

STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE

# 11x21 - "Inferno."

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: Typhon Pact:  
Rough Beasts of Empire*

by David R George III

**TEASER**

FADE IN:

**1     EXT. ENDALLA SURFACE**

The wreckage of Luka's Bajoran SHUTTLE burns on the barely habitable surface of Endalla, the first moon of Bajor.

PAN around until we see three Bajoran PATROL SHIPS parked rather more gently a few steps away, and between there and here, three FIGURES in Bajoran-design space suits carefully approaching with weapons drawn, just in case.

As the figures near, we see that in the lead is Corporal RENTA, terrified for what may have happened to the ship's precious passengers. He talks over the space-suit comm.

RENTA

Please tell me one of you is  
getting life sign readings.

Another officer - DUSAN - checks an arm-mounted tricorder.

DUSAN

With all the radiation from the  
engines, I can't get a clear  
reading one way or the other.

RENTA

(sigh)

Then I guess we do this the old-  
fashioned way. One port, one aft.  
I'll take starboard.

They approach steadily, taking up their positions.

**2     EXT. BAJORAN SHUTTLE**

Renta hesitantly approaches the right side of the damaged shuttle. The hatch is thrown open, smoke and sparks showing from the inside. He keeps his weapon drawn, eyes darting as he closes the distance.

**3     INT. BAJORAN SHUTTLE**

Renta pokes his head in through the hatch, trying to see through the smoke. Keeping his phaser in one hand, he checks his own tricorder with the other. His own eyes confirm what the device tells him.

**4**     **EXT. BAJORAN SHUTTLE**

He steps back out and shouts to his colleagues.

RENTA  
No survivors, no bodies, nothing.

DUSAN  
Then they must have got out safe.

Renta looks around, sees the entrance to one of the caves.

RENTA  
You guys stay here, cover the  
area. I'm gonna check that cave.

They nod; he moves off towards the hole in the rock.

**5**     **INT. ENDALLA CAVE**

Renta moves into the cave, draped with the same *pulakoo* webs and roots from the surface. Seeing that the way ahead is unoccupied, he pauses enough to remove his suit helmet.

Free to breath now, he moves on into the passageway. Ahead of him is the SOUND of building energy and rising power levels. He frowns, confused as to what it could be on this remote and presumably unpopulated moon.

He turns a corner...

...And finds the unconscious bodies of Ensign ALECO and friend. Shocked, he rushes forward to check the bodies. He tears off a glove, checks pulses, confirms with tricorder.

They're alive - he relaxes, but remains suspicious. He cautiously holsters his weapon and begins to pull Aleco and the other one back towards the cave entrance.

RENTA

Guys! I've got two unconscious  
Starfleet officers here. Meet me  
at the mouth of the cave.

He strains to pull one body at a time along the floor. All  
the while the energy is building around that corner...

**6**     **EXT. ENDALLA SURFACE**

The other officers meet him at the mouth of the cave. They  
help him manoeuvre the bodies to safety.

DUSAN

What the hell is Starfleet doing  
on this moon anyway?

RENTA

There's something else down there  
- maybe they were guarding it. Get  
these guys back to the ships - I'm  
gonna check it out. The shuttle's  
passengers might be hurt.

DUSAN

Aye, sir.

Unburdened, Renta re-enters the cave.

**7**     **INT. ENDALLA CAVE**

Renta approaches the corner again. Weapon re-drawn, he  
inches towards the edge, back against the stone wall. The  
SOUND of machinery is ramping higher and higher.

He finally turns the corner...

...and sees the worst thing he could imagine. The same ship  
he ran from before. The one that killed his patrol mate in  
the most gruesome manner imaginable. As he reacts in  
horror...

A FLASH of blinding white light BLASTS the entire passage,  
matched by a deafening BOOM. Renta is blown back metres,  
CRUNCHING into the wall. The cave begins to CRUMBLE around  
him, burying him in a landslide of rock and dust and roots.

**8**     **EXT. ENDALLA SURFACE**

The explosion **BLASTS** a part of the moon's surface apart, rock and roots flying everywhere.

The other two officers see this from their safely parked patrol ships. Dusan hits his comm system.

DUSAN

Corporal! Corporal Renta, can you hear me? What is going on?

Above them, the answer comes. Another **FLASH...**

...and **AXNO's SHIP** jumps into the sky, looming above them, its silver tip pointed and threatening.

We **ZOOM** in on it, getting closer and closer, passing through the transparent canopy...

**9**     **INT. ASCENDANT SHIP**

...to find **LUKA**, seemingly welded into the pilot's seat and the console, the silver blood wrapping itself around him tighter and tighter, tendrils creeping up his neck towards his face. Electricity skitters over the ship's interior surfaces. His eyes are **ON FIRE**, flames licking the sockets.

Somewhere behind him, **REBECCA** cowers, crying in fear.

And as we **CLOSE IN** on Luka, he lets loose a **MANIC SCREAM-LAUGH** of utter insanity...

BLACK OUT:

**END OF TEASER**

**ACT ONE**

FADE IN:

**10    INT. JANIR MONASTERY**

RAIQ stands against the stone wall, her body wracked with shudders as she reacts to something only she can feel.

KIRA rushes up to her.

KIRA

Raiq! Can you hear me? What is it  
- what's wrong?

RAIQ

(gritted teeth)  
Of course I hear you. I feel...  
the vessel. It is active.

KIRA

Axno's ship?

Raiq nods. Kira doesn't understand how that can be. Then YEVIR runs in, also in a dignified panic.

YEVIR

Nerys... Mika just returned from  
Janitza. She's injured...

KIRA

I think we have bigger problems  
than that, Vedek. Find a doctor -  
for Mika and Raiq. I have to  
contact the station.

And she rushes away.

**11    INT. DS9 - MAIN OPS CENTRE**

RO sits on the steps to the office, shell shocked. BOWERS, NOG and CANDLEWOOD are at their stations. PRYNN, BASHIR and MATTHIAS are also present.

All wait on tenterhooks, hushed and nervous, as Major CENN works the central Ops table.

CENN

Central reports that Renta's team were able to make contact with the shuttle on the surface of Endalla. Not long after, they registered a massive explosion and lost contact with the team. They also report... that the readings are consistent with an Ascendant vessel.

For Cenn, Bowers and Ro, this is confirmation of all their worst fears. The rest are just confused...

BASHIR

Commander? Is that possible?

RO

Unfortunately, yes.

A new BLEEP on Cenn's panels. He rushes to check it...

CENN

It's Kira again.

Ro shoots to her feet, nodding for Cenn to continue. Kira appears on the main view screen.

KIRA (screen)

Commander - it's Raiq. She says she can feel Axno's ship coming to life. Do you know what's going on?

RO

Not for sure. But I can put two and two together.

She's explaining this to the rest of Ops as well as to Kira, with regret and resignation.

RO (cont)

The Militia chased Luka and Rebecca to one of Bajor's moons. By chance, the same moon that Mister Bowers and I hid Axno's

ship on, after Quark's little  
adventure in political activism.

KIRA (screen)  
You mean the lunar bases?  
(Ro nods)  
What do you want me to do?

Ro doesn't seem to answer the question. She stares into the middle distance, as if simply pondering the huge disaster they are faced with. Finally...

RO  
Stay with Raiq. If she gives you  
anything we can use, call me. DS-  
Nine out.

She cuts the connection, then draws herself up straight, looks around at her crew. This is it. Then she hits the comm panel again.

RO  
This is Commander Ro. All crew of  
the *Defiant*, report to your duty  
stations. Get ready to ship out.

She looks up to Bowers, who gets her meaning. He locks down his station and heads to the turbolift.

BOWERS  
Tenmei, Nog, Candlewood, Bashir.  
With me.

Nog and Candlewood immediately shut down their stations and follow. Bashir pauses long enough to exchange a look of sympathy and an arm-squeeze of support with Ro. Then Ro turns to Matthias.

RO  
You too, Counsellor.

MATTHIAS  
(shocked)  
Me?

RO



There's still a chance we can talk him down. That'll be easier with a trained psychiatrist on board.

MATTHIAS  
(daunted)  
Aye, sir.

Matthias follows the others, and all six depart in a turbolift. Finally, Ro turns to Cenn.

RO  
Major... you've got the station. Keep her at yellow alert, and prepare for full-scale evacuation, just in case. It's no holographic recreation this time.

CENN  
Sir?

RO  
You can tell Lenaris what we're doing, too. If that is Axno's ship out there, he's got nothing to face it with. It's up to us.

CENN  
Aye, Commander. Good luck.

Ro snorts ironically, turns to take an exit out of Ops. Cenn works the panels, taking the station to YELLOW ALERT.

**12 INT. BAJORAN MILITIA CENTRAL**

Similar ALARMS blare and flash around the hub of Militia activity on Bajor. General LENARIS is in command, with SSKO and KASIDY present. Officers urgently rush back and forth, JASMINE TEY among them. She returns to the Siskos.

KASIDY  
Nutshell it for me, Sergeant.

JASMINE

Luka has taken the Ascendant ship.  
The *Defiant* is en route now to  
confront him.

KASIDY  
Does he still have Rebecca?

JASMINE  
We don't know, but we assume so.

SISKO  
He wouldn't give her up now. The  
whole point was to keep her safe.

JASMINE  
We're sending another patrol back  
to Endalla to look for survivors.

SISKO  
I want to go with you.

KASIDY  
Ben -

SISKO  
Kas, if there's any chance I can  
talk to him, persuade him...

KASIDY  
...Alright. But stay safe.

SISKO  
You too.

He gives her a quick but solid kiss, then turns and leaves  
with Jasmine. Kasidy turns to watch the giant screen.

**13**    **INT. DS9 - QUARK'S BAR**

QUARK is behind the bar. TREIR, HETIK and MORN are all in  
their usual places, managing a standard evening crowd.

All across the room, Starfleet officers' combadges sound.  
They check them, listen, and immediately get up to leave.

Quark watches this from behind the bar. He's seen this before, and he knows what it means. Bad news.

We move with the rushing crew towards the exit, crossing paths with PIF at the threshold.

Follow them out onto...

**14**    **INT. DS9 - PROMENADE (CONTINUOUS)**

...where the officers move quickly to turbolifts and go.

The INFIRMARY doors open, and RICHTER and ETANA emerge. Richter pauses, turns back to Etana, kisses her girlfriend quickly, then moves off to join the officers reporting for duty. Etana watches her go.

Candlewood comes jogging along the Promenade. He knows he shouldn't be here, but he had to. He reaches the doorway of Quark's, looks through. Hetik is there waiting. Candlewood rushes up to him, kisses him firmly. Then turns to go.

Candlewood jolts to see that Ro is there. He thinks she's going to be mad at him. But she understands. She gives him a nod of acknowledgement.

Then she turns to find Quark, who remains behind the bar. They make eye contact. They both understand.

Then Ro grabs Candlewood and they go together.

**15**    **INT. DS9 - QUARK'S BAR (CONTINUOUS)**

Treir, Hetik and Pif all come to join Quark at the bar.

HETIK

What was that all about?

QUARK

That news about Sisko's baby. A sudden exodus of Starfleet officers. Desperate last-minute kisses. The look on Laren's face when she left. What do you think?

PIF

The ship. Should I go help?

QUARK

No. Stay. Good dog.

TREIR

You're remarkably calm. Wasn't it you who insisted this ship would be the death of us all?

QUARK

I'll probably be right. Lucky me.  
(shakes head)

She should have got rid of it like I said. And now look. But it's too late to argue - now we just have to get through it. Go on, all of you. Serve. Spin. Smile. Make it their best day ever... just in case it's their last.

Nodding sombrely, Quark's staff return to work.

**16**    **EXT. SPACE**

Open space, somewhere in the Bajoran system.

Suddenly the Ascendant ship JUMPS into view in a flash of white light. No longer damaged or sluggish as it used to be - now it is at full power, the silver skin gleaming.

**17**    **INT. ASCENDANT SHIP**

Luka is surrounded by the silver blood of the ship. The pilot's seat is wrapped around his body and legs. His hands are held by the control console in front of him. The ship THROBS with power, coloured Wa patches coming and going.

He speaks in a DOUBLED voice, his own and AXNO's looped over it. He is both himself and the ship personified.

LUKA / AXNO

Rebecca... the power... I feel it.  
I can do anything now. I can stop

them all. It only takes one. Just one. None of them can hurt me now.

Behind, tucked into a corner at the back of the ship, scared and crying, is Rebecca. Luka can't see her - he can't even turn his head - but he knows she's there.

LUKA / AXNO

Don't cry, little girl. This is all for you. I'll take away all the heretics. All those who hate us for our knowledge of the Truth.

Rebecca isn't listening. She hugs herself and whimpers, as coloured Wa patches come and go around her.

LUKA / AXNO

The despised Bajorans... all of them. And any who support them. They will die and burn.

Luka grins the manic grin of the insane.

**18 EXT. DEEP SPACE NINE**

The *Defiant* pulls away from the station...

**19 INT. DEFIANT - BRIDGE**

CLOSE on Ro as she sits in the command chair, scared but determined...

BLACK OUT:

**END OF ACT ONE**

**ACT TWO**

FADE IN:

**20    INT. JANIR MONASTERY - RAIQ'S ROOM**

Kira leads Raiq gently to the bed in her small quarters. Raiq sits gingerly, still feeling whatever it is.

KIRA

Raiq, can you tell me what you're feeling? If you can explain what's going on...

RAIQ

The vessel is awake. You say it is the Bajoran man? The one I met at the ceremony?

KIRA

Yes.

RAIQ

The vessel has bonded with him. It is using him as its pilot, as its source of life.

KIRA

So he's in control.

RAIQ

No-one is in control. The vessel runs on instinct. I feel its anger, its hatred. It is...

KIRA

It's insane.

RAIQ

Perhaps. All I feel is its rage. Axno's rage at the Bajorans, at the death of the Ascendants...

KIRA

Can you stop it? You're bonded with the ship too, aren't you?

RAIQ  
Axno's bond was centuries old. It  
overwhelms my own. I cannot  
influence - only witness.

Yevir enters the room again, worried.

YEVIR  
How is she?

KIRA  
Honestly, I don't know. Can you  
stay and watch her?

YEVIR  
Of course. Do whatever you need  
to. I will take care of her.

And she actually trusts that he will. Kira leaves the room,  
and Yevir goes to sit by Raiq.

**21    EXT. SPACE - DEFIANT**

Flying with the *Defiant* at impulse through open space...

**22    INT. DEFIANT - BRIDGE**

Ro in command, Candlewood at sciences, Bowers at tactical,  
Prynn at helm. Bashir and Matthias at other stations.

BOWERS  
Sir, when we find the ship, how do  
we stop it? We know that standard  
phasers have no effect.

PRYNN  
Yeah they do. They give it more  
power. Just what it needs.

BOWERS  
The only thing that stopped these  
things was continued heavy phaser  
fire. Which would likely overload  
the ship and make it blow up.

BASHIR

Which would obviously not be good  
for Rebecca.

RO

Candlewood, could you beam her out  
first, before we fire?

CANDLEWOOD

I... don't know. I've never tried  
to beam somebody off an Ascendant  
ship. But I'll give it a shot.

RO

Okay, I need a target. Where is  
this thing?

PRYNN

I'm coordinating sensor readings  
now, Commander. Just gimme a  
second here...

As Ro tensely waits...

**23 INT. ASCENDANT SHIP**

Everything as it was. Luka sits in his silver cocoon. A  
flicker of confusion crosses his face, followed by worry.

LUKA

Rebecca? Are you okay? I can't see  
you... what happened?

A wash of GREEN colour fills the panels in front of him,  
and Luka-Axno snaps back to attention with a sneer.

LUKA / AXNO

Proximity alert... show me!

A 3D hologram forms in the air between the control panel  
and the canopy - an image of space.

We LOOK THROUGH the hologram at Luka's gleefully angry  
face, twisting in recognition as the outline of an as-yet-  
unidentified ship moves into view...



**24**    **EXT. SPACE**

Another trio of Bajoran Militia patrol vessels travel through space, on a definite heading.

**25**    **INT. BAJORAN PATROL SHIP**

Sergeant Jasmine Tey drives the lead ship, with Sisko squeezed in beside her and a Bajoran medic behind. All three wear space suits just in case.

SISKO  
How much longer?

JASMINE  
We'll be there soon, Captain.

Through the front window, there's a giant FLASH of white light as Luka-Axno JUMPS in right on top of them...

...and FIRES.

**26**    **EXT. SPACE**

Luka-Axno hits one of the other ships first - a BLAST of jagged white electricity that PEELS the skin off the patrol ship and dumps its own three Militia occupants into space.

**27**    **INT. BAJORAN PATROL SHIP**

Controlled panic as Jasmine and Sisko react...

SISKO  
Patrol vessel two is down!

JASMINE  
They've got environment suits.  
We've gotta save ourselves before  
we can save them. Return fire!

Sisko works the panels...

**28**    **EXT. SPACE**

Diving and swerving to avoid the bolts of electricity, Sisko and Jasmine's patrol ship FIRES back on Luka-Axno. But the Ascendant ship JUMPS away again...

**29**    **INT. BAJORAN PATROL SHIP**

JASMINE

Damn it! Where'd he go?

SISKO

This happened last time...

As they urgently work the sensors, looking for signs...

**28**    **EXT. SPACE**

Luka-Axno JUMPS in behind the two remaining Bajoran ships, and FIRES again.

**29**    **INT. ASCENDANT SHIP**

Welded into his seat, Luka-Axno LAUGHS maniacally as a swash of RED colours the control panel, the firing control. ARCS of electricity spark across the space within the ship.

At the rear of the ship, Rebecca still huddles into a ball, trying to make herself as small as possible, not having any idea what's going on around her but scared out of her wits.

On the wall by Rebecca's side, a PURPLE Wa patch coalesces into shape. Rebecca looks at it, confused. It seems to be calling to her. Not really knowing why, she reaches out her tiny hand to it. Her fingers SWIM into the colour...

And a great WASH of energy takes us out, like entering an ORB VISION...

**30**    **REBECCA**

sits alone, in the same curled up ball that she was, but now on perfect green grass, a sunny day around her, quiet and peaceful, no weapons, no horror...

**31**    **EXT. SPACE**

Luka-Axno is still firing on the Bajoran patrol ships...

The second ship DISINTEGRATES into chunks, and three more space-suited figures tumble away into space.

Luka-Axno swerves around to face the last remaining ship...

**32**    **INT. DEFIANT - BRIDGE**

RO on her feet, pointing at the main viewscreen...

RO

Tenmei, get us in between them,  
now! Bowers, full shields and  
ablative armour.

(slaps panel)

Nog, launch nanobot cloud!

BOWERS works his panels...

PRYNN drives the ship...

**33**    **EXT. SPACE**

The *Defiant* comes ZOOMing into the battle zone, twisting on its side to cut in between the Ascendant and the Bajoran ship, practically scratching the paint it's so close...

...just in time for Luka-Axno to FIRE...

The *Defiant* catches the bolt of electricity point-blank...

And glittering tiny explosions fill the space around the *Defiant's* skin, the nanobots taking the brunt of the fire.

**34**    **INT. DEFIANT - ENGINEERING**

A hive of activity as Nog and his engineering team - LEISHMAN, PERMENTER, K'UHLLO - rush about tending to this machine and that machine. Nog checks a readout...

NOG

Nanobots are working, Commander.  
Our regular shields are holding.

RO (comm)

Good work, Nog.

**35**    **INT. BAJORAN PATROL SHIP**

Jasmine and Sisko react...

SISKO  
It's the *Defiant*!

JASMINE  
(wry)  
Thank the Prophets, right Captain?

Sisko is not amused. He hits another panel...

SISKO  
Luka! Can you hear me? It's  
Benjamin. Please talk to me!

Out the window, Luka-Axno manoeuvres for another shot...

JASMINE  
I don't think their comm systems  
work like ours.

SISKO  
Move us in. Right on his nose.

JASMINE  
What?!

SISKO  
Do it!

Reluctantly, Jasmine does as she's told...

**36**    **INT. ASCENDANT SHIP**

Luka-Axno watches in fascination as the Bajoran ship moves up, closing the distance between them. Before long, he can see the ship with the naked eye. He peers at it, curious...

LUKA / AXNO  
Enhance image.

The mid-air hologram fritzes, resetting to an image of the very front of the Bajoran ship... and in the front window is Sisko, on his feet and WAVING urgently to get Luka's attention. Luka's breath catches in surprise...

LUKA

Benjamin! What are you...?

A burst of FLAMES fills the cockpit... and Sisko stands there, in civilian dress, not wearing his space suit.

**37 INT. BAJORAN PATROL SHIP**

Another burst of FLAMES, and Luka stands in the cramped space of the Bajoran patrol vessel, also in civilian dress, not wrapped in the silver blood of the Ascendants.

Jasmine instantly leaps to her feet, drawing her weapon.

SISKO

No! It's only a hologram.

As he faces the friend who kidnapped his daughter...

**38 INT. DEFIANT - BRIDGE**

Prynn swerves the ship around, until the Ascendant and Bajoran ships come back into view on the screen. Ro peers at them, nose to nose.

RO

What the hell is he doing?

Nobody has any answers. Ro turns to Bashir...

RO

Doctor - Rebecca's life signs?

BASHIR

I'm sorry, Commander. It's like she's there... but not there. Some kind of inter-dimensional shift.

RO

Can we fire on the ship?

CANDLEWOOD

No! Sorry, Commander. It's just I think I recognise those readings.

(turns to her)

It's the Wa.

RO

(frustrated)

The pup, the Wa, what is going on?

CANDLEWOOD

Ascendant ships have their own environment rooms, kind of like a holodeck, except not. I think Rebecca is in one of those.

BASHIR

And while she is, we can't get a transporter lock.

BOWERS

And we can't fire on him either.

Ro grits her teeth in frustration...

**39 INT. ASCENDANT SHIP**

INTERCUT as required. Sisko looks at Luka, horrified at what he's become in the grip of the Ascendant vessel. Luka can just barely twist his head to look at him back.

LUKA

(confused)

Benjamin, what's going on? Where are we?

SISKO

Luka, you've got to stop. You're killing people. I know you, you're not a killer.

LUKA / AXNO

(evil grin)

Tell that to Ambassador Garak. He is a heretic. He deserves to die

and burn. And so do the rest of them. All of them!

**40**    **INT. BAJORAN PATROL SHIP**

Sisko pleads with the holographic Luka...

SISKO

That's not you talking, Luka. It's the ship. It's done something to you.

LUKA / AXNO

Don't you understand, Benjamin? I am the ship. I finally found the one who understands the universe the same way I do. And I'm not going to let it go.

**41**    **INT. ASCENDANT SHIP**

Sisko looks around the small space of the Ascendant ship, worried and confused. He turns back to Luka in a fury...

SISKO

Where's Rebecca? I thought you had her with you. What have you done with her?

Luka pauses in his silver cocoon, feels the ship around him. He seems genuinely surprised and worried.

LUKA

Rebecca? Rebecca, sweetheart, where are you? I can't see you!

**42**    **REBECCA**

sits on the grass, realising she's now somewhere else, but not understanding why. She looks around herself...

We PULL BACK to reveal rolling lawns, trickling streams, a clear sky. It looks remarkably like the EAV'OQ homeworld.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT TWO



**ACT THREE**

FADE IN:

**43 EXT. SPACE**

The Ascendant ship and the Bajoran ship sit nose to nose.  
PULL BACK to reveal...

**44 INT. DEFIANT - BRIDGE**

...that we are watching this on the *Defiant's* viewscreen.  
Ro stands on edge, waiting to be able to do something.

RO

Bashir.

BASHIR

Sorry, Commander. No change.

RO

Counsellor - what do you think's  
going on over there?

MATTHIAS

That was Sisko we heard on that  
hail. He must be trying to talk  
Luka down.

RO

Bowers, can we transport those  
survivors on board?

BOWERS

(bad idea)

If we drop the shields.

**45 INT. BAJORAN PATROL SHIP**

Jasmine and the medic sit anxiously as Sisko faces Luka...

SISKO

What have you done to my daughter,  
Luka? You promised me you'd keep  
her safe!

Luka gets a dreamy, faraway look... then a dark grin.

LUKA

There you are...

And Luka bursts into FLAMES, the hologram dissolving. Sisko sees the look on Luka's face and reaches out desperately...

SISKO

No!

But Luka is gone.

**46**    **REBECCA**

is starting to relax, looking around the peaceful place she has found herself in, letting the fear and terror go...

Then a hand CLAMPS over her mouth. She shrieks in fear, and another huge WASH of energy takes us out...

**47**    **INT. ASCENDANT SHIP**

...and back into Axno's ship. Rebecca sits back on the deck, angry sparking silver all around her, no sign of her father, and Luka back in the cocoon of the pilot's chair.

Luka sneers with rage...

**48**    **INT. BAJORAN PATROL SHIP**

At point-blank range, the Ascendant ship FIRES full power on the Bajoran patrol. Jasmine, Sisko and the medic have nothing to hold onto as the ship DISINTEGRATES around them.

**49**    **INT. DEFIANT - BRIDGE**

The crew watches the Bajoran ship fall apart before their eyes, the three space-suited figures drifting in space.

Job done, Luka-Axno JUMPS away in a flash of light...

RO

Damn it! Bowers, drop shields and  
beam them all to sickbay. Tenmei,  
I need another location, now!

Bashir gets to his feet and leaves the bridge.

**50    INT. BAJORAN MILITIA CENTRAL**

Kasidy GASPS as she watches an icon on the screen indicate  
that her husband and her friend's ship has been destroyed.

KASIDY

Ben!

General Lenaris comforts her, worried about his officers...

**51    INT. DEFIANT - SICKBAY**

Three space-suited figures appear in a TRANSPORTER beam,  
arranged in bedraggled poses, directly onto the sickbay  
floor. Six others are already present, removing their  
helmets, breathing with relief.

Nurse Richter rushes to check on the newcomers, who include  
Sisko and Jasmine.

SISKO

I'm fine, I'm fine...

The door opens. Bashir rushes in, goes straight to Sisko.

BASHIR

Captain!

SISKO

Julian, have you got Rebecca?

BASHIR

I'm sorry, sir. We couldn't get a  
transporter lock on her.

Sisko punches a biobed in frustration.

JASMINE

I don't wish to be insensitive,  
Captain, but we did have our own  
mission in the first place...

SISKO  
You're right, of course, of  
course. We should get moving.

Bashir looks at them both curiously...

**52**    **INT. DEFIANT - BRIDGE**

Flying at full impulse, everyone on edge...

BASHIR (comm)  
Sickbay to bridge.

RO  
Go ahead, Doctor.

BASHIR (comm)  
No casualties, Commander. But  
Captain Sisko and the Bajoran  
officers want to go on their way  
to Endalla. And I'd like to  
accompany them - they may have  
injured officers down there.

Bowers looks to Ro - she gets his meaning.

RO  
We haven't heard back from Ensign  
Aleco either. Take the *Cooper*,  
Doctor. We have to stay on target.

BASHIR (comm)  
Understood. Sickbay out.

**53**    **INT. DEFIANT - SICKBAY**

Bashir jumps into action, gathering equipment.

SISKO  
Alright, the *Cooper* will fit five  
at the absolute most. Sergeant,

pick your two best. And lose the suits - we don't have the room.

Sisko and Jasmine begin to peel off their space suits...

**54**    **EXT. SPACE**

The *Defiant* travels at full impulse. The hatch in its belly opens up, and the tiny shuttlecraft dives out into space.

The shuttle turns and heads off in a different direction, while the *Defiant* carries on.

**55**    **EXT. BAJOR - JANIR MONASTERY**

Establishing the small, remote monastery in the mountains.

**56**    **INT. JANIR MONASTERY - RAIQ'S ROOM**

Raiq sits on her bed, Yevir beside her, caring for her. The door opens and Kira re-enters, helping a recovering MIKA.

KIRA

I called the station. Cenn said he'd pass it on to Ro.

YEVIR

Mika - how are you feeling?

MIKA

I'm fine, Linjarin. I'm much more worried for my uncle.

KIRA

Kai Solis? Why?

MIKA

He may be a feisty old man, but he's had to fight so hard just to be accepted as the kai. I'm afraid this - an Ohalavar kidnapping the Emissary's daughter, going on a killing spree - it'll be more than he can weather.

KIRA

Nobody could blame him for this!

YEVIR

I wouldn't be so sure, Nerys. Some vedeks have become more obstinate than ever, especially since they lost the popular vote. There are always those who will find a reason to hate anything different. This is a very easy reason.

KIRA

Then we make a statement of support. All four of us!

MIKA

What do you mean?

KIRA

Just look at us. An Ascendant, an Ohalavar, an Oralian, and me. If the four of us go out there and show the people that we're all together, that none of us blames the kai or his followers...

YEVIR

That is a bold statement, Nerys.

KIRA

No point making any other kind.

Yevir and Mika consider her idea. Raiq, who has been sitting there silent, isn't so sure...

**57    EXT. BAJOR - ESTABLISHING**

Back to the central monastery in Ashalla, Bajor's capital.

**58    INT. ASHALLA MONASTERY - GARDEN**

The walled garden area. Kai SOLIS strolls around, looking at the plants, the statuary, the carvings. He's troubled, trying to find some tranquillity, not really succeeding.

Vedek PRALON steps into the area, wary of intruding.

PRALON

Eminence... is there anything I  
can do to help?

SOLIS

Thank you, my friend. But I do not  
believe so. What is there to be  
done but pray, and wait for news?

(beat)

Has Major Rochan heard anything?

PRALON

If he has, he hasn't told me.

SOLIS

And what of the media?

PRALON

They are a hundred percent behind  
you, Eminence.

(grunt from Solis)

That doesn't seem to please you.

SOLIS

Oh, my friend... these walls may  
shelter me, but I still hear it.  
The blame, the pointing fingers,  
the told-you-so's... and I wonder,  
are they right? Is this my fault  
in some way? Did my teachings, my  
leadership, lead to this?

A THUNDERCLAP rocks the sky. Pralon frowns in confusion.  
But Solis knows what it is. He's heard this before. They  
look up past the walls of the garden to the open sky...

And Luka-Axno has jumped into the atmosphere. The ship's  
pointed nose begins to glow red...

SOLIS

Get inside!

Solis runs back inside as best he can, pushing Pralon ahead  
of him, just in time to miss...

A massive BOLT of LIGHTNING hitting the garden, BLASTING apart the walls and statues, setting the plants on FIRE.

60 **INT. ASCENDANT SHIP**

Luka-Axno LAUGHING again as the console before him glows an angry red, and he FIRES again...

61 **INT. DEFIANT - BRIDGE**

Ro on her feet, everyone concentrating hard...

RO  
Tenmei! Block that shot!

62 **EXT. BAJOR ATMOSPHERE**

In broad daylight, the *Defiant* ZOOMS through the air, atmosphere BURNING around the ship, and flies right into the path of Luka-Axno's latest lightning bolt.

63 **INT. DEFIANT - BRIDGE**

EXPLOSIONS go off all around the bridge, consoles BURSTING into sparks, gases escaping and filling the room. ARCS of electricity jump from one computer console to the next.

Ro is knocked off her feet, flying face down to the deck. Prynn is blown back by an exploding helm console. Matthias runs to check on Prynn, tapping her combadge.

MATTHIAS  
Medical assistance to the bridge.

Prynn is groaning on the deck, her face burned on one side, her hands singed. Candlewood checks on Ro.

RO  
Okay, lesson learned. No standing.

Candlewood grins, helping her up. Richter runs into the bridge, goes straight to Prynn.

RICHTER  
You need to be in sickbay, Ensign.



PRYNN

Just fix the burns and get me back  
in my seat.

Ro slumps into the command chair and works the panels.

RO

Bowers, status.

BOWERS

The Ascendant vessel has jumped  
away again. We took the brunt of  
the ship's attack. Power conduits  
blown out on decks one and four.  
Shields at seventy-eight per cent,  
warp drive offline.

RO

That's okay, we weren't using it  
anyway. Bridge to engineering -  
time to repair power conduits.

**64    INT. DEFIANT - ENGINEERING**

NOG

To repair? Three hours. To bypass  
- just gimme two minutes. Nog out.  
Leishman, you're with me.

LEISHMAN

Aye, Lieutenant.

Nog and Leishman both grab toolkits - she follows him into  
an adjacent junction room.

**65    INT. DEFIANT - BRIDGE**

Richter helps Prynn back into the pilot's seat, still in  
pain, her burns only just barely fixed enough to function.  
The helm console is half working, half burned husk.

RO

Tenmei, new coordinates.

PRYNN

Checking now, Commander...

She picks at the few flickering buttons, then turns to Ro in horror.

PRYNN

Sir... he's headed straight for  
the Bajoran system's sun.

They all realise what that means...

FADE OUT:

**END OF ACT THREE**

**ACT FOUR**

FADE IN:

**66 INT. DEFIANT - ENGINEERING JUNCTION ROOM**

Nog and Leishman are knelt down, hands inside the machines. Quick and smooth, as fast as they can, a well-oiled team. The lights and conduits around them are dim, at low power.

LEISHMAN

So what do you think? Is this it?  
Are we all gonna die?

NOG

Not if you get that EPS conduit  
re-routed.

RO (comm)

Ro to Nog. I need that power back  
now, Lieutenant. Luka could be  
about to blow up the sun.

NOG

Understood, Commander. Power is  
back online... right... now.

One last piece goes into place, and lights and power bloom  
back into life.

**67 INT. DEFIANT - BRIDGE**

On Ro, now sat firmly in the command chair...

RO

Good work, Nog. Prynn - go!

Prynn works her damaged console with her damaged hands...

**68 INT. DEFIANT - ENGINEERING JUNCTION ROOM**

Current panic over, Leishman slumps against the bulkhead.  
Beside her, Nog does likewise.

LEISHMAN

Well, that's it then. If he makes  
the sun go nova, we're finished.

NOG

I've already watched that happen  
once. Never again.

Leishman makes a decision to herself. She straightens as  
much as she can in the tight space, grabs her uniform  
jacket and RIPS it open bodice-style.

That done, she STRADDLES Nog, sits down across him, grabs  
his face and KISSES him hard. Nog is utterly flabbergasted.  
Then Leishman starts to grab at Nog's clothes as well.

NOG

What are you doing?!

LEISHMAN

It's an old human custom - "last  
night on Earth." You think you're  
about to die, so you may as well  
do what you wanted to all along.  
Might not get another chance. That  
is... if you're okay with it.

NOG

Ummm... yeah. I'm okay with it.

LEISHMAN

(grin)

Good.

Leishman grabs Nog again and they start tearing at clothes.

**69**    **EXT. SPACE**

BAJOR'S SUN fills the screen, the comparatively tiny speck  
of the Ascendant ship silhouetted against it.

**70**    **INT. DEFIANT - BRIDGE**

The ship is at full impulse. Ro peers in confusion at this  
sight on the main viewscreen, growing slowly closer.

RO

John, can you get a reading on  
Rebecca? Is she still alive?

CANDLEWOOD

(off panels)

Yes! She's definitely there. But I  
still can't beam her out. Every  
time I try, something... shifts.

RO

What the hell is he doing?

CANDLEWOOD

He's doing... nothing. I'm not  
reading any of the signals for the  
electric weapon, for the isolytic  
weapon... nothing.

RO

So he's just sitting there? Why?  
Counsellor, any ideas?

MATTHIAS

It depends on who I'm dealing with  
out there - Luka, or Axno.

PRYNN

I think it's both of them.

MATTHIAS

Ascendants use stars to destroy...  
The stars symbolise the fire of  
their gods. So if he's not here to  
destroy, maybe he's here to  
worship? To pray for strength.

CANDLEWOOD

Hold on... I'm having a thought.  
Ooh! That's good. I like that.

RO

John - what?

CANDLEWOOD

The energy cells on its skin, the  
ones that absorbed power from our

tricorders, even from the lights.  
He's not here to pray. He's here  
to recharge.

71 **INT. ASCENDANT SHIP**

Luka-Axno sits in the pilot seat, looking right into the blinding sun, enchanted, basking in its light. Behind him, Rebecca turns her eyes away, huddled against the back wall.

LUKA / AXNO  
Isn't it beautiful? I never saw  
the beauty before. But I see it  
now. Do you feel it, Rebecca? The  
power of the (Prophets/True)  
flowing through us? Glorious.

72 **EXT. SPACE**

With the star in the background, the *Defiant* cruises into place in the foreground.

73 **INT. DEFIANT - BRIDGE**

Ro gets up from her command chair, approaches the helm.

RO  
All stop.

The ship glides to a halt.

RO  
Alright. Prynn, go to sickbay, get  
your hands fixed.

PRYNN  
Sir, you need me here -

RO  
I need you well. Doesn't look like  
we're going anywhere for a while,  
and I've run my share of helm  
stations. Go.

PRYNN

(reluctant)  
Aye, sir. Thank you.

Prynn gets up and leaves the bridge. Ro settles into the helm station. From the tactical console, Bowers swivels towards her and speaks *sotto*.

BOWERS  
Commander, what exactly is our plan here? Do we have one? We can't beam her out. We can't fire on the ship without destroying it. Most we can do is keep blocking the shots, and he can jump past us any time he likes.

RO  
I am trying to think of something, Sam. Believe me, I'm trying.

Off Ro's daunted expression...

**74    INT. BAJORAN MILITIA CENTRAL**

General Lenaris stands in the large room, activity all around him, glaring up at the gigantic incident screen. Kasidy lingers beside him.

KASIDY  
Any news, General?

LENARIS  
(shakes head)  
Damn it, I knew we should have got rid of that ship. I told her. That stubborn -

OFFICER  
General!

Lenaris goes to the officer, who hands him a report on a padd. He reads it, brings it back to Kasidy with relief.

LENARIS  
We've had a communication from a Starfleet shuttlecraft. Your

husband is on board, as is  
Sergeant Tey. They're alive.

KASIDY  
Oh, thank God...

As they both sag with relief...

**75**    **EXT. ENDALLA SURFACE**

The tiny shuttlecraft *Cooper* settles down onto the moon.

The hatch opens with a HISS, and Sisko, Bashir, Jasmine and two other Militia officers pile out. Bashir holds out his tricorder, scanning for life signs.

BASHIR  
This way.

They move on over the rocky scrub terrain. They peak a small hill...

...and see the wreckage of the three single-person Bajoran patrol ships, all blasted into chunks. They get a move on.

As they near the broken ships, we see Ensign Aleco propped up against the bulkhead, one leg mangled, in wheezing pain. He looks up, gasps in relief.

ALECO  
Oh, thank the Prophets...

Bashir quickly runs up to Aleco, pulls out a medical kit and begins to work.

ALECO  
The Emissary himself come to save me. That must be a good sign.

SISKO  
Ensign Aleco. Can you tell us what happened here?

ALECO  
Ramesh and I were just guarding the ship. Normal day. Then a man



showed up, he was injured, said he'd been in a crash. He... had your daughter, sir. While I was taking care of her, he got the drop on us. He managed to take us both out. I'm sorry. By the time I woke up, I was out here, with three destroyed ships, three dead bodies and shrapnel in my leg.

JASMINE

You two, find those men.

The other Militia officers head off to check the wreckage.

BASHIR

Captain, I'd like to get him back to the *Cooper*. I can at least get him cleaned up there.

JASMINE

I'll help you.

As Jasmine and Bashir help Aleco up off the ground, Sisko draws a phaser.

SISKO

I'm gonna check that cavern.

And he moves off with purpose.

**76**    **EXT. SPACE**

The *Defiant* and Axno's Ascendant vessel both hold position, in silhouette against the star.

**77**    **INT. DEFIANT - ENGINEERING JUNCTION ROOM**

The door opens and Prynn strides in, checking her newly healed hands.

PRYNN

Nog, Permenter said you -

She stops dead at the sight of Nog and Leishman both facing the bulkheads, hurriedly fastening up their uniforms, both looking bashful and caught out. Prynn's jaw drops.

PRYNN

Are you serious? Now? You choose now of all times?

NOG

I don't know what you mean.

PRYNN

Oh please. And with your own junior officer! Do you have any idea how inappropriate this is?

LEISHMAN

What's it got to do with you?

PRYNN

(snap)

Don't you have work to do?

LEISHMAN

You're not my boss, Lieutenant.

NOG

But I am. It's alright. Go on. I'll talk to you later.

Smarting a little but not having time to fight, Leishman excuse-me's past Prynn and leaves.

PRYNN

Look, Nog, I'm sorry for barging in, and I'm happy that you're getting some at last, but now? In the middle of a battle, no less?

NOG

Please don't tell Ro.

PRYNN

Alright, I won't. I promise. On one condition.

NOG  
Which is?

PRYNN  
(grin)  
How was it?

**78 EXT. BAJOR - JANIR MONASTERY**

Returning us to the small, remote monastery in the mountains. The day is moving on...

**79 INT. JANIR MONASTERY - RAIQ'S ROOM**

Raiq sits on alone on her bed, thoughtful, troubled. After a moment, Kira barges in, raring to go.

KIRA  
Raiq, come on. We're just about ready. The cameras are all set up and waiting for us.  
(beat; realises)  
What's wrong?

RAIQ  
You expect me to appear in public, before every Bajoran in existence, and tell them that I do not hate them. That I do not wish them dead. You did not ask. You simply assumed I would do it.

KIRA  
(gently)  
So what are you saying? You do still hate them?

Raiq does not answer. She sits, staring at her hands. Kira comes close, crouches by her side, softly pleads.

KIRA  
I'm sorry for not asking. But I really thought we were past that. I thought you'd accepted me, the other Bajorans.  
(no response)

I need you, Raiq. I need all four  
of us together, all four faiths.  
It... it won't work without you.

Still nothing. Disappointed, Kira tries an alternative.

KIRA

If not you, do you think Vexh  
would be willing to do it?

RAIQ

Vexh does not speak. Even to me.  
We grieve in silence.

KIRA

I remember. But you didn't stay  
silent for long.

RAIQ

I tried to, while I considered  
what the True had shown me. But  
there was too much confusion.

KIRA

What they showed you...  
(realises)  
...when I took you to the Orb. You  
never did tell me what you saw.

RAIQ

No. I did not.

On Raiq's pondering face...

**FLASH**

**80 INT. ASHALLA MONASTERY PRAYER ROOM**

STOCK MATERIAL from 10x22 "Ascension". Kira opens the Orb  
box. Raiq sees the object inside, is awed at the sight of  
one of their sacred Eyes of Fire.

The Orb begins to glow brighter, and its light swirls out,  
filling the room with power.

**WHITE OUT**

81     **INT. DS9 - COMMANDER'S OFFICE**

STOCK MATERIAL from 10x20 "In the Stars". Raiq received the same vision that Sisko did.

Prophet Kira holds out her hand... and another hand takes it. Silver and shiny, an Ascendant hand. Kira looks up, and she's holding the hand of Raiq.

Raiq holds out her other hand, and into it slips another shape - the not-quite-a-hand of an Eav'oq pink ribbon limb.

ITU holds out another pink limb... and a grey scaly hand takes it - GARAK. Like the others, he takes Kira's spare hand. All four are now holding hands in a ring together.

**FLASH**

82     **RESUME**

Raiq sits silently on the bed, Kira crouched beside her.

KIRA

That's okay. You don't have to tell me. It's a private thing. But I do know that the Prophets, the True, whatever you want to call them... they would never show you anything that wasn't, well, true.

Raiq sits, still staring down at her hands in her lap. Eventually, she whispers, almost to herself.

RAIQ

I will come with you.

KIRA

(genuinely)

Thank you.

They both rise quietly from the bed, and holding hands, make their way out of the room.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT FOUR

## ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

### **83**    INT. DEFIANT - BRIDGE

Ro stares at the Ascendant ship on the screen, silhouetted against the star. Behind her, the door opens and Prynn and Nog both enter. Ro gestures for Bowers to join her.

Ro, Bowers, Nog, Candlewood, Matthias and Tenmei huddle together at the rear of the bridge. Ro makes sure she still has eyeline to the viewscreen.

RO

Alright. We can't just sit here. We can't keep running after him, and getting there too late. So I want ideas. Plans. Psychological insight. Anything to let us get ahead of him.

She looks around at the gathered officers. Nobody has any ideas. Then there's an ALERT - Nog quickly turns to check.

NOG

There's an incoming transmission from Bajor.

RO

Lenaris?

NOG

No, sir. It's on a system-wide broadcast... from Janir.

RO

On screen.

Nog presses buttons, and the main viewscreen changes.

### **84**    VIEWSCREEN

shows the main anteroom of Janir Monastery. There's a gaggle of reporters, of which our POV is one. At the front

of the room, standing near a makeshift platform, are Yevir, Kira and Mika... with Raiq standing a little apart.

**85**    **INT. JANIR MONASTERY**

In the room with them now. Yevir is the first one to step up. The crowd hushes, training their cameras.

                  YEVIR  
                  Citizens of Bajor, welcome to  
                  Janir Monastery. My name is Yevir  
                  Linjarin. You may know me.

**86**    **INT. DEFIANT - BRIDGE**

Back to the *Defiant*. Ro is unimpressed.

                  YEVIR (b.g.)  
                  I come before you today not in  
                  pursuit of self-aggrandisement or  
                  fame, but with a vital message for  
                  the people of Bajor.

                  RO (f.g.)  
                  Euch. Mute it. We don't have time  
                  for that jackass.

Nog presses more buttons. The image remains, but now muted.

                  RO  
                  Alright, concentrate. Luka has the  
                  advantage - he can jump instantly  
                  anywhere in the Bajoran system. So  
                  we need to nullify that advantage.

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

Major Cenn stands at the central Ops table, in command of a bunch of unknowns. The main screen shows the broadcast.

                  YEVIR (screen)  
                  Janir is the home of the Oralian  
                  Way. But we are not alone here.  
                  All four religions who currently  
                  call Bajor home reside together.  
                  And we live together, in peace.



88 **INT. DS9 - QUARK'S BAR**

Business goes on as usual. Treir, Hetik and Pif all work as they always have. Quark stands and watches the screens. At the hatch opening out onto the Promenade, Lt Cmdr EVIK also stands, watching, sharing camaraderie with Quark.

YEVIR (screen)

In the face of current, horrendous events, we stand together now, as an example of unity. All of Bajor must come together, whether they be Oralian, Ohalavar, traditional, or even Ascendant. We are one, and we must not let anyone or anything come between us.

Evik smiles. That's a good sentiment, one he agrees with. Quark is not quite so sanguine.

89 **INT. DEFIANT - BRIDGE**

Continuing the confab...

NOG

Maybe we can figure out where he'll jump next, and be there waiting for him.

BOWERS

Raiq said it was out of control. Jumping at random.

MATTHIAS

(sudden inspiration)

No - it's not random.

90 **INT. JANIR MONASTERY**

Yevir stands aside, allowing Mika to take the stage.

MIKA

My name is Cerin Mika, and I have travelled a long and winding path to stand here today. In my youth,

I walked with the Prophets, as did everyone. In my adolescence I turned to the *pagh*-Wraiths, and found them similarly wanting. Now as an adult, I follow Ohalu. So you may believe me when I say I recognise the many different faces that faith can wear.

91 **INT. BAJORAN MILITIA CENTRAL**

Lenaris, Kasidy and the other officers watch the same broadcast on the big incident screen.

MIKA (screen)

The vedek was vague as to the events currently unfolding. But I say it clearly. A man named Luka Tirem has kidnapped the daughter of the Emissary, taken the deadly Ascendant ship kept in hiding by Starfleet, and attacked and killed several Bajoran officers.

Lenaris darkens...

92 **INT. DEFIANT - BRIDGE**

Matthias continues her theory...

MATTHIAS

Think back on all the Ascendant attacks we've seen. They've all been against Bajoran targets.

PRYNN

Yeah, we're in the Bajoran system.

MATTHIAS

But look at the specificity of those targets. Axno hit the main monastery at Ashalla twice. Of all the places on Bajor.

CANDLEWOOD

Two points don't necessarily make a pattern.

MATTHIAS

She's an Ascendant. Hates Bajorans above anything else. And that ship is running off her instincts.

NOG

And so does Luka. And now they're combined...

**93    INT. ASHALLA MONASTERY - KAI'S CHAMBERS**

While ranjens and Militia officers run back and forth repairing damage on the other side of the open door, Kai Solis sits calmly at his desk, with Vedek Pralon stood behind, watching the broadcast on his personal screen.

MIKA (screen)

It is true, Luka was a follower of Ohalu, just as I am. I say he was, because we utterly denounce this action. None of the faiths here at Janir endorse kidnap, murder, or violence. Not even the Ascendants. If anyone seeks to blame the kai, the leader of the Ohalavaru, my uncle, for this reprehensible act, they could not be more wrong. We stand with you, all of us, against Luka Tirem now.

Pralon places her hand gently on Solis' shoulder. He clasps it tightly, thankful for the support.

**94    INT. JANIR MONASTERY**

On the stage, Mika bows out and goes to stand with Yevir. That leaves Kira and Raiq.

Kira looks to Raiq - does she want to go next? But Raiq is nervous, still uncertain about this. Kira sees that, and takes pity by stepping up to the platform for her turn.

KIRA

My name's Kira Nerys. I worked with the Emissary for many years. I fought for Bajor, all my life. I believed in the Prophets, all my life. I still do. But what that means to me has... broadened.

**95    INT. DEFIANT - BRIDGE**

Nog notices the screen...

NOG

Hey look, Kira's on.

RO

Great. So they're attacking sites of traditional Bajoran worship. How does that help us?

BOWERS

Commander, there's one other thing Luka and Axno have in common. One other place.

Ro pauses, figuring out what Bowers is referring to...

**96    INT. BAJORAN MILITIA CENTRAL**

The Militia officers watch the broadcast on the screen...

KIRA (screen)

I've had my problems with all of these people, what they believe...

Kira gestures, and the camera follows, catching Yevir and Mika on one side, Raiq on the other.

KIRA (screen)

But I've come to understand them all. There is nothing - nothing - to stop us all living together in peace. All of these different interpretations of the Prophets - the Siblings, the Fates, the True. None of them is a threat to us.

97 **INT. ENDALLA CAVE**

Sisko, with his weapon out and pointing the way, making his way through the cavern beneath the surface of the moon. He bats cobwebs and roots out of the way.

KIRA (v.o.)

The Emissary needs our strength.  
So I plead with you, don't let us  
fall apart now. Stand with us, as  
we stand with you.

Sisko turns a corner and comes upon the pile of rocks, with Corporal Renta's crushed and dead body poking out from it.

98 **INT. JANIR MONASTERY**

And back to the stage. Kira steps aside, holding her hand out to welcome Raiq in her place.

From the side, Raiq looks nervously out at the Bajorans all gathered, looking at her, waiting for her. She gulps, but hesitantly does what she must. She steps up to the stage.

RAIQ

Bajorans. I am Raiq, Archquester  
of the Ascendancy. My Quest was to  
seek the True - those you call the  
Prophets - and to destroy any who  
dared worship them also, and any  
who stood in our way.

99 **INT. DEFIANT - BRIDGE**

Ro watches Raiq talking MOS on the screen, and remembers...

**FLASHBACKS**

- Garak walking past the Bajoran shrine on the station,  
and Luka's phaser shot comes screaming at him (11x06)
- Axno self-immolates in a massive ball of fire, exploding  
and burning the shrine to pieces all around her (11x03)

**RESUME**

Ro realises, with horror.

RO  
The shrine.

BOWERS  
They both attacked it already.

RO  
He's going to attack the station.  
That's his next target.

**100 INT. ASCENDANT SHIP**

The broadcast is also transmitting in here, through the hologram that hangs in mid-air. Luka-Axno watches it, at first happy to see Raiq...

RAIQ (screen)  
The Quest is over. The Ascension is past. I have seen as the True see, and they have shown me that death is no longer their wish... if it ever was.

Behind him, poor Rebecca still cowers, huddled into the corner, quietly weeping.

RAIQ (screen)  
The man called Luka Tirem... I thought we were alike. Believed alike. But we do not. His actions are not as the True wish it.

At this, Luka-Axno's face drops in a furious sneer...

LUKA / AXNO  
Heretic. I knew it. Even my sister has turned against me. You shame the (Prophets/True).

The console in front of him begins to glow RED...

**101 INT. DEFIANT - BRIDGE**

There's an ALARM from Bowers' tactical console. He runs to check it. His eyes flare in alarm, looks back to Ro...

BOWERS

Luka's charging up to jump...

RO

Everyone back to your posts. Red alert, battle stations. Matthias, contact DS-Nine. Nog, get down to engineering and grab whatever you need. Everyone, move!

The crew rush back to their stations. Nog exits the bridge. The ship goes to RED ALERT. On screen, Luka-Axno turns to a threatening position, the ship's silver tip glowing red...

And he FIRES, right down *Defiant's* throat.

**102 INT. JANIR MONASTERY**

Standing on the platform, Raiq is still a small step away from the other three.

As she looks at their faces...

**FLASHBACK - 10x20 "IN THE STARS"**

Itu's tall, white Eav'oq face with its single smiling eye.

**RESUME**

Mika, the Ohalavar.

Raiq turns to look at Yevir...

**FLASHBACK - 10x20 "IN THE STARS"**

Garak the Cardassian with his strangely serene expression.

**RESUME**

Yevir, the leader of the Oralian Way.

And finally, Raiq looks at Kira...

**FLASHBACK - 10x20 "IN THE STARS"**

Prophet Kira holds her hand out to Raiq, beckoning her...

**RESUME**

The real Kira is doing the same, beckoning her to join them. Finally, Raiq does. She takes Kira's hand. All four join hands as they did in the vision.

The media is buzzing. Kira is beaming. Yevir and Mika are too. But Raiq... she's still not a hundred per cent sure.

**103 INT. DEFIANT - BRIDGE**

Panels all over the bridge are blasted and burned, wires hanging, cables sparking, gases hissing. Everyone stays at their stations and keeps working, fighting to keep the ship alive. Ro is in the command chair, battered and bloodied...

**104 INT. DS9 - QUARK'S BAR**

The screens, previously showing the broadcast, all go blank, as RED ALERT lights flash all around the station.

CENN (comm)

Major Cenn to all hands. Level one emergency is in effect. This is not a drill. All hands report to your supervisors for orders.

Quark looks in fear over towards Evik. It's exactly what Quark feared would happen. Evik nods, then turns and heads directly for the security office.

All around the bar, Starfleet officers - ones who didn't already leave for the *Defiant* - immediately head out. In a matter of seconds, only civilians are left, wondering what the hell is going on while the red alert lights flash.

CENN (comm)

I repeat, this is not a drill, all hands report to supervisors. Now.



Treir, Hetik and Pif all gather back together at the bar, surrounding Quark. This is it.

**104 EXT. SPACE**

The *Defiant* at top impulse speed, moving as fast as it can.

**105 EXT. DEEP SPACE NINE**

We are at the top of the station, looking down on the Ops dome and the Promenade...

And Luka-Axno JUMPS into position, right on top of the station. The pointed tip glows an angry red...

And he FIRES.

The BOLT OF LIGHTNING hits the Ops dome. Electric charges skitter and fizzle all over the outer hull, dissolving the metal, spreading gradually down.

Ops DISINTEGRATES into chunks.

Luka-Axno doesn't stop firing. The CRUMBLING continues, down the neck of the station, reaching the Promenade.

All three RUNABOUTS launch and escape. Just in time - the CRUMBLING spreads out along the crossover bridges to the habitat ring.

Starting at the core and spreading outward, the entire station DISSOLVES, chunks of metal tumbling away into space. Small EXPLOSIONS swallow up many of the pieces.

**103 INT. DEFIANT - BRIDGE**

Ro is on her feet, staring at this on the viewscreen. Dumbfounded. Stunned. The rest of the crew are likewise.

**104 EXT. DEEP SPACE NINE**

At the top of (what was) the station, Luka-Axno finally stops firing and JUMPS away again. Just in time, because...

The station finally EXPLODES in one great massive fireball.

105 **INT. DEFIANT - BRIDGE**

Ro and the rest flinch back, covering their eyes from the flash of the explosion. When they look back at the main viewscreen again...

...there's nothing but tumbling debris.

Deep Space Nine has been destroyed.

BLACK OUT:

**END OF SHOW**