

STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE

8x10 - "Divided We Fall."

Screenplay by Martyn Dunn

Based on the graphic novel

*Star Trek: Divided We Fall*  
by John Ordover and David Mack

And incorporating elements from

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

and

"Reflections"

by LA Graf, as printed in the anthology  
*Star Trek: Deep Space Nine: The Lives of Dax*

**TEASER**

FADE IN:

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

Focusing on the habitat ring, and a suggestion of night-time if possible.

**2     INT. DS9 - EZRI DAX'S QUARTERS**

Dark lighting as EZRI DAX and JULIAN BASHIR lie in bed together. Bashir is asleep, his back to turned to Dax. She is awake, in her nightclothes, watching him sleep. There is tension - they had yet another fight.

DAX (v.o.)

I'm a Starfleet counsellor, with more than three-hundred years' experience to draw from. I know every little thing that can go wrong in a relationship. I know how fragile they can be.

She rolls onto her back, sighs in exasperation. Annoyed at herself as much as anything else.

DAX (v.o.)

After all that time, you'd think I would also know how to avoid the potholes in the road. But I just seem to keep on falling into them. "Stop acting like a child." What was I thinking? Julian has every right to be mad at me.

She gently gets out of bed, making sure not to disturb him. She walks over to the window, looks out at the stars.

DAX (v.o.)

I guess you never get too old to say the wrong thing. And love never gets any simpler.

She wanders around the room a little, sees the small clay busts she made of her old hosts. She grabs a robe and huddles into it.

DAX (v.o.)  
But it really seems like lately,  
we keep finding more and more  
things to fight over.

She sits forlornly in the chair by her desk. Just as she does, a bleep goes off on the console. Surprised, she hits a key and a text message pops up on the screen.

**INSERT - SCREEN**

PRIORITY ONE MESSAGE FOR LT EZRI DAX.

**BACK TO SCENE**

Intrigued, Dax hits more keys. An official looking report is displayed, featuring the prominent headline:

**INSERT - SCREEN**

EMINENT SCIENTIST DR LENARA KAHN  
ABDUCTED ON TRILL HOMEWORLD.

**BACK TO SCENE**

DAX  
Lenara... ?

The official report is replaced by a more informal note, which says:

**INSERT - SCREEN**

EZRI DAX. IF YOU WANT DR KAHN  
RETURNED ALIVE, YOU WILL FOLLOW  
THESE INSTRUCTIONS EXACTLY.

**BACK TO SCENE**

Dax's eyes widen as she realises this is a ransom note.

**FLASHBACK - 4x06 "REJOINED"**

As Jadzia Dax and Lenara Kahn, the reincarnation of Dax's ex-wife, give in to their suppressed feelings and kiss.

CUT TO:

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

Still in her night clothes and robe, Dax RUNS full pelt and barefoot through the corridor. It is quiet, being night shift. A pair of EXTRAS step out of a junction and Dax nearly runs them over. They stagger out of the way as she barrels on past.

DAX  
Out of the way!  
          (after-thought)  
Sorry!

She jumps into a turbolift and the doors close behind her.

**4     INT. DS9 - MAIN OPS CENTRE**

Night shift, dimmed lights, skeleton crew. Before the turbolift has fully risen into place, Dax is already running off it and towards Kira's office. The few crew present react with surprise, but she ignores them.

**5     INT. DS9 - KIRA'S OFFICE**

KIRA NERYS and RO LAREN are already there. Ro looks like she got out of bed in a hurry too, her uniform stripped down to the vest and leggings. Kira is fully dressed - she hasn't even been to bed. They are mid-conversation as the door OPENS and Dax rushes in, interrupting them.

DAX  
Colonel! We have an emergency!  
Lenara Kahn -

RO  
- Has been abducted, and the kidnappers have stated that unless you arrive, alone, at the Tenaran Ice Cliffs on Trill in six hours with five kilograms of weapons-grade protomatter, Doctor Kahn will die.

DAX  
(caught off guard)  
How... ?

RO  
The message was encrypted with an  
expired Starfleet security code.  
It sent up a red flag the second  
it came in.

Dax catches her breath as she realises they are already on  
top of the situation.

DAX  
Is the message true?

KIRA  
Yes, we confirmed it with Trill  
planetary security. So now, the  
only question is -

DAX  
(resigned)  
- Whether Lenara's life is worth  
handing over the protomatter.

KIRA  
No. The question is, whether we  
can get you to Trill in time to  
save her.

Dax smiles with relief at Kira's understanding. But then  
her fear for Lenara takes over again...

FADE OUT:

**END OF TEASER**

**ACT ONE**

FADE IN:

**6 EXT. SPACE - DEFIANT**

The *Defiant* warps through space towards Trill.

VAUGHN (v.o.)

Commander's Log, USS *Defiant*.  
Elias Vaughn recording. We're  
three hours out from the Trill  
homeworld. With Doctor Kahn's life  
at stake, Lieutenant Dax is  
extremely... anxious.

**7 INT. DEFIANT - MAIN BRIDGE**

ELIAS VAUGHN is in the command chair, PRYNN TENMEI at helm,  
SAM BOWERS at tactical, extras filling other seats.

VAUGHN (v.o.)

I think the Lieutenant's residual  
feelings for Doctor Kahn have been  
a source of some distress for  
Doctor Bashir. The more time I  
spend with them both, the more I  
wonder if I was ever so young.

**8 INT. DEFIANT - DAX AND BASHIR'S QUARTERS**

Dax and Bashir standing, both back in uniform, still tense.  
It's one of those arguments where every word blows things  
further out of context from what they meant to say.

DAX

Can't we go any faster?

BASHIR

Ezri, we're doing warp eight. Much  
faster and the ship'll fly apart.  
What's really bothering you?

DAX

Love! It's just so damn annoying.

BASHIR

Really.

DAX

I didn't mean you, Julian.

BASHIR

Oh, so when you think of love, you don't think of me?

DAX

That's not what I was saying!

BASHIR

I see you've got your former career as a counsellor completely out of your system.

DAX

Well, this isn't exactly how I expected my first mission as the *Defiant's* first officer to go, either. I don't think Vaughn even wants me on the bridge.

BASHIR

Well, you're upset. We both know you can be a little... rash... when you're upset.

DAX

Julian, this is no time for one of your jealous snits. I haven't even thought about Lenara since I - since Jadzia married Worf. But now her life is in danger because of me. Because of our past together. Of course I've got to do whatever I can to help her.

Bashir is a bit chastised. Dax is exasperated, worried.

DAX

Whenever I think I've got the past locked away and under control, it reaches out and grabs me again.

9     **INT. CAVE SET - VILLAIN'S LAIR**

LENARA KAHN is gagged and tied to a chair, looking slightly roughed up but not too badly. An as-yet-unidentified hand GRABS her shoulder, then moves in closer to her face, brushing her hair, uncomfortably familiar. She is quite scared of whoever it is. He leans in close to her, and his face still in shadow, he whispers into her ear.

MAN

(whispering)

Your lost love is on her way to  
save you, Doctor Kahn. How  
unfortunate that she'll arrive  
just a little too late...

He suddenly INJECTS her neck with a non-Starfleet hypospray or syringe. She tries to pull away from it, but can't. She doesn't pass out - in fact she is wild-eyed with panic.

10    **INT. DEFIANT - DAX AND BASHIR'S QUARTERS**

Where we were, arguing with Dax and Bashir.

DAX

Julian, I'm about to beam down  
into a hostile environment with a  
dangerous, not to mention illegal,  
material to risk my life for a  
woman I haven't seen in years.

BASHIR

But who you still love.

DAX

I suppose so, yes, a part of me  
does still love Kahn. Not that I  
realised it until this situation  
came up. But do you really  
begudge me that? Haven't you got  
ex-girlfriends? Should I throw a  
fit if Sarina showed up again?

BASHIR

Ezri, my feelings for you are stronger than they ever were for Sarina, for anyone. And I do know that coming to terms with all those lives inside you is hard. It would be nice, though, if our relationship could be about me once in a while, instead of some past life of yours.

He is ashamed of that the moment he says it. He slumps and takes a seat on a bunk. She is pretty astonished too.

DAX

Are you kidding me? What was all that stuff about saving the galaxy single-handed, about hiding who you really are? That sure as hell wasn't about me.

BASHIR

You're right, I'm sorry, I'm sorry. I shouldn't have said that.  
(annoyed at himself)

Maybe you were right before. Maybe I do have the emotional maturity of a four-year-old. But it can be hard, Ezri... sharing my life with someone who's already sharing hers with so many other people.

DAX

(quietly)  
How many lives is too many? How many loves is too many, Julian?

He can't answer that...

**11 INT. CAVE SET - VILLAIN'S LAIR**

One of the bad guys, JULL, is reporting in to the main bad guy, who has his back to us in shadow, still unidentified. A pained MOANING sound is in the background.

JULL

Do you really think Starfleet will hand us something as dangerous as protomatter to ransom one woman?

MAN

Of course not, Jull. They'll try to trick us with some kind of fake. But it doesn't matter. I'm not interested in protomatter. I'm only interested in Dax.

Panning across the room, we see the source of the moaning is Kahn. She writhes with cramps, sweating, pale, obviously in great physical distress but still tied to the chair.

**12    EXT. SPACE - TRILL HOMEWORLD**

The *Defiant* is in orbit of the purple-watered planet.

**13    INT. DEFIANT - MAIN BRIDGE**

TENMEI

Entering orbit of Trill homeworld now, sir.

VAUGHN

Thank you, Ensign.  
(taps comm)

Vaughn to Nog. Are you ready?

**14    INT. DEFIANT - TRANSPORTER ROOM**

NOG is behind the transporter control as SHAR, Bashir, Dax, Bowers and two security, all in thick padded cold-weather uniforms, step up onto the transporter pad. Shar carries a cylindrical container, a foot long, that glows from within.

NOG

Nearly, sir. Do you have any idea how much latinum we could get for five kilos of fake protomatter?

SHAR

When we return, I'll make another batch if you'd like.

DAX  
Don't encourage him, Shar.  
(nod to Nog)  
Nog, energise.

He does, they all dissolve, and he hits the comm panel.

NOG  
They're on their way. I'm tracking  
them and I'll keep you informed.

15 **EXT. TENARAN ICE CLIFFS**

VAUGHN (comm)  
Acknowledged, Lieutenant.

Bashir and Shar stand on a bluff amid a light snowstorm. Their hair WHIPS in the wind, their breath visible. They watch a small figure in the valley below. On the opposite side, they see three other figures - Bowers and security.

**ON DAX**

Carrying the container, Dax trudges warily through the snow. A short way away, she sees a SHAPE half-buried in the snow. She steps cautiously towards it and realises - it's LENARA, unconscious. Terrified for her, she rushes forward.

DAX  
Lenara! Lenara...!

Dax desperately drags Kahn out of the snow and towards a rock face for shelter. Behind her, unnoticed, other SHAPES begin to emerge from hiding under the snow cover.

Above them, Shar notices the movement - armed figures in white masked camouflage suits beginning to surround Dax.

SHAR  
Sir! Movement on her left flank!

BASHIR  
Bashir to security! Cover her!

Phaser FIRE comes from above, pinning the raiders but not hitting them. Dax barely notices - she is helping Kahn.

16 **INT. DEFIANT - MAIN BRIDGE**

BASHIR (comm)  
Bashir to *Defiant*! We're under  
attack.

VAUGHN  
Get them out of there, Mister Nog.

NOG (comm)  
I can't get a lock! Something's  
blocking the transport scanner.

17 **EXT. TENARAN ICE CLIFFS**

Bashir and Shar are rushing to join the fray in the valley as security continues to FIRE from above. Dax finally realises the trouble she is in, and pulls out a small pocket phaser, taking out one of the raiders herself.

18 **INT. DEFIANT - MAIN BRIDGE**

Vaughn is up out of his seat, looking over Prynn's shoulder at conn to check the readouts on her panel. She glances at him in worry, her loathing of him forgotten for a second.

VAUGHN  
Nog - what's the closest point to  
the away team that you can get a  
lock on?

19 **EXT. TENARAN ICE CLIFFS**

One of the raiders FIRES on the snow just by Bashir and Shar, who are THROWN into the air by the BURST of snow. Bashir twists with the fall and manages to get off a shot with his phaser, scoring a hit on one of the raiders.

NOG (comm, v.o.)  
Three-point-one-five kilometres.

VAUGHN (comm, v.o.)  
Vaughn to security. Launch *Sagan*  
*and Chaffee*. Get down there and  
get our people out.

20 **EXT. SPACE - DEFIANT**

The *Defiant's* two tiny shuttlecraft launch from its ventral hatch and angle DOWN towards the planet.

21 **EXT. TENARAN ICE CLIFFS**

Bashir and Shar are back on their feet, firing back on the raiders, who are still attacking them and returning fire.

SECURITY (comm)  
Shuttlecraft *Chaffee* to away team!  
Do you copy?

BASHIR  
Affirmative! This is Bashir!

SECURITY (comm)  
Hang on, sir. The cavalry's on its way. ETA thirty seconds.

BASHIR  
Acknowledged.

TRANSPORTER effects begin to form over the two raiders who are already down.

BASHIR  
They're transporting! How?

SHAR  
Those devices on their belts - they must cut through the jammers.

BASHIR  
Can't let them escape! This could be our only chance to find out who's behind this!

He RUNS for them in the hope of catching one, but doesn't make it in time. One by one, the raiders BEAM away.

Behind Bashir, one last raider fires and HITS Dax as she tries to protect Lenara. Her cry alerts Bashir, but too late - the raider grabs Dax and BEAMS away with her.

Nearby, the shuttle lands in a CLOUD of snow and armed security guards pile out of the hatch.

But Bashir just looks horrified - Dax is gone.

**22 INT. CAVE SET - VILLAIN'S LAIR**

The raider BEAMS into the cave with Dax. She slumps to her hands and knees, recovering from the phaser shot.

MAN (o.s.)

Hello, Dax. Ezri... that's your first name now, isn't it?

She looks up as the man approaches, and we see at last that it is VERAD (2x04 "Invasive Procedures"), the man who tried to steal the Dax symbiont from Jadzia.

No longer the mild-mannered secretary, now he has gone all bad-ass paramilitary freedom fighter. Intense, passionate, driven, and perhaps a little crazy.

DAX

Verad. Just can't take no for an answer, can you?

VERAD

Oh, don't worry. I'm not looking to steal the Dax symbiont. Not anymore. There would be no point. Because soon, all of the alien worms will be dead. And for the first time in millennia, Trill will be free.

FADE OUT:

**END OF ACT ONE**

## ACT TWO

FADE IN:

### **23 INT. CAVE SET - VERAD'S LAIR**

Dax is now in Kahn's place, tied to the chair, although more securely than Kahn was, and one of Verad's minions holds a gun on her. She is defiant, refusing to budge.

Verad approaches with a DEVICE he fits around her head, similar to the Romulan mind-scanners. He also INJECTS her with the same drug he used on Kahn.

DAX

What have you done to me, Verad?

VERAD

I've set you free, Miss Tigan. In return, I need you to cooperate while I take what I need from Dax. It won't take Starfleet long to find you, and the drugs will begin their work soon. So I'm going to skip the pleasantries and set the device to maximum power.

He moves a control on the mind-scanner - it hums to life.

### **24 INT. DEFIANT - SICKBAY**

Bashir, assisted by NURSE RICHTER (human female), removes the Kahn symbiont from Lenara's body and delicately moves it to a portable symbiont pod (as in 8x05 "Reflections").

He hates having to do this, it's like a defeat to him, but there is nothing else he can do. While Richter secures the pod, Bashir returns to Lenara and pulls the surgical sheet over her face. She's gone.

### **25 INT. DEFIANT - MAIN ENGINEERING**

Nog and Shar are working at a couple of consoles as various extras work the background. This is Nog's room now, and he is trying to project confidence. The doors open - Vaughn ENTERS, all business. Nog and Shar turn to report to him.

VAUGHN

Lieutenant, Ensign. What have you got for me?

NOG

I'm afraid we don't have much to work with, sir.

SHAR

The devices the kidnappers wore appeared to be signal enhancers, keyed to a certain transporter frequency. The computer was able to record that frequency, but not the destination.

VAUGHN

And how does that help us?

NOG

Well, we're trying to track who uses that frequency so that we can trace their location.

SHAR

The results should be coming in right now.

Shar turns to check the panel he was working on, but sags.

SHAR (cont)

Sorry, sir. That's the sequence for the Trill Global Transport Network. There's about a million transport sites with that code.

VAUGHN

Damn. What else can we do?

NOG

Well... doesn't the network keep transport pattern logs? Couldn't we track this specific transport by looking for pattern matches?

SHAR

There'd be millions of separate records to check through. I don't think the *Defiant* has the computer processing power.

NOG

(grinning)

You'd be right, if we hadn't just completed six weeks of upgrades.

VAUGHN

Alright, gentlemen. Get to it.

Vaughn has been proudly watching these two young officers, barely a quarter his age, work through the problem. He leaves; Nog and Shar return to work, newly energised.

**26 INT. CAVE SET - VERAD'S LAIR**

Dax is still immobilised, a little more uncomfortable but still lucid. Verad prowls around, passionately preaching.

DAX

What have you got against the symbionts, all of a sudden? You used to want one so desperately, you were willing to kill for it.

VERAD

Ah, but that's what they want, isn't it? For us to worship them and do anything for them. Do you know what they really are, Ezri? They're vampires. They came here from somewhere... out there... to control us, from the inside out. And we compete for the privilege of letting them do it.

DAX

I used to think that. But I was wrong. Sure, it was confusing at first, but I've come to understand it's an amazing opportunity. They don't mean us any harm.

VERAD

Yes, that's what they say. But have you noticed how they've insinuated themselves into all the most important institutions, the highest offices? Even the President is joined.

DAX

They have the most experience, that's all.

VERAD

You're naive, Ezri. They're keeping the rest of us down.

DAX

So what, just 'cause you couldn't have a symbiont, now no-one can?

Verad is suddenly subtly different - not so fervent, more desperate. He is really trying to get through to Ezri.

VERAD

No! That's not what this is about. Don't you understand, I'm trying to help! They're winning, and I have to stop them!

She realises he is really scared, and it gives her pause. But then the first stomach cramp comes. She GRUNTS with the pain, and Verad snaps back to being intense and angry.

VERAD

I told you it wouldn't be long.

**27 EXT. SPACE - DEFIANT**

A moment of the *Defiant* in orbit of Trill to re-establish.

**28 INT. CAVE SET - MAK'ALA**

A different cave system. This is where the symbionts return to breed (as seen in 3x04 "Equilibrium"). Bashir, Bowers and two non-coms transport into the mouth of the cave,

carrying the portable symbiont pod. A small procession of Guardians meet them. In charge is KERU - male, bearded, unjoined, physically imposing but personally gentle.

KERU

Doctor. Thank you for bringing  
Kahn back to us. Please follow me.

Keru solemnly leads the group into the caves - they follow respectfully, approaching the milky-white SYMBIONT POOLS.

Some other Guardians take the porta-pod from the non-coms and bring it to the edge of the main pool, where they open it and gently lift Kahn out. They bring the symbiont to the pool, and it slips in, wriggling down into the water.

Keru sits by the edge of the pool, dangling his fingers into the water. Bashir *et al* are mostly ignored.

KERU

Good. It knows where it is. It's  
still weak, but feeling better.

BASHIR

You can communicate with it?

Keru realises his rudeness and stands up. He wipes his hands dry, then shakes Bashir's and Bowers' in greeting.

KERU

Forgive me, Doctor. I am Ranul  
Keru. And yes, we Guardians are  
attuned to the needs and feelings  
of the symbionts under our care.  
We can't communicate directly, but  
we can get impressions, images.

BASHIR

Kahn might know who took Dax. Is  
there any way you can find out?

CYL (o.s.)

That might not be wise, Doctor.

They turn to see another older joined Trill male, armed, with grey hair and a severe black uniform, making his own

way into the caves. This is TAULIN CYL, a high-ranking agent of the Trill Defence Force. Keru is not pleased.

KERU

I'd rather not have that weapon around the symbionts, General.

CYL

Under the circumstances - two prominent joined Trill kidnapped in a matter of hours, one of them dead - I think it's warranted, Mister Keru.

(to the others)

General Taulin Cyl, Trill Defence Ministry.

BASHIR

Doctor Julian Bashir, USS *Defiant*.

(re Bowers)

Lieutenant Bowers, our chief tactical officer.

BOWERS

Do you have any leads, General?

CYL

We have some ideas about what's going on here. But I don't believe Mister Keru needs to bother a sick symbiont for information.

KERU

Well I do, General. I will not stand by and allow another symbiont to remain in danger if I can do anything about it.

Keru steps gently into the pool, gradually SINKING waist deep. The others gather around, except Cyl, who remains stiff and disapproving.

After a moment, the symbiont bobs back up to the surface and sends an ELECTRICAL DISCHARGE towards Keru's stomach. He slips into a kind of trance, speaking Kahn's words.

KERU

... Cure... Must get cure...

BOWERS

Cure to what?

BASHIR

To whatever was stopping me from  
reviving Lenara. Kahn must have  
known she was dying.

KERU

... Hurts... Lenara. Dax. Make it  
stop... make him stop...

BASHIR

(leaning close)

Make who stop? Kahn, if you can  
hear me, who's hurting you?

KERU

... Verad.

Kahn breaks the link and Keru slumps, conscious but dazed. The other guardians help him out of the pool while Bashir reacts to the name. For Cyl, this confirms his theories.

BOWERS

Who's Verad?

BASHIR

An unjoined Trill who tried to  
steal the Dax symbiont from Jadzia  
six years ago. She almost died.

CYL

One of the worst crimes a Trill  
can commit.

BOWERS

What happened to him after that?

CYL

He was committed to Gheryzan,  
Lieutenant. A mental hospital.

Bashir is surprised at that, which Cyl notices.

CYL (cont)

I know Federation science likes to think it has cured all the people's ills, but a significant number of Trill citizens still suffer from some brain disorders that don't respond to even the most advanced medicines.

KERU

Our neurochemistry is complicated by our ability to join.

BASHIR

So the same characteristics that let you bond with your symbionts, also leave you susceptible to debilitating brain disease.

CYL

It's not something we boast about.

BOWERS

So you're telling me this Verad has got Dax, and that he's insane?

CYL

Well, that's probably a matter of perspective. But I did hear he had a breakdown at one point, ended up on some experimental medication.

**29    INT. CAVE SET - VERAD'S LAIR**

Dax is now in considerable pain, but Verad is still talking, not really paying attention to her.

VERAD

Have you ever heard of a man named Bethan Roa?

(no answer)

A doctor at Gheryzan hospital. Responsible for the mental health of his patients. He came up with

an experimental drug for healing brain function. I was depressed... confused... so I became one of his subjects. And it worked. My mind, all of our minds rebounded to their youthful brilliance. But there was a side effect.

(pause for drama)

Joined subjects began to reject their symbionts. The connection was dissolving. And I saw my chance to free Trill of these tiny monsters once and for all.

He presents the hypospray to Ezri, and she understands that this is what he has done to her. She is rejecting Dax.

30 **INT. CAVE SET - MAK'ALA**

CYL

I'm afraid that's not all, Doctor. Some unjoined Trill aren't happy about the high status granted to joined Trill. A violent faction has recently sprung up that seeks to change the situation. They call themselves Purists.

KERU

They believe - or claim to believe - that the Trill symbionts are an off-world species that landed on Trill with the express desire of taking over. And in the years since, they've done just that. Not by force, but by infiltrating the upper echelons of Trill society.

CYL

Nonsense, of course.

BOWERS

And you're saying Verad is associated with these Purists?

CYL

Intelligence suggests he may even  
be their leader.

Bashir is fuming about this when his combadge beeps.

VAUGHN (comm)  
*Defiant* to away team.

BASHIR  
Bashir here, Commander.

VAUGHN (comm)  
Doctor, Lieutenant Nog and Ensign  
Ch'Thane have pin-pointed the  
location the kidnappers took Dax.  
We're preparing an assault.

BASHIR  
I want to be on the team, sir.

CYL  
(speaking up)  
Commander, this is General Cyl of  
Trill Defence. My soldiers and I  
would also like to be involved  
with this operation.

VAUGHN (comm)  
Understood, General, and thank  
you. Please co-ordinate with  
Lieutenant Bowers. Prepare to beam  
up to *Defiant*, gentlemen.

Bashir and the others start gathering their stuff, but Keru  
pulls Bashir aside for a private moment.

KERU  
Doctor. I wanted to let you know  
that I understand how you feel.  
(glance at Kahn)  
I know how you feel about Dax, and  
how she feels about you. Three  
years ago, I lost someone too,  
while I was serving aboard the  
*Enterprise*. Sean.

BASHIR

Was he your partner?

KERU

Yes. I've never had a symbiont, but I was... joined to Sean. But then he was assimilated by the Borg, killed by his own crewmate and left to burn up in Earth's atmosphere. After that, I couldn't stay. I took extended leave. This seemed as good a place as any to clear my head. To... recover.

BASHIR

(sensitively)

Before your next joining.

KERU

I suppose what I'm saying is, I wouldn't want what happened to me to happen to you. So I'll help any way I can. Good luck.

**31    INT. CAVE SET - VERAD'S LAIR**

Dax is now crumpled to her knees on the floor, WRACKED with pain. Verad removes the mind-scanner from her head and turns away to the computer banks for a moment.

VERAD

You've been most helpful, Dax.  
Thank you. You've earned a quick death... no matter how much I'd love to make you suffer.

He turns back to her, and he has a phaser in his hand.

VERAD

Suffer the way I suffered when they took you away from me, and locked me in an asylum. All those years, I wanted only one thing...  
(aims phaser)  
...to see you die by my hand.

Then a PHASER shot comes from off-side, hitting Jull. Verad turns to look, and sees about twenty officers, a mix of Starfleet and Trill security, taking up positions.

VERAD

Starfleet... right on time.

Bashir, Bowers, Shar, Cyl and others exchange FIRE with Verad's men. The Purists fight back, but Starfleet and Trill security quickly outnumber them and overrun them.

The firefight dies down and security rounds the Purists up, although Verad himself is noticeably not among them.

Bashir reaches a pained and semi-conscious Dax, rests her in his lap and checks her with a tricorder. He is filled with fear, relief, fury all mixed together.

DAX

Julian...

BASHIR

It's alright, Ezri, I've got you.  
Save your strength.

DAX

Verad... you can't let him... The  
symbionts, Julian... he wants to  
kill them all.

And then she passes out. Off Julian's reaction, we...

FADE OUT:

**END OF ACT TWO**

**ACT THREE**

FADE IN:

**32 EXT. SPACE - DEFIANT**

Still in orbit of Trill.

VERAD (comm, v.o.)  
To the people of Trill! We've  
allowed ourselves to be enslaved  
by an alien force...

**33 INT. DEFIANT - MAIN BRIDGE**

Vaughn sits in the centre chair, watching as Verad presents his pre-recorded rant over the viewscreen.

Behind them, Bowers and Shar enter the bridge and take their places at tactical and ops. Verad continues in the background as the crew talk over him.

VERAD (screen)  
...one that controls us not from  
without, but from within our own  
bodies! I have proof, my friends!  
The Symbiosis Commission told us  
only the chosen few could be  
granted the "gift" of carrying a  
worm inside them. But they lied,  
any of us could have. The  
commission chose only the weak-  
willed, the collaborators, those  
willing to harbour our masters  
within them. But hours from now,  
their reign will be over!

VAUGHN  
Is Verad's transmission to the  
planet fully blocked?

BOWERS  
Yes, sir. It can only be seen  
here, and in the office of the  
Trill President.

SHAR

I've traced the signal, sir. It's coming from an old relay station. Verad could've triggered it from anywhere.

VAUGHN

Mute this.

The screen goes quiet, although Verad continues silently.

BOWERS

He's going to be pretty steamed when he finds out we pulled the plug on his rant, sir.

VAUGHN

Let's hope that provoking him makes him careless.

Shar's console beeps - he checks it.

SHAR

Sir, you have an incoming message from the office of the President.

VAUGHN

In the ready room, please, Ensign.

Vaughn gets up to head to the Captain's ready room.

**34    INT. DEFIANT - SICKBAY**

Dax is unconscious on a biobed with a full surgical arch as Bashir and Richter fuss around her. Next to them, ignored, Lenara's body still lies on another bed, draped in a sheet. Looking at a bio-display:

BASHIR

Kristen, look - I think this is what's stopping us from reviving Dax.

RICHTER

Those chemicals aren't native to Trill physiology, are they?

BASHIR

Definitely not. Anomalous enzyme and protein traces, endocrine levels going crazy... By the looks of this, whatever this is, it interferes with the natural neurotransmitters involved in symbiosis. It's making Ezri's immune system reject Dax as if it was foreign tissue. It would begin to work almost immediately.

RICHTER

That would explain the peritoneal inflammation in the symbiont pouch - is this what killed Kahn too?

BASHIR

It must be. Lenara rejected Kahn, then got left to freeze to death in the snow of the Tenaran Ice Cliffs for however many hours.

RICHTER

But that didn't happen to Dax. If we can find an antidote to these chemicals, we should be able to save her, right?

BASHIR

I'm damn sure gonna try.

**35    INT. DEFIANT - READY ROOM**

Vaughn is sat at the desk, speaking to Trill President LYRISSE MAZ on the screen. She is older, female, joined, iron-haired and iron-willed.

MAZ (screen)

I don't know if there's any truth to Verad's claims, Commander. I've summoned the Commission directors for a private hearing before the Trill Senate. Do you have any further information about Verad?

VAUGHN

Yes, Madam President. Verad's "revolution" turned out to have less than a dozen members, most of whom were easily captured during the raid on his base.

MAZ (screen)

That may be all he needs, Commander. In the last few minutes I've been receiving reports of joined Trill all over the planet suffering severe abdominal pains just like those your doctor described in Lieutenant Dax.

VAUGHN

I've spoken with Doctor Bashir, and he believes Verad was using a drug designed to make all Trill humanoids incapable of joining.

MAZ (screen)

If that's true, Commander, then this isn't just a small political uprising. This is the end of Trill society as we know it, and a death sentence for all joined Trill. I hereby authorise Starfleet to take whatever steps are necessary to apprehend Verad and fix whatever he's done to us. I'll put all our resources at your disposal.

VAUGHN

Understood, Madam President.

Maz signs off. Vaughn taps the comm again.

VAUGHN

Vaughn to Bowers. Contact General Cyl and organise a planet-wide manhunt. Find Verad - now.

BOWERS (comm)

Understood, sir.

VAUGHN  
Vaughn to Bashir. Tell me  
something good, Doctor.

36 INT. DEFIANT - SICKBAY

As Bashir and Richter continue to work on Dax:

BASHIR  
I wish I could, Commander. If I  
can't find a cure for Lieutenant  
Dax soon, the host body will  
reject the symbiont and die.

VAUGHN (comm)  
It's bigger than that now, Doctor.  
Verad's done the same thing to the  
entire Trill population. We need  
that cure right now.

BASHIR  
(sagging)  
I'm trying, sir. Believe me.

VAUGHN (comm)  
Try harder, Doctor. An entire  
planet is at stake. Vaughn out.

BASHIR  
(exasperated)  
No pressure. How the hell did he  
get to the entire population?

RICHTER  
Maybe he slipped the drug into the  
water system, or something.

BASHIR  
Well, if that's so, at least it  
means the concentration will be  
lower than the direct injection  
Dax and Kahn got. It should take  
effect slower too, so that gives  
us a bit more breathing room.

A loving look at Dax, still on the biobed next to the dead body of Lenara.

BASHIR

That doesn't help Dax, though.

**37 EXT. SPACE - TRILL**

Establishing, focusing on the seemingly quiet planet.

**38 EXT. TRILL CITYSCAPE - DUSK**

An alien Times Square at dusk, busy with people rushing to and fro, and brightly lit screens showing advertisements, news feeds, entertainments. Verad walks among the crowds, huddled into a big coat and hat so he can't be recognised.

Behind him we see a large public display screen, which features his face and the text, VERAD KALON: WANTED FOR MURDER, TERRORISM AND KIDNAPPING. ARMED AND DANGEROUS. IF YOU SEE THIS MAN, CONTACT SECURITY IMMEDIATELY.

He stops at a smaller public screen that is showing the latest news. Everyone else is too rushed with their own business to notice him. On the screen is a Trill news show.

NEWSREADER (screen)

The Symbiosis Commission is asking all joined Trill to stay calm, but to contact medical professionals as soon as possible. President Maz is preparing to address -

VERAD

(to self)

The "joined." The joke. And the unjoined... scurrying like good little servants to save their masters. The weak ones. Soon, they'll be dead. Forgotten. Nothing more than a bad memory.

His own face and the earlier warning appears on the smaller screen; he huddles further into his coat and walks away.

He approaches a public transporter platform and hits a few buttons, but the screen says TRILL GLOBAL TRANSPORT NETWORK: SYSTEM OFFLINE. Annoyed, he keeps walking.

Nearby, a random Trill begins to clutch at her stomach as the cramps hit her. She looks around in panic as she realises what is happening. Verad smiles to himself.

**39**    **INT. DEFIANT - SICKBAY**

Still tensely inspecting screens and working panels.

BASHIR

It's no use. At this rate, the joined Trill will all be dead before we finish deciphering the drug's chemical structure.

RICHTER

Then we need another approach.

BASHIR

The only way we could produce a cure on a planetary scale in time would be if we already had the formula. Hold on...

Something occurs to him. In a rush of inspiration, he begins grabbing things and jamming them into a med kit.

BASHIR

Grab a field surgery kit, and pack two hypos of metra-provaline, one of lethozine and one of metrazine.

RICHTER

Where are we going?

BASHIR

To try a hunch. The Kahn symbiont said something when it was talking through that Guardian guy, Keru. It said, "Must get cure." I'm gambling it wasn't trying to find a cure... it was trying to tell us it already had one.

With that, he rushes out of sickbay. Still trying to catch up, Richter grabs the things he asked for and follows him.

40 **INT. DEFIANT - CORRIDOR**

Bashir hurries down the corridor towards the *Defiant's* transporter room, as Richter follows behind.

RICHTER

But, didn't you say the Guardians  
could only get impressions from  
the symbionts, not hard data?

BASHIR

That's right. That's why I'm going  
to have to join with Kahn myself.

Off Bashir's determined expression...

FADE OUT:

**END OF ACT THREE**

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

**41**    INT. CAVE SET - MAK'ALA

Bashir is dressed in one of the Guardians' white robes, standing knee-deep in the symbiont pool. Richter is nearby with all the necessary medical equipment, while Keru and the other Guardians are gathered around, looking nervous.

KERU

It's not that we don't trust you, Doctor Bashir, but there are Trill physicians -

BASHIR

Who are almost all infected with the drug already, which means they can't link with the symbiont. As a human, I'm immune.

KERU

(reluctantly)

Very well... we stand ready to assist you in the joining.

BASHIR

Thank you.

RICHTER

The metra-provoline should be taking effect by now. We should get started.

A guardian steps into the pool and supports Bashir as he lies back into the water. Bashir's robe leaves an opening over the stomach. Richter leans over with a hypospray.

RICHTER

Applying local anaesthetic now.

BASHIR

You only need to make the incision and monitor my vital signs. The symbiont will do the rest.

Richter uses a small laser scalpel on Bashir's abdomen.

BASHIR

After implantation my pressure,  
pulse and temperature will all  
rise slightly, but -

RICHTER

Relax, Doctor. I read Doctor  
Crusher's paper on temporary non-  
Trill hosts. I know the protocols.

Bashir steels himself. As Richter watches her tricorder, Keru approaches, cradling the Kahn symbiont in his hands. He brings it gently to Bashir's stomach and places it by the slit in the skin. Slowly, it wriggles its way in...

**42    EXT. TRILL CITYSCAPE - NIGHT**

The streets have been cleared of people somewhat. Bowers leads a troupe of Starfleet security armed with phaser rifles, who guard the public transporter we saw earlier.

CYL (comm)

Cyl to Bowers. I'm still not  
reading anything. Are you sure  
Verad's here?

BOWERS

His last attempt to use the  
transport network came from this  
location, six minutes ago.

**NEW ANGLE**

Cyl is doing similarly, leading a troupe of armed Trill security through another section of the city, on the hunt for Verad. The few public still around eye them warily.

BOWERS (comm)

As long as we keep this part of  
the city locked down, he's got  
nowhere to run.

CYL

No, but he's got plenty of places to hide.

**BACK ON BOWERS**

CYL (comm)

Finding his genetic profile among this many people might take hours.

BOWERS

(pressing buttons)

It might not. I'm switching to a delta-channel isolation frequency.

CYL (comm)

I didn't know those protocols were operational.

BOWERS

Well, Starfleet still has a few tricks up its sleeve...

Bowers silently indicates that some of his security team should stay at the transporter bay, while he leads the rest forward, following his tricorder.

**43 INT. DEFIANT - SICKBAY**

Bashir and Richter are back in sickbay, working again. Bashir reaches for an instrument off a shelf, but STUMBLES and crashes against it. He is weak and uncoordinated, can't quite clear his head. Richter rushes to help him up.

RICHTER

Doctor Bashir! Umm...

(unsure)

Doctor... Kahn?

His speech is gentler, has a slightly different rhythm, a little spaced out.

BASHIR

It's alright, Kristen. I don't quite know what to call myself right now, either. The symbiont is still weak from the death of its

last host. It was probably too soon to implant it again.

RICHTER

Maybe this wasn't a good idea.

BASHIR

No, we need to do this. I know the cure now, we need to get to work on formulating it.

RICHTER

I still don't understand how you found out the antidote to this drug while you were lying dead in a snow drift.

BASHIR

Verad told me.

**44 FLASHBACK - VERAD'S LAIR**

As Verad leans in towards Lenara, bound to the chair, and whispers MOS into her ear.

BASHIR (v.o.)

He whispered it straight into my ear.

**45 BACK TO SCENE**

Bashir/Kahn is rather confused by all this as he remembers.

BASHIR

It was just a string of chemical formulas to me then. I was - Lenara was a subspace mechanics expert. It was gibberish to her. But now that I'm a doctor, I understand it all perfectly.

RICHTER

Then let's get to work on mass-producing it so we can get Kahn back where it belongs.

Bashir glances with worry over at Dax's unconscious form.

BASHIR

Yes... I just hope we're in time  
to save Ezri.

**46**    **EXT. TRILL CITYSCAPE - NIGHT**

Bowers leads his team. He checks his tricorder - it beeps.

BOWERS

I've got something... There!

He looks up to see a FIGURE pulling back around a corner,  
as if it has been caught watching them. He begins to run.

BOWERS

Bowers to search teams! We've  
found Verad! Follow my signal and  
intercept.

As Bowers reaches the corner, the figure FIRES a phaser at  
him, just barely missing him. Vulcan security non-com SEVAK  
returns fire, but Verad manages to dodge out of the way.

Verad RUNS into a small crowd of people, SHOVING them out  
of the way as he tries to escape. Bowers and his team hold  
their fire, not wanting to shoot civilians.

BOWERS

Hold fire!  
(to the crowd)  
Get out of the way!

Verad SHOOTS at the Starfleet team, firing wildly, hitting  
one civilian Trill woman. She SCREAMS and goes down.

BOWERS

Sevak! Help her. The rest of us  
are going after him.

Sevak rushes up help the Trill woman. He taps his combadge  
and speaks MOS as Bowers and the rest continue the chase.

As Verad turns another corner, more FIRE comes from above. He looks up to see Trill security SNIPERS on the rooftop, firing down at him. He just barely avoids their fire again.

Nearby, a Trill civilian is hiding from the firefight inside his vehicle, a high-tech hover-car. Verad spots him and runs towards the car, yanks the gull-wing door open, and DRAGS the terrified man out onto the street.

Throwing him to the ground, he jumps into the car, closes the door. It rises up and SPEEDS away. Security FIRES on the car, but they cannot stop it. It SWERVES away, knocking other cars and almost running over some people as it does.

**47**    **INT. DEFIANT - SICKBAY**

Bashir/Kahn leans in close to the unconscious Dax and injects her neck with a hypospray.

BASHIR

Hopefully, neutralising the drug  
will allow the symbiont and host  
to regenerate their connection.  
Come on, Dax...

**48**    **EXT. TRILL CITYSCAPE - NIGHT**

Verad's car continues to swerve through traffic, hoping for escape. After a moment the traffic clears, and he sees...

*Defiant's* two shuttlecraft and an array of Trill Security vehicles all lined up, hovering, in a roadblock. Bowers and Cyl are there too - they take aim and FIRE at the vehicle.

CLOSE ON VERAD as he sneers with anger and makes his decision. He is not going to be taken alive.

Verad DRIVES the vehicle straight forward, forcing Bowers and Cyl to dive out of the way. He keeps going, and drives the vehicle at top speed right into the wall of a nearby building, where it CRUNCHES and EXPLODES in a fireball.

Focusing on the vehicle, we see that Verad is still alive, but injured. He struggles to try to free himself, but his legs are trapped in the wreckage. He looks up to see Cyl approaching, looking ominous in his black uniform.

VERAD

It's over. I've already won.  
Today, I'm the villain. But an  
hour from now, I'll be a hero.

Cyl does not reply. He slips a WEAPON out from his sleeve. Small, silver, deadly looking. We have never seen one like it before, and we would recognise it if we saw it again. He POINTS it at Verad. The car continues to burn around him.

VERAD

Go on then, do it. It doesn't  
matter anyway. Kill me.  
(plaintively)  
Please...

Cyl FIRES the weapon. It launches a small projectile, pointed at the tip, a serrated BLADE on either side. It hits Verad right in the throat, cutting through his neck and simultaneously releasing a small PHASER charge that pretty much obliterates the lower half of his head.

It is extremely gruesome, but Cyl watches impassively.

Bowers runs up behind, finally catching up with Cyl, who slips the spent weapon back into his sleeve before Bowers can spot it. Bowers looks at the burning wreckage and the disfigured body with a grimace of revulsion.

BOWERS

Ohhh... what happened?

CYL

He was killed in the crash. The  
explosion must have caught him  
right in the face.

(turns to him)

Trill Security can handle the  
clean-up, Lieutenant. Please pass  
on my thanks to Commander Vaughn  
and your team for all your help.  
You've been of great service to  
Trill today.

BOWERS

Oh... yes, of course, you're  
welcome.

With a last look at the mangled body, Bowers turns and  
walks back to his team in the distance. Once he is out of  
earshot, Cyl taps his own comm device.

CYL  
This is Cyl. It's taken care of.

COMM VOICE  
Well done. Report back to base.

Signing off, he continues to stand guard over the wreckage.

**49    INT. DEFIANT - SICKBAY**

Ezri's eyes are just fluttering open as she begins to  
regain consciousness on the biobed. Julian is by her side,  
constantly checking her with various instruments.

DAX  
Julian...? Whu...

BASHIR  
Oh, thank the gods. Ezri... Dax...

He hugs her, even though she is probably too weak for it.  
This is doubly emotional for him - Julian loves Ezri, and  
Kahn loves Dax, and together they have just saved her life.  
Dax, on the other hand, is still too groggy to understand.

BASHIR  
I'm so glad you're alright. We  
thought we'd lost you...

DAX  
Lenara... she was in the snow. She  
was so cold... Is she okay?

Bashir pulls back, not wanting to tell her. She looks  
around and sees the shrouded body on the next bed.

DAX  
Oh no... Lenara...

BASHIR

Dax, it's okay. I'm still here...

She looks at him closer, and begins to understand there is something different about him now...

DAX

What did you... Kahn?

BASHIR

It's me, Dax.

He smiles warmly. She is not so sure.

**50    EXT. TRILL - CITYSCAPE**

Bowers stands with his team as the wreckage burns in the background. He has his tricorder in one hand and taps his combadge with the other.

BOWERS

Bowers to Vaughn. Verad is dead, sir. He killed himself in a hover-car crash.

VAUGHN (comm)

You're certain, Lieutenant?

BOWERS

Yes, sir. I saw the body myself, and there are no transporter signals to indicate he faked it to cover an escape.

**51    INT. DEFIANT - MAIN BRIDGE**

Vaughn still in the centre seat, speaking into the comm.

VAUGHN

Well, that's good. Unfortunately, the Trill Symbiosis Commission reports that more than three-quarters of the joined Trill population are showing signs of rejecting their symbionts. We're talking about genocide here.

52 **INT. DEFIANT - SICKBAY**

As Dax sits on the biobed, watching Julian uncertainly.

VAUGHN (v.o.)

Doctor Bashir is working on the  
antidote, but I don't know if  
he'll have it completed in time.

53 **EXT. SPACE - DEFIANT**

The *Defiant* still in orbit of Trill...

VAUGHN (v.o.)

We'll just have to hope that Verad  
hasn't left any other surprises  
behind for us.

**FURTHER AWAY**

*Defiant* and the planet are in the distance, and from the outer edge of the Trill system, a dozen smaller VESSELS approach. These are Trill's unmanned planetary defence drones, armed to the teeth to defend the planet from external attack, and they are heading right for the planet.

54 **POV SHOT - ATTACK DRONE**

We see space and the approaching Trill planet from the POV of one of the drones. Computerised text says

TRILL DEFENCE PERIMETER DRONE 011.  
TARGET: USS DEFIANT.  
MISSION: DESTROY.

FADE OUT:

**END OF ACT FOUR**

**ACT FIVE**

FADE IN:

**55    EXT. SPACE - DEFIANT**

*Defiant* is in the midst of a battle for its life against twelve Trill Defence Perimeter unmanned DRONES. Small and manoeuvrable, about a quarter the size of the *Defiant*, and they are swarming around her like angry buzzing bees.

**56    INT. DEFIANT - MAIN BRIDGE**

...As the ship ROCKS from the impact. Of the main bridge crew, only Vaughn and Tenmei are left. Extras fill the other seats. This fight is not going too well, and they are acting like it - determined but worried and urgent.

TACTICAL

Shields are collapsing, Captain.

VAUGHN

Reroute secondary impulse power,  
cut all non-essential systems.

TACTICAL

Aye sir.

VAUGHN

Helm, attack pattern Alpha Sierra.

**57    EXT. SPACE - DEFIANT**

*Defiant* surges to one side, avoiding incoming fire from one of the drones, and launching a spread of PHASER FIRE that scorches a couple of drones but does not kill them.

Swooping around for another pass at them, *Defiant* tries its trick of hammering away continually with PULSE PHASERS at only one ship until it gives - it takes longer than usual, but it does work eventually. One down, eleven to go.

**58    INT. DEFIANT - MAIN BRIDGE**

Behind Vaughn, the door OPENS and Bashir and Dax enter. They are both somewhat unsteady on their feet - partly from the fight, partly that they are both still physically weak.

DAX  
Lieutenant Ezri Dax, ready for  
duty, Captain.

VAUGHN  
(no time to argue)  
Take tactical, Lieutenant. And  
welcome back. Doctor, take ops.

She unsteadily takes over from the ensign at tactical.

BASHIR  
The antidote to Verad's drugs is  
ready too, sir.

VAUGHN  
That's wonderful news, Doctor, but  
as you can see, we're a little  
busy right now. Dammit, where did  
these things come from?

DAX  
I'm afraid that's my fault, sir.  
Verad took control of the Trill  
Defence Perimeter using codes  
he... tortured out of me. It's the  
whole reason he kidnapped Kahn -  
to get to me and the codes.

VAUGHN  
Not your fault at all, Lieutenant.  
But how did you know those codes  
in the first place?

DAX  
Jadzia upgraded the drones during  
the war to defend against a  
possible Jem'Hadar attack.  
(working the panels)  
Gave them the most sophisticated  
tactical A.I.'s she could come up  
with. But I've been trying to send  
the codes to disarm the drones,  
and it's not working.

VAUGHN

Vaughn to ch'Thane - we need to get control of these attack ships now, Ensign.

59 **INT. CAVE SET - VERAD'S LAIR**

Shar is busily at the computer banks in the empty cavern.

SHAR

Understood, Captain. But Verad changed all the prefix codes and command over-rides after he took control of the ships.

VAUGHN (comm)

Then look at the ships themselves. What are their weaknesses?

SHAR

Checking, sir.

60 **INT. DEFIANT - MAIN BRIDGE**

VAUGHN

Lieutenant, switch to quantum torpedoes. We've got to kill these things. Vaughn to Nog! Report!

61 **INT. DEFIANT - MAIN ENGINEERING**

Nog and crew work as panels BLOW and smoke pours out...

NOG

Captain, Verad used multiphase harmonics to change the drones' shield frequencies.

VAUGHN (comm)

I don't care if he sung them a lullaby! How do we punch through them?

NOG

Still working on that, sir. Give me ten minutes.

62 **INT. DEFIANT - MAIN BRIDGE**

DAX  
Quantum torpedoes, incoming!

VAUGHN  
(to Tenmei)  
Evasive!  
(the ship surges)  
Ten minutes, Mister Nog? You've -

NOG (comm)  
- Got five, yessir.

VAUGHN  
Make it two. And no extra points  
for neatness.

63 **EXT. SPACE - DEFIANT**

*Defiant* FIRES, but the drone shrugs it off and swerves  
away, scoring a few heavy hits itself against the starship.

64 **INT. DEFIANT - MAIN BRIDGE**

SHAR (comm)  
ch'Thane to *Defiant*! The attack  
drones' shields are operating on a  
multiphase frequency of thirty-  
four-point-one nano-cochranes.

VAUGHN  
Well done, Ensign.

DAX  
Weapons ready, sir!

VAUGHN  
(edge of seat)  
Lock torpedoes, spread pattern  
Oscar Kilo... fire when ready.

DAX  
Aye sir.

65 **EXT. SPACE - DEFIANT**

The torpedoes scream out from the *Defiant* and score against all but four of the ships - they BLOW spectacularly.

66 **INT. DEFIANT - MAIN BRIDGE**

The explosions brighten the bridge via the viewscreen.

DAX

Captain, four of the drones slipped past us. They're heading down to the planet's surface!

VAUGHN

Tenmei, follow those drones down into the atmosphere. I won't let them lay waste to the world they were made to defend just because of one madman!

67 **EXT. SPACE - DEFIANT**

*Defiant* smoothly swerves towards the planet and heads down. The atmosphere FLARES up as the *Defiant* dives through it.

68 **EXT. TRILL ATMOSPHERE**

The drones split up into two pairs, heading in different directions. *Defiant* ZOOMS down into the atmosphere behind them like a hawk after prey, following one of the pairs towards the city we saw earlier.

69 **INT. DEFIANT - MAIN BRIDGE**

The ship is shuddering from the unplanned journey through an atmosphere - *Defiant* is not designed for this.

DAX

One of the drones is locking onto the city's main power plant!

VAUGHN

Intercept course! All power to forward shields!

70 **POV SHOT - ATTACK DRONE**

The screen shows a target over an image of a large, industrial looking building. It also shows the words:

TRILL DEFENCE PERIMETER DRONE 005.  
WEAPONS LOCKED.

Then the shape of the *Defiant* ZOOMS into its sights, blocking its intended target.

71 **EXT. TRILL ATMOSPHERE**

The drone FIRES at full force, and *Defiant* takes the brunt on its front shields, which spark worryingly. *Defiant* FIRES back with full phasers - the drone explodes, but *Defiant* is too close and gets caught by the shockwave.

72 **INT. DEFIANT - MAIN BRIDGE**

A really hard hit - lots of stuff blows.

BASHIR  
Hull breach, deck four forward!  
Force fields holding!

DAX  
Ventral shields collapsing!

TENMEI  
Sir, the second drone's coming  
around for another attack.

DAX  
We've lost phasers. Should we  
switch to torpedoes?

VAUGHN  
Negative. Even one torpedo could  
flatten this whole city. We can't  
risk it. We have to lead it away  
from the population. Helm, set  
course for the Tenaran Ice Cliffs.

(to Dax)  
I wish you hadn't made these  
drones quite so tough, Lieutenant.

DAX  
Seemed like a good idea at the  
time, sir.

73 **EXT. TENARAN ICE CLIFFS**

The snowy scene we saw earlier. After a few moments of peace, the visibly damaged *Defiant* SOARS into view over the cliffs, trailing smoke, followed quickly by the drone.

74 **INT. DEFIANT - MAIN BRIDGE**

Vaughn is back on the edge of his seat as various smoky-looking extras run around quelling console fires.

DAX  
It's right on us!

VAUGHN  
Braking thrusters, on my mark!  
Three...two...one...  
(wait for it)  
...mark! Pull up!

Determined, Tenmei presses the controls...

75 **EXT. TENARAN ICE CLIFFS**

The *Defiant's* forward thrusters fire, the ship twists mid-air, and the drone slams right into the hull on the forward starboard edge. It explodes against the ship's skin, and the pieces tumble down against the cliffs to explode some more. The *Defiant* surges back up into the sky.

76 **INT. DEFIANT - MAIN BRIDGE**

A few more panel explosions as the ship protests...

VAUGHN  
Dax, do we have a lock on the last  
two drones?

DAX  
Aye sir.

VAUGHN  
Helm, intercept, full impulse.

TENMEI  
Sir, we have multiple hull  
breaches. At that velocity, the  
atmospheric friction -

VAUGHN  
I'm aware of the risk, Ensign.  
Engage.

TENMEI  
Yes sir, full impulse.

77 **EXT. TENARAN ICE CLIFFS**

The last pair of drones are now running away from *Defiant*, heading back to the city. *Defiant* gets close to one of them, closer and closer...

78 **INT. DEFIANT - MAIN BRIDGE**

Tension, tension... Vaughn is all business.

TENMEI  
Fifteen seconds to intercept.

VAUGHN  
Stand by, stand by... Dive!

79 **EXT. TENARAN ICE CLIFFS**

*Defiant* dives and RAMS right into the drone, slicing through the middle of it with the deflector's leading edge. The pieces fall to the ground - *Defiant* surges back up.

80 **INT. DEFIANT - MAIN BRIDGE**

DAX  
The last drone is on a direct  
course for Leran Manev - the  
capital city.

VAUGHN  
Helm, pursue and overtake.

TENMEI

We're losing power, sir, we might  
not -

VAUGHN

Ensign, do whatever you have to,  
but catch that drone. Now.

81 **EXT. TRILL CITYSCAPE - NIGHT**

Bowers and his team look up as the drone streaks through  
the atmosphere, followed closely by the *Defiant*.

82 **INT. DEFIANT - MAIN BRIDGE**

VAUGHN

Lock tractor beam. I don't want it  
getting away from us.

DAX

Tractor beam locked.

83 **EXT. TRILL CITYSCAPE - NIGHT**

Snaring the drone in a tractor beam, *Defiant* drags it away  
from the city to a mostly empty area on its edge.

VAUGHN (v.o.)

Ensign Tenmei, take us down. Hard.

The *Defiant* suddenly dips, PUSHing the drone down with the  
tractor beam until it slams hard into the ground and  
EXPLODES safely away from the population centre.

84 **INT. DEFIANT - MAIN BRIDGE**

Sighs of relief all round - they won.

DAX

I'd say it felt that, sir.

VAUGHN

So would I. Helm, take us back  
into orbit.

TENMEI

Aye, sir.

Tenmei enters the commands, then turns to Vaughn with a spontaneous grin at a job well done. He smiles back warmly. Then she suddenly remembers she is supposed to hate him. Her face drops, and she coldly turns back to her console. His hopes dashed, Vaughn sags some more.

**85    EXT. SPACE - TRILL ORBIT**

Re-establishing, as the *Defiant* recovers from its injuries in space. Pieces of debris from the defence drones still float in a cloud nearby.

VAUGHN (v.o.)

Captain's log, stardate 53181.9.  
The antidote to Verad's drugs created by Doctor Bashir - with a little help from Kahn - is being distributed at all Trill medical facilities. The *Defiant* performed admirably after the recent round of refits. It's just a shame we'll have to do half of them again now. Meanwhile, President Maz assures me that her society is on the road to recovery.

**86    INT. DEFIANT - READY ROOM**

As before, Vaughn is at the desk, speaking to the frazzled-looking Trill President on the screen.

MAZ (screen)

My gratitude for everything you and your crew have done for Trill, Commander. Although I must say, it's something of a mixed blessing that *Defiant* was able to destroy all twelve Defence Perimeter drones single-handedly. We'll have to be sure to make them tougher next time. Not to mention with more secure computer protocols.

VAUGHN

Indeed. Starfleet is sending ships to patrol the system until you get the perimeter back online. *Defiant* will remain in orbit until then.

MAZ (screen)

You've given a great deal already, Commander. But I'm afraid I must also ask for your discretion as to the reason for today's events. I do not want Verad's accusations heard across the Federation.

VAUGHN

Agreed. It's an internal Trill matter, and it's not my news to reveal. But if I may say... Verad may have been an extreme case, but he was not the only member of Trill society who felt the way he did. I hope his resentments aren't held by more of your people... or else the damage he inflicted will seem small by comparison.

She is not exactly pleased to have that pointed out.

MAZ (screen)

I hope Lieutenant Dax recovers well. Good day, Commander.

And she signs off, leaving him not convinced anything is going to change.

**87**    **INT. DEFIANT - STANDARD QUARTERS**

Bashir and Dax sit, a little awkwardly. He desperately wants to be close to her, but she is still a little bit too freaked by the fact that her ex-wife is inside her current boyfriend, and he is trying to be respectful of that.

DAX

But why would Verad tell Lenara the cure to the drugs if he meant for her to die anyway?

BASHIR

I really don't know. It's not like he told me... her... damn these pronouns...

(Dax smirks)

...in a "super villain boasting about his fiendish plan" kind of way, either. He seemed to really want me to know, but like he was scared of being overheard.

DAX

There's a lot of things don't add up. Why would he inject you with the drug, but then tell you the antidote? Why would he say he was trying to save us all from the symbionts, but then make the defence drones attack the planet so they'd kill everyone? Why run so hard from the security teams, only to kill himself in a car crash? None of it makes sense.

(beat)

And when he was holding me, he changed for a second, and he was really scared of something. It's like he was two different people, working under conflicting agendas.

BASHIR

Well, he had been in a mental hospital, after all.

DAX

I guess. Speaking of two different people... how are you?

BASHIR

I'm okay. But... I think I understand now.

DAX

Understand what?

BASHIR

You. What it's like to be you. How confusing it all is. I mean, I remember loving you when I was Nilani Kahn... and you were a man. And Julian Bashir loves you as you are now. But... it's the same you. In a way, I've been Torias too. You remember Jadzia's *zhian'tara*? I took on Torias's consciousness? So... I remember how much he loved Nilani too. And I remember sitting there at dinner, watching Jadzia and... myself reminiscing about their former hosts. It's a very strange sensation to see the same conversation from two different angles at the same time.

Dax stands to approach him, reassured by his confusion and new understanding. He has a shy smile.

BASHIR

So I'm sorry. And I agree. Love can be damned annoying. But I'm never going to let it come between us again.

With a smile, she embraces him, and they kiss tenderly.

**88**    **INT. CAVE SET - MAK'ALA**

Back at the caves, Guardian Keru gently places the Kahn symbiont back into the pools. Nearby, a weakened Bashir (in the white robe) and proud Dax (in uniform) hold hands as they watch it swim away into the depths.

FADE OUT:

**THE END**