

STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE

11x09 - "The Laughing Policeman."

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    INT. DS9 - SECURITY OFFICE**

Major CENN sits behind the desk, harried and overworked. He has several padds on the desk before him, several screens running various bits of information around him, and a half-finished mug of coffee at his side.

A console beeps - he looks at it, sees what it is, sighs with exhaustion, rubs his brow. Doesn't have time for this. Still, no choice. He taps the control, and an image of VAUGHN, sat in his office, appears on a screen.

CENN

Captain, what can I do for you?

VAUGHN (screen)

I'm still waiting on the criminal activity reports, Major.

CENN

(holds up padd)

I'm actually working on them right now, sir. It's just been difficult to find the time -

VAUGHN (screen)

By the end of the day, please.  
Vaughn out.

And the image drops before Cenn can even reply. Cenn is a bit annoyed by the brusque tone, but what can he do? He gets back to work.

The door opens, and BOWERS strides in from the Promenade. Cenn looks up, bites his tongue. He really doesn't have time or energy for this, but he tries to just go with it.

CENN

Bowers. What can I do for you?

BOWERS

I wanted to schedule some extra hand-to-hand combat drills for the station's security force.

CENN

Okay. But can it wait?

BOWERS

I'd rather it not. After the incident with Ambassador Garak, the captain's eager to beef up our security. I don't want to have to disappoint him.

CENN

No, I guess that wouldn't be good for any of us. What do you need?

Bowers hands him yet another padd to add to the pile.

BOWERS

I've set up a series of training sessions in the holosuites. You need to coordinate your deputies so they can all attend at least two sessions.

CENN

(sigh)

I'll do what I can.

BOWERS

Thank you, Major.

Bowers turns and leaves.

Before Cenn can do anything else, the rear door opens and SEVAK emerges from the cells area.

SEVAK

Major, Mister Ethrakoi wishes you to know that he insists he did nothing wrong. Also, that we will most certainly regret falsely imprisoning him.

CENN

Sevak, if you weren't a Vulcan I'd swear you were deliberately trying to drive me insane.

SEVAK

The two are not necessarily mutually exclusive, Major.

Cenn can't help but smirk a little. Vulcan humour. Bless.

CENN

You can tell Mister Ethrakoi that breaking into his ex-wife's room to retrieve their wedding dowry from around her neck while she slept might not be against the rules where he comes from, but we tend to frown on it here. He can stay where he is.

SEVAK

I shall relay the message.

Sevak turns to return to the cells. But before he can get very far, a huge booming LAUGH sounds out on the Promenade. Sevak raises an eyebrow, Cenn is equally intrigued. Cenn gets up and looks out of the glass doors.

#### **CENN'S POV**

Outside at the replimat, PRYNN, NOG and BASHIR sit together at a table. RO, QUARK and a new face stand with them, all chatting MOS. Someone says something funny, and everyone laughs - it's the new guy who has the huge booming laugh.

Cenn scans the new arrival over. He's male, Bajoran, dark-skinned. Older, approx 50s, still in decent shape but with greying hair. A Starfleet officer, in security gold and Lt Cmdr's pips, which glint next to the Bajoran earring.

Again with the big boisterous laugh. The new guy is jolly, friendly, personable. Cenn frowns, unimpressed.

CENN  
Sevak... who's this?

Sevak joins Cenn at the door, looks out with him.

SEVAK  
I am not familiar, sir.

CENN  
Whoever he is, apparently he's got  
time to stand around being  
everyone's best friend. Some of us  
have work to do.

SEVAK  
You appear to be under strain,  
Major. Perhaps a short period of  
meditation would help.

CENN  
Ha - I wish. I don't have time to  
meditate, Sevak.

SEVAK  
Very well.

Sevak leaves for the cells. With a harrumph, Cenn returns  
to his desk.

As he picks up a padd, the LAUGH comes again, and Cenn  
grits his teeth in annoyance. He swivels his chair, turning  
his back on the door, trying to concentrate.

After a moment the main door OPENS again, and Cenn swivels,  
about to give whoever it is a piece of his mind...

...and knocks the cup of coffee FLYING across the room.  
Coffee spills everywhere - the desk, the walls, the padds.

As he panics and starts rescuing padds, Ro and the new guy  
stand in the doorway, stopped at the sudden chaos.

CENN  
Damn it damn it damn it...

Cenn dashes to a hidden mini-closet by the replicator and grabs a fistful of paper towels. The newcomer rushes to grab some too, helping to mop up the mess.

EVIK

Our fault entirely, let me help.

RO

(smirk)

Having a good day, Major?

CENN

Let's see. I've got Vaughn in one ear chasing the criminal activity reports, Lenaris in the other ear wanting liaison officer reports, both of which I'll probably have to start again now, plus there's Bowers wanting to schedule more drills, people breaking into quarters, Quark still pestering me about the puppies...

The mopping up is mostly finished. He angrily throws the wet towels into the reclamator, dissolves them, then turns back to the others with a harassed sigh.

CENN

To answer your question, no. I'm not having a good day.

RO

I may be able to help with that. Major Cenn Desca, please meet Lieutenant Commander Evik Nath.

The two men shake hands. EVIK is quite warm and friendly. Cenn still isn't quite sure who the hell this guy is.

EVIK

I'm very glad to meet you, Major.

CENN

Likewise.

EVIK

Not to add any more pressure, but I will be relying on you fairly heavily to get me up to speed over the next few days.

CENN

I'm sorry, perhaps I'm missing something... but what exactly am I supposed to be helping you with? Who are you?

Evik looks to Ro, confused - Cenn doesn't know?

RO

Oh, I'm sorry, Major, I thought you knew. Commander Evik is going to be the station's new chief of security.

EVIK

I'm here to relieve you, Major.

Evik is perfectly polite and friendly about this.

But Cenn's jaw drops, stunned. Has he just been fired?

FADE OUT:

**END OF TEASER**

**ACT ONE**

FADE IN:

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

The usual establishing shot, tight on Ops.

**3 INT. DS9 - CAPTAIN'S OFFICE**

Vaughn reaches out to shake Evik's hand.

VAUGHN

Welcome aboard, Commander.

EVIK

Thank you, Captain. Glad to be here.

VAUGHN

Please...

Vaughn gestures over to the couch area of the office. Evik, Vaughn, Ro and Cenn all head that way and take their seats.

VAUGHN

If I may say, it's about time Starfleet got their act together and assigned somebody here. I made the request months ago.

EVIK

I do apologise for the delay, Captain. But I was completing the advanced training courses at Starfleet Tactical.

VAUGHN

(excited)

Really! That's wonderful news. I actually helped design that course myself.

EVIK

And an excellent course it was,  
Captain. Certainly challenging and  
instructive, but fair.

VAUGHN

(grin)

I see you completed the advanced  
flattery course as well. In fact  
Commander Ro here was also a  
student of that course. You two  
should have plenty to talk about.

RO

Is Rear-Admiral Shoji still doing  
the relative ethics lectures?

EVIK

Oh, they'll prise that lectern out  
of his cold, dead hands.

Vaughn, Ro and Evik all laugh warmly together. Cenn does  
not - he's left out of that particular joke.

EVIK

In fact, the Commander and I have  
more in common even than that.  
We've actually met before.

RO

We have?

EVIK

We lived together - on the Valo  
Two colony.

RO

You're from Valo Two?!

EVIK

Born and bred. And I remember you  
quite clearly. Who would have ever  
thought such a disobedient,  
disagreeable young woman would  
eventually become my commanding  
officer?

VAUGHN

(smirk)

I think you'll find she's just as disagreeable as ever.

RO

Hey!

All this playful good humour does nothing to lighten Cenn's mood. He's busy grinding his teeth in annoyance...

VAUGHN

Major Cenn...

(Cenn jerks  
to attention)

It'll be your job over the next week or so to introduce Commander Evik to the station and its ways.

CENN

Aye, sir.

VAUGHN

It'll be good to finally have a dedicated security chief again.

CENN

(gritted teeth)

Aye, sir.

VAUGHN

Alright then! Thanks for coming, Commander. Call me or Ro if you need anything. And good luck.

EVIK

(stands,  
shakes hands)

Thank you, Captain.

Vaughn returns to his desk, and Ro and Evik head for the door, with Cenn ignored and left to follow in their wake as an afterthought.

RO  
(to Evik)  
Do you know if you're free for  
lunch? I'd love to hear some of  
your Valo Two stories...

Ending on Cenn's reaction to that...

**4**    **EXT. SISKO'S HOUSE**

Establishing the Sisko homestead in the Kendra valley.

**5**    **INT. SISKO'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM**

JAKE grasps his sister REBECCA's smaller hand. RENA stands nearby, with SISKO and KASIDY with them.

SISKO  
You're sure you don't mind?

JAKE  
Of course not. We're happy to  
help. You two deserve some time  
alone together, and I deserve some  
time with my baby sister. Don't I,  
Rebecca?

REBECCA  
I guess.

KASIDY  
(playful scolding)  
Rebecca! Don't be rude.

SISKO  
So what are you going to do?

RENA  
We thought we'd take her for a  
walk along the river banks, do  
some nature spotting. I'm sure  
there must be something gross and  
disgusting to discover.

JAKE

And then head back into Adarak for some early dinner.

KASIDY

Just keep an eye on her. This contrary little madam loves to run off when you're not looking.

RENA

Don't worry. She'll be fine.

JAKE

Come on, then, Rebecca! May as well get started. That mud isn't going to splash itself.

REBECCA

Yay!

SISKO

See you later, Jake-o. And thanks again.

JAKE

No problem, Dad. Bye!

Jake, Rena and Rebecca head out of the back door.

Alone now, Sisko and Kasidy stand about, not sure what to do with themselves. Uncomfortable pauses.

KASIDY

Shall I make a drink?

SISKO

That would be nice, thanks.

Kasidy nods and heads into the kitchen to stick the 24<sup>th</sup> century equivalent of the kettle on. Sisko hovers in the living room, straightening pictures, fluffing cushions.

After a few moments, there's a KNOCK on the door. Sisko looks to Kasidy, hesitant. She looks back.

KASIDY

Well, go on then.

Sisko heads to the door and opens it. There stands Prylar EIVOS (last seen 10x20 "In the Stars").

SISKO

Prylar! Please, come on in. It's good to see you again.

EIVOS

It's entirely my pleasure, I assure you, Emissary.

Eivos enters. Sisko closes the door, then takes his coat.

SISKO

Please, Prylar. Call me Benjamin.

EIVOS

Then I insist you call me Calan.

KASIDY

Cup of tea, Prylar?

EIVOS

That would be superb, thank you.

Kasidy brings three mugs of steaming tea through from the kitchen and places them on the coffee table. At Sisko's invitation, Eivos takes a seat in the centre.

Kasidy and Sisko both sit too, notably not together. They are on opposite sides of the seating area, with Eivos in between them.

SISKO

I just want to say again that we really appreciate you doing this for us, Calan. Kas and I both agree that we trust you to help us through this.

EIVOS

It's my privilege to help any way  
I can, Emis-... Benjamin. Shall we  
begin?

Sisko and Kasidy both take a deep breath and nod.

EIVOS

Now, as I recall, last time we  
were discussing the resentment you  
felt towards your husband, Kasidy,  
for his absence during your  
pregnancy. Have you had any  
further thoughts on that?

They're having marriage counselling. As Kasidy prepares...

**6**    **INT. DS9 - QUARK'S BAR**

Across the bar, Ro and Evik sit together at a table over  
lunch. They are both laughing at some anecdote or other,  
Evik's big booming laugh audible clear across the room.

Cenn sits at the bar, jaw tense, trying not to watch.

QUARK is in the midst of serving someone else, but he has  
time to side-eye Cenn on the way past.

QUARK

I'd thought you'd given up pining  
for unattainable women, Major.

CENN

What? No, that's not -

QUARK

Well, I know you're certainly  
upset over something. Those  
shoulders are screaming it so loud  
a Ramatan could hear it.

CENN

Ramatans are deaf.

Quark stops and sighs. Yes, that was the point.

QUARK

So if it's not Ro, what is it? The new guy?

CENN

Lieutenant Commander Evik Nath.  
New chief of station security.

QUARK

That who he is? I was wondering.

CENN

You didn't know? You seemed to be getting on well enough with him this morning, out on the Promenade.

QUARK

(shrug)

He didn't sneer down his nose at me with loathing and disdain the moment he met me. I like that in a person.

(beat)

So there's another new security chief, eh? Bad news for me. I only just got you broken in.

Cenn snaps another angry look at Quark, but lets it go with a frustrated shake of the head. Quark can see he's tense.

QUARK

So if he's taking over security, what are you doing?

CENN

Back to Ops, I guess.

QUARK

Liaison officer?

CENN

(nods)

I've been shuffled back and forth from security to Ops, to security, to Ops, to security, and now back to Ops again. I'm getting dizzy.

QUARK

Then be glad it's settled once and for all. You'll finally have time to rest and relax. Maybe try out a holosuite once in a while.

CENN

I don't want to try out a holosuite, Quark!

QUARK

What has gotten into you? You've always been tightly wound, but you're about to vibrate right off the station.

CENN

(grits teeth)

I'm fine.

QUARK

Like hell you are. Talk to me, Major. Think of me as your counsellor. Unburden yourself.

Cenn pouts some more. He's almost embarrassed to admit it.

CENN

She never invited me to lunch.

QUARK

And why do you think that is?

CENN

She doesn't like me.

QUARK

Well you're a tough nut to crack, Major. You don't let people in. You lived on this station for,

what - three, four months before  
you even ventured into my bar.

CENN

(quiet)

Too many aliens. Wasn't used to  
it.

QUARK

And the thing is, she's the same.  
She doesn't let people in either.

CENN

(re Evik)

She let him in quick enough.

QUARK

Apparently they have history. Or,  
just maybe, something to consider,  
maybe his very first words to her  
weren't yelling obscenities about  
not being a real Bajoran.

CENN

(ashamed)

She told you about that?

QUARK

I'm a good listener. Now you  
listen, Major. If you want people  
to like you, maybe try actually  
being likeable. You'd be amazed at  
the response you get.

Cenn absorbs that. He's probably right. But damn it, Cenn  
is in a bad mood.

CENN

It's not just that. I don't trust  
him.

QUARK

Why not?

CENN

Nobody's that happy and smiley all  
the time. He's hiding something.  
He's not what he seems.

QUARK

Really...? Keep talking, Major.  
I'm all ears.

Intrigued, Quark leans across the bar. Cenn gives a nasty  
smile, happy to dish some dirt to a co-conspirator...

FADE OUT:

**END OF ACT ONE**

**ACT TWO**

FADE IN:

**7 INT. SISKO'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM**

With shaking hand, a mug of tea is picked up from the table and brought to Kasidy's mouth. It's a delaying tactic.

KASIDY

It's not that I don't know why you did it. In purely rational terms, it makes perfect sense. But it's just... a marriage, and a baby... they're not rational things. They're emotional things. And I can't help feeling...

EIVOS

Go on. It's okay.

KASIDY

(deep breath)

I can't help feeling that you chose them over me.

EIVOS

Benjamin? What's your response to that?

Kasidy looks across the room to where Sisko sits. She's afraid she's hurt him. He takes his time, speaks carefully.

SISKO

You always talk, Kasidy, as if there's a distinction there. I don't see one. I never chose to protect the Bajorans over you, because there's no difference. Anything bad that happened to them would have happened to you too. I was trying to protect everybody, you included.

KASIDY

But... to do that, you had to  
leave me. Twice.

SISKO  
It's not like I wanted to.

KASIDY  
I know that. But you don't seem -

EIVOS  
(gently)  
Kasidy... remember what we said.  
Talk about yourself. Explain your  
feelings. Don't try to speak for  
him.

KASIDY  
(nods, regroupes)  
I know, on an intellectual level,  
that you wouldn't have chosen to  
leave us if you didn't feel you  
had no other choice. But I can't  
ever know, really know that, at a  
gut level. I keep thinking, what  
if there was another way... and  
you chose not to take it?

SISKO  
(quietly shocked)  
You really think I would do that?

KASIDY  
My brain says no. But my heart...  
all it knows is that time after  
time, for the greater good... I  
watched you walk away from me.

SISKO  
You always knew that might happen.  
I'm a Starfleet officer.

KASIDY  
It's not the same.

SISKO

It is! It's all about serving something bigger than yourself. It makes no difference whether it's Starfleet or the Prophets.

KASIDY

Of course it makes a difference!  
My God, Ben -

EIVOS

Now, hold on. Everyone take a deep breath. Let's not let our emotions get out of hand. We can be honest without accusing. Kasidy, try to start again.

Kasidy uses the tea to cover a moment to gather her wits.

KASIDY

It does make a difference, Ben.  
Starfleet is what you trained for,  
what you swore an oath to. Bajor's  
just...

She looks to Eivos, unwilling to admit to this...

EIVOS

Go ahead. You won't offend me.

KASIDY

Alright. Bajor... isn't worth what  
you're willing to give it, Ben.  
Your life. Your family. It doesn't  
deserve it.

On Sisko's reaction to that...

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

Re-establishing, tight on the Promenade.

**9     INT. DS9 - BAJORAN SHRINE**

The rebuilt shrine, fully refurbished and repaired. Service is in full swing, with a fairly heavy crowd. Flickering candles, flaming braziers, wafting incense. Vedek CAPRIL, the station's resident priest, stands at the front leading the ceremony, and the all-Bajoran crowd pay rapt attention.

The crowd kneels in rows on cushions. Among them is Cenn, relaxed and peaceful among his fellow worshippers.

CAPRIL

Tolata imparā no takash...

(translated)

With humility and gratitude, we  
accept this gift...

Capril turns to face the Orb sanctuary behind him. An acolyte presses the control, and the force field drops. Cenn smiles serenely as the Orb is now available to them.

CAPRIL

...Veshanoo yavar ha iklasa...

(translated)

...the sacred Orb of Unity.

The acolytes ring the prayer chimes, swing the incense burners. Cenn feels soothed, relaxed by it all. Capril turns back to the crowd.

CAPRIL

This may not be the true Orb of  
Unity, my children. Only a  
representation. But I chose to use  
its image today in the hopes of  
bringing that very concept to the  
fore of our thoughts.

(beat)

We live in what could be called  
confusing times. We have many  
options before us, and the path  
each of us is meant to walk is  
often unclear. But this Tear of  
the Prophets is named for perhaps  
the most important principle They  
have to teach us.

(with emphasis)

We are Bajorans. No matter what divides us now, or what may divide us in the future, that is what unites us. And that is what the Prophets want us to hold to. Faith can take many forms. But it should never be a source of fear or anger. Always of unity.

(beat)

Pray with me, my children.

Cenn has listened to the vedek's sermon with interest, trying his best to take its lessons to heart.

Capril begins to softly chant.

CAPRIL

Yelim cha ono... tarnah purono  
dhar jeek... teram far che...  
yavar ha iklasa...

The crowd all close their eyes and join in. After a moment, Cenn joins them too.

CROWD

Yelim cha ono... tarnah purono  
dhar jeek... teram far che...  
yavar ha iklasa... Yelim cha  
ono... tarnah purono dhar jeek...  
teram far che... yavar ha  
iklasa...

There is a scuffle from the back of the room. The sound of an angry whispered voice, trying to be quiet, and failing.

**CENN**

tries his best to ignore it, to continue with the chanting. He centres himself, concentrates.

CENN

Yelim cha ono... tarnah purono  
dhar jeek... teram far che...  
yavar ha iklasa...

But the voice comes again, louder and angrier this time.

ARAN (o.s.)

I said no!

Heads turn to look towards the back. Cenn does not - he grits his teeth and tries to focus. But there's definitely an argument happening towards the back of the shrine.

ARAN (o.s.)

Just go, will you? You're not welcome here!

LENNIS (o.s.)

I have as much right to be here as you. This is my shrine just as much as it is yours.

Disturbed from his prayers, Capril keeps his patience, remains diplomatic.

CAPRIL

My children, we are at prayer. This is not the time or place for disagreements.

The general mood of the crowd seems to agree with the vedek. But ARAN stands up, angry and pointing.

ARAN

Forgive me, Vedek. But the fact that we are at prayer is exactly the point.

Whispered admonishments of "Shut up!" But Aran doesn't back down. He points angrily at LENNIS, sat in the next row, trying to keep his head down and mind his own business.

ARAN

This man has no right to be here. This is our shrine.

WOMAN

Aran...

ARAN

No! I've had enough of this, I'm not going to put up with it. He doesn't belong here.

CAPRIL

By what possible measure could you say that, child?

ARAN

I've seen him around. I know what he is. He's an Oralian.

(w/ disgust)

A Cardassian-lover.

Some more angry whispers among the crowd. Lennis is scared, sad, disappointed. He's been through this before.

CAPRIL

Is this true, sir?

Lennis stands on shaky legs, everyone looking at him.

LENNIS

Yes. I follow the Oralian Way. So what? I have as much right to be here as any of you.

At the front, Cenn tenses. For Prophet's sake, why does there always have to be troublemakers? Reluctantly, he stands up, straightens his uniform, begins to walk between the rows, towards the two men.

CENN

Alright, that's enough. You two are disturbing the service, and I'm going to have to ask you both to leave. Now.

ARAN

Me?! He's the one disturbing the service, not me.

LENNIS

I was just sitting here, minding my own business, bothering no-one. You're the one who couldn't keep your mouth shut during prayers.

ARAN

You don't even believe in the Prophets. Why would you want to be here? Go find your own shrine and leave us in peace.

LENNIS

Major, I have done nothing. I was just sitting here like everyone else. You should throw out this bigoted ass, not me.

ARAN

Don't call me a bigot, deviant.

LENNIS

You don't like being called a bigot, try not being a bigot.

CAPRIL

My children, please! Control yourselves.

CENN

That's it, you're done, both of you. You're under arrest for disturbing the peace.

Cenn grabs Lennis's arm - Lennis throws it off angrily.

LENNIS

Get off me.

CENN

Are you resisting arrest?

LENNIS

When that arrest is unjust, damn right I am.

Cenn grabs Lennis again, more forcefully this time. He begins to drag him out of the shrine.

ARAN

That's right, just slither back to your Cardassian friends and get out of here.

LENNIS

(over shoulder)

And why don't you crawl back into your cave, where you can pretend everything is just like you.

That does it. With Cenn's back turned, Aran stalks after them both, drawing back a clenched FIST, ready to strike.

There's a gasp from the crowd, Cenn turns...

But before Aran can punch either one of them, his hand is caught in mid-air...

...by Evik. The Starfleet officer has appeared out of nowhere. He grabs Aran's arm, TWISTS it tightly behind his back and has the man secured and neutralized in seconds.

Cenn stands there, caught by surprise.

EVIK

You heard the Major. You're both under arrest.

CENN

(sneer)

I had this under control, Mister Evik. I don't need your help.

EVIK

Nevertheless, you have it, Major. Shall we? And let the vedek get back to his sermon?

Evik begins to lead the struggling Aran out of the shrine. Cenn follows, bringing Lennis along.

Ending on Cenn, absolutely furious with Evik...

FADE OUT:

**END OF ACT TWO**

**ACT THREE**

FADE IN:

**10 INT. DS9 - SECURITY CELLS**

Cenn leads Lennis the Oralian into one of the cells. Lennis sits calmly, but he's not backing down.

LENNIS

This is unjustified, Major. You know that. It's unfair.

CENN

You were involved in an altercation in a public place. You'll stay here until the matter is resolved one way or the other.

Cenn activates the forcefield and turns away as if business is done. But Lennis calls after him. Cenn stops to listen.

LENNIS

I'm not the bad guy here, Major. I'll grant you I gave up the moral high ground in there for a moment. But even you can see I was provoked.

CENN

Well, what did you expect? You had to know that an Oralian in the Bajoran shrine would upset someone.

LENNIS

Ah, now I'm not even a Bajoran. Perhaps you need to listen to Vedek Capril's sermon again.

Cenn catches on his own words. He stops and tries again.

CENN

Of course you're a Bajoran. But Aran had a point. Why do you even

want to come to our shrine? You don't believe what we believe.

LENNIS

So? If I want to spend some time worshipping the Fates, shouldn't I be allowed to do that? Where else am I supposed to go?

CENN

Look... you Oraliens, Ohalavaru, all of you. You can believe what you want. I don't even care. But why do you have to do it here? You've got your Oralian temple in Janir. Go there, and then you wouldn't have all this trouble.

LENNIS

I don't live in Janir, Major. I live here, the same as you do. Pushing us out of sight so you don't have to think about us won't stop us from existing.

Pondering that, Cenn turns and leaves.

**11 INT. DS9 - BAJORAN SHRINE**

The service is over. The acolytes are tidying up, stacking the pillows away, dousing the flaming braziers, etc. Vedek Capril and Lt Cmdr Evik stroll together through the room.

EVIK

Is this a common occurrence?

CAPRIL

Sadly, not uncommon. And it seems to have been getting less uncommon in recent months. It's the whole reason I chose that sermon to begin with - to try to foster unity among the flock. Clearly my work is unfinished.

(beat)

I don't believe I've seen you at service before, Commander.

EVIK

I only arrived today. I didn't realise I was arriving in the middle of a war zone.

CAPRIL

Oh, I'm sure that's overstating it. But there have been divisions in Bajor's spiritual life, ever since the end of the war. Even I have strayed from the true path of the Prophets - my behaviour has not always been as it should. I've tried to make up for it. But there is always more to be done.

EVIK

I'm going to consult with the captain on possible solutions. But you must promise to call me immediately if anything like this should happen again.

CAPRIL

Oh, I will. You can be sure of that. Thank you, Commander. I'm glad you've joined us.

Evik nod-bows politely, and leaves the shrine.

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

Re-establishing, tight on Ops.

**13 INT. DS9 - CAPTAIN'S OFFICE**

Vaughn is behind the desk, annoyed at yet another crisis. Ro, Cenn and Evik stand before the desk.

VAUGHN

So what happened this time?

CENN

A small civilian disturbance, sir.  
Nothing out of the ordinary.

VAUGHN

Really? Then how come every time I  
hear the word 'shrine' lately, I  
brace for the worst?

CENN

It's the focus of spiritual life  
on the station, sir. It's bound to  
draw passions. Especially with...  
things as they are now.

VAUGHN

Getting suicide-bombed by an  
Ascendant. An assassination  
attempt right on the doorstep. And  
now a fist-fight between two  
worshippers during a service.

RO

Don't forget the Ohalu protest a  
couple of years ago. Or the *pagh*-  
Wraith cultists during the war,  
for that matter.

VAUGHN

Thanks for the reminder.

(to Cenn and Evik)

This cannot go on, gentlemen. So  
what are we going to do about it?

EVIK

Captain, mister Lennis was quite  
within his rights to enter the  
shrine. It's a public space, open  
to everyone.

CENN

(mutter)

You would think that.

Evik looks askance - what did he do to deserve that?

VAUGHN  
(darkly)  
I beg your pardon, Major?

CENN  
Nothing.

VAUGHN  
That's right.

CENN  
Just that... with all due respect,  
the Lieutenant Commander has been  
with us for less than a day. I  
don't think he's in any position  
to decide this matter. He doesn't  
know the subtleties of life on the  
station. How could he?

VAUGHN  
Well, I seem to recall telling you  
this morning that it was your job  
to get the Lieutenant Commander up  
to speed on such things. If you  
think he's not ready, whose fault  
is that?

Cenn has to bite off an angry retort to that.

CENN  
Perhaps it has something to do  
with there only being twenty-six  
hours in the day, Captain. And me  
doing the work of two men and  
getting the appreciation of none.

Vaughn and Cenn are both staring daggers, neither backing  
down. Ro decides she needs to break the tension.

RO  
(breezy)  
Alright, I think we'll end the  
meeting there. Thank you, Major,  
Commander. Please report back when

you've come up with some suggestions. You're dismissed.

An escape hatch - Cenn is only too happy to take it. He and Evik both turn towards the doors and exit out onto Ops.

**14    INT. DS9 - MAIN OPS CENTRE**

Cenn and Evik both walk across Ops in silence. They step onto the turbolift, Cenn refusing to even look at Evik. Evik is just wondering what the hell is going on here. Obviously Cenn is pissed, but he has no idea why.

**15    INT. DS9 - CAPTAIN'S OFFICE**

With the other two gone, Ro turns to Vaughn.

RO  
What the hell?

VAUGHN  
I couldn't agree more. The Major has always been difficult, but he's verging on insubordination.

RO  
If you ask me, you gave as good as you got.

VAUGHN  
I beg your pardon?

RO  
You've been in a bad mood for weeks. You were tough on Prynn, tough on Candlewood, now tough on Cenn. What is going on?

VAUGHN  
Am I, or am I not, the captain?

RO  
Yes, and it's the captain's job to build a relationship of trust and mutual support with his officers.

VAUGHN  
Actually, I think you'll find  
that's the first officer's job.  
You're dismissed, Commander.

Alright, if that's how he wants it, that's fine. Ro leaves.

**16    INT. SISKO'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM**

Sisko and Kasidy sit where they were, separated across the living room. The seat between them is empty, but we can hear Eivos pootling around in the kitchen, off-screen.

Neither speak. Sisko is distressed, feeling under attack. Kasidy is remorseful, knowing she put him there.

Finally Eivos reappears, carrying a tray with the mugs of tea refilled and a plate of cookies. Kasidy and Sisko both get up to help him...

EIVOS  
Sit. I've told you both before, I  
refuse to be waited on. Now do as  
you're told.

They both sit back down again, smirking, knowing he's only joking with them. That a Bajoran priest could joke with the Emissary like that - it puts them at ease. Eivos sits, passes the mugs out, hands the cookies around.

EIVOS  
Alright. Kasidy has made some  
fairly large statements. How do  
you respond to them, Benjamin?

SISKO  
Frankly... I think she's being a  
little unfair. I know that the  
things I've done have hurt her.  
I'm sorry for that, God knows I'm  
sorry. But I never lied to her  
about why I did those things. And  
I'd hoped she could understand...  
and forgive me.

KASIDY

I try, Ben. I try. But I guess it's easier said than done. I know you've explained. So did Elias. And Nerys, and Opaka. And you all make sense. But... none of it justifies the man I love sacrificing his life and leaving our baby without a father.

SISKO

I explained everything the best way I know how. If that's not enough... then I don't know what else to do. What else to say.

KASIDY

Maybe there isn't anything.

EIVOS

I don't believe that's true. The day you stop talking is the day this is over. That's not what either of you wants. Is it?

KASIDY / SISKO

No...

EIVOS

Then find those words. I'm not talking about accommodation or compromise. Those imply giving something up. I'm talking about unity. There will always be differences. Find them, embrace them, celebrate them. The power to save this relationship is in your hands. No-one else is going to do it if you don't.

(beat)

So can you do that?

As Kasidy and Sisko ponder Eivos's words...

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

**ACT FOUR**

FADE IN:

**17    INT. DS9 - SECURITY OFFICE**

The door opens and Cenn and Evik both stride in from the Promenade - Cenn petulant, Evik confused, both silent.

Evik heads around one side of the desk, Cenn around the other, both heading for the security chief's chair. When they both reach for it and realise, they stop.

The glare on Cenn's face is unmistakable. He turns away, folds his arms. Evik also steps back from the chair, leaving that apparent sore point for another time.

EVIK

Major Cenn, we've been tasked with solving the shrine problem before it escalates into a full-blown crisis. We can't do that if you refuse to talk to me.

CENN

What do you need me for? I'm sure you can handle it all by yourself, with all your fancy tactical training.

EVIK

(deep breath)

You're right that I'm new here, clearly. I need your expertise to defuse this situation. Are you refusing to give it?

CENN

Not my job anymore, is it?

EVIK

I understood that all matters concerning the station's Bajoran civilian population are exactly your job. Not to mention that

we've just been assigned joint  
responsibility by Commander Ro.

CENN

You would take her side.

EVIK

Her side? Major, I have no clue  
what you're talking about.

CENN

Well, you're instant soulmates,  
aren't you? Neither of you grew up  
on Bajor.

EVIK

And that's relevant how?

CENN

It means you don't understand.  
What it's like, to be a real  
Bajoran. How we actually live.

EVIK

So... because I grew up on Valo  
Two, I'm not a real Bajoran. I'm  
pretty sure I am Bajoran, Major.  
You can check my medical file if  
you want proof.

CENN

You know what I'm talking about.

EVIK

I really, really don't.

CENN

You're not from here. You're not  
one of us.

EVIK

Then what am I? Enlighten me.

CENN

(sneer)

You're Starfleet.

Evik stands back, gazes at Cenn with absolute astonishment. Like he's some kind of newly discovered life form.

EVIK

The sheer disgust in your voice, Major. If that's how you feel about Starfleet officers, why do you work with them?

That takes the wind out of Cenn's sails just a little.

CENN

I don't hate Starfleet officers. But we're right here. The Militia is right here.

EVIK

And because I chose Starfleet instead, I'm not a real Bajoran, is that right?

CENN

Look, I'm not saying -

EVIK

Ah, but you are. That's exactly what you're saying. And I'm not sure where you're getting it all from. I'm as Bajoran as you are.

CENN

Then why did you turn your back on us?!

EVIK

(laugh of surprise)

I didn't! You think that because I grew up on Valo Two, I didn't care about Bajor? Didn't suffer from the Cardassian occupation? I grew up with the same poverty, the same hunger, the same sense of indignation you did. And yet now I find out that serving the

Federation, the same entity that welcomed us into an interstellar brotherhood and fought a war to protect us, is somehow turning my back on Bajor. News to me.

Evik turns, paces, hands to his head in exasperation.

EVIK

I don't even know how we got onto this topic! I thought we were supposed to be discussing the problems in the shrine.

CENN

That is what we're discussing. It's a Bajoran shrine, Starfleet has no place in it.

EVIK

Did you even listen to the sermon? About the Orb of Unity?

CENN

It's a place of faith, of belief. We worship the Prophets, not the Starfleet C-in-C.

EVIK

So now I'm not faithful either. This is a very educational conversation for me, Major.

CENN

I'm just saying that in my experience, following the path of the Prophets and serving in Starfleet are not compatible.

EVIK

How so?

CENN

Look at Kira. She tried for two years to make it work, and it just

doesn't. She had to quit Starfleet to be able to follow the Prophets like she should.

EVIK

Ro's in Starfleet.

CENN

And she's a total atheist. Not a faithful bone in her body.

EVIK

Wow. And you say that like it makes her instantly unworthy of respect. I find it hard to credit that you've worked among these people for so long if this is how you feel about them.

CENN

I just don't grasp how anyone couldn't believe in something. How do you people like you get through the day?

EVIK

People like me? Or people like Mister Lennis? Don't think I didn't notice you arrested him first instead of Mister Aran.

CENN

He shouldn't have been there.

EVIK

Because he doesn't believe in the Prophets.

CENN

Yes!

EVIK

And neither do I.

CENN

Right!

EVIK

Wrong. I do follow the Prophets,  
Major. Not that I owe you any  
justifications. So can I join your  
exclusive real-Bajorans-only club  
now? Am I allowed?

CENN

That's not -

EVIK

Let me make sure I've got this. I  
can only use the shrine if I was  
born on Bajor like you, serve the  
Militia like you, follow the same  
version of the Prophets as you...  
anything I've missed?

Cenn grits his teeth in annoyance - Evik has talked him  
into a corner. Evik remains patient, polite, encouraging.

EVIK

Do you hear how you sound, Major?  
If we don't find a way to make all  
these variations work together,  
the shrine will only explode all  
over again.

CENN

(no answer)

Fine. Let's just get on with it.  
Then you can get on with taking  
over my job.

Evik sighs, rubs his forehead. He's getting a headache.

EVIK

I apologise if I've stepped on  
your toes, Major. But -

CENN

If you've what?

EVIK

Sorry, human phrase. I'm saying that it was my understanding that you were assigned to this station as the Starfleet-Militia liaison. You were only filling in as security chief until I was available. I'm not taking over your job, because it was never your job in the first place.

CENN

How would you like a stranger walking into your office and telling you you're fired?

EVIK

You're not fired, Major. You're simply free to return to the job you were supposed to be doing. The job you clearly have a great passion for.

CENN

Are you saying I'm not capable of being security chief?

EVIK

(exasperated)

You said you weren't capable of it! The moment we met, you were complaining about having too much to do. You yelled at the captain that you were doing the work of two men. Now you have two men, and you're still complaining!

CENN

So you are taking Ro's side.

EVIK

I rather assumed we were all on the same side, Major. Despite that you seem determined to prove otherwise.

CENN

Excuse me if we can't all fake a giant smile and pretend to be everyone's best friend like you.

EVIK

Fake...? Prophets' sake, Major, why are you so determined to pick a fight with me? What have I done to annoy you so much in so short a time?

CENN

Oh I don't know... sucking up to the captain as soon as you walk in the door, lunch with the XO on your first day, even Quark likes you...

EVIK

Am I not allowed to be friendly now? The three of us have things in common. Why shouldn't I use that to bond with my commanding officers?

CENN

I'm sure I must have things in common with them to. But I never "used" that to bond with them.

EVIK

And whose fault is that?

Again, Cenn has no good answer or argument. It annoys him. In the meantime, Evik has come to a realisation.

EVIK

That's the problem here, isn't it? That's what you're really angry about - that I'm happy. That I have all these supposed contradictions, and yet somehow I make it all work. I'm not the neurotic mess you assume someone like me would have to be.

CENN

Well, I'm sorry. But it's not so easy for me.

EVIK

(chuckle)

Easy? It's been anything but. At least I don't go out of my way to make it harder. I've had the same struggles as anyone, Major. But I see no reason to dwell on them.

CENN

How can you not?

EVIK

Why would I want to? Think about something, Major. If I did keep all these parts of my life, of my history, in conflict with each other... Who does that help? Certainly not me. So what would be the point?

Cenn is quiet, pondering everything Evik is saying.

EVIK

In the same vein, no good can come of letting the shrine fall into internal conflict. We are all Bajorans, Major. We can have done all the things we've done, be all the things we are... and still laugh.

(beat)

So shall we work on this, together?

Ending on Evik's smiling, hopeful face...

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT FOUR

**ACT FIVE**

FADE IN:

**18 EXT. SSKO'S HOUSE**

Evening has come to the Sisko house in the Kendra valley.

**19 INT. SSKO'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM**

The counselling session has wound down. Eivos is on his feet, collecting the mugs and plates, shuttling them back to the kitchen. As he returns...

EIVOS

It's time I was on my way. If I'm not back before it turns dark, Audj will get anxious.

KASIDY

Why? Does she think you're in danger after dark?

EIVOS

Prophets, no. She'll just think I'm talking your ears off.

They all chuckle together. Sisko grabs Eivos' coat and offers it to him. That done, Eivos takes them both by the hand and makes sure he has their attention.

EIVOS

Now - I've given you both some things to think about. And you've given each other some things to think about. So think about them.

Sisko and Kasidy both nod.

EIVOS (cont)

But the most important thing to remember is what I said earlier - talk. And keep talking. Do you understand?

SISKO

Yes, we do. Thank you, Calan.

EIVOS

You're very welcome, Benjamin. And Kasidy. Till next time, then.

With a warm smile, Eivos turns and exits the house. Sisko and Kasidy take a deep breath, centre themselves.

KASIDY

Alright then. I think that went well, don't you?

SISKO

Certainly could have been worse.

KASIDY

And how do you feel?

SISKO

Better... I think. You?

KASIDY

Better. Do you think we're going to be able to do what he said? Do you think we're gonna get through this, Ben?

SISKO

I intend to make sure of it.

Smiling, they lean in together and KISS. Just then there's a KNOCK at the back door, and Jake, Rena and Rebecca enter.

JAKE

Hello hello! Anybody home?

Jake has noticed that Sisko and Kasidy were just kissing. He sighs a smile of relief to see it. Meanwhile, Rebecca comes barrelling into the house, mud half way up her legs, a huge beaming grin on her face.

REBECCA

Mommy mommy! I found a scrub-flapper, and it had babies!

Everyone smiles and relaxes as the family bond reasserts itself and Rebecca becomes the centre of attention...

20 **INT. DS9 - PROMENADE**

Likewise a happy evening crowd in Quark's bar. No specific event, just the standard crowd of after-work revellers.

Major Cenn strolls along the Promenade, thoughtful. He's carrying a padd. Quark happens to be collecting drinks from the tables outside the door.

QUARK

Major. You look happier than you did earlier. Note that I didn't say 'happy' - just 'happier'.

CENN

I suppose I am.

QUARK

Work things out with the new guy?

CENN

Actually... yes.

QUARK

Good. I have enough to deal with - I don't have the time or energy to counsel you too.

(beat)

Although... if you were still fighting, I'd probably be able to smuggle more past you. Maybe I didn't think this through.

As Cenn gives Quark an indulgent smile-frown, Evik's voice comes over the comm system...

EVIK (comm, o.s.)

Good evening, crew and residents of Deep Space Nine.

Cenn and Quark both look around, and see that Evik's face has appeared on the public screens that dot the Promenade and the bar. They both stop to watch; many others do too.

EVIK (screen)

Allow me to introduce myself. I am Lieutenant Commander Evik Nath, and as of today I will be your new chief of security on the Promenade.

**21    INT. DS9 - CAPTAIN'S OFFICE**

As Evik's announcement continues on a wall screen, we focus on Vaughn and Ro, who are where they usually are - he sitting, she standing.

EVIK

(screen, b.g.)

I've chosen to speak to you today, first of all, simply to assure you that I am at your service, and I intend to work very hard to make myself a member of your community.

(beat)

And I do mean community. Starfleet or civilian, Bajoran or offworlder, religious or secular. We are all equal here, and I pledge to protect and serve you all equally.

VAUGHN (f.g.)

We sure it shouldn't be me giving this speech? I am the captain.

RO

Cenn made the argument that this isn't Starfleet business - it's Bajoran.

VAUGHN

Then why not you?

RO

An agnostic laying down the law about the shrine? They wouldn't listen to either one of us. No, Cenn was right - Evik is the perfect choice.

Vaughn grunts reluctant agreement.

**22    INT. DS9 - PROMENADE**

...where Cenn is still watching the announcement. Evik has got more serious.

EVIK (screen)

...Which brings me to my second reason for making this announcement. You may be aware that there has been tension at the shrine. I have consulted with the captain and the Vedek, and we have come to a solution. The suggestion was made that we build a new shrine, a space dedicated to Ohalu or Oralius. I heartily reject that notion. To let only the proper people be seen in public, while undesirables are hidden away in a converted processing plant or cargo bay - that is no community I wish to be a part of.

All around the Promenade and Quark's, people are watching this announcement and reacting to it... not least Cenn.

EVIK (screen)

No, the solution here is simple. Beginning tomorrow, there will be separate services in the same shrine for those on the path of the Prophets, for followers of the Oralian Way, and for Ohalu's Truthseekers. Anyone may use the shrine, as long as they do so in peace and unity. If you wish to

worship together, all the better. Violence and intimidation are not acceptable, and will be met with the full force of the law. But I have every faith that such measures will not be necessary.

(beat)

Good evening to you all. If there are questions, my door is always open. Walk with the Prophets... or whoever you choose to walk with.

Evik signs off. A buzz moves through the crowd as they react to the announcement. Quark nods approvingly.

QUARK

He's worked on his pitch, I'll give him that.

Then Quark moves back into the bar. Cenn looks across the Promenade towards the Security office. After a moment's hesitation, he makes his decision and walks across.

As he approaches, the door opens and Evik steps into it, escorting Lennis, the man from the shrine. He's being released. He shakes Evik's hand.

LENNIS

Thank you, Commander. I'm very grateful for your help.

Lennis then sees Cenn approaching, and smiles again.

LENNIS

Thank you too, Major.

Cenn nods, graciously accepting it. Lennis moves off. Evik turns him, open and welcoming as ever.

EVIK

Major. Can I help you?

CENN

I wanted to say... nice speech.

(holds up padd)  
I completed the criminal activity  
report. Since it's no longer my  
job, I thought you might want to  
deliver it to the captain.

Evik smiles. He sees that Cenn is trying.

EVIK  
We'll deliver it together, Major.

Evik after-yous for Cenn, and they move off down the  
Promenade together.

**23    INT. DS9 - MAIN OPS CENTRE**

The turbolift rises into Ops, carrying Cenn and Evik both.  
They step off. Evik begins to walk towards the captain's  
office, but stops when he sees that Cenn is not with him.

Cenn gestures, "go ahead." Evik carries on. Meanwhile Cenn  
descends the steps to the central Ops table. Once there he  
looks up and watches Evik enter the office, carrying the  
criminal activity report. The door closes behind him.

Cenn takes a moment, accepts that this is the new status  
quo now. Then he turns his attention back to the Ops table,  
and gets on with his work.

FADE OUT:

**END OF SHOW**