

STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE

13x10 - "The Typhon Pact"

Screenplay by Martyn Dunn

Based on characters from the series

Star Trek: Deep Space Nine

and on the *Star Trek* tie-in novels
by Pocket Books

TNG 18x10 - "SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE"

Krios has been designated a refugee world for Klingon evacuees. When Drex, son of Martok escorts a convoy there, a Kinshaya fleet is waiting. At half-hearted war with Qo'noS for decades, the Kinshaya have become more aggressive since General Klag destroyed their homeworld last year. The Kinshaya ships now have Breen disruptors and Romulan shields, and Drex's ship and the entire convoy are destroyed. Enraged, Martok sends Klag and the entire Fifth Fleet towards Krios, annoyed that Starfleet is too stretched thin to help. The griffin-like Kinshaya have also conquered H'Atoria, on the primary shipping lanes between the Federation and Klingons, disrupting trade between the Khitomer Accords nations. Worf and Picard realise there is more going on here than the obvious. When Klag's fleet reaches Krios, they find the Kinshaya supported by Breen, Gorn and Tzenkethi, all cloaked. The timely arrival of *Enterprise* means that Klag wins anyway. But where did this new alien alliance come from?

TTN 2x10 - "MINUET IN BLUE"

Peace established with the Sentries, the damaged *Titan* is towed to their homeworld, a whole star system of artificial lifeforms. SecondGen Red-Gold does not trust these "wetminds", but White-Blue vouches for them, so it is given a new body and assigned to help repair the ship. *Titan*'s crew distrusts White-Blue in turn over what it did to their computer. Riker is uncomfortable that the ship chose his old holo-girlfriend Minuet as its avatar. Vale and Keru distrust machine life after the Borg invasion, so begin to plan contingencies. Minuet is sad that the crew cannot trust their own ship, but she is able to bond with Torvig as a former "animal" who was "upgraded". Tuvok takes an away team to restock deuterium aboard a shuttle, with help from Cyan-Grey, who feels guilty for its earlier misunderstanding. But mid-op, all the Sentries react, as a destructive extra-dimensional force they call the Null comes out of nowhere and attacks...

VOY 11x10 - "UNWORTHY"

Voyager, *Hawking* and *Galen* are outnumbered by Indign cubes - they demand the return of the stolen canisters, which *Voyager* cannot give. Seven uses her Caeliar catoms to contact the

Indign again. She tells them the Borg are pleased with their offerings, and to stand down - they do. She also gets the full story of the canisters - Meegan was one of The Eight, ancient tyrants who had been disassociated from their bodies and locked away as punishment. The experience allows her to put the voice in her head to rest - she was not rejected as "unworthy" by the Caeliar; rather, she specifically chose not to join them. With Batiste's departure, Starfleet promotes Eden to Fleet Captain. She in turns reinstates Chakotay's command of *Voyager*, creates the position of Fleet Chief Engineer for B'Elanna, and invites Seven to stay with the fleet as well. But Meegan is still out there, with a Starfleet shuttle and the rest of The Eight...

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. ARTALEIRH - SURFACE - DAY

A Romulan CENTURION points his weapon and growls...

CENTURION

You are not welcome here.

Aventine's first officer, Cmdr BOWERS, holds his hands up placating. Ready to pull her own weapon is security chief KEDAIR, while behind them for protection is chief engineer LEISHMAN. Several CRATES have transported down with them.

BOWERS

There's no need for weapons. Our arrival is expected. This was all arranged with your government.

CENTURION

That arrangement has ceased. We no longer require your services.

Bowers and the Centurion stare each other down, both very aware of the CROWD that have gathered to watch the new arrivals - they look thin, all eyeing the crates hungrily but held back by the centurion's nervous young SOLDIERS.

Around them all is this distant colony world's "capital city" - a paltry collection of single-level clay huts.

BOWERS

Your charges don't seem to agree.

CENTURION

That is not your concern, human!

BOWERS

You don't strike me as people who can afford to turn down free food. I can see children who look like they haven't had a good meal their entire lives. They could have several if you take these crates.

The centurion really wants to, but he has his orders.

BOWERS

Look, if you want to break off the agreement between the Federation and the Romulan Star Empire, that is your business. But this food is already here. We want you to have it. Why take it out of the mouths of the people who need it?

The centurion breathes hard, thinking. Finally, he holsters his weapon, but stays upright, not wanting to look weak.

CENTURION

The Romulan people no longer need the Federation's charity... but we will accept this one final gift.

BOWERS

Thank you.
(to Kedair and
Leishman)
Let's get this cargo unloaded.

Kedair enters codes into the various crates, and they UNLOCK, swinging open to reveal packages and bottles. The centurion directs his soldiers to take the packages from the crates to the nearby WAREHOUSE.

KEDAIR

When you're ready to open them -

CENTURION

We are familiar with your stasis containers. We are not invalids who need the Federation to walk us to our beds.

KEDAIR

(hands on hips)
Well, I don't even know what that means, exactly, but I was just trying to help.

CENTURION

All you people do is help. That's why your Federation is so weak.

The centurion stomps away towards the warehouse, wanting to be done with this. Closing up the crates, Leishman mutters:

LEISHMAN

If we're so weak, why are we the ones bringing them food?

CENTURION

(spins back)

Because of a human! Shinzon was one of your mongrel species!

BOWERS

Maybe Shinzon was genetically human, but he was exactly what you all made him.

The centurion HARRUMPHS and stomps off again while the soldiers finish up the lifting and carrying.

LEISHMAN

Well said, Commander. Hopefully that cut through his pride a bit.

KEDAIR

That wasn't pride, Lieutenant.

BOWERS

Of course it was. Typical Romulan bluster if you ask me.

KEDAIR

Oh, I'm not saying they're not full of it. I'm saying that's not the reason they're kicking us out. Pride's usually the first thing to go when your belly's rumbling.

LEISHMAN

That centurion looked well enough fed to me.

KEDAIR

No, Lieutenant, he really wasn't. Those padded uniforms make them look like they're all bulked up, but that's just clever tailoring. Didn't you see his eyes? He was desperate to take the food - he just needed a reason to disobey his orders to turn it away.

Bowers ponders that information, then taps his combadge.

BOWERS

Bowers to *Aventine* - three to beam up, plus the empty crates.

As they wait for the transporter, Kedair continues...

KEDAIR

I guarantee you, Commander - there's more going on here than just being tired of charity.

The TRANSPORTER takes them, leaving the starving Romulan colonists waiting for their food...

FADE OUT

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

2 EXT. SPACE - AVENTINE

The sleek and advanced Vesta-class vessel flies at warp...

AKAAR (o.s.)

I received your report, Captain.

3 INT. AVENTINE - READY ROOM

Cpt DAX sits behind her desk, with Adm AKAAR on the screen.

AKAAR (screen)

(continuing)

Is the *Aventine* still in Romulan space?

DAX

We just crossed the border back about half an hour ago. Why?

AKAAR (screen)

Change course, Captain - you are to head for Achernar Prime.

DAX

(frown)

Empress Donatra's homeworld? But it was Artaleirh where they were turning down the food, Admiral - that's one of Tal'Aura's worlds, not Donatra's.

AKAAR (screen)

I am aware of that, Captain. But with the ongoing shortages the Federation is still facing, we were hoping to find a way to cut back on the aid we're giving to Romulus anyway, without harming the Romulan people themselves. And there is a rather obvious trading partner right next door.

DAX

(doubtful)

So you want me to persuade Donatra to take over the shipments for us? Tal'Aura is going to love that.

AKAAR (screen)

Diplomacy is traditionally the role of starship captains. I was given to understand such a task was within your abilities. In addition, you will be assigned level-twenty security clearance for the duration of the mission.

DAX

Level twenty?

AKAAR (screen)

You may find the information at that level to be of use in your deliberations.

That intrigues Dax, and she sits back to consider it...

4 INT. AVENTINE - CONFERENCE ROOM

Bowers, Kedair and Counsellor HYATT sit around the table with Dax.

BOWERS

Why us? Picard is the one who knows Donatra personally, wouldn't he be the better choice for this?

DAX

Apparently the *Enterprise* is busy supporting the Klingons at Krios right now. That's all I can say on that for the moment.

KEDAIR

Captain, Donatra and Tal'Aura hate each other. Persuading either one to help the other...

DAX

...has stumped the finest minds in the Diplomatic Corps already, yes I know. But it can't hurt to try again, especially with what just happened on Artaleirh.

HYATT

Point in our favour - we were one of the first foreign governments to recognise Donatra's Imperial State as a sovereign nation.

KEDAIR

Point against - we've been giving food and supplies to her sworn enemy for more than a year.

BOWERS

Plus, we're the ones who owe her a favour after one of her ships sacrificed itself to save Ardana from the Borg. So it's hard to ask for another favour on top of that.

HYATT

She has been ruthless in keeping Tal'Aura down any way she can. And anybody who declares herself an "empress" is not someone who's likely to be a pushover.

DAX

All excellent points. So clearly I have some studying to do. Sam, you have the bridge, just let me know when we're approaching Achernar. Lonnoc, pick a guard to accompany me who isn't going to piss off a Romulan Empress. Susan, send me anything you've got on Romulan psychology. I'll need it.

(deep breath)

Okay, thanks everyone - dismissed.

Bowers, Kedair and Hyatt all get up to leave the room. This leaves Dax alone at the conference table.

DAX

Computer - display all Federation records regarding Shinzon's coup of the Romulan Senate, Praetor Tal'Aura, Empress Donatra, and the Romulan schism. Level twenty and below. Authorisation - Dax alpha five four nine two green.

COMPUTER

Authorisation accepted. Working.

After a moment, reams and reams of information appear as HOLOGRAMS suspended over the table. Daunted by the sheer mass of it all, Dax begins to flip through the pages...

5 EXT. SPACE - ACHERNAR ORBIT

The *Aventine* slips into orbit, where several Romulan war-birds are already visible, both D'Deridex and Mogai class.

6 INT. AVENTINE - TRANSPORTER ROOM

Dax stands on the platform in her DRESS WHITES, with the Vulcan security deputy T'PREL next to her, armed but holstered. Bowers is there to see them off, plus Triexian chief SPON operating the transporter controls.

BOWERS

I'm still not happy about this, Captain. We're basically turning two people over to the Romulans.

DAX

Well, there is no "the Romulans" anymore, Commander. There are two separate political entities, and the one we're inside right now has already worked with us repeatedly over the last year and a half. One guard is enough - we can't make it look like we're asking for this favour at the point of a phaser.

BOWERS
Alright, it's your funeral.

DAX
I hope to hell not, Commander.
Chief - energise.

Spon works her controls...

7 **EXT. ACHERNAR - SURFACE - DAY**

A centuries-old fortress built into a cliff over the sea...

8 **INT. DONATRA'S THRONE ROOM**

A long, narrow stone room with no windows, so as to be as secure as possible. Simply but tastefully decorated.

At one end is an imposing throne, upon which sits DONATRA ("ST: Nemesis"), dressed in a long black cloak that looks more Vulcan than Romulan. Green characters stitched upon it read "Imperial Romulan State" in the Romulan language.

On either side of her are black-clad Romulan soldiers whose uniforms recall the outfits from TOS episodes rather than the centurion's outfit. Both of them point their weapons...

...at Dax and T'Prel, who stand at the other end of the room. Dax approaches and bows her head...

DAX
Empress Donatra, thank you for
seeing me. I am Captain Ezri Dax.

DONATRA
Welcome to the Imperial Romulan
State, Captain Dax. I assume you
are here for the same reasons
about which I have spoken to
numerous Federation diplomats
over the last two months?

DAX
I believe so, yes, Empress.

DONATRA

Then tell me, Captain - how are you to convince me where others have not?

DAX

Well, I honestly don't know that, Empress. I'm a student of history. I was hoping we could talk a bit about history, and the future... and our places in both.

Donatra considers Dax for a moment, then stands and climbs down from her throne.

DONATRA

Come, Captain. We will share fire and water. Your bodyguard will remain here, as will my sentries.

T'PREL

My orders were to stay by your side at all times, Captain.

DONATRA

You are a guest, Captain, here under diplomatic privilege. No harm will come to you.

DAX

(to T'Prel)

I'll be fine, Ensign. If anything happens to me, Donatra is honour-bound to kill herself.

T'PREL

That will not be of much comfort to you, Captain.

Dax smirks, and heads off towards a set of large doors with Donatra. T'Prel stays, eyeing the Romulan sentries warily.

9 INT. DONATRA'S LOUNGE

Donatra leads Dax into a smaller, softer room, with an open fire and a drinks table attended by a silent servant.

DONATRA

Would you like a drink?

DAX

Whatever you're having, Empress.

DONATRA

(to servant)

A flagon of ale and two glasses.

Dax looks quietly alarmed at the prospect of Romulan ale. The servant sets to his work, while Donatra leads Dax to the two seats by the fire. While they sit and talk, the servant brings the ale and pours it out.

DAX

I noticed you offered me fire and water - that's traditional Vulcan hospitality. And the robe you're wearing is very much like that of a high Vulcan official.

(smile)

Going back to your roots?

DONATRA

In a manner of speaking. I do not agree with your Ambassador Spock that our people should reunite, but too much of Romulan history was deliberately given away in an effort to not be Vulcan. That heritage is a part of us, whether we admit it or not.

DAX

That makes sense. Logic probably dictated what you did last year.

DONATRA

Interesting you should say that, given that one of Tal'Aura's many many arguments against me is that I split off from Romulus in a petulant display of emotion.

DAX

I'm sure she knows better. You could have done what Shinzon did - made a desperate power grab of your own. But instead you built a coalition, slowly and carefully.

DONATRA

It is true that Tal'Aura and I are not at war... but we are enemies. That is why I will not help her.

DAX

With respect, Empress, that's where your logic is falling down. You think there's still a battle between you and Tal'Aura, but there really isn't - because, Empress, you've already won.

DONATRA

(bitter laugh)

Shall I recount to you all the assassination attempts against me since I formed the Imperial State?

DAX

I don't mean to make light of it, Empress, but that's part of being a monarch. To use a Ferengi phrase - it's the cost of doing business. What I'm talking about is the fact that Tal'Aura knew what you were going to do before you did it.

DONATRA

I beg your pardon?

DAX

She told President Bacco and Chancellor Martok that you were planning to secede several weeks before you announced it. But she didn't do anything about it... because she couldn't. She didn't have the support, and she knew it.

DONATRA

You seem very sure of yourself for someone so young.

DAX

I'm older than I look. And I think I see what your plan is - you want to just sit back and let Tal'Aura fall, while you reap the rewards without having to lift a finger. The problem with that is that the people who will end up suffering are not the ones you want to hurt.

Donatra looks down into her drink, considering Dax's words.

DAX

Empress, I was just at Artaleirh. The people there are starving because the worlds that used to feed them are now loyal to you. If you offer to trade with Tal'Aura now, the people will know who fed them - and that it wasn't her. Not only that, but the Federation will know who alleviated our burden. And we don't forget our friends.

Donatra finally looks up again, stern and determined.

DONATRA

I will consider your proposal.

DAX

That's all I ask, Empress.

FADE OUT

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

10 EXT. PALAIS DE LA CONCORDE - DAY

The centre of Federation government...

11 INT. PALAIS - PRESIDENT'S OFFICE - DAY

A gaggle of functionaries stream out of President BACCO's office at the end of a meeting. Behind them, Bacco sits at her desk rubbing her temples. She taps her desk comm...

BACCO

Sivak, what's next?

Bacco's Vulcan secretary replies dryly through the comm...

SIVAK (comm)

You were scheduled to meet with Klingon ambassador K'mtok in five minutes. However his shuttle was delayed, and he will not arrive for twenty minutes.

BACCO

Dandy.

PIÑIERO, her chief of staff, is the only one left in the room besides Bacco. She interjects...

PIÑIERO

What are you meeting with K'mtok about?

BACCO

He's probably going to yell at me about the number of additional ships we're sending to help them retake Krios and H'Atoria from the Kinshaya - especially since that number is zero.

PIÑIERO

Better you than me.

BACCO

I get that a lot.

SIVAK (comm)

Ma'am, Romulan ambassador Kalavak is also waiting. I informed him that you were busy, but he said it was urgent that you two speak.

BACCO

He must want to yell at me too.

PIÑIERO

Maybe. But given what we've got Captain Dax doing, he might have something worthwhile to say.

BACCO

(sigh)

Alright Sivak - send Kalavak in.

She closes the comm, and stands. Agent WEXLER opens the door, and Romulan ambassador KALAVAK sweeps in.

KALAVAK

Good afternoon, Madam President.

BACCO

Mister Ambassador - what can I do for you?

KALAVAK

I convey a message from my Senate. While we appreciate the aid that the Federation has provided to the Empire since the fall of Shinzon, that aid is no longer required. Further, while any ships currently in our space will be permitted to complete their journeys, from this point on, no Federation vessel may enter it without permission.

PIÑIERO

You're closing your borders?

KALAVAK

No, merely monitoring them.

BACCO

Mister Ambassador, I find this very distressing. The reports from our relief ships have painted a very unpleasant picture.

KALAVAK

With respect, ma'am, that is no longer your concern. I would think you should be relieved - we are lifting what must be a terrible burden in this time of crisis.

BACCO

Regardless of any burden, we're not in the habit of abandoning people we're trying to help.

KALAVAK

Unless we ask you to abandon us, which is what we are doing.

BACCO

Mister Ambassador, if this is your wish, we will of course abide by it. But I beg you to reconsider.

At this, Kalavak finally softens from his usual hard tone.

KALAVAK

If it were my decision, I would do so. But I merely convey the wishes of the Praetor and the Senate.

(beat; stiffens)

Thank you, Madam President.

And Kalavak turns to leave, Wexler opening and closing the door for him. Bacco and Piñero are left dumbfounded.

BACCO

Well, ain't that a kick in the teeth.

PIÑIERO

But he was right, ma'am - this is a huge relief. The ships we've been sending to Romulus can be diverted to internal issues. We sent Dax to Donatra hoping for this exact result.

BACCO

What if Dax can't talk Donatra into it?

PIÑIERO

Then like he said, that's their problem. We can't force them to accept our help.

BACCO

I guess, but I sure as hell don't like it. And having to accept things I don't like has become way too common around here lately.

As Bacco goes back to rubbing her temples...

12 EXT. SPACE - ACHERNAR ORBIT

The *Aventine* in orbit, Romulan warbirds around it...

13 INT. AVENTINE - TRANSPORTER ROOM

Dax is still in her dress whites, and now so are Bowers and Kedair. Bowers nudges Spon aside to check the readouts...

BOWERS

She's fifteen minutes late.

DAX

She's a head of state. Only fifteen minutes late constitutes early by their standards.

SPON

The Empress's people signal she's ready, Captain.

DAX

Then by all means energise, Chief.

Spon works her panels, and two TRANSPORTER signals deposit Donatra and one of her guards onto the platform.

DAX

Empress. Welcome aboard *Aventine*.
May I present my first officer,
Commander Bowers, and my security
chief, Lieutenant Kedair.

DONATRA

(steps down; nods)

Captain, Commander, Lieutenant.
I appreciate your indulgence.

DAX

Not at all, Empress. Although I
admit I was surprised to receive
your request for a tour.

DONATRA

I enjoyed our dialogue yesterday.
I was hoping we might continue it.

DAX

I would be pleased to, Empress.

Dax after-you's for Donatra into the corridor. The guard goes first, checks, then allows Donatra and Dax to proceed, while Kedair and the guard follow at a discreet distance.

Bowers exchanges a look with Spon before leaving himself...

12 **INT. AVENTINE - CORRIDOR**

Dax and Donatra walk, with Kedair and the guard behind.

DONATRA

I understand this is a new class
of vessel, Captain... equipped
with a new experimental faster-
than-light drive.

DAX

I'm afraid I don't know what you mean, Empress. The *Aventine* is fitted with standard warp drive.

DONATRA

(sly smile)

Of course it is. I understand, Captain, that you are not allowed to discuss matters of a classified nature. I only mention it to point out that secrets are difficult to keep at the best of times - and this is hardly the best of times.

DAX

Nevertheless, Empress, I have no idea what you're talking about.

DONATRA

As you say. Captain... I'm sure you prepared for our meeting with some research about me, so I have no compunction admitting I did the same about you. I noted yesterday that you seemed quite young to be a starship captain - I took this to mean you were promoted early due to the shortage of captains after the Borg invasion.

DAX

Not exactly...

DONATRA

Indeed - I have since learned that you were at the forefront of the Borg's defeat at the Azure Nebula, along with my friends Picard and Riker. I take this to mean that Starfleet has a great deal of confidence in your abilities.

DAX

I like to think so.

DONATRA

Then I would ask a favour of you.

DAX

A favour of us? I thought we were the ones asking a favour of you.

DONATRA

I wish to open a dialogue with Praetor Tal'Aura to discuss trade relations between us. However, I believe a direct communication from me would not be answered.

DAX

Whereas one from a Federation starship that recently provided aid to her people would be...?

DONATRA

Perhaps.

DAX

Empress, I'd be honoured. We can go to the bridge right now.

DONATRA

Excellent. Thank you, Captain.

13 INT. AVENTINE - MAIN BRIDGE

Praetor TAL'AURA of the Romulan Star Empire appears on the *Aventine's* giant viewscreen. Dax stands to speak to her, with Donatra at her side, and the usual bridge crew around.

TAL'AURA (screen)

Captain Ezri Dax of the *Aventine*. I see you are at the planet where the traitor has based her illegal empire. I presume you are about to set course for Romulus to deliver her to the Senate, there to stand trial for her numerous crimes?

Dax steels herself - this is already going badly.

DAX

Madam Praetor, Empress Donatra
wishes to discuss the opening of
trade relations with -

TAL'AURA (screen)

(hand up)

Stop right there, Captain. Any
talk of trade relations would be
pointless. The Romulan Star Empire
has no need for them - not with
the Federation, and certainly not
with that *veruul* on your bridge.

DONATRA

I know your people are starving,
Tal'Aura. I can feed them.

TAL'AURA (screen)

You will address me properly!

DONATRA

(cold smile)

You first.

TAL'AURA (screen)

This is pointless! Captain Dax, I
thank you for your deliveries to
Artaleirh. Our ambassador should
be informing your president of
this as we speak, but I will tell
you now - all aid agreements
between your government and mine
are officially terminated. Your
ship may travel safely through our
space to return home. Romulus out.

The signal drops. Dax sighs.

DAX

That didn't go very well, did it?

DONATRA

It went exactly as I expected it
to. Tal'Aura is a stubborn fool.

DAX

Perhaps. But her decision was made already, long before she spoke to either of us. She knows something we don't... and I for one would like to know what it is.

DONATRA

(heading to
turbolift)

Whereas I could not possibly care less. I have done what I can. If Tal'Aura is too stubborn to accept my offer, then she will eventually pay the price.

As Dax and Kedair follow Donatra out, Bowers mutters...

BOWERS

Maybe. Or maybe we will...

Off his displeasure with all this...

FADE OUT

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

14 EXT. SPACE - AVENTINE

The *Aventine* at warp again...

15 INT. AVENTINE - CONFERENCE ROOM

Dax (back in regular uniform) stands with hands on table, staring hard at the reams of information again, flicking through it with vexation, trying to make it all make sense.

A moment, and the door from the bridge OPENS, admitting Bowers, Kedair and HELKARA. Meanwhile the door at the other end of the room opens to admit Hyatt, TARSES and Leishman, the last of whom is chewing something. They all stand.

DAX

Thanks for coming, everyone.
(sniffs air;
glares at Leishman)
Romulan tree candy? I hope that's
not from the Artaleirh delivery.

LEISHMAN

Nope - my own personal stash.

DAX

Well anyway, that's what we're
here to discuss. This Tal'Aura
business doesn't make sense, and
there's been too much of that
going on lately. I'm tired of it.

Bowers peers closer at the holo-displayed information...

BOWERS

Is that level twenty clearance?

DAX

(distracted)
Oh - yeah. Classified. Akaar gave
it to me before we started.

KEDAIR

I've never even seen level twenty.

DAX

No. It's higher than any Starfleet captain usually gets, even on a diplomatic mission. Plus, Akaar hasn't rescinded it, even though he knows the mission is over.

BOWERS

You think he's trying to hint that there's more going on again?

HYATT

Wouldn't be the first time.

DAX

No. You've all been telling me the same, and I think you're right.

TARSES

So what did he want you to see that he couldn't say out loud?

Dax can't say. She stares at the displays. But Kedair steps up and works the controls to minimise them all back down to the table's surface displays instead. Over this:

KEDAIR

Alright, this is too much at once. We need to break it down. Let's start with just Tal'Aura.

Kedair casts an IMAGE of Tal'Aura up into the display.

KEDAIR

She turned down aid she clearly needs. Even she can't be stubborn enough to let her people starve for the sake of her own pride.

HELKARA

Maybe they're getting aid from someone else?

LEISHMAN

Who would that be? The only nation that wasn't clobbered by the Borg is the Tholians, and I can't see them providing food to the Romulans, can you?

HYATT

Far too xenophobic for that. They don't even eat food like we do.

KEDAIR

Still, it's the only viable option right now, so I'll put it up.

Kedair casts a similar image of a THOLIAN up into the air. Dax stares at the two images, ponders them.

DAX

The reason the Tholians are the only ones who didn't get hit by the Borg is that they're the only ones Bacco couldn't convince to help us at the Azure Nebula.

BOWERS

Right - even the Breen were there.

DAX

Ah - but the Breen were only there because Bacco got the Ferengi to buy out their mercenary services before the Tholians could do it.

LEISHMAN

Who made that deal?

DAX

Their Federation ambassador, Derro, according to the files.

Kedair brings up two more images - Ferengi ambassador DERRO (seen in VOY 10x18 "The Corridors of Power") and a BREEN.

BOWERS

Can we talk to him?

DAX

(grin)

Be easier to talk to Quark again, wouldn't it? Dax to Mirren - put a call through to Deep Space Nine, attention of Ambassador Quark.

MIRREN (comm)

Aye, Captain - connecting now.

DAX

Thanks - put it through in here when you're ready.

Dax swipes the already present images aside, and a video feed of QUARK in his quarters (and in his pyjamas) takes their place suspended over the table for everyone to see.

QUARK (screen)

Dax? What's going on?

DAX

Hi, Quark. I was hoping to make use of your diplomatic connections again, if you're not busy.

On the holo-image, a HAND reaches in and shifts the camera, revealing Cmdr RO sat next to Quark. She is also dressed down - apparently it is casual night in Quark's quarters.

RO (screen)

Dax, it's Ro. Is this about that Ferengi criminal, Sekki?

Dax averts her eyes, awkward at the realisation Quark and Ro were spending the night together. Leishman and Tarses exchange silent smirks - Bowers glares them both down.

DAX

Oh... hi, Ro. Not this time, no. Although the day is young. Quark, do you know Ambassador Derro? He apparently negotiated the Breen's appearance at the Azure Nebula.

QUARK (screen)

(scoffs)

And the way he tells it, you'd think he beat the Borg single-handedly. But he couldn't even get the Breen to buy extra weapons from him - someone undercut him.

BOWERS

Don't the Breen have their own weapons?

QUARK (screen)

(shrug)

Everything's for sale. Derro could only offer type eight disruptors - this other dealer could give them type nine.

DAX

Do you know who that was?

QUARK (screen)

Not off by heart, but I can ask.

DAX

Can you do it right now? It could be urgent.

QUARK (screen)

Anything for you, Dax.

On screen, Ro raises an eyebrow at Quark saying that. Dax covers her own smirk.

DAX

Thanks, Quark. Call me back when you've got something. Commander.

The signal drops; the other images return to prominence - Tal'Aura, Derro, a crystal Tholian, and a helmeted Breen.

LEISHMAN

I don't get it - why do we care who sold weapons to the Breen?

DAX

Because one of the interesting items in Akaar's level twenty files was this little nugget...

She brings up a new image - of KINSHAYA ships (black metal globes) fighting with KLINGON warships over a planet, as seen in TNG 18x10 "Spirit of Vengeance".

DAX

The Kinshaya just invaded two Klingon worlds - H'Atoria and Krios. The sensor records show that the Kinshaya's ships were using Breen type nine disruptors.

TARSES

I'm sorry, who are the Kinshaya?

KEDAIR

The Federation hasn't had much contact with them. They've mostly stuck to border skirmishes with the Klingons.

HYATT

We're not even entirely sure what they look like.

KEDAIR

But we do know it's not like them to be this aggressive.

LEISHMAN

I guess their fancy new Breen weapons made them more confident.

BOWERS

So you're suggesting the person who sold the Breen those weapons also sold them to the Kinshaya? Seems like a tenuous link.

Dax manipulates the battle image - capturing a Kinshaya ship on its own, and a Klingon ship on its own. These go into the "image cloud" with the others. Over this:

DAX

Maybe. But the Kinshaya aren't the only ones being uncharacteristically aggressive lately.

Dax brings up yet another image - a reptilian GORN.

DAX

The *Enterprise* recently tried to claim Fromander Four as a new refugee colony, but the Gorn chased them off.

HELKARA

I thought we were generally on good terms with the Gorn. They fought at the Azure Nebula too.

DAX

We were, and they did. So why are they now attacking us over a not-even-inhabited-yet world?

The crew stop to gaze over the collected images.

KEDAIR

So... what have we got?

(points to each
image in turn)

Gorn attacking Starfleet. Kinshaya using Breen weapons to attack the Klingons. Romulans breaking off a deal with us, with the Tholians being their only other option.

BOWERS

It doesn't make any sense for the Kinshaya to invade H'Atoria. Krios, fine, I can see that - it's one of the main refugee worlds for Klingons, it would be a big blow to them. But H'Atoria was scoured by the Borg as much as Risa was. There's nothing there anymore.

Dax ponders this, and finds a new display to add to the mass - a Starfleet entry on the world H'ATORIA. She and Hyatt both lean in to read it...

DAX

Okay - small Klingon colony,
native species enslaved...

HYATT

Site of first contact between the
Klingons and the Vulcans...

DAX

And an important trade route
between us and the Klingons.

BOWERS

Hold on - if H'Atoria is a trade
route, and it's now under Kinshaya
control, where is the trade going?

KEDAIR

(off readouts)

Two options - the Azure Nebula,
which is obviously not going to
happen. And...

(jaw drops)

...Zalda.

The room goes quiet - this could be the key to it all.

TARSES

The same Zalda that almost just
left the Federation in a snit?

DAX

That was manipulated into almost
leaving the Federation in a snit,
by an as-yet-unknown party.

LEISHMAN

Someone's trying to drive a wedge
between us and the Klingons. Would
the Kinshaya do that? Could they
be behind all this?

HYATT

We don't know enough about them to say. But from a strategic angle, it would be a much bigger target than they've ever taken on before.

BOWERS

There's one face on this display that we haven't connected to any of the others yet - Derro.

HELKARA

So do we think this is a concerted effort by the Ferengi government to subvert the Khitomer Accords?

DAX

I can't picture that. Quark seems pretty close to Derro, he would have told us if he heard anything. But I can picture...

Dax pulls down Derro's image, and throws up a new one to take its place - SEKKI's criminal record headshot.

DAX

(continuing)

...a Ferengi free agent and known criminal being involved.

KEDAIR

(glower)

Sekki.

DAX

We've already connected her to the sabotage on Capella and Maxia Zeta - both of which would have had the effect of impeding the rebuilding and colonising efforts of both the Federation and the Klingons.

KEDAIR

And the Andorian who tried to pull off the scam on Zalda bribed her way out of a Ferengi prison.

DAX

(to Helkara)

And don't I remember you saying the process they used to alter the explosive on Capella was Breen?

HELKARA

I said I'd heard that the Breen were working on that technology. That doesn't prove anything.

KEDAIR

But it does connect Sekki to the Breen - circumstantially, at least. Which also loops us back around to the Kinshaya.

MIRREN (comm)

Bridge to Captain - Ambassador Quark is calling back.

DAX

Thanks, Mirren. Put him through.

Dax pushes the image cloud aside again, and Quark and Ro both reappear in the holo-display, both back in business mode despite their casual clothes.

QUARK (screen)

Dax - I've spoken to Derro. He was very happy to tell us who outsold him against the Breen - and you've got three guesses.

DAX

Sekki. I knew it - she's connected to all of this somehow. We have to find her, fast.

RO (screen)

I checked with Commander Evik as well - no Starfleet facility has reported any contact with her. She's not in Federation space.

QUARK (screen)

Luckily, Derro was annoyed enough with that female that he had no problem telling us where she is - right at home on Ferenginar.

LEISHMAN

Hiding in plain sight.

BOWERS

You couldn't have told us this before now?

QUARK (screen)

I didn't know you were looking for her, did I? Anyway, I'll get you clearance to enter Ferengi space. It should be ready by the time you reach the border.

DAX

Work fast, Quark. I'm gonna be firing up the slipstream drive. Thank you both. *Aventine* out.

The signal drops, and Dax turns to Bowers.

DAX

Commander?

BOWERS

Yes, sir.

He strides back to the bridge, full of purpose, the other senior staff following him. Dax glares at Sekki's face...

BLACK OUT

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

16 EXT. SPACE - SLIPSTREAM CORRIDOR

Aventine zooms through the swirling blue energy tunnel...

17 INT. AVENTINE - BRIDGE

Dax is not giddy with excitement this time as she watches the main viewscreen from her command seat, but tense with determination. Bowers sits beside her in the XO seat.

BOWERS

(off side-screen)

Captain, I was just going through the latest updates from before we entered slipstream. They include news about Krios and H'Atoria.

DAX

Anything interesting?

BOWERS

I'm afraid so. The Klingons have successfully liberated Krios from the Kinshaya, with help from the *Enterprise*. But they report that they faced resistance not just from Kinshaya ships... but also Breen, Gorn and Tzenkethi.

KEDAIR

Tzenkethi as well now, on top of everything else?

BOWERS

There's more. Ships from all four nations were using Romulan cloaks.

Dax continues to stare at the blue swirls of slipstream.

DAX

What the hell is going on out there?

18 **EXT. FERENGINAR**

The Ferengi homeworld, rainy as ever, but not the capital. The runabout *Seine* flies down through the murk...

19 **INT. RUNABOUT - COCKPIT**

Benzite pilot MARDRAL (13x04 "Truth Hurts") guides the ship down through the storm, with constant RAIN hitting the windows and WIND buffeting the ship side to side. Kedair sits beside her, with Bowers, Leishman and T'Prel behind.

KEDAIR

I think I'm picking up one Ferengi life-sign from the building Quark told us is Sekki's mansion.

BOWERS

You "think"?

KEDAIR

It's strangely faint.

MARDRAL

Hardly a surprise with this much atmospheric interference.

KEDAIR

No... I don't think that's it. We need to get down there, fast.

Bowers doesn't like the sound of that. The ship ROCKS...

20 **INT. SEKKI'S MANSION - LIVING ROOM**

What would be a huge and palatial living space, if it had any people or furniture in it yet.

The hobbit-like round doors HISS open, and T'Prel's phaser rifle is first through. The Vulcan woman follows, then Kedair with her own rifle, covering all angles. Leishman closes the panel on the door control she just hot-wired.

KEDAIR

Clear... strangely so, in fact.

Bowers strides in, looks around at the oddly empty space. Kedair puts away her phaser, replaces it with a tricorder. T'Prel keeps her own phaser active, covering the others.

LEISHMAN

What, did she just move in?

BOWERS

(re the wall)

This is *jordvik* from Risa. If she can afford that, not to mention a place this size, she's obviously been well compensated for her troubles. I guess furniture just wasn't a priority.

KEDAIR

But a transporter blocking field was?

BOWERS

If she was afraid for her safety, yes. How's that life sign?

KEDAIR

Gone now. But I'm getting residual E-M readings from upstairs.

BOWERS

Then let's go.

Kedair pulls her phaser again and leads the way upstairs...

21 **INT. SEKKI'S MANSION - BEDROOM**

The door opens again, T'Prel's rifle first through, same as before. The room is somewhat more decorated - a big flouncy four-poster bed, a desk with a computer, and a massive ugly painting depicting a rainy day on Ferenginar.

KEDAIR

Clear again... wait, no!

Kedair quickly dashes into the room while T'Prel holds Bowers and Leishman back...

The security chief reaches the far side of the bed... and lets her phaser rifle droop with a sigh.

KEDAIR

Well... I guess now we know why the life sign was weak.

While T'Prel checks all the corners, Bowers and Leishman enter and join Kedair, looking down at what she sees...

...SEKKI's dead body. More than dead, practically hollowed out, eviscerated, her entire chest crushed in, the tie-dyed and multi-coloured Tholian silk dress stained with blood.

LEISHMAN

Oh god... she's still warm.

BOWERS

That's Sekki, alright. I guess someone didn't let the transporter blocker stop them.

KEDAIR

And they left her face unmarked so we'd know it was definitely her body, no-one else's. Plus, this is Tholian silk, which is not cheap.

BOWERS

So. Someone covered their tracks and we still don't know who's behind it all.

LEISHMAN

Maybe not...

Leishman has moved to the desk computer, and is trying its controls. But the screen shows a single line of text in Ferengi orthographic script, and a blinking cursor.

LEISHMAN

Damn it, the computer's been wiped too. The entire system was cleaned out only minutes ago. Sekki wasn't just killed - she was purged.

BOWERS

So are we at a dead end?

KEDAIR

Looks like it. Too bad the place is empty, it might have been worth searching, seeing if anything -

(shakes head)

- no. If they went to the trouble of wiping her computer clean, they wouldn't have left any physical evidence to find.

LEISHMAN

Unless there was evidence they didn't know about.

Leishman pulls her own tricorder, and begins scanning the dead body, which lies on a colourful RUG, holding back a wince and a retch at the gruesome state of the corpse.

LEISHMAN

I'm scanning this carpet, and I'm not getting anything but the floor. Hold on...

(refocuses tricorder)

I can read blood on the carpet, but not in it. If you follow.

KEDAIR

That means the carpet contains sensor-resistant material.

LEISHMAN

Which means it's hiding something.

Both women stash their tools and GRASP the corners of the rug, using it to LIFT Sekki's body out of the way, Leishman fighting her rising gorge all the way. Under the carpet is revealed a clear SQUARE SHAPE in the floor.

BOWERS

A floor safe. Excellent work, Lieutenant. What made you think of that?

LEISHMAN

Just trying to think how Quark would think. Or at least how Nog always said Quark would think.

KEDAIR

So how do we get this thing open?

LEISHMAN

Just gimme a sec...

Leishman crouches down with her tricorder out, working it intently. After a moment, an ear-piercing SCREECH blasts them all, earning even a disapproving glare from T'Prel.

Finally a loud CLUNK as the square lowers down an inch or two, then slips to the side, revealing a small floor safe, with a few bars of LATINUM, some GEMS, and a Ferengi PADD.

Kedair picks up the latter...

BOWERS

Anything interesting?

KEDAIR

Sorry, no. Just books - *Burning Hearts of Qo'noS*, *Vulcan Love Slave*, *Battlecruiser Vengeance...*

LEISHMAN

I guess she got bored in between maniacal schemes.

Kedair throws the padd back into the safe, frustrated. She picks up the handful of gems instead, inspects them.

INSERT - KEDAIR'S HAND

She runs her fingers over the surface, and realises that these are not just irregular gems, but carved COINS.

Around the circular edge are etched six varied SYMBOLS, as well as what seems to be two foreign WORDS in the centre.

BACK TO SCENE

BOWERS

What is that - a coin?

LEISHMAN

No good, then. A Ferengi's bound to have coins.

KEDAIR

No... I have a feeling this is very important indeed. We need to get back to the *Aventine*.

Off Kedair...

22 INT. AVENTINE - CONFERENCE ROOM

Dax places one of the coin onto a corner of the conference table, which SCANS it...

...and generates a holographic recreation over the table. Dax PULLS the image to expand it to a metre across, so they can more clearly see the symbols and the words.

Stepping back, she gazes at this gravely. Her senior staff are back around her.

DAX

Anyone recognise those symbols?

TARSES

(points)

Well this one is obviously the Romulan Star Empire.

LEISHMAN

Tholian Assembly.

BOWERS

Breen Confederacy.

KEDAIR

Tzenkethi Coalition.

HELKARA

Gorn Hegemony.

HYATT

And I'm guessing this last one is
the Holy Order of the Kinshaya.

BOWERS

What about the words?

Dax works more controls on the table...

INSERT - THE HOLOGRAPHIC COIN

The image of the words PIXELATES and REFORMATS, instead
becoming two words in English:

TYPHON PACT

BACK TO SCENE

The *Aventine's* senior staff take in these words...

TARSES

What does that mean?

DAX

I'm afraid I know exactly what it
means. Sam, Mikaela - slipstream
us back to Earth. I need to talk
to Akaar and Bacco - now.

Off Dax's grave expression...

BLACK OUT

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

23 INT. PALAIS - PRESIDENT'S OFFICE - DAY

President Bacco lean-sits against her large desk, alone and glaring at the main door, Paris at her back and a headache drilling through her eyes. She mutters angrily to herself.

BACCO

Maybe I should set up a meeting with the Department of Temporal Investigations. Get in *Paris One*, do a slingshot around Earth's sun and go back in time. Only about four years or so.

SIVAK (comm)

Madam President, the ambassador has arrived.

Bacco makes her wait. She walks around the desk, sits, straightens her back, tries to look presidential.

BACCO

Send her in, Sivak.

The door is opened by Agent Wexler, and Tholian ambassador TEZRENE skitters in. Wexler remains silently by the door.

Like a crystalline scorpion, four pointed legs and two pincer-like arms, a faceted orange crystal thorax with two shining eyes set into a featureless, neckless head.

All of this is hidden inside a golden silk environment suit that is filled with the super-heated Venus-like atmosphere necessary for Tezrene's survival. Only her face is visible.

As Tezrene approaches her desk, Bacco reaches into a drawer and brings out a handful of the gem-like coins, THROWING them onto the table between them.

BACCO

When were you going to tell us?
(no response)

I gotta give you guys credit. We had no idea you were planning anything, certainly not anything on this scale. But it all makes sense, doesn't it? Why the Breen, Gorn and Tzenkethi were helping the Kinshaya at Krios. Why the Romulans cut off aid. Why DS-Four saw all those ships going in and out of the Typhon Expanse.

The Tholian speaks in metallic screeches, clicks and pops that are translated into a feminine-tinged robotic monotone by the translator unit attached to the front of her suit.

TEZRENE

The formal announcement shall be made in a month's time.

BACCO

Oh, you may want to step that up just a hair, Madam Ambassador. You see, right now my chief of staff is downstairs having a chat with the Palais press liaison. Pretty soon every news source in the Alpha Quadrant will know that the Romulans, Breen, Gorn, Kinshaya, Tzenkethi and yes, even the Tholians have banded together to form the Typhon Pact, complete with shiny new currency.

TEZRENE

Your intelligence gathering skills are better than we expected.

BACCO

I ask you again, Madam Ambassador - when were you going to tell us?

TEZRENE

We are under no obligation to tell you anything. You were to be made aware when our ambassadors were recalled in four weeks' time.

BACCO

So you're declaring war on us?

TEZRENE

No such declaration has been made.

BACCO

Come off it, Ambassador - where do you think we got these gems? They belonged to a Ferengi named Sekki.

Bacco stands, rolls her shoulders, turns to look out the window at Paris, deliberately showing her back to Tezrene.

BACCO

Sekki was doing everything she could to mess with both us and the Klingons. We know everything she did - the only thing we had a hard time figuring out was who paid her to do it. I assume it was you.

TEZRENE

You can prove nothing.

BACCO

True, we can't. But the point is - we know. And it's going to stop.

TEZRENE

It no longer matters. The goal was achieved.

BACCO

(turns back)

Goal? What goal?

TEZRENE

To hurt you, as you hurt us... when you made your deal with the Ferengi to leave us defenceless against the Borg. And as I told you then, the crimes of the Taurus Reach have not been forgotten.

Bacco steps out from behind the desk and faces Tezrene head on - she can even feel the heat emanating from the suit.

BACCO

Okay fine - so I took away your toys when the Borg were invading, and you're still pissed about something that happened a hundred years ago. But what I really want to know, Madam Ambassador, is why your people are a part of this Pact. Playing well with others was never your strong suit.

TEZRENE

Because of you.

BACCO

(blink)

Excuse me?

TEZRENE

The Typhon Pact exists because of you, President Bacco. When you gathered us here to convince us to join your fool's errand at the Azure Nebula, you said we would be stronger together than apart. We realised this was true. But none of us had any desire to subsume ourselves to you or the Klingons. So we formed our own alliance.

Tezrene skitters forwards, pushing closer to Bacco. Behind them both, Wexler tenses, ready to intervene...

TEZRENE

Neither you nor the Klingons are the most powerful nation in this part of space anymore. And if that thought distresses you, then you have only yourself to blame.

BACCO

You didn't answer my question. Why did you join?

TEZRENE

The only alternative was to be surrounded by a heavily armed hostile power. Instead, by joining the Typhon Pact, we have ensured that you are the ones surrounded by a heavily armed hostile power. I suggest you get used to it.

With that, the Tholian rears back, turns around and heads out. Wexler opens the door for her, but stays in the room.

On the verge of exploding, Bacco turns to the desk, scoops up the coins, and HURLS them at the large picture window with a SCREAM of frustration. Wexler steps forward...

WEXLER

Ma'am?

BACCO

It's alright, Steven. Just needed to vent for a second. Didn't help a goddamn bit, either.

(taps desk)

Sivak, get Esperanza and Jorel up here. See if you can track K'mtok down too. Then get Akaar, as well as any members of the security council who are on-planet, and put them all in the Wescott Room. We've got a lot to talk about.

SIVAK (comm)

At once, ma'am.

The line drops, and Bacco slumps into her chair.

BACCO

And then find me a time machine.

24 **EXT. SPACE - EARTH ORBIT**

The *Aventine* holding orbit, with the giant Earth starbase visible plus several freighters and shuttles...

25 INT. AVENTINE - TRANSPORTER ROOM

Bowers and Spon are already there as Dax enters...

BOWERS

Captain. All departing non-coms have disembarked. We're waiting for their replacements now...

DAX

Thanks, Commander. Disappointing to lose ten people and only get five to replace them, though.

BOWERS

I suspect it's going to be that way for a while, sir.

SPON

Starbase signals ready, Captain.

Off Dax's nod, Spon works her panels... and five non-coms of various species and genders TRANSPORT in. Dax steps up.

DAX

Welcome aboard the *Aventine*. I am Captain Ezri Dax, this is first officer Commander Sam Bowers.

BOWERS

If you'll follow me, please, I'll take you to your section chiefs.

Bowers nods acknowledgment to Dax, then walks out into the corridor, as the five new arrivals follow him.

SPON

Captain?

DAX

Yes, Chief?

SPON

There's someone else waiting to beam aboard from the starbase.

DAX

We're not expecting anyone else,
are we?

Spon shakes her head no, but Dax is intrigued, so nods her permission anyway. Spon works the panels...

...and Admiral AKAAR beams in. Dax jumps to attention...

DAX

Admiral!

AKAAR

As you were, Captain.

As Akaar steps down from the platform, Dax turns and nods to Spon, who gets the message and leaves the room.

AKAAR

I wanted to offer my personal thanks, Captain, for the service you and your crew have given the Federation these last few months. Without that help, the Typhon Pact's campaign to destabilise the Khitomer Accords would have been even more successful than it was, and we would have remained unaware of the Pact's existence.

DAX

That's very kind, sir. I'll pass it on to the crew, although your contribution to that effort was also invaluable, Admiral.

Dax smirks, referring to the hints he has given them along the way. Akaar pretends to have no idea what she means.

AKAAR

Nevertheless, I intend to place a commendation in the permanent records of your entire crew.

DAX

We're honoured, Admiral.

AKAAR

In light of that, I felt that I ought to deliver the bad news in person as well...

Akaar turns more solemn... Dax senses the 'but' coming...

26 INT. AVENTINE - TRANSPORTER ROOM

Dax enters the bridge. Bowers stands from the command seat, but as she takes it, he notices her downcast expression...

BOWERS

It's a no, isn't it?

DAX

My request to have *Aventine* go on an exploratory mission is denied. Our next assignment is to deliver medical supplies to P'Jem. They're being loaded aboard right now.

BOWERS

I'm sorry, Captain.

DAX

(shrug)

It was worth a shot. The universe has been around a long time. It'll still be there when we're ready to... look around a bit more.

BOWERS

You're really not disappointed?

DAX

Of course I am, but I've also been around for three centuries, and in all that time, the universe hasn't changed all that much.

BOWERS

Are you kidding? The Federation didn't even exist three centuries ago.

DAX

Sure, the political landscape has changed, but that's minor stuff. I'm talking about the universe, Sam. Don't worry, this too shall pass. And when it does, we'll get to see what's out there.

Dax settles into her command chair, ready to forge ahead.

DAX

Commander Bowers, please confirm with Chief Lessard when the supplies are on board, and then set course for the P'Jem system.

BOWERS

Aye, Captain. Lieutenant Tharp, lay in a course for P'Jem, full impulse out of the Terran system, then take her up to warp four.

THARP

Aye, Commander.

BOWERS

Lieutenant Mirren...

As Bowers continues throwing out orders, Dax smiles at the sight of the stars on the giant viewscreen...

FADE OUT

END OF SHOW