

STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE

10x15 - "Inside Out."

Screenplay by Martyn Dunn

Based on characters from the series

Star Trek: Deep Space Nine

and from the post-finale novels
by Pocket Books

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. TALUNO MEMORIAL PARK - NIGHT

A quiet, calm public park area on Bajor. Trees, flowerbeds, a central memorial created from one broken building girder set into a stone base. A public BENCH rests on one of the gentle flower-lined stone paths that wind through.

VAUGHN stands off the path on a grassy verge, adjusting the settings on a transporter enhancer module. Once it's right, he switches it on, and the LIGHT on top bursts to life.

He observes three other identical modules in a rough square around the bench. They bathe the area in a gentle bluish glow - the only light source besides the multiple moons.

Job done, Vaughn takes a calm, confident seat on the bench. A few moments pass. He waits quietly, enjoying the peace of the area, the warm dark night. He is in no rush.

Finally there's a tiny RUSTLE, barely audible. This is what he was waiting for. Not worried - it is entirely expected.

A hand reaches out to pull a bush aside, leaving space for a body to step out onto the path. It is RO LAREN. She looks around, takes in the memorial, smiles slightly.

At length she spots Vaughn on the bench, across the park from where she is, calm and relaxed. She heads over...

RO
Commander...?

VAUGHN
Lieutenant. Thanks for coming.

He stands, reaches out to shake her hand. She is a little surprised, but she shakes it. He sits back down, gestures for her to join him. She does, a little tentatively....

VAUGHN
I imagine you're somewhat
bewildered as to why you're here.

RO

A private message, level seven security clearance, asking me to come alone and meet with an unnamed person in a public area, on Bajor, at night. Bewildered might not be the word I'd use.

VAUGHN

You're armed?

She pats her leg pocket. He nods, understanding...

VAUGHN

A wise precaution. But I assure you, you're in no danger here. And besides, these modules...

(gestures to them)

...as well as sending out false sensor readings and casting a transporter scattering field, they also create a general dampening field against energy weapons.

Worried, she quickly reaches into her pocket and pulls out the small hand phaser she had secreted there. She tests it, checks the settings - only gets a dull squittering noise. Dead. Frustrated and confused, she puts it back away...

RO

Alright, what is going on here, Commander? Why all the mystery?

VAUGHN

I need to have a very important conversation with you, Lieutenant. And I don't want to be overheard.

RO

Overheard by who?

VAUGHN

That'll become clear in time. For the moment, I must simply ask you to be patient, and to trust me.

RO

Not like I have a choice, is it?

VAUGHN

Absolutely you do. That's one thing I want to make completely clear from the start. If you want, you can turn around and walk away right now, and no more will be said. I'll be disappointed, no question, but I'll understand and I won't hold it against you. Of course, that also means you won't find out why I asked you here in the first place.

RO

(chuckle)

I think you've been playing this spy game too long, Commander.

VAUGHN

(ponderous)

Well, yes, I suppose I can't deny that.

RO

But I'll play along. For now. What's going on?

VAUGHN

Not so fast. I need to ask you to do something else first. I need to ask you to make me an absolute, solemn promise that what we discuss tonight goes no further. Between you and me.

RO

Commander, you're starting to freak me out.

VAUGHN

Promise me, Lieutenant. Or this ends right now.

Ro is getting concerned - whatever this is, it's obvious that Vaughn feels very strongly about it. She takes the moment it deserves, considers it seriously. This is not a time for jokes or snarky remarks.

RO

Alright... I promise.

VAUGHN

Good. Thank you. I apologise for being so dramatic, but as I say, the more we discuss tonight, the more you'll realise why it's necessary.

RO

So tell me. Tell me what's so bad that we need to go through all this nonsense just to have a conversation.

Vaughn smiles, takes a pause. Looks out across the park, tries to take comfort from the peace and tranquillity of the memorial and the gardens. He is no more eager to do this than she is, but it has to be done.

VAUGHN

I wouldn't be so quick to dive in the deep end if I were you, Lieutenant. Because the fact is, if I've made the right choice - and I believe that I have - then after what I tell you tonight... your life will never be the same.

On Ro's disquieted reaction...

BLACK OUT:

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

2 EXT. TALUNO MEMORIAL PARK - NIGHT

Ro crouches, reaching out to the gentle white FLOWERS that edge the path and surround the memorial. Vaughn watches...

VAUGHN

Esani blossoms. I'm quite fond of them myself.

She STANDS, creaking her delicate back with a wince...

VAUGHN

How is your back?

RO

It's fine.

Avoiding the subject, she steps back to Vaughn and sits...

VAUGHN

On that topic, how are things between you and Taran'atar?

RO

What's that got to do with it?

VAUGHN

Be patient with me, Lieutenant. We'll get there. But we have a lot to go through, and no-one is served by pointless questions.

RO

Well, excuse me.

VAUGHN

Pointed questions are welcome. They show you're paying attention. But no melodramatic gasps of disbelief, please. So... how are things between you and Taran'atar?

RO

Well... distant, if I'm being honest. I thought we were doing okay, until the L'Haan thing hit. Then everything got tangled...

VAUGHN

In what way?

RO

You know... him going haywire. Just... reminded me. Of things.

VAUGHN

And since then?

RO

Haven't spent much time with him. Maybe I've been sub-consciously avoiding him, I don't know... but then he's not been in the most cooperative mood lately, has he?

VAUGHN

You're referring to the Bajor-Dominion alliance.

RO

Alliance? He said he'd rather die.

VAUGHN

And how do you feel about that?

RO

How do I feel? I feel surprised. An alliance is exactly what Odo wanted. So for Taran'atar to say no is... uncharacteristic.

VAUGHN

He's not the only one who has a problem with the idea.

RO

Julian.

VAUGHN

Yes, Julian. But surely you're aware of the protests on Bajor...

RO

Well, they don't have to worry about it now, do they?

VAUGHN

Kira can be very persuasive. But you're right that Taran'atar's behaviour runs rather contrary to his role as Dominion Ambassador. And there's a reason for that.

RO

He gave a reason, didn't he?

VAUGHN

One that amounted to throwing a tantrum because Bajor initially wanted to be friendly with the Ascendants. Even though by the time Kira actually asked for the alliance, that hope had been lost.

RO

Doesn't make a lot of sense.

VAUGHN

And as I say... there's a reason.

RO

Which is?

VAUGHN

I'll come to that in a moment.

(Ro is annoyed)

First - another question. How much do you remember about the Sindorin mission? Specifically my involvement in it?

Ro blinks in confusion. That's a bit of a curveball. She racks her brains. Then the answer comes to her... and she tenses. Pulls away from Vaughn, suspicious and wary...

RO

I remember Bashir becoming suspicious of you. Of your odd lack of background.

VAUGHN

He suspected I was a member of Section Thirty-One.

RO

Is that what this is about? You're trying to recruit me into Section Thirty-One?

VAUGHN

(chuckle)

Oh, good lord no. Quite the opposite. Who do you think rescued the surviving Ingavi from Thirty-One's slaughter?

RO

I know that was you. You told me it was you at the time. What's your point?

VAUGHN

Didn't you ever wonder how I was able to do that? How I had access to the resources and intelligence to pull that off?

RO

I just assumed your old covert ops contacts. Didn't really think about it. I was just glad the Ingavi were okay.

VAUGHN

That's part of it. But mostly it was because I am part of a secret group within Starfleet myself.

RO

So you are a spy.

VAUGHN

A good spy. A small number of us work together to oppose Section Thirty-One and their activities. We have done since the time of Kirk and the original *Enterprise*.

RO

You're not that old.

VAUGHN

(chuckle)

No. But then I'm not the first of us. We don't have a name as such, or any structure. We just do what we can. But of course it helps to have friends in the right places.

RO

Like who?

VAUGHN

Well, think back a few months. To Starfleet's official review of our activities after the incident in the alternate universe.

Ro frowns, thinks back...

3 FLASHBACK - 10x01 "EMANCIPATION" sc 10

Kira and Ro receive the four admirals. Ro is wearing the mechanised armature brace to support her back and legs. Akaar greets Kira, then steps aside with a disdainful glare at Ro. She glowers back up at him, equally unimpressed...

4 EXT. TALUNO MEMORIAL PARK - NIGHT

RO

Not that blowhard Akaar...

VAUGHN

Not Akaar. Not Nechayev. Not Ross.

RO

Well there's only one left...

5 **FLASHBACK - 10x01 "EMANCIPATION" sc 10**

The last of the four admirals emerges from the airlock - the bland and bumbling bureaucrat Marta Batanides. She fumbles with her padds, reaches out to shake Kira's hand.

6 **EXT. TALUNO MEMORIAL PARK - NIGHT**

RO

(w/ disbelief)

Batanides? But she's a nobody. She couldn't change a light bulb without burning herself.

VAUGHN

So you'd think. But in reality she's one of the keenest minds I've ever known.

7 **FLASHBACK - 10x01 "EMANCIPATION" sc 23**

Vaughn's secret meeting with Batanides. They stand in the empty quarters, lit only by the stars and the transporter modules. She hands him a data chip with a knowing smile...

8 **EXT. TALUNO MEMORIAL PARK - NIGHT**

VAUGHN

She maintains her cover by working in a department that has nothing to do with intelligence or covert activities. And by cultivating an image as a bumbling, colourless administrator. All carefully constructed, however.

RO

Does Kira know any of this?

VAUGHN

We have an arrangement. She trusts me to let her know what she needs to know. And no more.

RO

Plausible deniability.

VAUGHN

I have complete respect for Kira, but in matters of Section Thirty-One, I report solely to Admiral Batanides. In fact, she pushed through my transfer here in the first place, over the significant objections of some other admirals.

RO

So all those reasons you gave for coming here... about wanting a new life away from war and death... all that was a lie?

VAUGHN

Not at all. I wanted to be here. I'm only saying that the admiral had her own reasons for allowing me to be here. Placing an agent on Deep Space Nine, where we already knew Section Thirty-One had a vested interest, was too good an opportunity for us to pass up.

RO

A "vested interest?" You mean Doctor Bashir.

VAUGHN

A man with his abilities, not to mention as comparatively normal in other ways? They must be awfully confident of their ability to eventually turn him to their side. Otherwise they'd have had him eliminated long before now.

RO

They do that? Kill people who turn them down?

VAUGHN

Of course. They have to maintain their secrecy at all costs.

RO

Then how did you find out?

(realising)

They killed someone.

VAUGHN

My friend T'Prynn.

RO

Your friend T'Prynn had an
interesting life, apparently.
What did they have against her?

VAUGHN

Oh, T'Prynn was something special,
Lieutenant. A bona fide tactical
genius, even among Vulcans. She was
much sought-after in intelligence
circles decades before we even met.

RO

So they wanted her to join them.

VAUGHN

Can you imagine a better agent?
The sheer intellect, the eidetic
memory, the emotional suppression
and compartmentalisation. Vulcans
make the perfect infiltrators,
Lieutenant, if for no other reason
than no-one would ever believe
them capable of it. Just one
problem - she didn't agree with
them any more than I do.

RO

So they killed her.

VAUGHN

Oh, not straight away. No, there
was a period of cajoling, sweet-
talking... eventually threatening.
Not that I knew this at the time,
you understand. T'Prynn could keep
a secret like few others.

9 **FLASHBACK - 8x22 "GREATER GOOD" sc 11**

Vaughn and Ruriko stand holding hands over the grave of their friend T'Prynn...

VAUGHN (v.o.)

It was only after her death that my investigation led me to her files, and the answers within.

10 **EXT. TALUNO MEMORIAL PARK - NIGHT**

RO

And that's when you started fighting them.

VAUGHN

Yes. Partly out of revenge, I suppose. But the more I learned about them, the more I despised everything they stand for. And gradually learned that I wasn't alone. There were others.

RO

Alright, fine. So you're on an anti-Section Thirty-One crusade. I have no problem with that. Why are you telling me?

VAUGHN

Connect the dots. You said things started changing ever since the L'Haan-Taran'atar situation...

RO

Yeah, so?

VAUGHN

Well, remember what I said about Vulcans making the perfect spies?

She ponders, and realisation slowly dawns on her face...

RO

Oh, Prophets...

VAUGHN
(nods sadly)
Yes. We had a Jem'Hadar soldier
possessed by the undead spirit of
an "evil" Vulcan woman from the
alternate universe... and who do
we get to help us with our
problem...

11 **FLASHBACK - 10x10 "IN TWO MINDS" sc 50**

L'Haan mind-melds with Taran'atar in the Infirmary...

VAUGHN (v.o.)
...but a member of Section Thirty-
One.

12 **EXT. TALUNO MEMORIAL PARK - NIGHT**

Off Ro's dumbstruck reaction...

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

13 EXT. TALUNO MEMORIAL PARK - NIGHT

Vaughn sits on the bench. In a burst of frustration and fury, Ro is up and pacing the path in front of him...

RO

Damn it, Vaughn! If you knew she was Section Thirty-One, why the hell did you call her in?

VAUGHN

I didn't know. At least not at the time. Believe me, I'm not proud of it. But either way, we needed her help with Taran'atar. He was going insane with the other L'Haan in his head, and our L'Haan was the only solution I could think of.

Ro sees that he's genuinely troubled by this. She softens, comes back to the bench...

RO

How did you figure it out?

VAUGHN

I became curious when we couldn't find L'Haan's name anywhere in the records at first. And then suddenly there it was, as if we'd simply overlooked it the first time through.

14 FLASHBACK - 10x10 "IN TWO MINDS" sc 18

Vaughn and Kira have just received the report from Cenn and Shar. Vaughn frowns, suspicious of something going on...

15 EXT. TALUNO MEMORIAL PARK - NIGHT

RO

That's pretty slim evidence...

VAUGHN

I know. And it could have been just what it seemed - an oversight. It needn't necessarily have been someone waiting to see what we were looking for, before creating exactly the profile we needed. So I had to make sure.

RO

How?

VAUGHN

With Doctor Bashir's help...

16 FLASHBACK - 10x10 "IN TWO MINDS" sc 31

Vaughn enters the Infirmary, straight to Bashir...

VAUGHN

Doctor, are you busy?

BASHIR

Umm... well, I was in the middle of getting ready for --

VAUGHN

Your staff can handle that. I need to speak with you. In private.

Vaughn turns and walks away. Bashir follows.

17 INT. DS9 - EMPTY QUARTERS

The quarters where Vaughn met Batanides, with the transporter blockers. Now he walks in with BASHIR following...

BASHIR

Commander? What's going on? I have important surgery to prepare for.

VAUGHN

I know you do. That's why I have to talk to you now. Take a seat.

Baffled but intrigued, Bashir does as he's told...

18 **EXT. TALUNO MEMORIAL PARK - NIGHT**

Where Vaughn and Ro share the bench, at night...

 VAUGHN

I told him my suspicions. He'd been looking for a chance to do something about Section 31... It was easy enough to convince him.

 RO

To do what?

 VAUGHN

Something unethical and in violation of diplomatic immunity all over the galaxy. To implant a scanning device inside Taran'atar.

 RO

What?!

19 **FLASHBACK - 10x10 "IN TWO MINDS" sc 58**

After the mind-meld. Everyone leaves the infirmary, except for Bashir and Vaughn, who share a significant look...

20 **EXT. TALUNO MEMORIAL PARK - NIGHT**

 VAUGHN

He'd scanned Taran'atar during the mind-meld, of course. But what our L'Haan did to him was more subtle than what the other L'Haan had done. More difficult to detect.

 RO

How do you know she did anything?

 VAUGHN

Again, I didn't. Not for sure. If nothing happened, Bashir could invent a reason to have Taran'atar back in the Infirmary and remove the device. But we'd never know if we didn't check.

RO
So what did you find?

VAUGHN
A hypnogogic suggestion. Not unlike what Iliana Ghemor had done to him last year.

RO
Prophets... that poor guy. He must be so confused. What did she tell him to do?
(beat)
Wait - she told him to block the negotiations, didn't she?

VAUGHN
Good, you're starting to put things together. We didn't know what, not until after our encounter with the Ascendants had gone spectacularly wrong, and Kira proposed the new alliance with the Dominion.

21 FLASHBACK - 10x12 "HERESY" sc 105

In the wardroom, Taran'atar looms at the far end of the table, with Kira, Vaughn and Sisko at the near end...

VAUGHN (v.o.)
Until he emphatically denied us that alliance, despite it being in his and our best interests, not to mention against Odo's wishes...

22 INT. DS9 - INFIRMARY

Bashir is working in the Infirmary, alone. An alert goes off on one of his panels, and he goes to look...

VAUGHN (v.o.)
And Bashir's scanner went into overdrive at that exact moment.

Bashir reads the scan results with increasing dismay. It's just what they were hoping it wouldn't be...

23 **EXT. TALUNO MEMORIAL PARK - NIGHT**

Back to the bench...

VAUGHN

Given that, it was a simple matter
of two plus two. Section Thirty-
One wants to keep Bajor from
allying with the Dominion.

RO

Why would they want that?

VAUGHN

You mean aside from the reasons
all of Bajor is protesting about,
and Bashir himself resigned over?

RO

Well, yeah.

VAUGHN

Isn't that enough?

RO

Okay, now you're confusing me.

VAUGHN

My point is, it's exactly the same
reasons. Or at least I would assume
it is. Keep Bajor out of the
fighting. Stop Kira from putting
Federation lives at risk over a
non-Federation world. And keep
the Dominion fighting itself, so
weakening another potential enemy.

RO

Well, you know what, I can kinda
see their point. Look at
Cardassia. They allied with the
Dominion, and it didn't exactly
turn out too well for them.

VAUGHN

Don't you want to help the Eav'oq?

RO

They don't want our help.

VAUGHN

Then what about yourself? The Ascendants are coming for us, Lieutenant. Once they're done with the Eav'oq, we're next.

RO

You don't know that.

VAUGHN

Unfortunately, I do. And as things stand right now, we're on our own. The Federation already refused to help any more than they already have. Batanides pushed for more. So did Akaar. They were denied. We need the Dominion. But Section 31 is keeping that from us too.

Ro reluctantly accepts his reasoning - for the moment...

VAUGHN

And there's Taran'atar himself to consider. Thirty-One is using him as their pawn. Taking the free will of a sentient creature for their own purposes.

RO

Oh, come on. Are you seriously asking me to feel sympathy for Taran'atar?

VAUGHN

You did just call him "that poor guy"...

Ro blinks - yes she did. Her feelings are confused...

VAUGHN

Listen, Lieutenant. Whatever your feelings may be about Taran'atar...

24 FLASHBACK - 10x09 "BLANK SLATE" sc 2

Ro talks to Taran'atar in the corridor...

RO
I forgive you.

25 FLASHBACK - 10x10 "IN TWO MINDS" sc 43

When he talks to the imaginary MU-L'Haan in the corridor...

TARAN'ATAR
If I promise to go with you...
freely, of my own will... will you
spare them?

Ro on the deck, surprised, almost a little touched...

26 FLASHBACK - 10x10 "IN TWO MINDS"

In Ro's quarters, where with teary eyes, she knowingly and deliberately injects herself with a hypo of painkillers...

27 EXT. TALUNO MEMORIAL PARK - NIGHT

She remembers all this silently, while Vaughn continues...

VAUGHN (cont)
...what Section Thirty-One did to
him is a violation of his rights.
It's completely unethical.

Ro smirks smugly, knowing she just caught him out. Vaughn realises he said the wrong thing. He grits his teeth...

VAUGHN
I only asked Bashir to do that to
undo what Thirty-One did. My goals
were noble. Theirs weren't.

RO
You're not really selling your
case here, Commander. What I'm
hearing doesn't paint you much
better than Thirty-One themselves.

Vaughn is getting a bit indignant now. He doesn't like being compared to his enemies...

VAUGHN

I am nothing like Section Thirty-One.

RO

They want to save Federation lives, don't they? You want to put them in danger.

VAUGHN

I'm trying to save the Eav'oq. Putting our own lives in danger to help innocents is exactly the Starfleet way. And it wouldn't even be Starfleet. It would be Jem'Hadar. And they love risking their lives.

RO

For the Founders. Not for us.

VAUGHN

If Odo orders them to do it, they'll do it. And Odo will do whatever Kira wants him to.

RO

Then why aren't we talking to Odo directly?

VAUGHN

Kira begged Vannis to talk to him. She refused. Her orders are to follow Taran'atar's lead. Believe me, Lieutenant, I've tried every angle. We need the Dominion, and that means we need Taran'atar in his right mind. And that means we need to find L'Haan and convince her to fix what she did to him.

RO

Can't another Vulcan do it?

VAUGHN

I have no doubt she'll have placed
telepathic failsafes around her
handiwork to block anyone else's
intrusion. It has to be her.

Ro again reluctantly accepts his reasoning...

RO

Okay, fine. It has to be L'Haan.
Now how exactly do you expect to
convince her to undo it?

VAUGHN

By giving her just what she wants.

Off Ro's curious and confused reaction to that...

28 FLASHBACK - 10x12 "HERESY" sc 106

As Bashir hands the padd to Kira in front of all of Ops...

BASHIR

This is my letter of resignation
as DS-Nine's Chief Medical
Officer, effective immediately.

29 EXT. TALUNO MEMORIAL PARK - NIGHT

Ro's jaw drops in amazement as she realises...

RO

Bashir? That's why he quit? To go
join Section Thirty-One?

VAUGHN

That's why they think he quit.

RO

But all those things he said about
refusing to agree to Kira's plan...

VAUGHN

Well, of course. He had to be
convincing. I'd already tried to
track L'Haan myself...

30 **FLASHBACK - 10x10 "IN TWO MINDS" sc 25**

Vaughn hands L'Haan the padd with the rituals on it...

 VAUGHN (v.o.)
 ...using the DNA sample I took
 from the padd I gave her.

31 **EXT. TALUNO MEMORIAL PARK - NIGHT**

Ro smiles, impressed. Sneaky.

 VAUGHN
 Naturally, she was too smart for
 that. And the shuttle she took
 from here back to Vulcan...
 "Unexpectedly diverted" thanks
 to a plasma storm. So I sent an
 encoded message to Batanides...

32 **FLASHBACK - 10x11 "HARMONY"**

As Vaughn and Nog receive the new crew transfers from the
Aurora. Vaughn makes eye contact with one young ensign,
just enough to convey they are each other's contacts...

 VAUGHN (v.o.)
 ...and she sent a message back
 that confirmed my suspicions.

33 **EXT. TALUNO MEMORIAL PARK - NIGHT**

Back at the bench...

 VAUGHN
 That's when I told Bashir that his
 mission was a go.

34 **FLASHBACK - 10x11 "HARMONY" sc 66**

Vaughn and Tenmei look up just as Dax shoves her chair back
from the table she'd shared with Bashir, and stomps away...

 VAUGHN (v.o.)
 He began deliberately starting
 arguments with people.

35 **FLASHBACK - 10x11 "HARMONY" sc 80**

On the bridge of the *Defiant*. Bashir has just told Kira and Sisko what he thinks of their plan...

 VAUGHN (v.o.)
 Expressing his dissatisfaction and
 disdain for Kira's plans.

36 **FLASHBACK - 10x12 "HERESY" sc 110**

The guest quarters of the *Blackthorne*, as Bashir records his message to Section 31...

 VAUGHN (v.o.)
 All the things I knew Section
 Thirty-One would want to hear to
 make them believe he'd finally
 come around to their side.

37 **EXT. TALUNO MEMORIAL PARK - NIGHT**

Back to the bench. By now, Ro is up and pacing again, trying to process all of this...

 VAUGHN
 Whereas in fact, he's on a top-
 secret mission from me... to worm
 his way into their good graces,
 find L'Haan... and then bring her
 back to us.

Off Ro's astonishment, and Vaughn's determination...

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

38 EXT. TALUNO MEMORIAL PARK - NIGHT

Ro stands, absorbing everything. It's hard work.

RO

Alright. Why are you telling me this? If you've got Bashir, what do you want with me?

VAUGHN

Well, the most immediate reason is that circumstances have changed since I set that plan in motion. I thought we'd have more time.

RO

What do you mean?

VAUGHN

I mean Prynn. And Nog, Shar, Jake and Rena. They went on a road trip into the Gamma Quadrant. And in the course of doing so, found some rather remarkable information...

Vaughn remembers...

39 INT. DS9 - KIRA'S OFFICE

In the lounge area, KIRA and Vaughn sit together on one couch. Opposite are NOG and TENMEI...

KIRA

You've done amazing work, all of you. I can't thank you enough.

VAUGHN

Quite right. A reliable source of information, straight from the Ascendants themselves. You should all be very proud.

NOG

We would be, sir, if we hadn't had to watch an entire planet blown to pieces to find it.

KIRA

But now we're a step ahead of them - we could set a trap...

(sags)

...if we had anything to face them with. As for the rest... I said months ago Iliana was still out there. But with the Ascendants...

TENMEI

Not just with them, Captain. She's their leader. Their equivalent of the Emissary. They'll do whatever she wants.

KIRA

And what she wanted was to kill me.

Kira exchanges a worried glance with Vaughn. They share something silently, then turn back to the juniors...

KIRA

Keep this to yourselves for now, Lieutenants. Till then...

40 EXT. TALUNO MEMORIAL PARK - NIGHT

Vaughn completes Kira's sentence...

VAUGHN

...this is classified.

Ro nods her understanding, slumps back onto the bench with weary wonder. Yet more revelations for her to handle...

RO

Iliana Ghemor. She was enough trouble with just a band of random criminals under her control. Now she's got her own personal army to do whatever she wants with?

VAUGHN

Not only that. The Ascendants are actively searching for Bajor.

RO

And Iliana knows exactly where it is... she has all Kira's memories.

VAUGHN

Not quite. She only has Kira's memories up until the point she was kidnapped by the Obsidian Order. That was long before the wormhole was discovered. Maybe that explains why they're not already burning down our door.

RO

Even so, it can't be much longer.

VAUGHN

Exactly. And that's why I need to move up my plans as regards L'Haan and Taran'atar.

RO

But I still don't get what you want with me. What can I do?

VAUGHN

We don't have time for Bashir to slowly wheedle his way into Thirty One and find L'Haan any more. He doesn't have this new information. So I'm going to have to take a chance... and force the issue.

Ro slowly realises what he means...

RO

You're going up against them yourself.

VAUGHN

I am. And I want you with me.

Ro's eyes flare in shock and surprise...

RO
Me? But...

VAUGHN
You're my protégé, Lieutenant.

RO
First I'm hearing of it.

VAUGHN
I know. And that's my own fault.
Marta warned me not to leave it
too late to bring someone new in.
So of course, I did exactly that.
Stupid old fool.
(regathers)
I've followed your career for a long
time, Laren. I've been impressed
with you for a long time. I've
wanted it to be you for a long time.

RO
Wanted what to be me?

VAUGHN
The one who replaces me.

Ro is dumbfounded for a moment. She gets up again, paces
again. Vaughn lets her have a second - it's a tall order.

VAUGHN
I'm not going to last forever,
Laren. I've already lived longer
than I have any right to, given
the kind of work I do. My luck has
to run out sooner or later. And I
need someone I can trust to take
the reins when I'm gone.

RO
But me? Of all people? The biggest
screw-up in Starfleet history?

VAUGHN
Don't be so hard on yourself.
We've all made our mistakes.

RO

But Garon Two... the Maquis... I made a career out of betraying everything I'd sworn an oath to.

VAUGHN

No, you've made a career out of choosing what's right over what's expedient, regardless of what your orders said. As a result, I've supported you wherever I could. Argued on your behalf. Even suggested to Kira that you would make a suitable second officer.

RO

(darkly)

So now you're telling me I didn't even get the job on my own merits?

Vaughn sighs, hangs his head. She can be such hard work...

VAUGHN

You need to get past this idea that things are either A or B, with no overlap, Lieutenant. It's entirely possible for me to believe in you and promote your career because you deserve it, and to want you in a certain position for my own purposes at the same time. They're not mutually exclusive.

Ro begrudgingly accepts that, with a mutter...

RO

But you've got Bashir. He's a genetically engineered superman, and he's obviously got the motivation. Wouldn't he be the better choice?

VAUGHN

I thought so for a little while. After the Sindorin mission...

41 **FLASHBACK - 8x08 "ABYSS" sc 48**

Vaughn and Bashir meet on the darkened, abandoned Promenade of Empok Nor. As they talk...

 VAUGHN (cont)
 ...we spoke at some length about
 his joining me in the fight. But
 with some further consideration...
 I began to change my mind.

Vaughn pulls his disappearing combadge trick on Bashir...

42 **EXT. TALUNO MEMORIAL PARK - NIGHT**

Back to the moonlit park...

 RO
 Why? What did he do wrong?

 VAUGHN
 Not wrong, as such. Julian would
 make a fine agent. But the problem
 is... he thinks he would too. He's
 been playing spy games on the
 holodeck for years, learning at the
 feet of Mister Garak. I'm afraid he
 thinks of it as... fun.

 RO
 Is that a bad thing?

 VAUGHN
 It could be. It might lead to over-
 confidence. And he has too much of
 a conscience. I suppose that comes
 with being a doctor. I'm worried he
 wouldn't be able to do what he needs
 to without worrying it to death.

 RO
 And you think I wouldn't? You
 think I don't worry myself into a
 coma about everything?

VAUGHN

After the fact, maybe. But in the moment, you act. I need that. You have the instincts. You certainly have the tactical training, I saw to that. Bashir was necessary for this assignment. But he's not right for the long-term mission.

(w/ feeling)

You're the one, Lieutenant.

RO

I'm not sure I am.

VAUGHN

Why not?

RO

Haven't you been listening to me? Aside from the fact that I've been in and out of Starfleet more times than a Klingon says the word "honour," I'm recovering from a broken back --

VAUGHN

(interrupts)

I thought you said it was fine.

Ro stops, caught out. She remembers...

43 FLASHBACK - 10x11 "HARMONY" sc 82

Ro sits in Kira's office, shivering and hugging herself on the couch. She presses the hypospray to her neck...

44 EXT. TALUNO MEMORIAL PARK - NIGHT

She covers again, blinking too fast...

RO

It is. I'm fine. But I can't just...

(flounders)

...you know... go around doing back flips and pirouettes all day long.

VAUGHN
(chuckle)
I should certainly hope that's not
part of the job description.

Ro smiles a little. She sits back down again...

RO
It's not just that. I'm not the
right person for the job,
Commander. I'm just not.

VAUGHN
Why? Explain it to me.

Hesitantly, she drags the admission out of herself...

RO
Bashir was talking about staying
out of the Eav'oq-Ascendant
thing... about how it was none of
our concern... I agreed with him.

45 FLASHBACK - 10x12 "HERESY" sc 6

Ro talks to Dax outside Kira's office in Ops...

RO
Maybe it's just cause I don't
follow the Prophets or
something... but I really don't
see why this is our problem.

46 EXT. TALUNO MEMORIAL PARK - NIGHT

On the bench, Ro is downcast, almost embarrassed...

RO
You say Bashir was pretending.
Faking it. I wasn't.

Vaughn is not upset or offended. He sits and ponders...

VAUGHN
Is that really how you feel?

RO
Yeah. It is. So I guess this
conversation is over.

VAUGHN
Why's that?

RO
Because I agreed with Section
Thirty-One. "Stay out of it."

VAUGHN
And what did you do about it?

RO
Nothing.

VAUGHN
Precisely. Whatever your misgivings,
you trust Kira enough to go along
with her plan. You didn't send
someone to brainwash an ambassador
so you could get your own way.
(beat)
I know you're the right person to
help me fight this war, Lieutenant.
Shall I tell you why I know that?

RO
You can try.

VAUGHN
It's because you've already worked
for Section Thirty-One yourself.

Vaughn smiles at her calmly. As Ro's eyes flare in alarm...

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

47 EXT. TALUNO MEMORIAL PARK - NIGHT

Ro's eyes are wide with alarm. What on earth is he talking about? Does he suspect her of something? How could he? He's just smiling calmly back at her, unruffled, enigmatic...

VAUGHN
Relax, Lieutenant. I know all
about it. In fact I probably know
more than you do.

She gets up yet again, begins to look around the park area anxiously. Is she in danger here?

RO
Look, if you're talking about what
happened at Sindorin, you know
that wasn't on purpose. Section
Thirty-One lied to us to get us to
do their dirty work...

VAUGHN
I'm not talking about Sindorin.

RO
Then what the hell are you talking
about? Because if you're going to
accuse me of something, I wish
you'd just get on with it instead
of sitting there all smug and
mysterious.

VAUGHN
Do you remember what I said to you
the last time we sat in this same
spot together?

48 FLASHBACK - 9x10 "FRAGMENTS AND OMENS" sc 3

Ro and Vaughn sit together on this same bench, in this same park, but in bright sunlight, just after meeting Opaka...

49 **EXT. TALUNO MEMORIAL PARK - NIGHT**

Back in the night time, Ro frowns, still wary...

RO

You said you were glad I was back
in Starfleet. And that you knew
what really happened on Garon Two.

VAUGHN

And that's why I know you're the
right person for the job, whatever
your self-image tells you.

RO

What happened on Garon Two was
that I killed my own commanding
officer.

VAUGHN

I suppose, strictly speaking, yes,
you did do that. But the thing is,
I know why.

RO

I told you why! Not everything is
some grand conspiracy.

VAUGHN

Not everything, no. But this was.
And if you'll just calm down and
take a seat, I'll explain it all.

50 **EXT. SPACE**

The usual starfield. The USS *Wellington*, a Niagara-class
cruiser is just settling into orbit of a planet...

VAUGHN (v.o.)

Ten years ago, before I even met
Marta, there was another man who
was a part of my little group. His
name was Commander Daniel Wade.

RO (v.o.)

Wade?!

51 **FLASHBACK - 10x09 "BLANK SLATE" sc 22**

Ro and her crewmates from the *Wellington* - including Cmdr Wade and Lt Caputo - are hiding in their crumbling base camp, under fire from the alien Seraphami.

Focusing on Wade as he gives orders...

52 **EXT. TALUNO MEMORIAL PARK - NIGHT**

Back to the park...

VAUGHN

Yes. He was a good friend and a good agent. But he made a fatal mistake. He let them know he knew.

RO

A lot of people know, don't they? The entire senior staff of DS-Nine, for example?

VAUGHN

But they can't prove anything. And if they wanted to tell, who would believe them? The Council would refuse to believe such a thing was even possible.

RO

But Section Thirty-One didn't kill Commander Wade.

VAUGHN

Didn't they?

RO

No!

53 **FLASHBACK - 10x09 "BLANK SLATE" sc 25 / 27**

In the canyon, where the Seraphami appear to be in their healing trance, Wade is up on the rocks, about to shoot.

Ro takes aim at him instead... and FIRES.

54 **EXT. TALUNO MEMORIAL PARK - NIGHT**

Ro is insistent on taking all the blame for herself...

RO

I killed him. Well, okay, I only stunned him... but it basically shone a spotlight on his position so the Seraphami could kill him.

VAUGHN

All true, and yet all wrong. I wasn't sure myself for many years. I had my suspicions of course, but nothing I could prove. You helped me slot the last puzzle piece into place yourself, Lieutenant.

(off Ro's look)

When you lost your memory.

55 **FLASHBACK - 10x09 "BLANK SLATE" sc 30**

Vaughn sits across the Ro on the couch in her quarters...

VAUGHN (v.o.)

I realise it wasn't exactly fun for you. But I have to admit it proved remarkably useful for me.

RO (v.o.)

How so?

VAUGHN (v.o.)

It was the tiniest thing...

56 **FLASHBACK - 10x09 "BLANK SLATE" sc 24**

Ro and Caputo are alone, laying down covering fire from their basecamp while Wade and the others head out...

CAPUTO

Pretty fragile for terrorists, if you ask me.

Ro reacts to Caputo's use of the T word...

57 **EXT. TALUNO MEMORIAL PARK - NIGHT**

On the bench...

RO

Yeah, so?

VAUGHN

Well, that reaction told me that you were obviously still sensitive to the issue of terrorism as regards the Bajoran resistance. And then it all made sense.

RO

What did? Seriously Commander, start giving me some straight answers or I'm gonna start getting really annoyed.

VAUGHN

Ah, the passion of a Bajoran woman. Magnificent to behold. That's what they were counting on, you know - your passion for a cause. Here's what I've pieced together...

58 **FLASHBACK - 10x09 "BLANK SLATE" sc 21**

As the *Wellington* crew fire back at the Seraphami...

VAUGHN (v.o.)

Section Thirty-One used their contacts in the admiralty to have the *Wellington* assigned to the Walepti system. Now, that was an area that had seen a marked rise in activity by Seraphami so-called freedom fighters. Thugs, really. They had nothing to fight for freedom from. I'm sure Thirty-One also had access to your official Starfleet record. Littered with disciplinaries, complaints about a bad attitude, but best of all, Bajoran. So they hatched a plan.

Out in the canyon, the Seraphami clamber down from the rocks and begin to advance on the Starfleet outpost...

VAUGHN (v.o.)

They leaked word to the Seraphami that a Starfleet team was in their neighbourhood. Undetectable back channels, naturally. That all but guaranteed they'd come in firing.

The Starfleet team scrambles out of the line of fire...

CAPUTO

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

As the rest of the scene continues...

VAUGHN V.o.)

Obviously Wade would be on the surface. He was the *Wellington's* First Officer, that's just the standard Starfleet procedure. And as a rising star in the tactical department, you were very likely to be on his away team. So the stage was set.

59 EXT. TALUNO MEMORIAL PARK - NIGHT

Where Vaughn continues to explain...

VAUGHN

As a Bajoran, you had a unique sensitivity to the concept of freedom fighters, whatever the cause. So they forced you and Wade and the Seraphami all into a pressure cooker... and cooked themselves up a nice massacre.

Ro's face drops as she puts it all together...

RO

They... made me do it?

VAUGHN

I wouldn't say made you, so much as created a set of circumstances in which your actions were inevitable. You sided with the Seraphami out of sympathy for fellow "terrorists", and the result was eight dead officers, including the one man they actually wanted dead...

RO

...Commander Wade.

Vaughn nods, and goes quiet. Gives Ro a chance to absorb. She's sitting on the bench, almost fetal. Her hands are shaking. She lifts one, looks at it silently...

60 **FLASHBACK - 10x12 "HERESY" sc 4**

Ro in her quarters, shuddering with the effort of resisting the temptation to use the hypospray...

61 **EXT. TALUNO MEMORIAL PARK - NIGHT**

Back at the bench, Ro is still shaking. She thinks of that hypospray. God, how she wants an injection right now. She looks down at her boot..

...and we can just glimpse a HYPO stashed inside it. But of course she can't do it in front of Vaughn...

RO

I went to prison for that.

VAUGHN

Yes.

RO

They made me their patsy.

VAUGHN

Yes.

RO

Used me to kill a good man.

VAUGHN

Yes.

Still shaking, she takes her fury and shock and forges it into determination. She looks back up at Vaughn...

RO

I'm in.

Vaughn doesn't respond at first. Gives her a moment to let her own decision sink in...

VAUGHN

Are you certain?

RO

(grit teeth)

I said I'm in.

VAUGHN

Take a moment here, Lieutenant. I'm giving you the opportunity to make this decision in full knowledge of what you're getting yourself into. You can't jump in with both feet now out of sheer fury, then decide it's too deep for you later. If you're in, you're in. For life.

(beat)

Because if you're not, you can turn around and walk away now. I won't argue. I said that before and I meant it.

RO

(scoff)

Please. After everything you've told me tonight? I pretty much have to be in now, don't I?

VAUGHN

Not at all. If you decide here and now you don't want to be a part of this, you can leave and we'll not say another word about it.

RO
(baffled)
But... what about all the names?
All the secrets?

VAUGHN
(casual)
Oh, that won't be a problem. You
see, I drugged you with a retro-
active memory suppressant the
moment you arrived.

Ro's eyes flare as she remembers...

62 FLASHBACK - EARLIER sc 1

The top of the episode. Ro has just arrived and she walks
up to Vaughn... and he shakes her hand.

63 EXT. TALUNO MEMORIAL PARK - NIGHT

Ro realises. Vaughn stares at her calmly...

VAUGHN
If I don't give you the antidote,
you'll go to bed tonight and wake
up tomorrow with no recollection
that you ever got any mysterious
message, that you ever came to
Bajor, or that you and I ever had
this conversation at all.
(beat)
So... what do you say?

Off Ro's astonished reaction...

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

65 EXT. TALUNO MEMORIAL PARK - NIGHT

Ro is staring at Vaughn with disbelief and something like betrayal. Did he really drug her? How could he do that?

RO
You... drugged me?

VAUGHN
Completely harmless. No side
effects past a mild headache.

Then she gets a new idea, and she smiles wryly...

RO
I get it. I get it. This is one of
those spy test things, isn't it?
You knew all along you could get
me to say yes. And once I do,
you'll admit you never really
drugged me in the first place.

Vaughn gazes back at her, infuriatingly calm. Ro presses...

RO
Isn't it?

VAUGHN
I don't play those kind of games,
Lieutenant. I can't afford to. The
stakes are too high. I've told you
nothing but the truth all night.
Why would I stop now?

Ro looks down at her hand. Feels the skin, rubs it. Feels normal. Shows it to him, victorious, it proves her case...

RO
There's nothing there.

VAUGHN
It's not on your hand...

66 **FLASHBACK - EARLIER**

Before Ro arrived. With only two of the transport inhibitor modules set up, Vaughn walks around the area, sprays the contents of a small aerosol can into the air...

 VAUGHN (v.o.)
 ...it's in the air.

67 **EXT. TALUNO MEMORIAL PARK - NIGHT**

Vaughn continues...

 VAUGHN
Odourless. Dissipates naturally within a couple of hours. Never shows up on any standard medical scan. But one hundred per cent effective. I took the antidote myself before you arrived. I have more for you if that's what you decide you want. But if you'd rather forget all about it, then walk away now, and live your life.

 RO
I could tell the whole station before I go to bed.

 VAUGHN
Well, let's see. First of all, you gave me your word that this would remain between us, and I intend to hold you to that. Second, you'd be putting Doctor Bashir, me, the entire mission, and every person on the station in danger.

 RO
It's a three-hour ride back to the station. Plenty of time to type it all up into the computer.

Vaughn gives her a look of mild derision and pity, as if to say, "Come on, don't be so naive."

RO

But of course you'd just delete it. I bet there's no trace of any message on my comm system either, is there?

VAUGHN

This isn't my first time, Laren. I have to protect my interests just as much as Section Thirty-One do. But, as I've been attempting to make clear to you all night, in all the important ways I am nothing like them. They killed T'Prynn. They killed Wade. I'm prepared to let you walk away and live the rest of your life in blissful ignorance. I don't lie or threaten. You have the choice of whether you want to join this life or not. If you want out, I'll let you out and I'll go it alone. But if you're in, it's for good. This is the night you decide the course of the rest of your life. So take your time and understand what I'm asking you to do.

Vaughn has been quite eloquent. Ro does think it over...

VAUGHN

I'm asking you to dedicate your life to fighting a cancer within the very heart of the Federation. To protect the citizens of the Federation and beyond from the immoral actions of that disease. By my side for as long as I am able, and alone if need be once I'm gone. Which likely won't be much longer now. And to do so in such secrecy that no-one but no-one can ever know the good you've done for them.

Ro doesn't respond yet. She's doing just what he told her - thinking about every word.

VAUGHN

I'm sorry to be burdening you with the kind of life I've had to live, Lieutenant. I don't do it lightly. But it's precisely because of everything you've already lived through, and come out the other side, that I know you're strong enough to handle it. And I'm sorry to be blunt, but the fact that you have no family, no significant romantic entanglements...

Ro reacts to that thought...

68 FLASHBACK - 10x09 "BLANK SLATE" sc 41

In the Infirmary, after Ro has recovered all her memories. She steps up to Quark, thanks him, and places a tender but definitely meaningful kiss on his lips...

69 EXT. TALUNO MEMORIAL PARK - NIGHT

Vaughn finishes the thought...

VAUGHN (cont)

...no long-term ties anywhere, well, that just makes you the ideal candidate for the job.

RO

(quiet)

Good for me.

VAUGHN

I suppose I can't say that you and I have ever been friends, exactly. And maybe we'll never be friends. My impression is you deliberately keep people at arm's length, to avoid getting hurt any more than necessary. That's understandable, given your history. But whether we're friends or not, I respect you. A great deal. I believe in you, even if you don't believe in yourself.

VAUGHN (cont)

I'm proud of what you've achieved
in your life. I'm honoured to
think you'd be the one to carry on
my legacy. But I don't want you to
do anything you don't want to do.
So it has to be your choice.

He finally goes quiet. He's said everything he can say to
try to convince her. It's up to her now.

She takes a deep breath. Slowly stands, steps onto the
path. She looks up at the memorial, the broken girder in
its stone base. She orders her thoughts.

Finally she turns back to Vaughn. Entirely calm and sober.

RO

I'm in.

VAUGHN

Why? Tell me your reasons.

RO

There's a bit of retribution in
there, I won't deny that. If it's
good enough for you, it's good
enough for me.

Vaughn nods simply, accepting that.

RO

And I've seen first hand what
they're prepared to do. Even if I
agreed with their reasons, which I
freely admit I occasionally have
done, I'm never going to agree
with their methods. I've made my
mistakes, and I've paid for them
every time. They never pay for
anything. They have no oversight.
They answer to no-one.

VAUGHN

The road to hell...

RO
...is paved with good intentions,
yes. But it doesn't matter what
their intentions are. It matters
what they do about them. And what
they do deserves to be punished.
(beat)
I always was.

VAUGHN
Anything else?

Ro pauses, considering it. Yes, there's something else...

70 **FLASHBACK - TNG 7x24 "PRE-EMPTIVE STRIKE" sc 47**

When Ro first decides to join the Maquis. The old paternal figure Macias is on the ground, dying from a Cardassian phaser wound. Ro holds his hand, urging him to hold on...

MACIAS
When an old fighter like me
dies... someone always steps
forward to take his place...

Macias looks into her eyes for one last time, and dies.

71 **EXT. TALUNO MEMORIAL PARK - NIGHT**

Ro stands, Vaughn sits...

RO
You were right before. It is an
honourable cause. It's right for
someone to carry it on after you.
I'm flattered that you think I'm
capable of it. And I'll try not to
let you down, sir.

Vaughn takes a moment. He's profoundly relieved, a little flattered himself, and proud to boot. He gets up, stretches his own aged bones. He stands beside Ro on the path...

VAUGHN
Thank you, Laren. And I think you
can call me Elias now.

She stretches out her own hand, grasps his, and they shake.
It's a handshake that will change Ro's life forever.

That done, she takes another breath, steadies her nerves...

RO

So now what?

VAUGHN

Now we go into action. When you return to your office, you'll find an invitation to join the advanced tactical training course on Kel-Artis Station. Once at Kel-Artis, you'll come down with an unusually aggressive strain of Ankaran flu and remain in your quarters for the entire duration.

RO

What about you?

VAUGHN

Julian already resigned, so he's covered. Even so, having three senior officers off the station all at once would send up a red flag. So I'm not going anywhere, at least not officially. Kira will submit regular status reports in my name, fake the replicator activity in my quarters, and so on. To any outside observers, should there be any, I'll appear to be at my post.

RO

But what about the rest of the Ops crew? What about Prynn? Someone's bound to notice you're not actually there. Somebody's going to realise the truth.

VAUGHN

It doesn't matter what the truth actually is. It only matters what enough people think the truth is.

VAUGHN (cont)

If we play this right, Section
Thirty-One should have no idea
we're coming for them... until
it's too late.

RO

And once we're away from the
station, what then?

Vaughn pauses to emphasise the gravity of this...

VAUGHN

I want you to understand the kind
of mission we're about to embark
on, Laren. I'm used to battling
the intelligence agencies of enemy
states. That's old news. But this
is the first time I'll be directly
confronting an agency of our own
government.

(beat; sigh)

I don't think they even know my
little group exists. Up to now,
I've managed to keep their worst
excesses in check without
revealing myself. That won't be
possible this time. If we're going
to find L'Haan, then it means
infiltrating Thirty-One directly,
dealing with them face to face.

Vaughn gazes up at the memorial. Ro lets him...

VAUGHN

I suppose I've always known this
day would come, ever since I first
took up the fight. And if they
find out about me... that means
they'll find out about you too. I
can't help that. Just the nature
of the mission. And if they know
you're working against them,
they'll take that into account.
And that means you'll have to work
all that harder.

RO

We'll have to work harder. We're
in this together, Elias.

VAUGHN

I hope so, Laren. I truly do. But
I can't shake the feeling that
your first mission against Section
Thirty-One... could very well turn
out to be my last.

As Vaughn and Ro stand together in the dark...

FADE OUT:

END OF SHOW