

STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE

## 10x09 - "Blank Slate."

Screenplay by Martyn Dunn

Based on characters from the series

*Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*

and from the post-finale novels  
by Pocket Books

incorporating elements from

*Star Trek: Terok Nor: Night of the Wolves*  
by SD Perry & Britta Dennison

and "The Choice"  
by Michael Jan Friedman, appearing in  
*Star Trek: The Next Generation*,  
*DC Comics Special #2*

## **TEASER**

FADE IN:

### **1     INT. DS9 - RO'S QUARTERS**

Morning. RO is in her yellow undershirt. Picks up her earring, clips it on. Stretches her neck - it works fine. Cheerful, happy, looking forward to the day. Heads into...

#### **BATHROOM**

Looks in the mirror, quickly runs a brush through her hair. Opens the cabinet, grabs toothbrush and paste, brushes her teeth, spits it out. Putting it all back in the cabinet, she notices a hypo sitting there on a shelf, picks it up...

RO

Ah. Don't need you anymore.

She tosses it to the side, where it lands in a rubbish bin.

### **2     INT. DS9 - HABITAT RING CORRIDOR**

Middling busy with EXTRAS heading to work or just going about their business. Now in full uniform, RO nods and smiles at the ones she recognises. She turns a corner...

...and finds an engineering crew hard at work, barriers to guide the public around them. One up a ladder, working with an acetylene torch and wearing a spark mask. Two more on the lower areas with various other tools. Ro approaches...

RO

You guys are up early.

The blow-torcher stops work and removes his mask, revealing himself to be NOG. He greets Ro cheerily...

NOG

Oh, hi, Ro. Yeah, this bulkhead decided to spontaneously dissolve into rust overnight. River knows why. Between you and me, I think it was that Yalosian family that stayed over last week.

RO

Ah, the ones with the benzene atmosphere. Yep, that'll do it.

NOG

So now I gotta remove this section and destroy it, then run over to Empok Nor, grab a spare, bring it back and rebuild the whole thing.

RO

Well... have fun!

Nog replaces his mask and goes back to work. Further along, Ro spots TARAN'ATAR emerging from his own quarters. She makes a decision with herself, heads over towards him...

RO

(calls out)

Taran'atar!

The Jem'Hadar turns, stern and stony. Ro walks up to him...

TARAN'ATAR

Lieutenant. How are you today?

Ro smirks a little - this friendly phrase feels absolutely foreign in Taran'atar's mouth...

RO

I'm actually good, thank you for asking. In fact, that's what I wanted to talk to you about.

She pauses, because this is a fairly big thing to say...

RO

I guess it's no secret things have been tense between us, given...

(what to say?)

...what happened. But it's getting better. My back is healing great. Nog took the anti-grav supports off. I don't have to keep a supply of painkillers around all day.

TARAN'ATAR

I am glad.

RO

And... I've had time. To process everything. I mean, I always knew it wasn't your fault. You didn't mean me any harm.

From immediately behind Ro, L'HAAN steps into view...

L'HAAN

She's lying.

Taran'atar's eyes flare and his body tenses at the sight of the Vulcan. Ro is concentrating on what she wants to say...

RO

(b.g., cont)

But knowing that intellectually and trying to convince your automatic stress response of it are two different things.

L'HAAN

Observe her. She stands outside of your reach, placing a protective distance between you.

L'Haan circles them. Taran'atar's gaze darts between L'Haan and Ro, trying unsuccessfully to conceal his reaction...

RO

(b.g., cont)

It took me a while, but I got there eventually. You were as much of a victim as I was.

L'HAAN

Her eyes are aware of your every movement. Her legs are tense, ready to run. Her fingers jitter, as if preparing to fight.

His eyes shift - Ro's fingers twitch, just as L'Haan said.

RO  
(b.g., cont)  
I think I can genuinely say...  
that I'm over it.  
(beat, then f.g.)  
Taran'atar? Are you okay?

Taran'atar jerks; he realises Ro asked him a question...

TARAN'ATAR  
I am... fine, Lieutenant.

RO  
I guess what I'm trying to say  
is... we're okay. You and me.  
(off his confusion)  
I forgive you.

TARAN'ATAR  
I appreciate that, Lieutenant.

RO  
Okay. Good.

Ro relaxes a little, relieved. Taran'atar's eyes are still scanning nervously. L'Haan has disappeared for now...

RO  
Are you sure you're alright?

TARAN'ATAR  
I am. Thank you for asking.

RO  
I'll... see you later. Bye.

She turns and walks away. Taran'atar watches her go...

...and then L'Haan is there.

L'HAAN  
If she truly forgave you, she would  
not be so tense in your company. I  
think she lies to comfort you.

Taran'atar replies in a low hiss, keeping his voice down...

TARAN'ATAR

I told you not to speak to me in public.

L'HAAN

If you cannot control your own mind, I can hardly be blamed.

Taran'atar growls under his breath...

Elsewhere, Ro walks along, proud of herself for making up with Taran'atar. She approaches Nog's group again...

...who are now manoeuvring a large, discoloured slab of heavy METAL WALL away from its moorings.

NOG

Steady... steady...

RO

You need a hand there?

NOG

Oh, actually, yeah, if you don't mind, Lieutenant. Grab that corner next to Teermok there...

Ro moves quickly to grab the corner. But as she does...

NOG

It's slipping... watch out!

The wall CRUMBLES, shattering into two chunks and a rain of fragments. The largest piece is heading straight for Ro...

**RO**

...as the falling piece plummets towards her and catches her full-force. It knocks her flat to the ground, with a hard BONK of skull against deck plates. Nog panics...

NOG

Lieutenant! Lieutenant!

CLOSE on Ro, head on the deck, knocked unconscious...

**3     INT. DS9 - PROMENADE**

Normal morning, as everyone goes to work and tourists peruse. QUARK is just opening the bar for the morning.

KIRA comes running down the Promenade, heading directly to the Infirmary. The doors open and she runs in...

**4     INT. DS9 - INFIRMARY (CONTINUOUS)**

...to find BASHIR hovering nervously, waiting for her. Nog is also there, looking very worried.

KIRA  
What is it? What's going on?

CRASH - they all *flinch* at the sound of machinery flying. Then Ro's voice, a desperate SHRIEK of terror and anger...

RO (o.s.)  
Get away from me! Don't touch me!

BASHIR  
See for yourself...

He leads Kira towards the surgical suite...

**SURGICAL SUITE**

...where the bio-bed is overturned, a makeshift barrier. Medical consoles and trays of instruments have been thrown. Nurse RICHTER has her hands up in a calming gesture...

Pinned into the far corner is RO. Stripped back down to her undershirt, eyes wild, head bandaged where it was hit. She is terrified out of her wits, sweating and panting, holding a plasma scalpel out in front of her in defence...

RO  
Any closer and I'll kill you.

Kira steps into the room, delicate and gentle...

KIRA  
Laren? What's going on?

Ro holds the scalpel out towards Kira, eyes her warily...

RO  
Who are you?

Kira looks at Bashir, confused. He shrugs, "Yeah, I know."

KIRA  
What do you mean, who am I?

RO  
I mean, I don't know who any of  
you people are. But I know a  
Cardassian torture chamber when I  
see it. So if one of you doesn't  
start talking about a way out of  
here right now, I'm gonna start  
cutting.

Kira takes a small step forward. Ro immediately flinches...

KIRA  
Laren, you're not a prisoner. You  
hit your head, and we're just  
trying to help you.

Ro looks at her a bit closer...

RO  
You're Bajoran.

KIRA  
Yes. So are you.

RO  
I know that! I'm not an idiot!

KIRA  
I know you're not. I'm sorry.

RO  
What uniform is that?

KIRA  
Starfleet. You're wearing one too.



Ro looks down at herself, and sees that she is. It only confuses her more. She is really scared now...

RO  
Who are you?

KIRA  
I'm Kira Nerys. You know me. You know all of us. That's Julian, and that Kristen, and that's Nog.

RO  
Okay... if that's who you are...  
(beat)  
...then who am I?

Kira looks to Bashir again. It's worse than they thought.

Finishing on Ro, afraid and confused...

BLACK OUT:

**END OF TEASER**

**ACT ONE**

FADE IN:

**5     INT. DS9 - INFIRMARY**

A PADD shows Ro's Starfleet record, with clear headshot...

KIRA

This is you.

The bio-bed has been righted - Ro now sits on it, calmer than before. Kira stands by, close and comforting, showing Ro the padd screen. Nog hovers nervously at the edges...

KIRA (cont)

Lieutenant Ro Laren, chief of  
security on Deep Space Nine.

RO

Starfleet.

KIRA

Yes. Do you know what that is?

RO

I know what Starfleet is. I know  
what a Bajoran and a Cardassian  
and a human are.

(re padd)

Just... her. She's a complete  
stranger to me. You all are.

Bashir enters carefully from the main Infirmary room - Ro instinctively flinches and pulls back from him...

KIRA

It's okay. He won't hurt you.

BASHIR

I have the test results. Thank you  
for letting me take the tests, by  
the way. I realise that can't have  
been easy.

Ro nods awkward acknowledgement...

KIRA

So what are we dealing with?

BASHIR

No permanent injury. Your brain isn't damaged, just sort of... scrambled, like it's rebooting itself. And in the meantime it's lost track of bits and pieces.

NOG

Like a computer that's lost its content management system. The files are still there, it just can't find them.

BASHIR

Exactly. It will heal and rebuild the neural pathways -

(off Ro's confusion)

- find the memories again. It'll just take a little time.

RO

What do I do until then?

BASHIR

Well, first of all you're off duty until further notice. Lots of rest, no strenuous activity. We do not take chances with head injuries.

RO

Okay...

BASHIR

I would also suggest that you keep reading your official records and personal logs - it might help to jog your memory.

KIRA

Thank you, Doctor. Come on, Ro. I'll take you to your quarters.

Kira gently guides Ro off the bio-bed and towards the door.  
Ro is still unsure and wary. Nog hovers by the doorway...

NOG  
Lieutenant, I want to apologise.

RO  
Okay... Why?

NOG  
I was in charge of the work team  
when you got hurt. I feel like  
it's my fault. I'm sorry.

RO  
Thanks, I guess. Nog, is it?  
(he nods)  
I'm sorry... I don't even know  
what species you are.

NOG  
I'm a Ferengi.

RO  
And you're in Starfleet?

NOG  
Not all of us. Just me.

Ro nods - this is neutral information - and moves on. Kira  
gives Nog a warm, forgiving pat on the shoulder on the way.

## 6 INT. DS9 - PROMENADE

Ro and Kira emerge from the Infirmary. Ro looks around in  
quiet shock at all the colourful sights. Kira stays close.

Further down the corridor, walking along and minding his  
business, is Taran'atar. Ro sees him, flinches again...

RO  
What is that?

KIRA  
His name's Taran'atar. He's a  
Jem'Hadar soldier.

RO  
Is he in Starfleet too?

KIRA  
Oh no, definitely not.

RO  
He looks like he's designed to  
hurt you...

KIRA  
Let's get you home.

QUARK stops wiping his windows, worried at the sight of  
Kira guiding Ro away. Then Taran'atar approaches...

QUARK  
Is it disembowelling time again?

TARAN'ATAR  
Your jokes only irritate me. One  
diplomat should speak to another  
more diplomatically.

QUARK  
Yeah... well... shut up.

Quark pouts, while Taran'atar enters the bar...

**7     INT. DS9 - QUARK'S BAR**

...and heads towards the stairs, everyone giving him a wide  
berth. L'Haan demurely climbs the stairs behind him...

L'HAAN  
It amuses me that you think  
yourself a better diplomat than  
the Ferengi.

TARAN'ATAR  
Do not speak to me. I am tired of  
your jabbering.

**ANGLE**

Now L'Haan is waiting for him at the top of the stairs...

L'HAAN  
You have been grateful for my  
assistance in the past.

TARAN'ATAR  
You promised to help me in my  
mission. Instead you have only  
annoyed me at every turn.

In his frustration, Taran'atar is forgetting to keep his  
voice down. He walks past L'Haan, on down the corridor...

**ANGLE**

L'Haan now waits outside the door of the holosuite...

(In b.g., crewman SEVAK eats at an upper level table.)

L'HAAN  
I am trying to teach you to  
control your emotions.

Taran'atar gets up in L'Haan's face, growls menacingly...

TARAN'ATAR  
You are failing.

**SEVAK**

...can't help but overhear thanks to his Vulcan hearing...

**SEVAK's POV**

Watching Taran'atar as he sneers and growls at thin air...

TARAN'ATAR  
I warn you. Leave me alone.

**TARAN'ATAR**

...grits his teeth at L'Haan...

L'HAAN  
How do you hope to threaten a  
figment of your own imagination?

TARAN' ATAR

Be silent!

His hand shoots out to throttle L'Haan...

**SEVAK' s POV**

Taran'atar with his hand out, attacking nothing...

**TARAN' ATAR**

...realising the pointlessness of it, frustrated...

L' HAAN

You disappoint me, Taran'atar.

The door holosuite opens and he enters, determined to keep his temper and ignore her. L'Haan calmly follows him in...

**SEVAK**

...can't help but cock an eyebrow in curiosity...

**8     INT. DS9 - RO' S QUARTERS**

Ro now enters the room as a stranger. She wanders around, tentatively exploring, Kira still with her...

RO

If it's a Federation starbase, why does it look Cardassian?

KIRA

It was designed by Cardassians, during the Occupation. This was their base in the Bajoran system.

RO

(surprised)

This is Terok Nor?

KIRA

You remember Terok Nor?

RO

I guess so...

KIRA  
I'll let you rest.

RO  
(urgent)  
No, don't go. I... I don't know  
anybody here... but I feel like I  
can trust you.  
(off Kira's chuckle)  
Is that funny?

KIRA  
It's just that you and I haven't  
always been the best of friends.

RO  
Why not?

KIRA  
Not sure, really. I think we're  
probably just too much alike.

Ro nods, just absorbing all the information...

RO  
So the Occupation's over?

KIRA  
Yes. Nearly ten years ago now.

RO  
Were you in the Resistance?

KIRA  
Yes.

RO  
Was I?

KIRA  
...I don't think so.

RO  
Why not?



KIRA

I don't know. You never wanted to talk about it. And there aren't a lot of records from those days.

RO

But I would have fought, wouldn't I? I wouldn't just run away...

KIRA

Ro... I really don't know.

RO

No. I was in the Resistance. I must have been. And this place... Terok Nor...

CLOSE on Ro as she grasps for memories just out of reach...

**9     INT. RAIDER COCKPIT**

Beginning on YOUNG RO, approx 17, intense and determined...

YOUNG RO

There it is. Terok Nor.

Out the front window of this rickety, dead-end raider ship, held together with stem-bolts and hope - TEROK NOR looms in the distance but growing closer. Surrounded by Cardassian *Galor*- and *Hideki*-class ships busy docking and undocking...

Young Ro turns to her companion, a Bajoran boy of about the same age, called BIS. He looks up with an excited grin...

BIS

We haven't been detected?

YOUNG RO

This freighter's thorium signature is blocking their sensors.

BIS

And here comes the Ferengi ship...

He points look out of the window - at a Ferengi MARAUDER vessel manoeuvring slowly towards the station...

BIS

You're sure you set the device properly?

YOUNG RO

(sharp)

Of course I did. This isn't my first time, Bis.

BIS

And no-one saw you.

YOUNG RO

There was one ugly troll in the cargo bay. He didn't see me. He was too busy whining to himself about being the ship's cook, and how he'd have his own moon by now if he'd only stuck to the rules and stayed away from the boss's sister, and how he should just quit and open a bar somewhere.

BIS

Good. So as soon as the spoon-heads have loaded the big-ears up with as much unrefined uridium ore as they can carry, we send the signal.

(beat; grin)

And they'll see the explosion all the way to Cardassia.

Bis grins with satisfaction. Ro isn't so sure...

BLACK OUT:

**END OF ACT ONE**

## ACT TWO

FADE IN:

### 10 EXT. DEEP SPACE NINE

...except that it's Terok Nor. Cardassian ships sit at most of the docking ports. The Ferengi marauder is at a lower pylon. Bajor itself hangs bright and blue-green nearby.

Pulling back, we find a large FREIGHTER at a distance. Then move under the freighter into its shadow - until we see a small two-person raider ship, like in 2x03 "The Siege"...

### 11 INT. RAIDER COCKPIT

Young Ro and Bis wait tensely, watching and waiting for the perfect time. Ro turns to Bis, worry on her face...

YOUNG RO

Bis, I'm not sure this is right.  
Maybe we shouldn't be doing this.

BIS

We've been planning this for over a year, Laren. It's a little late for second thoughts.

YOUNG RO

But look at that! There must be hundreds of Ferengi on that ship. And what about all the Bajorans on the station? There's more of them than there are Cardassians. They can't all be collaborators.

BIS

Collateral damage. Come on, Laren. Just think - we're about to kill Gul Dukat! Do you have any idea of the significance of that?

YOUNG RO

Of course I do. But Keeve Falor told me --

BIS

(angry)

Forget KEEVE Falor! Just wait.  
Once Terok Nor is gone, once the  
prefect is dead, KEEVE and the  
others will see I was right!

YOUNG RO

But what if the Cardassians send  
another prefect? What if they build  
another station? We'd have killed  
all those Bajorans for nothing.

BIS

They'll walk with the Prophets  
soon, can't you see that?

YOUNG RO

Well isn't that so comforting for  
you! To have something to believe  
in, something to justify what we  
just did! What I just did!

BIS

Exactly! You're the one who stole  
the Ferengi codes. You're the one  
who planted the bomb. You're in  
too deep to pull out now.

Ro pauses, comes to a decision. Turns to her panel, begins  
urgently pressing buttons...

YOUNG RO

No I'm not.

BIS

What are you doing?

YOUNG RO

I'm using those same codes to warn  
the Ferengi they've got a bomb on  
their ship. Before it's too late.

BIS

You can't do that!

Bis pushes forward, planning on stopping Ro... she raises a PHASER and points it at him, tears in her eyes...

BIS

Laren... please... if you weren't sure... why did you do it?

YOUNG RO

For you! To impress you, to make you think I was strong...

BIS

And now what?

YOUNG RO

Go home. I'll transport you to the freighter. Hide. With luck it'll get you back to Valo in a week.

BIS

Their shields are up.

YOUNG RO

Please.

She scoffs and turns back to her panels. He pleads...

BIS

Where will you go?

YOUNG RO

I don't know. Keeve won't want me back after this. And Bram... the moment he died, the rest of them kicked me out of the cell. I guess I'll just go... somewhere else.

BIS

But I thought... you and me...

YOUNG RO

I thought so too. Goodbye, Bis.

Ro hits a panel, and with a distraught look, knowing he'll never see her again, Bis disappears in a transporter beam. Crying, Ro works the panels and gets the ship underway...

**12     EXT. DEEP SPACE NINE**

Under the shadow of the freighter, Ro's tiny raider ship pulls slowly away, and heads in the opposite direction from Terok Nor. They never even knew she was there.

**13     INT. DS9 - RO'S QUARTERS**

Now, adult Ro sits curled into the cushions of the sofa. Kira sits nearby, having just heard the story...

KIRA

Ro... I had no idea. I'm so sorry.

VAUGHN (comm)

Vaughn to Kira.

KIRA

(taps combadge)

Go ahead, Commander.

VAUGHN (comm)

Captain, could I speak to you in your office, please? Mister Sevak has brought something interesting to my attention.

Kira glances to Ro, worried. But she has a job to do...

KIRA

On my way. Kira out.

(back to Ro)

You'll be okay. Just read your files, keep trying to remember. I'll send Julian to check on you in a while.

Kira gets up to leave. Ro calls after her...

RO

Nerys... thank you.

KIRA

You're welcome.

Kira leaves. Ro sits back, looks around, feeling lost...

14     INT. DS9 - KIRA'S OFFICE

TARAN'ATAR stands at attention in front of Kira's desk, nervous, as if being dressed down. KIRA sits behind her desk, sympathetic and trying to understand. VAUGHN stays quiet, sitting way over in the lounge area, observing...

KIRA  
I don't mean to pry, Taran'atar.  
But... are you feeling okay?

TARAN'ATAR  
Why do you ask?

KIRA  
Crewman Sevak saw you talking to  
yourself in Quark's. Arguing with  
yourself, actually.

TARAN'ATAR  
I thought I was the spy...

KIRA  
He wasn't spying on you. He just  
happened to be there. And from the  
way he described it, you weren't  
exactly trying to hide. If there's  
something going on, Taran'atar,  
we want to help.

Taran'atar looks past Kira, and tightens, because...

...L'HAAN sits sideways in the windowsill. She turns to him, almost daring him to say anything. Taran'atar growls under his breath. He looks back to Kira, admits it...

TARAN'ATAR  
The dreams.

KIRA  
I assumed you'd got them under  
control. I know you followed  
Commander Matthias's advice.

L'Haan seems quite unhappy that Taran'atar is speaking out.

TARAN'ATAR

I did. It made the dreams worse.  
Now I see the Vulcan wherever I  
go. Asleep or awake.

Kira exchanges a worried glance with Vaughn. Then back to  
Taran'atar - his tense stance, his anxious, darting eyes...

KIRA

(cautious)

Do you see her right now?

**ANGLE**

Taran'atar, stood facing Kira's desk - and now L'Haan is  
stood behind him. Taran'atar knows she is there...

TARAN'ATAR

I do.

Kira again looks to Vaughn. Is he ill? Insane? Dangerous?  
What do they do? She turns back, treading on eggshells...

KIRA

Do you want to see Matthias again?  
Or Bashir? Would that help?

TARAN'ATAR

I don't know what would help. Such  
a defect would lead to execution  
in the Dominion. But that option  
is no longer open to me.

KIRA

Should I contact Vannis?

TARAN'ATAR

No. The Vorta already resents this  
assignment. I will not appear weak  
in front of her.

L'Haan steps in, glares at him with Vulcan-cloaked disgust.

L'HAAN

You are weak.



Taran'atar flinches again, his anger growing. Kira tenses, worried. Is he going to snap?

KIRA

Taran'atar, answer me honestly now. Could this... condition... present a danger? To you or to other residents of the station?

TARAN'ATAR

I do not know, Captain. But I have sworn not to hurt anyone here. And I will hold to that promise... if I am able.

KIRA

Alright. I can't order you to do anything. But I "suggest" that you go to the Infirmary for a full medical scan.

TARAN'ATAR

Understood, Captain.

VAUGHN

I also want to make it clear, Ambassador, that I will assign a security detail to escort you at all times, at least until we know what we're dealing with.

Taran'atar nods, not offended. Then he turns and leaves the office, walking out across Ops.

Kira turns back to Vaughn...

KIRA

What do you think?

VAUGHN

His mind was clearly altered by contact with this Vulcan woman, the Intendant's servant. Perhaps it couldn't handle the change.

Worried and lost for answers, Vaughn heads to the door...

15     **INT. DS9 - MAIN OPS CENTRE (CONTINUOUS)**

...pokes his head out of the door, sees Taran'atar stepping aboard the turbolift. To his left, Sevak works the tactical console while also keeping an eye on the Jem'Hadar. Vaughn nods significantly to Sevak - *follow him*. Sevak nods...

**TURBOLIFT**

Taran'atar stands silently in the lift as it takes him away... with L'Haan stood equally silently behind him.

16     **INT. DS9 - RO'S QUARTERS**

The door opens, and BASHIR enters tentatively...

BASHIR

Ro? Can I come in? It's me, Julian.

Ro is curled up on the couch, reading a padd, downcast. Bashir steps further in, wary of disturbing her...

BASHIR

Do you mind if I scan you? Just to see how you're healing.

RO

(still on padd)

Go ahead.

While she continues to read the padd, he opens a TRICORDER and scans her head.

After a moment, he reads the results, nods approvingly, closes the tricorder...

BASHIR

Things are progressing nicely.  
Your memories should be back by  
the end of the day.

Ro finally looks up at him, stricken, tears in her eyes...

RO

I don't want them back.

BASHIR

What do you mean?

Ro gets up, advances, brandishes the padd at Bashir...

RO

The woman in these records and  
logs - she's horrible! I don't  
want to be her!

BASHIR

Ro, don't be silly. Of course  
you're not a horrible person.

RO

Really? Look at the things I've  
done. Look at the life I've lived.  
I've betrayed everyone I've ever  
known. So much war and death and  
anger... and that's only the  
official records. I'm remembering  
stuff that isn't even in there! I  
don't want to go back to that life!

BASHIR

Ro, I'm sorry. There's nothing I  
can do.

RO

(tearful shriek)

But I don't want to remember!  
Please... you have to make it  
stop!

She collapses into tears. Bashir goes to her and hugs her,  
lets her cry it out. He has no idea what else to do...

BLACK OUT:

**END OF ACT TWO**

### ACT THREE

FADE IN:

#### **17    INT. DS9 - HABITAT RING CORRIDOR**

Taran'atar walks alone. He turns a corner...

...and sees Sevak standing at attention at the far end, watching him approach. Taran'atar tenses, indignant. He stops at the door to his quarters, opens the door...

#### **18    INT. DS9 - TARAN'ATAR'S QUARTERS**

...and walks into his quarters, alone. Once he is inside and the door has closed, he JERKS to a stop, surprised...

#### **ANGLE**

...because L'Haan is stood right in front of him.

L'HAAN

I was under the impression that  
Jem'Hadar were strong. You should  
be ashamed of yourself.

(he turns away)

Do you now run to Starfleet for  
help with every problem? Is that  
the new order of things?

He spins on her and aims a fatal PUNCH for her chest...

#### **ANGLE**

...except that now she is behind him.

L'HAAN

I am curious. Jem'Hadar are not by  
nature an emotional race. But your  
emotions appear to be in great  
need of a Vulcan's control.

TARAN'ATAR

Because of you! You constantly  
whisper in my ear and drive me to  
distraction!

L'HAAN

And is that how you wish to appear to the entire station? Unable to control yourself? Because that is what will happen if you go to the Infirmary. Everyone will know.

TARAN'ATAR

I must go. Kira told me to.

L'HAAN

You don't have to do anything she says. Your only loyalty is to the Founder, isn't that so?

**ANGLE**

Stood alone, panting hard... he considers. Is she right?

**19    INT. DS9 - RO'S QUARTERS**

The door slides open. RO stands in the doorway, wary and blocking the way for VAUGHN, who stands out in the hall...

RO

Who are you?

VAUGHN

Elias Vaughn. First Officer.

RO

Are you my "friend" too?

VAUGHN

I prefer to think of myself as a mentor. But to be honest we haven't spent much time together.

RO

Well, come in. Everyone else has.

She slouches back into the room, letting him enter...

VAUGHN

Do you need anything?

RO

A new brain would be nice. Maybe  
a new face. I've been staring in  
the mirror, wondering when the  
teenager I remember got so old.

Vaughn LAUGHS out loud, which only annoys Ro. He takes a  
seat, making sure to give Ro her space...

VAUGHN

Old? You're not even forty yet.

(beat)

So things are coming back?

RO

Yeah. I wish they weren't, but  
I've been told there's not much I  
can do about that.

(picks up padd)

According to this, I'm just at the  
point where I screw it all up.  
Which is something I seem to do a  
lot, apparently.

VAUGHN

I've followed your career with  
some interest, Lieutenant. I'm  
willing to help if I can.

RO

Really. Can you explain why I had  
a promising career as a Starfleet  
tactical officer and threw it away  
by disobeying orders and getting  
eight of my away team killed on  
Garon Two? Because this sure as  
fire doesn't explain it.

She slumps down. Vaughn is careful not to say too much...

VAUGHN

I know some things. But I'd be  
more interested in hearing your  
perspective. The official record  
is rather one-sided.

RO

I'm not even sure how I ended up in Starfleet at all. How does a runaway scrat like me get into the Academy?

VAUGHN

As I recall, that was down to LJ Akaar. Bajor wasn't a Federation member at the time, you see, so you would have needed a good word from a command-level officer. He was passing on the favour, after Hikaru Sulu did the same for him. He must have been very impressed with you to have done that.

RO

Akaar... the name does sound familiar...

She racks her brain for memories again, and we go into...

20    **INT. STARFLEET JAG OFFICE**

...beginning on AKAAR, a newly minted admiral. He sits at the centre of a row of three Starfleet judges, staring at the accused with loathing and very personal disappointment.

That accused being RO, 10 years previously. She wears a red TNG season 1 era Starfleet uniform, accessorised with the red headband she always wore and a pair of handcuffs...

AKAAR

Does the accused have anything further to say in her defence?

Ro stares into the middle distance, a million miles away. She pulls her eyes up to meet his...

WADE (v.o.)

(ghostly, distant)

Ro! Get down!

**CUT TO:**

**21     EXT. PLANET SURFACE - DAY**

Ro is SHOVED out of the way of a screaming PHASER SHOT, by a leaping Commander WADE (male human, 40s, in red). They land hard on stony ground, phaser shot over their heads.

From the ground, they watch another OFFICER in blue catch another phaser shot full in the chest. He goes down dead.

Wade grabs his own phaser and fires back at the assailant - a SERAPHAMI, a mostly humanoid alien with grey-blue skin and a face that is a blend of dinosaur and gorilla.

WADE  
Everyone fall back! Head for the  
med facility!

Wade and Ro scramble to their feet, dodging more phasers...

**WIDE ANGLE**

A dozen Starfleet officers (early TNG uniforms, various colours) dash along a rocky canyon, dodging SHOTS from above. Lt CAPUTO (security female) shouts over the noise...

CAPUTO  
Where did they come from? There  
were no life signs!

A second officer is unlucky - he goes down.

**22     INT. STARFLEET BASECAMP - DAY**

Walls and roof crumbling, barely any coverage at all. The surviving Starfleet officers rush in, dive for cover, FIRE back from concealment. Ro peers out onto the valley...

...at the two dead Starfleet bodies on the rocky ground.

WADE  
(taps combadge)  
Commander Wade to the *Wellington*.  
We need a beam-up right now!  
(no response)  
Repeat - Wade to *Wellington*! Do  
you hear me? Damn it!



RO

We're surrounded, outnumbered too probably. Given time, they have the power to kill us all.

WADE

Ro's right. So we need to outflank them. Oldest trick in the book, but I doubt the Seraphami have too many military historians.

RO

What's to stop them taking this position, and the colonists?

WADE

You are, Ensign. You and Caputo stay here, and give them the impression that we're all still holed up. Think you can do it?

RO

Do you have any doubt?

WADE

Good answer. Let's go!

Wade scrambles towards a rear exit out of the camp, and all but Ro and Caputo follow him. Both women dash back and forth, keeping up a constant fire...

**23    EXT. PLANET SURFACE - DAY**

Some of the Seraphami are moving down into the canyon now, firing more directly at the Starfleet hiding place. Phaser shots come back from that direction, hitting a couple...

**24    INT. STARFLEET BASECAMP - DAY**

Suddenly the shots from the Seraphami stop. After a few more shots of their own, Ro and Caputo notice the quiet...

RO

Huh. Awfully quiet all of a sudden.

Wary, Caputo pulls out a tricorder, takes readings...

CAPUTO

Unless this tricorder's haywire,  
I'd say they've gone into their  
hibernation mode.

RO

That healing trance thing the  
doctor warned us about? We didn't  
hit them that hard.

CAPUTO

I guess we hit them harder than  
we thought. Pretty fragile for  
terrorists, if you ask me.

Ro reacts uncomfortably to the T word...

CAPUTO (cont)

But in that state, they're even  
more vulnerable. Even just a  
glancing blow from a phaser on  
stun could kill them.

Ro realises the problem. She looks out at the canyon, sees  
the Seraphami slumped over as if asleep...

RO

And Wade won't hesitate to shoot  
first and ask questions later.

CAPUTO

(w/ horror)

He could slaughter them all.

RO

But what can we do? The combadges  
aren't working.

Ro looks back out onto the canyon...

**25     EXT. PLANET SURFACE - DAY**

Up on an even higher ridge than the sleeping Seraphami,  
Wade creeps into place. He nods right and left to his  
crewmates, takes aim at the aliens further down...

**26     INT. STARFLEET BASECAMP - DAY**

Ro watches this...

RO  
I can't let him do it.

And she makes her decision. She runs out of the shelter...

**27     EXT. PLANET SURFACE - DAY**

...raises her phaser... and FIRES.

WADE takes the shot right in the chest, OOMPHS in pain. He tumbles forward, down the ravine...

CAPUTO  
No!

The Seraphami instantly JERK back awake again and SHOOT at Ro. Caputo runs out, grabs for Ro, pulls her down...

CAPUTO  
Damn it, Ensign! It was a trick!

Now wide awake, a Seraphami GRABS Wade's broken body, LIFTS it high, ROARS with satisfaction. The rest turn to where Wade had been -- and begin firing. It's a bloodbath for the Starfleet team...

**28     INT. STARFLEET BASECAMP**

Back under cover, Caputo throws Ro to the ground, furious.

CAPUTO  
They were faking it to lure us out of hiding! And now we're all dead, thanks to you!

The SCREAMS of phasers and people continue outside, Caputo tries in vain to fight back... and Ro stares dumbfounded.

**29     INT. STARFLEET JAG OFFICE**

...and back to RO, quiet and withdrawn in the docks, with Akaar glaring down at her from his bench...

RO  
No. I have nothing to say.

AKAAR  
Very well. Since the accused has  
chosen not to defend herself, I  
have no choice but to pass the  
full sentence.

RO (v.o.)  
What could I say? I was guilty.

30    **INT. DS9 - RO'S QUARTERS**

...as Ro sadly relates this tale to Vaughn...

RO  
Akaar didn't want to hear it  
anyway. He was merciless.

VAUGHN  
(quiet, gentle)  
You broke his heart.

RO  
He doesn't have one.

VAUGHN  
(encouraging)  
But you came through it. If not  
Akaar, you found other people  
willing to believe in you. Kira,  
Picard... me.

Ro looks at him, grateful. But it doesn't really help...

VAUGHN  
If nothing else, it's good you're  
getting more of your memory back.

RO  
Doesn't even feel like my memory.

VAUGHN  
(curious)  
What do you mean?

RO

I mean, it's not me. It's like it's  
a whole different person forcing  
her way into my head. And I'm not  
sure I even know who she is.

Something about that strikes Vaughn as... interesting. He  
stops to ponder it for a moment, frowning, an idea slowly  
forming in his mind...

VAUGHN

Lieutenant... excuse me, please.  
I have some research to do.

And he gets up from the couch and exits without another  
word. Ro is left wondering what just happened...

BLACK OUT:

**END OF ACT THREE**

## ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

### 31 INT. DS9 - TARAN'ATAR'S QUARTERS

Taran'atar sits at his desk, studying alone. L'Haan comes and perches on the edge of the desk, musing out loud...

L'HAAN

I suppose there is something to be said for the strength emotions can bring. My former mistress indulged her emotions as a matter of course.

Taran'atar seethes, but ignores her. Keeps studying...

L'HAAN

My life in her service required so much self-discipline. It must be equally difficult for you. Keeping secrets from Kira, from your own people. I understand the temptation to divest yourself of the burden.

(beat)

Of course, the opportunity to release my burden was denied to me... thanks to you.

### **FLASHBACK - 9x21 "THE SOUL KEY"**

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

### **BACK TO SCENE**

Taran'atar launches a PUNCH at the screen - it EXPLODES...

CUT TO:

### 32 INT. DS9 - RO'S QUARTERS

Ro LAUGHing as she sits alone in her room. Not reading the padd, just sitting there and laughing. She shakes her head, pleasantly surprised that she can laugh.

The doorbell CHIMES again. She gets up to answer the door, still chuckling a little to herself. The door opens - QUARK stands there. Ro reacts with shock and a little fear...

RO

Aah! You! Prophets, how did you find me?

QUARK

I beg your pardon?

RO

(backs away)

Look, it wasn't my fault, okay? I only set the bomb because Bis told me to, and then I changed my mind and warned your DaiMon, and I know it meant spacing all your cargo, but if you think about it, I saved your life!

QUARK

(hands up)

Whoa whoa whoa whoa! Laren, I'm not going to hurt you. I just overheard Bashir and the rest of them talking. And I thought you might like something to eat.

He reaches off screen, comes back with a large platter of foods of all kinds...

QUARK

I realise you may not know who I am, so allow me to introduce myself. My name is Quark, and I run the local drinking, dining and gambling establishment.

RO

You got your bar!

QUARK

(blank)

Umm... yeah. I should also inform you, we are the best of friends!

RO

Hah! I know all about Ferengi and how they treat women. You're just here for the chance to take advantage of a vulnerable female.

QUARK

What? No! Laren, I mean it... we're friends. I just wanted to make sure you were okay.

Ro is confused, but he seems nice enough. She lets him in.

QUARK

This is actually the first time I've ever been in your quarters.

RO

So we're not that close friends.

QUARK

Hey - I may be a gentleman, but I'm still a male. It wasn't for lack of trying.

Ro chuckles. She finds him quite charming really...

QUARK

Did I hear you laughing before?

RO

How could you hear that?

He points to his ear like "duh." She concedes the point. She leads him back to the sofa, and they sit together...

RO

I just got back the memory of this time on the *Enterprise*. Some stupid technobabble field turned us all into children. The ship's bartender convinced me to try jumping up and down on the bed. Me! Jumping on the bed! I never jumped on a bed in my life!



QUARK

(grin)

I guess you just have a good  
relationship with us bartenders.

RO

I guess so. It's a nice memory.  
Doesn't feel like Ro Laren gets to  
have fun all that often.

QUARK

(laughs)

You are one of the most bad-  
tempered people I ever met! That's  
part of what I love about you.

Ro's head snaps around to stare at him...

Quark is horrified by his slip of the tongue, desperately  
changes the subject...

QUARK

I know you fought with the Maquis  
against the Dominion. Surely you  
were happy when the war ended?

RO

I didn't even know when the war  
ended. I was in a cave. As usual.

And we go into...

### 33    INT. CAVE

A figure dashes into the cave, huddled into heavy clothing  
with a cloth over her head, dripping with water. It's been  
raining *hard* outside. She shakes off the water, peels off  
some of the layers, revealing a TRILL female named TEFF...

TEFF

Still nothing. I don't know what's  
going on.

Ro sits huddled against the rocky wall, shivering against  
the damp and cold. With her are other aliens of various  
species - a BOSLIC male, a human female, a couple more.

RO

Nothing in three days. We're just sat here waiting for the Jem'Hadar to come and kill us once and for all. So where the hell are they?

BOSLIC

Do you think the rumours are true? About Cardassia switching sides?

RO

I'm not sure I care anymore...

TEFF

Ro, you're not giving up. I won't let you. You're the only one who's kept us alive these last two years. You're a hero of the Maquis!

RO

There is no more Maquis, Teff! Everyone's dead. Hudson... Kaz... Eddington... Chakotay... Macias. We're all that's left. It doesn't matter anymore.

Suddenly another figure runs in, also cloaked against the rain - a CYGNIAN male (golden skin, delicately pointed ears, catlike eyes). He shouts with glee...

CYGNIAN

It's over!

RO

What is?

CYGNIAN

Everything! We just got the word from our people in the Badlands... the Dominion's laid down arms. They're signing a treaty with the Federation!

BOSLIC

When did this happen?

CYGNIAN

A few days ago. The Jem'Hadar were  
in the middle of burning Cardassia  
to the ground, and then they  
just... stopped. No-one knows why.

RO

Certainly wasn't anything we did.

TEFF

Don't talk like that, Ro. You  
killed more Jem'Hadar than the  
rest of us put together.

RO

And what good did it do us? They  
just made more.

BOSLIC

We should celebrate!

RO

You go ahead. I'm not in the mood.

TEFF

Ro...

RO

Seriously, Teff. I can't. I've had  
enough. Enough fighting, enough  
hiding out in caves... I just want  
to go home.

The others look awkwardly between each other...

TEFF

Ro... there's nowhere left to go  
home to.

RO

Yes there is. There always has  
been.

A wistful smile starts to grow on her face, as she imagines  
going home to Bajor...

Quark smiles warmly, having heard the story...

QUARK

Well, I'm thrilled you came home.  
Having you around makes this  
station a brighter place.

His good humour makes her chuckle through her gloominess.  
She shakes her head, dismissing such a ridiculous notion...

RO

Quark... why are you being so nice  
to me?

QUARK

Shouldn't I be?

RO

In my experience, the only time  
someone's being friendly for no  
reason is when they're about to  
stab you in the back.

QUARK

Exactly! See, this right here is  
why we're friends. That's a  
Ferengi Rule of Acquisition you  
just said, number forty-eight.  
"The bigger the smile, the sharper  
the knife."

RO

(laugh)

So you trust me because we're both  
incapable of trusting anyone else?

QUARK

I trust you cause you don't pretend  
to be anything you're not. The  
galaxy is filled with people trying  
to convince you they're this thing  
or that thing. You have no problem  
telling it like it is. That's a  
very attractive quality in a woman.

She smiles. Leans a little closer to him...

RO  
It's a long time since anyone  
called me attractive...

She leans closer still... could they be maybe on their way  
to kiss...?

But then her expression changes - horror, fear...

RO  
There's a Jem'Hadar on the station...

**CUT TO:**

**35    INT. DS9 - PROMENADE**

Taran'atar emerges from a turbolift, already on edge, heavy  
with the effort of holding his temper. Sevak follows...

**ANGLE**

...and of course L'Haan is right there.

L'HAAN  
If you insist on taking this  
path... everyone will know.

TARAN'ATAR  
Be silent.

**ANGLE**

Just Sevak and Taran'atar. Sevak is confused...

SEVAK  
Ambassador?

TARAN'ATAR  
Escort me to the Infirmary.

Sevak nods. They continue to walk, but...

**ANGLE**

...L'Haan is right in his face.

L'HAAN

No!

TARAN'ATAR

Get out of my way!

He reaches out to shove her aside...

**ANGLE**

...but there is no-one there. The other pedestrians on the Promenade are starting to look at him funny...

He turns... and she's standing there. The background extras are very aware there's an angry Jem'Hadar in their midst...

L'HAAN

You must not go to the Infirmary.

Taran'atar turns away again...

**ANGLE**

...and she is there again.

L'HAAN

I cannot allow it.

Roaring with anger, losing control, he aims a PUNCH at L'Haan's face. Just as his fist makes contact...

**ANGLE**

...we see that he has actually hit Sevak right in the face. Sevak goes down, there is a GASP from the crowd...

Taran'atar spins back and forth... everywhere he looks, L'Haan is there... he is losing control...

L'HAAN

You cannot silence me. I am inside you. I am part of you.

On the ground, Sevak taps his combadge once...

Taran'atar ROARS, begins to swing at nothing, fighting thin air. Everywhere he turns L'Haan taunts him...

Desperately battling an invisible phantom, Taran'atar is hit by a PHASER... barely affected, he turns and GROWLS...

Sevak FIRES again... no effect. Adrenaline and fury are keeping Taran'atar going... Sevak is starting to worry...

Another shot hits Taran'atar from the side... he turns and sees CENN emerging from the Security office...

...and another shot from the other side, where BOWERS is striding purposefully out of Quark's bar, weapon drawn...

...and yet still Taran'atar keeps coming, roaring with rage, ferocious, a wild animal caged and cornered...

With a nod of agreement between them, Sevak, Bowers and Cenn all fire simultaneously...

...Taran'atar takes all three phaser shots at once. It's finally enough to knock him to the ground.

As he lies on the floor, with security closing in...

#### **ANGLE**

...he sees L'Haan staring down at him, smug and pitying...

L'HAAN

I warned you what would happen.

...and then he falls unconscious.

BLACK OUT:

**END OF ACT FOUR**

## ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

### **36    INT. DS9 - RO'S QUARTERS**

Ro SCREAMS... on the floor, having fallen off the sofa in her panic and all-consuming fear, screaming and crying at the memory going through her mind...

Quark is with her, trying his best to hold her and comfort her - a hopeless task, as she SHRIEKS in absolute terror...

She collapses back onto the floor, where the food tray has been toppled and strewn on the floor in her thrashing... her back arches and she WAILS to the heavens...

#### **FLASHBACK - 9x17 "OLYMPUS DESCENDING, pt 2"**

Ro is barrelled down by an invisible force, thrown down the length of the corridor...

#### **BACK TO SCENE**

Ro shrieks in pain... Quark flutters desperately...

QUARK

Laren... Laren... Oh frinx... What is it, what's wrong?

#### **FLASHBACK - 9x17 "OLYMPUS DESCENDING, pt 2"**

Ro lands hard against the bulkhead, her back CRACKs, she slumps to the ground, her neck at an unnatural angle, her eyes look up and flare in horror...

#### **BACK TO SCENE**

And she SCREAMS louder than ever, paralytic with terror... Quark is almost as terrified for her, no idea what to do. He jumps up, runs to the comm panel, hits it urgently...

QUARK

Computer! Call the Infirmary! I need somebody in Lieutenant Ro's quarters on the double!



Scared, he looks back to Ro, still on the floor...

**RO'S POV**

As she imagines Taran'atar looming over her on the floor of her quarters, his face twisted in rage...

**CUT TO:**

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

Taran'atar RAGES inside one of the security cells, thrashes in incoherent fury, batters his arms against the inside of the force field, bellows like a trapped beast...

Bowers and Cenn stand in the centre, watching warily as the raging Jem'Hadar turns and GRABS an imaginary figure by the throat, raises the invisible form up, SLAMS it to the wall.

Nearby, Nurse Richter runs a dermal regenerator over Sevak's green-bruised face...

RICHTER

You should be in the Infirmary.

SEVAK

The Ambassador is in my charge.  
I must remain here.

BASHIR (comm)

(urgent)

Kristen! I need you in here!

RICHTER

(taps combadge)

On my way, Doctor!

Making sure Sevak's face is okay, she runs off to the exit.

Sevak joins Bowers and Cenn, watching Taran'atar...

**TARAN'ATAR**

Holding the invisible figure up by the throat...

**FLASHBACK - 9x21 "THE SOUL KEY"**

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

**BACK TO SCENE**

He is thrown back by the force of the memory, crashing into the forcefield - he is too distracted and maddened to even notice. He spins and continues to fight nothing...

**38    INT. DS9 - VAUGHN'S QUARTERS**

Vaughn sits at his desk, alone in his darkened quarters. He is concentrating hard on the screen, which we don't need to see at first. Whatever it is, it worries him.

He flicks to another page...

COMPUTER

This file is restricted to level  
seven security and above. Please  
enter authorisation code.

Vaughn taps some entries into the computer.

COMPUTER

Code confirmed. Download  
authorised.

Vaughn reads the classified page... everything he reads is only confirming his worst fears.

During this, we gradually PAN around until the screen and what is upon it come into view...

...an official Starfleet record, showing the headshot of T'PRYNN, Vaughn's old Vulcan colleague from Intelligence (8x22 "Greater Good") in a red movies-era uniform. The text beside the headshot says LT CMDR T'PRYNN, DECEASED 2349.

He flicks to another page. This one's title says KNOWN CASES OF KATRIC POSSESSION. He reads...

VAUGHN (v.o.)

Captain...

**39    INT. DS9 - KIRA'S OFFICE**

Vaughn stands in front of Kira's desk, she sits behind...

                  VAUGHN  
          ...I think I know what's wrong  
          with Mister Taran'atar... and it's  
          definitely not good.

Off Kira's worried reaction...

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

Having exhausted himself from all the thrashing, Taran'atar is now on the floor, slumped into a corner. He looks up...

...and L'Haan is staring down at him. He stares back...

**41    INT. DS9 - INFIRMARY**

Ro sits on the bio-bed again. Tears drying on her face as she stares into the middle distance. Bashir is with her...

                  BASHIR  
          It was just an emotional reaction  
          to the memory of your past trauma  
          suddenly reasserting itself.  
          Physically, you're fine. Any pain  
          is purely psychosomatic.

Quark pushes forward protectively to Ro's side...

                  QUARK  
          (snide)  
          That's a real comfort, Doctor.

                  BASHIR  
          All I mean is, you'll recover.

Ro hops off the bio-bed onto tentative feet. Pulls herself together, lifts her head, looks him in the eye...

                  RO  
          You're right. All my memories are  
          back. I'm fine now. Everything's  
          fine. Thank you, Doctor.

BASHIR  
You're welcome, Lieutenant.

Ro moves to take Quark's hands, gently and warmly...

RO  
Quark... I remember you now. You  
were there the first time, and you  
were there when I went through it  
all again. You're always there for  
me. That's...  
(sweet smile)  
...a very attractive quality in a  
man.

She leans down, and kisses him gently on the lips. Nothing  
too intense, but enough to let him know it's for real.

Then she turns and walks out of the Infirmary.

Bashir exchanges a look of sideswiped surprise with the  
nearby Richter. Quark is happily stunned...

**42    INT. DS9 - HABITAT RING CORRIDOR**

Ro walks along the corridor, alone. She smiles and nods at  
the passers-by she recognises.

The moment they are gone, the smile drops from her face.  
She comes to the door to her quarters, opens the door...

**43    INT. DS9 - RO'S QUARTERS**

...and walks into her quarters. She is calm, under control  
now. Everything is back to normal.

She looks down at the spilled food from Quark's tray,  
covering the floor in front of the sofa, squashed and  
ground into the carpet from where she landed on it.

She turns away from it and heads to the bathroom...

**BATHROOM**

She walks in... stops at the sink and looks at herself in  
the mirror. And stares.

The smooth façade is starting to crack. Her bottom lip quivers. Her eyes wrinkle. She turns to the side...

...to the rubbish bin. She pushes open the flap, dives her hand inside, begins rummaging around...

After a moment of rummaging without success, she pulls out the thing she was looking for... the hypospray.

With a blank expression, she goes back to the mirror, looks at herself, looks at the hypospray...

...and then slowly and deliberately PRESSES it to her neck. She SIGHS with relief as the painkiller hisses into her system. And she stares at her own reflection...

BLACK OUT:

**END OF SHOW**