (screen)

He loves you, Kasidy. Don't ever doubt that.

KASIDY

I don't, not for an instant. I just wish there was some way we could get through to him. Show him that no matter what else, he's going to have another grandchild soon who's going to need a grandfather...

She drifts off, an idea just occurring to her...

JUDITH (screen)

Kasidy? What is it?

KASIDY
I just realised... maybe there is
someone who can get through to him...

Off Kasidy's I-have-a-cunning-plan grin...

23 INT. SISCO'S RESTAURANT - DINING ROOM - DAY

The room is still deserted. There is a KNOCK at the door,
hushed voices and the giggling of little children. Judith
goes to the door and opens it.

It's MILES O'BRIEN and his family.

O'BRIEN
Ms Sisko?

JUDITH
Yes?

O'BRIEN
We're the O'Briens. Kasidy Yates
asked us to come.

On Judith's relieved and hopeful response...

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

24 INT. SISCO'S RESTAURANT - UPSTAIRS BEDROOM - DAY

Joseph sits where we left him. KNOCK at the door - it SQUEAKS open a little and Miles O'Brien's head appears...

O'BRIEN
Mister Sisko?

JOSEPH
What the hell do you want?

O'BRIEN
Uh... I'm Miles O'Brien, sir. Your son was my commanding -

JOSEPH
I know who you are. I also know I didn't invite you here.

O'BRIEN
No sir, but Kasidy Yates -

JOSEPH
(worried)
Is she alright?

O'BRIEN
She's fine, sir. She contacted me in San Francisco and asked me to pay a call. And your daughter -

JOSEPH
Why can't people just mind their own damn business? A man has a right to mourn his son, and his grandson, in his own way. You tell my daughter I don't need somebody from Starfleet coming into my home to talk to me about my grief.

O'BRIEN
But sir, if I could just --

In a flash, Joseph is up out of his chair and closing on Miles, shaking his fist and almost in tears of rage...

JOSEPH

Didn't you hear what I said?
You're not welcome here! Get out
and leave me the hell alone!

O'Brien backs away, and the door SLAMS in his face.

25 INT. SISCO'S RESTAURANT - DINING ROOM - DAY

O'Brien slumps back down the stairs where Judith and KEIKO are waiting for him...

KEIKO

No luck?

O'BRIEN

I don't think I've ever seen
anyone so angry. Is he like this
all the time?

JUDITH

Usually he just withdraws into
himself. You saw how he looks, Mr
O'Brien. He isn't eating much.
He's wasting away. It's like his
bitterness is eating him from the
inside out.

(begins to cry)

I'm sorry you were brought into
this. But I was desperate, and
Kasidy said...

KEIKO

Shh, Judith, it's okay. We're glad
to have been asked to help. Aren't
we, Miles?

O'BRIEN

Mmm? Oh, absolutely.

He's watching little Molly and Yoshi - she is playing with
toys with him on the other side of the room.

O'BRIEN
Ms Sisko...

JUDITH
Judith, please.

O'BRIEN
Alright, but you have to call me
Miles. Do you have a replicator?

JUDITH
In this house? Wash your mouth
out. To listen to Dad, you'd think
they were the biggest threat to
human creativity ever devised,
especially to the art of cooking.
But I know there's a replimat a
few blocks from here.

O'BRIEN
Perfect.

KEIKO
Miles Edward O'Brien, what scheme
are you cooking up now?

O'BRIEN
Funny you should put it that way.

Off Miles' I-have-a-cunning-plan grin...

26 INT. SISKI'S RESTAURANT - UPSTAIRS BEDROOM - DAY

Joseph is back in his chair. The NOISES of clanking and
clattering pots and pans filter up from downstairs...

Joseph looks around, SNIFFS the air... and hauls himself
out of his chair with murder in his eyes.

JOSEPH
Burned food? In my kitchen?

He brings himself to the door, opens it - the sounds of
family and laughter come through...

27 **INT. SISCO'S RESTAURANT - DINING ROOM - DAY**

Joseph staggers downstairs, clutching the banister, his depression forgotten in the anger. Miles is in the kitchen stirring some noxious potion in a giant POT on the stove.

Miles, Keiko and Judith all look caught in the act. Silence as Joseph surveys them all with his death-vision...

JOSEPH

What in the name of all that's
holy do you people think you're
doing?

O'BRIEN

Uh... well... I...

YOSHI

Hi!

Joseph looks down to see YOSHI, the O'Briens' two-year-old son, tugging at his trouser leg and grinning up at him. MOLLY is nearby quietly drawing with crayons. Joseph tries to ignore them both and maintain his anger.

YOSHI

Hi!

KEIKO

I don't know if you remember me,
I'm Keiko O'Brien. We met a couple
of years ago when you visited Deep
Space Nine. These are my children.
That's Molly on the floor, and
this one's Kirayoshi...

JOSEPH

Well, of course I remember. What
do you think I am, senile?

YOSHI

Hi!

Yoshi tugs on Joseph's pants again, and Joseph almost lets a smile slip out. Then he sniffs the air and turns instead to Miles, who is now a dead man standing...

Joseph stalks towards him as the pot starts to boil and rattle. Joseph steels himself against the horror, lifts off the lid and looks in...

JOSEPH

Do you mind telling me, what in the name of heaven this is?

O'BRIEN

Uhh... corned beef and cabbage.

JOSEPH

(shudder)

And this... is what you feed your family?

O'BRIEN

(offended)

What's wrong with corned beef and cabbage?

Joseph sighs, turns off the stove, grabs the pot and hands it to O'Brien. He washes his hands and puts on an apron. Starts grabbing ingredients and getting chopping boards...

JOSEPH

Judith, go to the cellar and get me some andouille right away. Then head down to the fish market and pick up some jumbo shrimp - about two dozen.

JUDITH

Right away, Dad.

JOSEPH

Mrs O'Brien, would you mind going into the garden and picking two large red bell peppers? They're on the far left. We're gonna make sure these children of yours get a proper meal.

KEIKO

I'd be happy to. And please, call me Keiko.

She heads out the back, pausing to give Miles a "well done" peck on the cheek. He's still holding the pot...

O'BRIEN

Wait a minute. What am I supposed to do with this?

JOSEPH

Did you bring a phaser?

Joseph stalk off, leaving O'Brien hurt...

28 EXT. DEEP SPACE NINE - REPAIR CREWS

The repair crews continue to work all over the station. Using work bees, grapplers and other stuff, one team is in the midst of gingerly manoeuvring the replacement power core away from Empok Nor and towards DS9...

29 INT. DS9 - QUARK'S BAR

A crowd of engineers, Bajoran and Starfleet, relaxing and enjoying themselves. QUARK bustles about in the usual way.

Some customers are paying close attention to the screens in the walls and behind the bar, which show various angles on the repair work going on outside...

30 INT. DS9 - LOWER CORE AREA

The core has reached the entrance to the area, and space-suited figures begin to delicately guide it into place...

31 INT. DS9 - QUARK'S BAR

VAUGHN sits alone at a table on the upper level, nursing a beer and looking down on the crowd. TENMEI is among the crowd, enjoying some flirty attention, but again pointedly ignoring Vaughn. He raises his glass.

VAUGHN

Good luck, lads. You're going to need it.

He downs the last of his beer, and Quark is immediately there with a refill...

VAUGHN

Hello, Quark. I didn't ask for another drink.

QUARK

I know, but a good host knows these things.

VAUGHN

Thanks. Put it on my tab.

QUARK

Oh, it's there already.

Quark notices Vaughn's preoccupied stare, and follows it to see Tenmei in the crowd. He smiles knowingly.

QUARK

Come on, Commander. Don't do this to yourself. I sympathise, but it's not worth it. Not that I fault your taste. I've had a chance to observe Ensign Tenmei myself and there's definitely something special there.

VAUGHN

Quark... that's enough.

QUARK

No really, I understand. And she's your officer too - that's gotta be hard. But if you start obsessing, it leads to nothing but trouble. The sleepless nights, the grey days, the restraining orders...

VAUGHN

Please, Quark. I'm asking you to stop now.

QUARK

But I have an idea - a visit to a holosuite. I'll make a reservation right now for when they reopen.

(more)

QUARK (cont)
I don't think you've had a chance
to peruse my wide selection of
lonely nights programs...

Vaughn SLAMS down his mug, spilling beer onto the table...

VAUGHN
Quark. Prynn is my daughter.

Quark goes silent for a second, then picks up Vaughn's mug,
mops up the spill, gives it him back...

QUARK
On the house, Commander.

VAUGHN
Thank you, Quark.

Quark quickly walks away...

QUARK
(to self)
Well, that's going to cost me.

On the screens, the engineers finally lock the new power
core into place (although it doesn't power up yet).

The watching engineers, including Tenmei, send up a CHEER.

But Vaughn just looks miserable...

32 INT. SISKOS' RESTAURANT - DINING ROOM - DAY

The Siskos and O'Briens sit together around the table,
enjoying their food. The children LAUGH at some unlikely
story Joseph just told. He has cheered up immensely.

JOSEPH
What do you do in San Francisco,
Molly? Lotta playing outdoors with
your friends, I bet. Riding your
bike down those amazing hills?

MOLLY
I don't know how to ride a bike.

Joseph stops and blinks, completely baffled...

JOSEPH

Excuse me?

MOLLY

(quiet)

I don't know how to ride a bike.

KEIKO

(embarrassed)

You have to understand, she grew up on a space station...

JOSEPH

Well, I have a solution for that. I have an old bicycle in the basement that my son used to ride when he was your age. How would you like to have it?

MOLLY

Can I, Mommy?

KEIKO

I don't see how we can refuse.

MOLLY

Yes!

JOSEPH

That's just fine. You and your parents can try it out in the park tomorrow. After a good night's sleep and a good breakfast.

O'BRIEN

Sir, we wouldn't dream of imposing any more than we already have.

JOSEPH

So what are you saying, Chief? Are you going to deprive an old man of the company of these children?

O'BRIEN

No, sir, I just meant --

JOSEPH

Never mind, I'm not taking no for an answer. You'll all stay the night, at least. We'll have a fine time! And in the morning, Molly can try her new bicycle.

KEIKO

What do you say, Molly?

MOLLY

Thank you, Mr Sisko.

Joseph LAUGHS, properly and heartily this time. Judith is thrilled to see it. The mood is so much brighter than before. Keiko blows Miles a kiss.

JOSEPH

You're welcome, Molly. Of course, you'll need to take off that pretty necklace first. Wouldn't want anything to happen to it.

We see that Molly is wearing an unusual green necklace - the one given to her by Opaka in 1x13 "Battle Lines"...

JUDITH

May I ask where she got it? It's very unusual. Is it Vulcan...?

O'BRIEN

Actually, it's Bajoran.

Joseph darkens again at the mention of that world. But looking at the children, he pulls himself out of it easily.

JOSEPH

Well, on Molly, it's positively beautiful. She obviously takes after her mother.

JUDITH

Dad, enough.

Joseph SLAPS Miles on the back jovially, making him sputter his drink...

JOSEPH

Oh, I'm just kidding. Anyone with children like these is welcome in my home any time.

(warning)

As long as he stays out of my kitchen.

O'BRIEN

Noted, sir. Actually, the necklace was a gift... from Kai Opaka. She was the religious leader of Bajor at the time. But she was lost in the Gamma Quadrant right after.

(pause)

I talked to Major Kira about it afterward. Opaka had been a force for peace and unity on Bajor for a long time. Her loss was a blow to everyone. But the thing is, she never doubted for a second that everything that happened to her was happening for a reason. She really believed she was serving a higher purpose, something bigger than herself.

JOSEPH

I understand what you're trying to say, Chief. But my son...

O'BRIEN

Sir, with all due respect, I knew your son as a father, a soldier, a diplomat, a shipwright, a baseball fan, an explorer, a religious icon... not to mention an exceptional cook.

Joseph smiles at the reflected compliment...

O'BRIEN (cont)

None of those were responsible for what happened to him. From what I know, he sacrificed himself for a world he'd grown to love more than himself. During his life, he saved countless other lives. You should be proud of him.

JOSEPH

And my grandson? For what was he sacrificed?

JUDITH

Dad, I know you don't want to hear this, but Jake was a grown man. He was taking responsibility for his own life. Wherever he is, whatever happened to him, he chose it.

JOSEPH

How can I know that, Judith? How can anyone know?

JUDITH

I don't pretend to know anything. None of us do. But are you so determined to assume the worst that you're afraid to have any hope at all?

On Joseph's thoughtful consideration of that, we...

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

33 EXT. DEEP SPACE NINE - REPAIR CREWS

Focusing on the crews working on the lower core area...

34 INT. DS9 - KIRA'S OFFICE

Kira sits at her desk, looking into her comm unit. Bajoran Militia Colonel LENARIS (3x24 "Shakaar") is on the screen.

KIRA
Please, Colonel Lenaris. Make a full search of Bajor, the whole system. Whatever resources you can spare. You know what Jake Sisko means to Bajor, and whatever your feelings may be about me, this isn't about me. Do whatever you can to find him, please.

LENARIS (screen)
I understand, Colonel. I'll keep you apprised. Lenaris out.

35 INT. DS9 - PROMENADE

GROANS and CLANGS of machinery echo through the bulkheads, indicating the repair work going on.

Kira walks alone through the darkened Promenade. She feels the vibrations, looks wistfully at the empty storefronts.

A Bajoran security Corporal appears nearby. Doesn't really acknowledge Kira, keeps his eyes straight ahead as he goes. Kira sees this - she's had a day, and it's the last straw.

KIRA
Do you have a problem, Corporal?

CORPORAL
(deer in the headlights)
No sir.

KIRA

Are you sure? I thought perhaps
you'd forgotten how to show proper
respect to your commanding officer.

CORPORAL

Sir, no sir!

KIRA

Because, if there is something
causing you to forget who commands
this station, I'm sure I can find
someone else with a better memory.

CORPORAL

That won't be necessary, sir!

Kira stands and stares for a while, making the Corporal
suffer as much as possible. Finally she lets him go...

KIRA

Carry on.

CORPORAL

Yes sir! Thank you, Colonel!

He scuttles off, tail between his legs. Kira continues to
pace the Promenade, sad and angry. An older Bajoran male,
Sergeant SHUL, calls down to her from the upper level...

SHUL

Evening, Colonel.

KIRA

Good evening, Shul.

SHUL

Thought that was you I heard.

KIRA

(laughing)

How could you tell?

SHUL

Sorry about Corporal Hava there.
I'll give him a stern talking to.

KIRA

I'd appreciate that. Quiet tonight, otherwise?

SHUL

When they're not down there banging away on whatever it is they're banging on.

KIRA

They should be done soon. Then we'll be busy again.

SHUL

It could stay this way from the beginning of one week to the end of the next and I'd be happy. Fewer people, fewer problems.

KIRA

If that's how you feel, why not stay down on Bajor? I'm sure there are plenty of jobs where you don't have to see anyone. A farm, maybe.

SHUL

I've done my share of farming, thanks. Besides, if I lived dirt-side, I'd have to be shuttling up here all the time to see the wife.

KIRA

Oh, you're married?

SHUL

Thirty-two years, last month.

KIRA

Congratulations.

SHUL

Doesn't take much skill to stay married. Just some patience, and the common sense to know when to shut up and listen.

KIRA

(laughing)

I'll have to remember that. So your wife works here on the station? What does she do?

SHUL

She's over at the Temple, Colonel. You know her - Aba. Cleans up after the services, keeps the candles lit. Cooks breakfast for the vedeks.

KIRA

Sure, I know her.

(gestures)

About this tall, laughs a lot.

SHUL

That's her.

KIRA

Well, please give her my regards.

(awkward pause)

Well, good evening then.

(and another)

You know I was attainted, Shul?

SHUL

Yes, Colonel.

KIRA

Aba probably wouldn't like it if she knew you were talking to me.

SHUL

I won't tell her if you won't.

KIRA

But doesn't it bother you?

SHUL

Bother me? Course it bothers me. Seems that the Vedeks sometimes use an awfully big stick to keep people in line.

(more)

SHUL (cont)

When I was a boy, I used to help take care of a herd of *batos*. You know *batos*? Big smelly creatures, they are.

KIRA

Sure, I know *batos*.

SHUL

They're the kind of animals you have to poke to keep 'em moving. Thing is though, if you poke 'em too hard, they seem to wake up, like they're not so much dumb as just not paying attention. That's when you're really in trouble.

(pause)

In my opinion, what the vedeks did to you was pretty much the same as hitting a *batos* just that bit too hard. You know what I mean?

KIRA

Yes, I think I do. Thank you, Shul. It's been a pleasure.

SHUL

Pleasure's mine, Colonel. Oh... the word around the station is that you heard from the Constable not too long ago. Is he well?

KIRA

I think so, yes.

SHUL

If you see him again, please say hello for me.

KIRA

Sure thing.

They go their separate ways, Kira feeling much more buoyed than before...

36 **EXT. BAJOR - KASIDY'S HOUSE - NIGHT**

Just enough to establish again...

37 **INT. KASIDY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT**

Kasidy sits in an armchair, opposite Prylar EIVOS, the man who was teaching Jake at B'Hala. The fire is crackling, and they're sharing tea and cakes. He is kindly but a bit dull and droning - Kasidy is politely humouring him.

EIVOS

The excavation is advancing faster than any of us expected it to. We may even be able to begin a new dig in the north-west section of the city by springtime. There is some fragmentary evidence that we may find the city's main shrine in the north-west section. Of course, the timetable for moving into the other sections of the ruins hasn't been completely determined yet.

KASIDY

Of course. Can I get you some more tea, Prylar?

EIVOS

Nonsense. If my wife ever found out I allowed a pregnant woman to wait on me, she'd never let me back in the house. And quite right too. Herbal tea, were you having?

KASIDY

Yes, apple-cinnamon.

Eivos heads to the kitchen, something into the replicator, it whirs, and he returns to the living room. Meanwhile, Kasidy just continues to sit and look out of the windows.

EIVOS

While I'm up, may I make you something to eat?

KASIDY

Oh no, thank you. You didn't come here to spend the evening serving me either.

EIVOS

Even if that's so, I did come here for a reason. Actually, I brought you something...

He goes to a coat rack by the door, rummages in his cloak, and brings out a small PACKAGE, about six inches long, wrapped in paper. He comes back and hands it to Kasidy.

KASIDY

Is it a gift?

EIVOS

It is. A gift for a very specific purpose.

Intrigued, she unwraps the package. Inside is a humanoid FIGURINE made of a golden-amber crystal.

CLOSE UP - the figure has Bajoran nose-ridges, shoulders that slope outward like a Cardassian's. The firelight makes the figure's eyes GLOW warmly. Kasidy is quite captivated.

KASIDY

This is beautiful.

EIVOS

I'm glad you think so.

KASIDY

What is it made of?

EIVOS

A material called jevonite. The piece was discovered at B'Hala, and we --

KASIDY

B'Hala?

EIVOS

Yes. That's one of the reasons I brought it. I was going to ask the Bajoran Archaeological Authority and the Vedek Assembly if we might make a gift of the figurine to Jake, as a token of the work he himself did at B'Hala... and also as a keepsake of his father.

(Kasidy smiles)

But then with this dreadful news of Jake going missing, and knowing how close the two of you are... well, I just thought this might be a nice keepsake of Jake for you.

KASIDY

I... I'm... Thank you. This means a great deal to me.

EIVOS

I'm so glad.

KASIDY

Prylar, I have to tell you, you're the only member of the Bajoran religious order who doesn't make me feel uncomfortable.

EIVOS

Kind of you to say. I certainly understand. With the unrest these days in the Assembly, I sometimes find it difficult myself not to feel ill at ease among my peers.

KASIDY

There's unrest?

EIVOS

Yes, I'm afraid so. When the translation of the ancient Ohalu text was posted to the comnet, it initiated a major division within the Assembly.

KASIDY

How bad is it?

EIVOS

It is not good. The divide seems to grow wider every day. I'm worried the very unity of the Bajoran religion may be at risk.

KASIDY

I'm sorry to hear that. Is there anything you can do?

EIVOS

I do what I can. Who knows? Maybe we'll find another text at B'Hala that will repair the damage done by the first one.

KASIDY

Maybe.

Kasidy has had enough of depressing conversation. She deliberately changes the subject...

KASIDY (cont)

So - you were telling me about excavating the north-west section at B'Hala?

EIVOS

Yes!

He immediately launches back into his droning, and Kasidy looks down at the figurine in her lap. She's sad, happy, grateful, all at once...

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

38 EXT. NEW ORLEANS PARK - DAY

A leafy and pleasant public park area near Sisko's Creole Kitchen. Molly O'Brien is riding a bike, wobbling a bit. Miles is holding onto the back, guiding and protecting her.

KEIKO

That's it Molly - keep pedalling!

Molly is having a great time, giggling and getting the hang of it. That is until she looks around and sees that Miles is no longer holding her. She shrieks and loses control, and the bike goes skidding away from her. She falls and scrapes her arm. Keiko and Miles both run after her.

KEIKO

Molly! Are you all right?

MOLLY

Wow! That was great!

KEIKO

I'll get a dermal regenerator.

But Molly is already up and on her bike again.

O'BRIEN

Scrape already forgotten. She's a natural.

KEIKO

She could never do this on DS-Nine. Or the *Enterprise*, for that matter. Can you imagine Captain Picard's reaction to a child on a bike in his corridors?

O'BRIEN

Picard? What about Odo? I can hear him now.

(Odo impression)

"No pedalling on my promenade!"

KEIKO

He always tried so hard to come
across as stern, but you know deep
down he probably wanted to turn
into a bicycle himself just to see
what the fascination was.

They laugh, and turn to see Joseph walking towards them...

JOSEPH

How's the bike working out?

KEIKO

It's been wonderful, sir. Molly's
having the time of her life. We
want to thank you again for your
generosity, and your hospitality.

JOSEPH

No need to thank me, Keiko. This
visit helped me to realise there's
a lot more I need to be thinking
about right now than my own
feelings. Actually, that was what
I came out here to discuss with
you. I have a request to make.

O'BRIEN

Well, of course, sir. Anything.

JOSEPH

I think you may regret saying that
when you hear me out. I want you
to take me to Bajor.

O'Brien is surprised by that, gives it a little thought...

O'BRIEN

It may take me a while to arrange
the leave time. But yes, of course
we will.

JOSEPH

I'll wait a little longer. Thank you.

They all turn to watch Molly again on her bike...

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

Still dark for the moment...

40 **INT. DS9 - PROMENADE**

Kira sits alone on the spiral staircase, looking around at the still-dark Promenade and empty shop fronts.

Her combadge CHIRPS. She taps to answer...

 NOG (comm)
Nog to Colonel Kira.

 KIRA
Go ahead, Nog.

 NOG (comm)
I think we're about ready, sir.
The new core is in place, all the
connections are stable, and the
simulations show good. We're ready
whenever you give the word.

 KIRA
Good work, Lieutenant. Flip the
switch.

Kira stands, waiting for the light to return...

41 **INT. DS9 - LOWER CORE AREA**

Nog, in a pressure suit but with the helmet off, stands at a console with one massive pulley SWITCH. The core is visible, but not yet powered. Many other Bajoran and Starfleet techs in suits are at various other consoles.

 NOG
All right everyone. You heard the
lady. Three... two... one!

He cranks the switch, and the core hums to life.

The noise and the light grow to a loud but harmonious pitch, and other lights begin to come on around the area...

42 EXT. DEEP SPACE NINE

The station gradually comes back to life, starting at the central core and moving out to the docking ring and pylons.

43 INT. DS9 - MAIN OPS CENTRE

Shar stands at the master Ops console as the room pulses back to life, the lights in the walls and panels responding. He looks around pleased...

44 INT. KASIDY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Kasidy places the jevonite figurine on the mantelpiece next to the photo of the three Siskos. She seems happier. She steps onto the veranda again and watches the new morning...

45 EXT. NEW ORLEANS - DAY

Joseph Sisko watches the O'Briens happily playing like a family in the park, while Judith bobs Kirayoshi in her lap on a nearby bench.

46 INT. DEFIANT - MAIN BRIDGE

Vaughn is sat in the centre chair again, with Bowers and Tenmei working at various consoles.

BOWERS

Station reports no problems, sir.

The new core is working just fine.

Vaughn nods and smiles at the news, glances over to Tenmei and lets the sadness through for a second, but returns his attention to the screen...

47 INT. DS9 - PROMENADE

Kira smiles as the Promenade lights up and the station hums back to life around her...

As lights come on around the entrance to the Temple, she looks over to it, and another flash of sadness...

But she steels herself. She can handle it. She taps her combadge...

KIRA
Kira to Ops.

SHAR (comm)
Ensign ch'Thane here, sir.

KIRA
Ensign, please send out a message
that repairs have been successful,
and all residents of Deep Space
Nine are welcome to return at
their leisure. Recall all staff
and crew as well.
(beat)
We've got work to do.

48 EXT. DEEP SPACE NINE

Finally, the station is back at full power.

FADE OUT:

THE END