

STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE

8x02 - "Avatar, pt 2."

Screenplay by Martyn Dunn

Based on the novel

Star Trek: Deep Space Nine: Avatar, Books 1&2

by SD Perry

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. SPACE - THE BADLANDS

The usual view, plasma storms swirling, lots of turbulence. Slowly, the Sovereign-class *Enterprise-E* drifts into view.

2 INT. ENTERPRISE - READY ROOM

ELIAS VAUGHN stands watching the storms through the window. Male human, elderly but still vital, a close-cropped beard, wearing a Commander's uniform and pips. A hazy reflection in the window resolves into Captain JEAN-LUC PICARD.

PICARD

Done watching?

VAUGHN

Done looking, for the Breen. I don't think they were ever here.

PICARD

I've come to agree with you, but we have to be thorough. We want to be able to declare a reasonable certainty, after all our efforts.

VAUGHN

We've been hunting sensor ghosts out here for three weeks, Jean-Luc. We can be certain.

Vaughn pauses, seeming thoughtful, not really on the work.

VAUGHN

I'm thinking of retiring.

PICARD

Really? May I ask why?

VAUGHN

You may ask, but I'm not sure I have an answer. I suppose I could just say that I'm getting too old.

PICARD

Nonsense. You can't be much older than I am.

VAUGHN

I'm one-hundred-and-one, actually.

PICARD

You wear it well. But you still have decades ahead of you, Elias.

VAUGHN

Then call it old in spirit. Since the end of the war, I find myself thinking differently. Eighty years of charging into battle...

Vaughn turns away from the window, walks away as if he can't bear to look out of it anymore...

VAUGHN

I've always been a soldier. I was trained for it, I've excelled at it. But now, I'm starting to think of myself as a participant in war, rather than someone working towards peace. And the difference between the two is immeasurable.

PICARD

You have more tactical experience than any officer I've ever known, Elias. But that doesn't mean you have to use it as a soldier would. You could write, or teach.

VAUGHN

I don't know. I just know that I don't want to fight anymore.

VOICE (comm)

Captain, Commander - we may have something.

They weren't expecting *that*...

3 **EXT. SPACE - THE BADLANDS**

The *Enterprise* again, but nearby is an old and decrepit Cardassian freighter, tumbling slowly in the plasma storms.

PICARD (v.o.)

Captain's log, stardate 53113. We failed to detect any further signs of Breen activity in the Badlands, but we did come across what seems to be a Cardassian freighter that, according to our best estimates, has been stuck here for more than thirty years. Commander Vaughn has taken it upon himself to step away from his advisory role for a moment and lead an away team aboard the vessel.

4 **INT. CARDASSIAN FREIGHTER**

Five officers in PRESSURE SUITS clomp down a corridor, VAUGHN at their head. Vapours and haze cover the scene, emergency lights, electrical sparks.

VAUGHN (comm)

I'll head for the aft cargo bays.
Perhaps we could each take a
direction, and check in every
fifteen minutes?

Everyone nods, and off they go. We follow Vaughn...

...and as he clambers over the bodies of Bajoran prisoners and Cardassian officers, frozen and suffocated...

...we realise he is walking through the exact same scene Kira saw in her dream in 8x01, taking her exact footsteps. Finish close on Vaughn's face, as he remembers...

5 **MEMORY MONTAGE**

-- An Asian woman stepping onto a transporter pad, her face full of trepidation

-- A younger Vaughn pushing aside the wreckage of a toppled building to find a body

-- Vaughn standing over the smoking, charred corpse of a female Vulcan Starfleet officer on a shuttlecraft floor

-- Vaughn shooting a Romulan officer dead

-- Standing among a cave full of dead Jem'Hadar bodies, staring on in horror mixed with exhilaration

-- All these intercut with quick shots of Vaughn reacting to the memories

6 BACK TO SCENE

Vaughn is stopped dead in his tracks, mind overwhelmed by the memories, face is full of sadness and horror...

VAUGHN

God, I've seen so many dead...

(shakes it off)

No! Concentrate, Elias. It's just an ordinary freighter. Done it a thousand times.

7 INT. ENTERPRISE - MAIN BRIDGE

DEANNA TROI enters and approaches Picard with urgency.

TROI

Captain, I'm getting some very strange feelings from the away team. They're all either scared, or sad, or angry. I'm worried.

PICARD

Are they in danger?

TROI

Not physically, I don't think. It's like... it's not about anything that's happening right now. They're all experiencing intense flashes of memory.

PICARD
Enterprise to away team. Commander
Vaughn, please report.
(nothing)
Commander Vaughn.

Picard looks to a random LIEUTENANT at tactical.

LIEUTENANT
The comm line's clear, sir.
They're just not responding.

8 INT. CARDASSIAN FREIGHTER

One of the other officers is huddled into a corner CRYING.
Another clings to the wall SHAKING with fear. A gentle
bluish-white LIGHT becomes clearer over the cargo bay...

PICARD (comm)
Picard to Vaughn. Commander,
respond please. Picard to Vaughn,
please respond.

Vaughn doesn't respond, but he does get moving again.
VOICES and IMAGES fill his mind, and he becomes aware of a
presence walking with him, a tall FIGURE who is felt rather
than seen, not threatening but soothing.

Finally Vaughn locates the source of the white light. It is
a BAJORAN ORB, its box open and flooding the compartment
with light.

As Vaughn reaches out and closes the door, all the voices
and images stop instantly. He looks on in wonder as he
realises what he has found...

BLACK OUT:

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

9 INT. DS9 - SECURITY CELLS

...on KIRA standing firm, determined not to show her fear.

KIRA

Explain your presence on this
station, Third Kitana'klan.

Revealing KITANA'KLAN, a young Jem'Hadar soldier standing calmly inside a security cell, with forcefield buzzing. RO stands nearby, phaser holstered... for now.

KITANA'KLAN

The changeling Odo sent me to
serve you, and to learn about the
cultures of the Alpha Quadrant. I
am to study everything I can about
co-existence between peaceful
peoples, so that I can return this
knowledge to the Dominion. The
Foun-- Odo believes this will be a
step towards helping the Jem'Hadar
evolve beyond our programming.

KIRA

Go on...

KITANA'KLAN

The attack on your station was not
sanctioned by the Founders. A small
number of Jem'Hadar sought to
redeem themselves for losing the
war by re-initiating hostilities.

KIRA

How do you know?

KITANA'KLAN

I was told. They overtook me as I
approached the Anomaly, and they
attacked me, disabling my ship.

(more)

KITANA'KLAN (cont)

First Javal'tivon, their leader, had been my First at the end of the war. He told me of their plans so that I might understand the reason for my death. It was their mistake to leave me alive. My crew were able to repair my ship enough to follow them, and sacrificed their lives to stop them.

KIRA

Why didn't you announce your presence when you beamed aboard? Why stay shrouded all this time?

KITANA'KLAN

Your station had just been attacked by Jem'Hadar. I did not think I would be welcome.

Kira is hopeful, starting to be convinced. Ro is not...

RO

So you thought it would be better to skulk about spying on us? How long were you planning to wait?

KITANA'KLAN

Odo gave me no instructions on what to do in these circumstances. But I understand now my decision was wrong. I have made myself untrustworthy by my actions.

KIRA

You said the Dominion didn't sanction the offensive...

KITANA'KLAN

Yes. When Odo joined the Founders, he brought with him experiences unknown to them. The Great Link is in contemplation of Odo's life. At this time, the Founders wish only to remain in reflection.

KIRA
Can you prove any of this?

KITANA'KLAN
I cannot. I carried a recording
from Odo, but it was destroyed
with my ship.

Kitana'khan abruptly falls to his knees - Kira jumps back,
Ro pulls her phaser. But the soldier only pulls back his
collar, removes the white cartridge, holds it out to Kira.

KITANA'KLAN
I was sent to serve you. I offer
you my obedience and my life.

KIRA
I'll get back to you.
(to Ro)
Have Doctor Bashir run a scan when
he's done with his statement. And
keep an eye on him.

Kira walks out, leaving Kitana'khan on his knees.

10 **EXT. SPACE - THE BADLANDS**

Enterprise is holding position at the edge of the storms...

11 **INT. ENTERPRISE - CREW'S LOUNGE**

Vaughn sits at a window, gazing out at the storms again.
After a few moments, Troi approaches in counselling mode.

TROI
Elias, may I join you?

Vaughn gestures warmly for her to sit - she does.

TROI
I was wondering if I could ask you
a few questions...

VAUGHN
You can if you can tell me what
I'm feeling right now.

Troi settles back, considers the older man...

TROI

Confused. Elated and uncertain.
You're out of your emotional
comfort zone... but not afraid of
it. You're still experiencing
flashes of memory, aren't you?

VAUGHN

I assume you know why.

TROI

The Orb experience. It was very
different for you than the others.

VAUGHN

Yes, I think so. I had memories
too, but when it was over, when
I closed the door on the Orb, I
felt... It's hard to explain. A
comprehension. For just a second,
I remembered who I was... who I
am. And just like that, all of my
fears about the future - gone.

TROI

I believe the Bajorans call it a
pagh'tem'far. A sacred vision.

VAUGHN

Sacred...

TROI

The captain also wanted me to keep
you apprised of our situation.

VAUGHN

Which is...?

TROI

We've set course for Deep Space
Nine, but the warp drive is still
a concern thanks to the Badlands.
So we can't go beyond warp four.

Vaughn takes that on board, considers it...

VAUGHN

Have you ever been to DS-Nine?

TROI

A few times. The first was just after the Cardassian withdrawal. Commander Sisko had just taken control of the station.

VAUGHN

Captain Sisko of the *Defiant*?

TROI

He ran the station for the last... seven years. You never met him?

VAUGHN

No. I know the name, of course. One of the biggest heroes of the war. Didn't he retire recently? Or... was he killed?

TROI

Neither, actually. He's officially listed as "missing." I just know Starfleet decided not to pursue an investigation. Something to do with Bajor - they considered him a religious figure or something...

VAUGHN

Interesting. Thank you, Deanna.

Troi leaves. Still pondering all of this, Vaughn picks up a padd from the table...

VAUGHN

Computer, show me the current personnel file for Starfleet Captain Benjamin Sisko.

The file pops on the screen, with a big headshot of Sisko.

FLASHBACK - CARDASSIAN FREIGHTER

Vaughn walking through the cargo bay, feeling the presence of that other figure walking with him...

BACK TO SCENE

VAUGHN

It was him...

As Vaughn reacts with surprise and fascination...

12 EXT. BAJOR SURFACE - ESTABLISHING

A new matte: A transport centre with numerous shuttles on a pleasant sunny day, surrounded by typical bucolic scenery.

13 INT. BAJORAN SHUTTLE CRAFT

VEDEK YEVIR enters the shuttle, and takes a seat in the Bajoran equivalent of coach class. Most of the other seats are taken up with Militia techs. He smiles at their happy boisterousness, then closes his eyes as if to meditate...

14 FLASHBACK - DS9 PROMENADE

Yevir is in a grey Militia uniform, heading towards the Replimat, the typical office functionary going about his boring day. There's a commotion further down the Promenade.

SISKO is coming through the crowd, dispensing wisdom to the people. Yevir makes his way to the front. Suddenly, Sisko is in front of Yevir, reaching out to touch his shoulder. (Intercut new footage with stock from ep 5x10 "Rapture.")

SISKO

You don't belong here. Go home.

Yevir is enraptured - the Emissary has spoken to him...

15 BACK TO SCENE

Yevir smiles as he remembers. As another commotion begins to arise around him on the shuttle, he opens his eyes and catches the attention of a flight ATTENDANT...

ATTENDANT

The son of the Emissary has just boarded. He asked the Captain if he could sit with the pilots up front. You know how modest he is, of course. Can you believe it? The Emissary's son, on our flight!

The attendant bounces away in excitement. Yevir's smile grows as he whispers to himself with satisfaction...

YEVIR

It's a blessing.

16 EST. DEEP SPACE NINE - ESTABLISHING

Still plenty of work crews and debris around the station.

17 INT. DS9 - HABITAT RING CORRIDOR

RO and SHAR walk through the corridor, Ro deep in thought. She's carrying the isolinear rod Quark gave her in 8x01...

RO

Three, four, twenty-four, one-point-five, twenty-five...

SHAR

Lieutenant?

RO

The numbers on Istani's data rod. I've been trying to figure them out all day. Except of course for during your little adventure with our Jem'Hadar guest.

SHAR

Does his presence disturb you?

RO

Doesn't it you? I killed plenty of them during the war, and I'd never let my guard down around one, even if he is behind a forcefield.

SHAR

Have you discovered anything more about the assailant?

RO

There are seventeen Galihie S's alive on Bajor right now, and they're all accounted for. I've sent tissue samples to the Central Archives, but with their backlog it'll take another day minimum.

Shar doesn't really have any suggestions to make, as this is outside of his area of expertise. He is happy observing Ro in her element as she works through it to herself...

RO

Istani Reyla was an archaeologist with a spotless record. Came to DS-Nine with something valuable, perhaps stolen. She was a prylar working at B'Hala, although it's hard to believe a religious person would steal anything from there.

(beat)

But then, why would she deal with somebody like Quark if she was acting entirely above board? And why would Mister Galihie S take such pains to hide his identity if he wasn't planning something bad?

As she walks, she notices the directional signs on the walls. She stops to consider them. An idea occurs to her.

RO

Level four, section seven. She couldn't have meant... level three, section four. Something in between quarters number twenty-four and twenty-five... It couldn't be that easy, could it?

Suddenly inspired, she jogs towards the nearest turbolift, leaving a bemused Shar to follow in her wake...

18 **INT. DS9 - CORRIDOR**

As Ro and Shar EXIT a turbolift and jog down the corridor a little, until Ro stops at an ordinary patch of wall.

RO
One-point-five... one-point-five
metres, maybe?

Ro measures that distance up from the floor, pops out the maintenance hatch - and finds a tightly wrapped PACKAGE.

SHAR
Well done, Lieutenant.

Ro grins, and very gently unwraps the package. She reveals a very old BOOK, on the verge of falling apart, with thick leathery covers and Ancient Bajoran symbols on the front.

RO
This is from B'Hala. It's too old to
be from anywhere else. But it's in
Ancient Bajoran. I can't read it.

SHAR
A previous science officer did
extensive work on a translation
matrix. Perhaps I could scan the
book into the program.

RO
Oh Shar, that would be great. But
don't tell anyone else. Not until I
know why someone would kill for it.

Off Ro and Shar's expressions of intrigue...

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

19 INT. VIC FONTAINE'S LOUNGE

The lounge is not in business, mostly empty apart from some workers bustling about. VIC FONTAINE and JULIAN BASHIR sit at a table, Vic with coffee, Julian with tea, distracted...

VIC

So... doll-face is running the talking cure with one o' those Jem'Hadar goons, huh? Quite a gig. You two still making the music?

BASHIR

I think so. Things are good, overall. But you could say we've run into a bit of dissonance.

VIC

Yours or hers?

BASHIR

We were - there was a problem... and she didn't seem to care how it affected me. I got angry about it.

VIC

Ouch. You make it up to her yet?

BASHIR

We both apologised. But we haven't really resolved the issue.

VIC

Sometimes things aren't resolved till they're ready to be, pallie. And even then, they don't always shake out the way you expect.

BASHIR

You think she doesn't want to work this out yet?

VIC
You make it sound like a bad thing!
The beauty of the long-term is that
you get some elbow room. Crazy
thing, love. A real Coney ride.

DAX (v.o.)
...And considering the subject's
doubtful ability to feel guilt -

20 **INT. DS9 - SECURITY CELLS**

EZRI DAX stands speaking MOS to Kitana'klan, who remains
stood at attention inside his cell...

DAX (v.o.)
...the computer's interpretation
of frictive patterns and emphasis
points cannot be relied upon to
detect truthfulness.

21 **INT. DS9 - KIRA'S OFFICE**

KIRA sits reading a padd, the report Dax is narrating.

DAX (v.o.)
In short, I am unable to offer any
information about Kitana'klan that
he has not volunteered, or that is
not widely understood about
Jem'Hadar cultural psychology.

KIRA
Wonderful.

She drops the padd onto the desk and rubs at her eyes.

YEVIR (o.s.)
Nerys?

Kira looks up - Vedek Yevir is standing in the doorway.

KIRA
Yevir -... Vedek Yevir. It's so
good to see you!

Yevir comes in, Kira gets up from her desk, embraces him, then leads him over to the lounge area, where they sit.

KIRA

What brings you back to DS-Nine?

YEVIR

Part business, part pleasure. With everything so unsettled on Bajor, politically I mean, with the First Minister on Earth lobbying to re-apply for Federation membership, plus the loss of both the Kai and the Emissary, and the government all caught up with relief efforts to Cardassia...

(shakes head)

Well, you could say I'm here to see how things are, on behalf of the Assembly.

(pause - a

touchy subject)

We were all shocked and saddened by the attack, of course... and by the death of Istani Reyla. It must be a difficult time for you.

KIRA

It's been hard for all of us. And now Starfleet is on its way ready to restart the war because they think the Dominion was behind it.

YEVIR

But you don't?

KIRA

My gut says otherwise. And this morning we turned up a Jem'Hadar hiding on the station, who insists it was a rogue action. But he's not exactly a credible source.

Yevir offers warmth and comfort as a Vedek should. Kira relaxes, opening up about things she has held onto tight.

KIRA

It's not that any one thing I do is that hard... I just feel... overwhelmed. As if the total is more than the sum of its parts. Does that make any sense?

YEVIR

It does. But no matter how vital your work here is, you can't make it your entire life. Because what will happen - what is happening - is that even the thought of it will become a terrible burden. That's not how the Prophets meant for their children to live.

(pause)

I wanted to offer my prayers for those recovering from the attack. Vedek Capril has already agreed to let me lead services this evening. I hope you'll be able to attend.

KIRA

Of course I'll come. It's an honour for the station.

YEVIR

And perhaps afterwards... I could ask you a few questions about the Emissary. About what his life meant for Bajor, and what it was like to work with him. His son was on the same shuttle, you know. I took it as a positive omen -

KIRA

Jake? Jake's here on the station?

YEVIR

You didn't know he was coming?

KIRA

No, but it's wonderful news. We've really missed him around here.

YEVIR
I would imagine. He is the son of
the Emissary.

Kira is a little annoyed at that selfish characterisation
of Jake, but covers it. Yevir gets up to leave...

YEVIR
Walk with the Prophets, Nerys.

She watches him go, excited for the news...

22 INT. DS9 - SISKI'S QUARTERS

The door whooshes open... to reveal JAKE in the corridor.
KASIDY's hair is all frazzled and slept on, clothes askew
like she just woke up, but she is delighted to see him.

KASIDY
Jake! Why didn't you tell me you
were coming? Did you just get in?
How long are you staying? Oh it's
so good to see you!

JAKE
Just get up, Kas?

KASIDY
Oh, I must look a mess. Come in,
come in and tell me things!

They settle onto the couch. The quarters are strewn with
half-packed boxes as Kasidy prepares to move down to Bajor.

KASIDY
So fill me in, kiddo. What's up?

JAKE
I guess I got tired of working in
the dirt. I thought I'd go see
Grampa Joe. See if I can get tired
of working in the kitchen instead.

KASIDY
You're not staying?

JAKE

I'd like to. But no, I just came to find a ride. Don't worry, I'll be back in plenty of time to help you with the baby.

KASIDY

I can't say I'm not disappointed for my sake, but I know Joseph will be thrilled. I'm glad you're going to see him for your sake. So tell me - what's B'Hala like?

JAKE

Oh, it was okay. Kinda dull. Just picking through old pieces of pottery and statuary. Nothing too exciting at all. A nice rest.

FLASHBACK - B'HALA CAVE (8x01 "AVATAR, pt 1")

As Jake reads the translated prophecy, amazed at what it suggests about his father...

BACK TO SCENE

And he covers, lying with a smile...

JAKE

Really, there's nothing to tell.

KASIDY

Well, it's been all fun and games here. I never thought I'd be happy to have a Jem'Hadar on board, but I was starting to worry about Kira -

JAKE

What? There was a Jem'Hadar here?

KASIDY

There is a Jem'Hadar here. You'd have to get the story from Nog. All I know is that he turned up in Quark's yesterday, and they've got him in a holding cell now.

JAKE

Did he attack anyone?

KASIDY

No, but it gives me the creeps,
him wandering around the station.
That's why I was worried about
Kira, she was acting strange, and
I thought after all she's been
through, paranoia was setting in.
Her friend was actually murdered
on the Promenade the same day as
the Jem'Hadar ships attacked.

JAKE

Murdered... Who was it?

KASIDY

An old friend who'd just come from
Bajor, a prylar. Someone stabbed
her in an attempted robbery. You
know, she might even have been at
B'Hala - she was an archaeologist,
I think. Istani Reyla?

Jake is thunderstruck as he recognises the name.

FLASHBACK - B'HALA CAVE (8x01 "AVATAR, pt 1")

As Istani hands him the package...

BACK TO SCENE

Seeing Jake's reaction, Kasidy moves closer to him...

KASIDY

You knew her... Jake?

JAKE

Yeah. I didn't know her exactly,
but I met her once. She seemed
nice. It's just a shock, you know?

Kasidy continues to comfort him...

23 **INT. DS9 - RO'S QUARTERS**

Standing at her door, Shar hands a PADD to Ro, smiling proudly. She takes the padd instantly and begins to read, heading inside. Her quarters are as bare as her office.

RO
(absently)
Can I get you anything?

SHAR
(not offended)
If you prefer, I can leave so you can read the text. It seems to be of primary interest to you.

RO
I'm sorry, Shar. Please, take a seat. I just wasn't expecting it so soon. You didn't use the main computer, did you?

SHAR
No, I scanned the pages manually. Though I'm afraid the translation is only about ninety-four percent accurate, and parts of the book are missing.

RO
That's alright. I appreciate your help - and your discretion.

SHAR
It's evidence in an investigation. I understand the need for caution.

RO
What's your impression of it?

SHAR
It's a book of prophecies, written in a religious context. I don't know enough of your history to say if they were accurate.

RO
(cynical)
We Bajorans love our prophecies...

Sat on her couch, Shar considers the security chief...

SHAR
Laren, I have noted before that you don't share the same religious enthusiasm as other Bajorans. Is there a particular reason?

RO
I do believe in the Prophets... I mean, they obviously exist. But just because there are mysterious beings living in the wormhole, and they occasionally interfere with us... I don't think that's enough reason to worship them as gods. And I don't like the prevailing view that I'm somehow less of a person for thinking so.

SHAR
I support your decision, Laren.

RO
That makes one of you. But thanks Shar, that's nice of you to say.

SHAR
I was informed by Lieutenant Dax that there's to be a celebratory gathering at Quark's at twenty-one-thirty hours. Would you like to come with me?

RO
Actually, I think I'll stay in tonight, see how much of this I can get through. But thank you for asking, and please, don't talk about this to anyone, alright?

He nods and leaves.

24 **INT. DS9 - BAJORAN SHRINE**

Yevir closes the book in front of him, looks out over the crowd. He smiles beatifically at the effect he has on them.

YEVIR

I want to thank you all for this opportunity. It's a particular honour for me to speak here, as it was just outside this very shrine that I received the touch that led me into the service of the Prophets, only a few years ago.

(pause)

As the Emissary showed us all, one does not have to be a Vedek to serve. We best honour the Prophets by always seeking their will in everything we do. By choosing love instead of hate. By rejecting all heresy, and turning our backs to unclean words and thoughts that seek to pull us from Their wisdom.

The crowd laps it up, but by Kira's face, we see that she wonders exactly what he is getting at here...

YEVIR

This concludes tonight's worship.
Thank you for coming. Walk with
the Prophets.

A RANJEN softly taps a gong, and the service is over. Yevir steps down off the platform towards the crowd, who surge up to meet him. But Kira watches from afar, disturbed...

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

25 INT. ENTERPRISE - READY ROOM

Now the windows show the stars at low warp outside. The BAJORAN ORB BOX sits on the table, and Vaughn stands over it, fingers tracing the carvings with fascination. Picard ENTERS, but sees Vaughn's odd mood and doesn't speak.

VAUGHN

Strange things happen, Jean-Luc.
Things that can't be explained.
That probably never will be.

PICARD

I agree.

VAUGHN

As long as we're agreeing on
philosophical matters, I have a
hypothetical question for you. A
kind of moral dilemma.

PICARD

How hypothetical?

VAUGHN

Oh, entirely. Say a high-ranking
officer on your ship had received
classified information about
upcoming circumstances. Say that
the information regarded a space
station that your ship might now
be headed for. And say that this
officer believes that, if comms
were working, you would have
received a declassified version of
this report yourself by now. But,
since comms won't be operational
till after you arrive, the officer
doesn't know what he can and can't
tell you, beyond the simplest of
recommendations.

PICARD
Would these circumstances endanger
the safety of my ship or crew?

VAUGHN
Very unlikely. You'd want to be on
guard, that's all. We have a busy
day ahead of us.

Picard nods his understanding, a little apprehensive...

26 INT. DS9 - QUARK'S BAR

Jam-packed and bustling with the party for Jake's return.
The place is decorated with streamers and balloons. QUARK
gazes over his empire, thrilled with the crowd.

QUARK
It's a beautiful thing. Keep it
coming, keep it coming... Hey!
Watch that tray!

He steps towards the front door, and with a quick glance
towards the security office, he warmly welcomes the
Bajorans streaming out of the shrine and into his bar.

QUARK
Come in, come in my friends! Eat,
drink, take a chance on the dabo
wheels. Then eat and drink some
more! Everything's free for two
whole hours!

Glowing with pride, he moves back to the bar. Barfly MORN
is in his usual place, watching the influx of new patrons.

KIRA enters, still looking disturbed - she sees Quark and
forces on a smile, nods acknowledgment. Quark mutters...

QUARK
That must have been some sermon.

Next through the door are BASHIR and DAX, holding hands.
Quark watches, sees how there is a subtle tension they are
trying not to let show, but that he can see clear as day.

JAKE and KASIDY enter together - a small cheer goes around the crowd, embarrassing them both. They retire to a hidden table under the stairs. Quark grabs a couple of servers.

QUARK

Broik, take a glass of synthale
over to young Mister Sisko, and a
ginger tea for Captain Yates.
Frool, make sure Doctor Bashir's
whisky glass never runs dry.

(to self)

It's the little things.

SHAR enters alone, looking a little nervous and shy. Quark sidles up to Morn.

QUARK

Morn. There's that new Andorian
ensign. I bet he knows lots of
tricks for growing hair - look at
all those long white tresses! Why
don't you take over this jug of
Andorian ale and have a chat?

Morn takes the jug and does exactly that. Shar greets him warmly and they sit down to chat. Dax and Bashir notice, and exchange a look that says "Oh, poor Shar."

YEVIR enters alone, looks around for Kira and heads to her. Kira takes him over to meet Jake and Kasidy.

After seeing everyone else arrive, Quark heads to the door to check on Security - no sign of Ro. He doesn't like that.

JAKE

Hi, Quark.

QUARK

Jake! Welcome home. Enjoying your
party, I hope? You should try the
stick sandwiches. The fruit ones
are especially crisp.

JAKE

Thanks, but I'm not planning on --

QUARK

Where's that nephew of mine?

JAKE

Ensign Chavez said he should be here any minute. Anyway, I'm not planning to stay on the station -

QUARK

Oh? Where are you going?

JAKE

Earth. And I'd actually like to travel alone for a change. So I'll need a ship. Do you have one?

Quark looks suspiciously at Jake. Is he trying to catch him out? Then he decides to laugh it off as a joke.

QUARK

Very funny.

JAKE

It's not a joke. I know you had a couple of unregistered shuttles in a cargo bay. Are they still there?

QUARK

Forget it, Jake. There's no way you could afford it. Now if you don't mind, I have glasses to -

JAKE

Wait...

Jake pulls out a small padd, shows it to Quark. Quark reads it not expecting much, but then he gasps.

QUARK

Give me a couple of hours. How did you get that kind of latinum?

JAKE

Remember how Jadzia used to always win at tongo? She lost most of it to dad, wrestling at the weekend.

27 **INT. DS9 - RO'S QUARTERS**

Ro sits at her desk, still poring over the Ancient Bajoran book and its translation on the padd...

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

Later - the crowd has thinned out, but most senior officers are still there. Shar and Morn chatting with Ezri, Kasidy with Kira, Bashir playing darts with Ensign TENMEI.

NOG wanders in, looking a little scruffy. He also looks down towards Security, for a very different reason.

JAKE

Hey! You made it!

NOG

Sorry it took me so long. You wouldn't believe how much stuff there is to do. How's the party going? You wanna sit somewhere?

JAKE

What do you say we go to our spot?
For old times' sake?

NOG

That sounds great.

29 **INT. DS9 - PROMENADE UPPER LEVEL**

Nog and Jake emerge from Quark's and head to their corner, sitting on the deck and dangling their legs over the side.

Jake looks out of the window, where the debris of the *Aldebaran* and the *Jem'Hadar* ships floats in the distance.

JAKE

So that's the *Aldebaran*, huh?

NOG

(nodding, pensive)

It's been a problem, too. Some of the bigger pieces have triggered the wormhole.

NOG (cont)

They're putting out enough
radiation to confuse the sensors.
Starfleet will probably want to
examine them when the task force
gets here.

Jake hears that, and starts to formulate his plan...

JAKE

When are they due to arrive?

NOG

Not soon enough for me.

JAKE

Why?

NOG

Because they'll probably take that
Jem'Hadar monster with them when
they leave.

JAKE

I thought - Kira said that Odo may
have sent him -

NOG

I'll quit! I'll quit before I work
with one of those things. He's
just like the rest, a murderer,
you can see it in his eyes...

JAKE

(placating)

You don't have to convince me.

NOG

Right, sorry. I've just been
thinking about it a lot, you know?

JAKE

Maybe... I probably won't be
around, but you could talk to
Ezri, or Vic...

NOG

About what? They're all killers,
nobody disputes that. I don't need
to talk about it. I need for that
thing to be gone.

They pause for a while as Nog calms down.

JAKE

I'll probably leave tonight.

NOG

Why? You could stay for a couple
of days. If you're here when the
Federation ships arrive, I'm sure
we could get a dom-jot game going.

JAKE

There are things I need to do, and
I'd kinda like to get away without
making a big fuss.

NOG

I miss you, Jake.

JAKE

I miss you too.

(pause)

So, you wanna kiss now?

NOG

You should be so lucky, hew-mon!

They laugh and start to wrestle on the Promenade.

30 INT. DS9 - RO'S QUARTERS

Ro is sat where she was, hunched over the padd. She rubs
her eyes, massages her neck, troubled by what she's read.

RO

Computer, what time is it?

COMPUTER

The time is twenty-five-twelve.

She gets up, heads to the replicator. Is about to order something, but reconsiders, and looks back to the padd on the desk. She makes up her mind.

31 INT. DS9 - KIRA'S QUARTERS

Kira is dressed for bed, looking happier and more relaxed than she has in days. She touches a framed picture of her and Odo before heading off to bed.

Just as she is settling in, the door chime rings. Sigh...

KIRA
Who is it?

RO (comm)
It's Ro.

Instantly awake, Kira heads to the door and lets Ro in...

RO
I'm sorry it's so late, but I felt
I should come to you right away.

Ro holds out the book and padd to Kira. Kira takes them...

RO
The book was Istani's. I believe
she took it from B'Hala, and was
killed for it.

KIRA
Where did you get this? And why
would someone kill over a book?

RO
Because of what's in it. This
book, Colonel... the prophecies it
contains have all come true. All
of them.

KIRA
(dubious)
All of them?

RO

Read it for yourself. But read that passage I've marked there first. The first part of it's missing, but I think it's pretty clear even so.

Kira takes the padd and reads for a while. Her face drops as she reads further, and she falls into a chair.

KIRA

This can't be possible.

RO

Colonel, I'm not prone to leaps of faith, you probably know that. But so far, everything in that book has come true. Whoever wrote it was in touch with something real. They knew about the ancient wars, about B'Hala, the Occupation. They even knew about the Founders and the outcome of the Dominion war.

(re book)

And here it says - absolutely clearly - that ten-thousand people have to die before Kasidy Yates gives birth to her baby.

On Kira's stunned expression, we...

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

32 INT. DS9 - KIRA'S QUARTERS

Ro has left. Kira sits alone, staring at the padd, unable to process. She almost laughs at the ludicrousness of it.

KIRA

In the last three days... Reyla's murder, the attack on the station, the Federation on their way with weapons blazing, a Jem'Hadar who says Odo sent him... and now this. And people have died.

She flips back to the right page on the padd, re-reads it.

KIRA

"The child Avatar will be the second of the Emissary, he to whom the Teacher Prophets sing, and will be born to a gracious and loving world, a world ready to unite. Before the birth, ten-thousand of the land's children will die. It is destined, and should not be looked on with despair. Most choose to die, and are welcomed into the Temple."

She shakes her head in despair, and begins to read over it all again, hoping against hope that she is wrong...

33 INT. DS9 - CARGO BAY

Quark walks away carrying a purse of latinum and a happy smile. Jake heads towards his new shuttle...

34 INT. SHUTTLE COCKPIT

Jake settles into the pilot's seat, takes a look around. It is spare but serviceable. He fishes into his bag and gently brings out the pages from the book, touches them...

JAKE

If I'm wrong, so what? I'm out a few bars of latinum, maybe a bit of hope. Nobody gets hurt. But if I'm right...

(beat, presses comm)

Shuttle Venture departing from airlock twelve at twenty-five-thirty hours. Course confirmed, bearing oh-one-five-mark-two.

VOICE (comm)

Received. Walk with the Prophets.

Jake starts at the phrase, then gets to work...

35 INT. DS9 - CARGO BAY

As the shuttle gently lifts off and glides through the open airlock, passing through the forcefield and out into space.

36 EXT. DEEP SPACE NINE

The shuttle arcs away from the station...

37 INT. SHUTTLE COCKPIT

Jake carefully watches his screen, which shows the station, the debris field, the Klingon ship standing guard, and the radiation field that still surrounds them all. Just as he passes into the radiation field, he enters new commands...

38 EXT. SPACE

The shuttle turns, moving closer to the debris field, until the tiny shuttle can hide in the shadow of one of the larger chunks of *Aldebaran* debris.

39 INT. SHUTTLE COCKPIT

Settling here, Jake takes the pages again, traces his fingers over the characters. He looks out into space...

JAKE

Help me, dad. Help this happen.

40 **INT. VIC FONTAINE'S LOUNGE**

As before, off-hours. Vic sits casually in his dressing gown, yawning. Nog is fizzing with frustration...

NOG

Ezri recommended he be moved to a cargo bay, so he wouldn't feel like a prisoner. There are only two guards outside - two. Like there's any chance a Jem'Hadar isn't planning to kill us all the first chance he gets.

VIC

That's rough, kid. Look, I'm going to order up some coffee, maybe an omelette - you want anything?

Nog shudders at the very thought. Vic steps away to the bar, chats to a waitress, comes back.

VIC

So, this Kitana'klan fella. Have you actually talked to him?

NOG

No! Are you kidding? I don't have anything to say to a Jem'Hadar.

VIC

Way I heard it, he had a chance to hurt a lot of people when he was hiding. If he didn't, maybe he is different -

NOG

He's not. He was on one of those attack ships, Vic! Why is everyone so ready to believe him?!

VIC

Easy kid. You gotta remember that most folks are ready to put the war behind them. And this guy says the Dominion wants to make nice.

NOG
So what do I do?

VIC
If you think he's bad news, stick
to your guns. Talk to a few more
people, remember everyone has a
right to an opinion... but keep
your ears open.

41 INT. DS9 CARGO BAY

DAX enters, carrying two large fighting staffs. The two
guards step inside with her and stay by the door.

Dax approaches Kitana'klan, who stands watching her from
the centre of the empty room. He absolutely dwarfs her...

DAX
I thought you might be restless.
My last host trained with some
Jem'Hadar for a joint mission
before the war. So I'm familiar
with a few of your hand-to-hand
combat drills.
(throws him a staff)
Let's dance.

KITANA'KLAN
Agreed.

Kitana'klan settles into a stance, quite the natural. Dax
tries her best to do the same. He SLAPS her hand with the
weapon immediately, just a glancing blow. They circle.

Kitana'klan aims at her gut. She PARRIES, follows through,
but he is already gone. He KNOCKS her weapon out of her
hand, SWEEPS her feet out from under her, stands above her,
weapon at her neck. The guards jump to attention...

DAX
It's okay, it's okay!

The security step back, wary; Kitana'klan helps Dax up...

KITANA'KLAN
You fight well.

DAX
You lie poorly. I respect your
greater skill, and your mercy.
Perhaps we can talk, once I put
these weapons away?

He nods inscrutably as she catches her breath...

42 INT. DS9 - SECURITY OFFICE

Ro sat behind the desk, working. The door opens and KIRA
strides in, hands her the book excitedly...

KIRA
It's not valid. I admit I was a
little scared at first. But the
Prophets didn't have anything to
do with this.

RO
How do you know? Did Shar find
something in the lab?

KIRA
I know because of the content.
I've read every accepted prophecy,
and the Prophets never touched
whoever wrote this book.

RO
Did you read it all? I know there
were some unclear parts --

KIRA
Yes, I read it all. I know you're
not... one of the faithful, Ro.
But the Prophets would never ask
anyone to die, or condone it as
destiny. They convey messages of
life, not visions of death.

Ro slowly rises, frustrated, trying to keep her temper...

RO

Are you being deliberately obtuse?
Just because it wasn't verified by
some religious authority doesn't
make it any less true. And isn't
it a little presumptuous for you
to decide what the Prophets would
or would not condone?

Too far. Kira shuts down cold.

KIRA

I don't expect you to understand.
But I do expect a bare minimum of
respect as commanding officer of
this station. Don't forget that if
you want to continue working here.

RO

Fine. Are you going to show it to
Captain Yates?

Kira is taken aback - she hadn't even thought of that...

43 INT. DS9 - KASIDY'S QUARTERS

Kasidy and Kira alone in her quarters - definite tension.

KASIDY

Is it about Ben?

KIRA

Kasidy, listen to me. I don't
believe that anything in the book
is credible --

KASIDY

Nerys, tell me.

KIRA

One of these alleged prophecies
says that your baby will be an
important figure to the Bajoran
faithful. And though I absolutely
believe the entire book is fake,
I thought you should know.

KASIDY
Okay. Okay, it could be worse.
What does it say, exactly?

KIRA
The book says that there will be a
sacrifice before the birth.

KASIDY
A sacrifice? Of what? A person?

Kira hesitates. Can she tell her?

44 INT. DS9 - KIRA'S OFFICE

Kira stands tensely, staring out of the closed door, trying to process everything that's happened. Outside, she can see YEVIR rising up in the turbolift and walking towards her...

KIRA
Turn our backs to unclean words,
he said...

Yevir enters with a smile, and they go to the couches.

YEVIR
I'm sorry I didn't get back to you
right away, I was speaking with
the Assembly... Nerys? What is it?

KIRA
Vedek Yevir, were you aware that
Istani Reyla brought an unverified
prophetic artefact with her to
this station?

Yevir is surprised to have been caught out so soon, but decides his best bet is to be honest...

YEVIR
Yes. It's one of the reasons I
came. Have you found it?

She nods, a little distrustful. He is excited, relieved.

YEVIR

Where is it? Has anyone read it?

KIRA

What's all this about? I think I have a right to know.

YEVIR

Of course. I'm sorry. The story is that a man named Ohalu wrote it, a sick man who tried to turn people away from the Prophets. He claimed that the Prophets spoke to him, and while they were benevolent, there was nothing sacred about them. He managed to snare a few lost souls, creating a cult to protect his heretical book. The vedeks of that time put a stop to it, and the cult disappeared with the book. Then, once B'Hala was discovered, the Assembly began to watch the digs for Ohalu's book.

KIRA

To denounce it.

YEVIR

To destroy it, Nerys. Don't you understand how dangerous it is? It destroyed Istani's mind when she brought it to us.

KIRA

My security officer found it in her investigation. She and I have both read it, probably my science officer too. And I showed it to Kasidy Yates.

Yevir reacts like this is the worst possible outcome...

YEVIR

The Emissary's wife? We must pray, Nerys, that she's not infected.

45 INT. DS9 - TURBOLIFT

Ro is in the lift as it stops at the Promenade and Kasidy gets on. Ro is carrying the book. The lift continues...

KASIDY

Lieutenant Ro... Is that it?

RO

Captain Yates... I'm sorry. If there's anything I can do...

KASIDY

You can book me the first shuttle away from Bajor.

Ro is surprised but sympathetic.

46 INT. DS9 - MAIN OPS CENTRE

The turbolift pulls into Ops; Ro and Kasidy step off. They head to Kira's office, see Yevir inside, both react...

47 INT. DS9 - KIRA'S OFFICE

Kira sees them and stands up, beckons them in...

KIRA

As for where the book is now, let me make introductions. I believe you already know Captain Yates.

YEVIR

Of course. It's so nice to see you again, Captain.

KIRA

This is Lieutenant Ro Laren, our new chief of security.

YEVIR

A pleasure, child.

As Yevir greets Kasidy, he positively flushes as if meeting royalty. With Ro, he glances quickly at her ear, seeing the earring on the wrong side, trying to hide his reaction.

KIRA

Lieutenant, Kas - Vedek Yevir has just confirmed that the book was written by a dangerous heretic from the time before B'Hala. The Assembly wants it destroyed, and I'm inclined to agree with them -

(Ro reacts)

- because the Assembly are the leaders of Bajor's spiritual community and this artefact falls under their authority.

YEVIR

Thank you, Nerys.

KIRA

As I said, that's my inclination. But I want to know what you two have to say, because it's evidence in an investigation, and Kas, it directly involves you. Ro, do you have anything new to report?

RO

(snide grin)

Oh I have something new to report. The bio results from the Archives just came in. The murderer's real name was Gamon Vell.

(pointed, to Yevir)

And he was a Vedek.

Off Ro's smugness, Yevir's shame, and Kira's shock...

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

48 INT. DS9 - KIRA'S OFFICE

Yevir knows he has been caught out, but decides to swallow it again and be honest. Reactions from the three women...

YEVIR

When Istani fled the Assembly, we suspected she would come here. We needed to intercept her. Gamon volunteered for the task. There was never any intention to harm her, you must believe that.

KIRA

I can't believe this...

YEVIR

Ohalu's book is like a spiritual disease, surely you can see that. It teaches that the Prophets are not deserving of Bajor's love. We must stop it, no matter the cost.

RO

Does that cost include Istani's life? And Gamon Vell's?

In all the noise, Kasidy has been forgotten. She speaks up.

KASIDY

Excuse me, but I read it. And compared to a lot of what you call legitimate prophecies, it's more complete and a lot more accurate. So maybe you're telling yourself that you're scared for Bajor's spiritual purity. Or maybe you're just desperate to cover up the fact that for thousands of years, you persecuted people who had a justifiable belief system, just because it contradicted yours.

KIRA
The Bajoran faith is what unified
our planet, Kas. It defines us.

RO
Most of us, maybe.

YEVIR
Look at how the book has already
affected you all! How do you think
all of Bajor would react?

They fall silent. Yevir thinks he's won...

...but then Kira grabs the book from Ro, furiously throws
it at Yevir, and then stomps out of her own office...

49 INT. DS9 - MAIN OPS CENTRE

...and across Ops to the turbolift, clearly in no mood to
talk. BOWERS at tactical and SHAR at Ops watch her go...

As Kira sinks below the deck, Ro leads Kasidy and Yevir out
of the office into Ops, just as Shar REACTS to an alert...

SHAR
Wormhole is opening...

Yevir stops and gazes up to the viewscreen, awestruck...

VIEWSCREEN

...at the sight of the wormhole blooming into life...

BACK TO SCENE

SHAR
No trails, no increase in particle
count, no displacement in the
field. It is one of the fragments
we were tracking.

BOWERS
Confirmed. Contact the *Tcha'voth*
and see if our readings match up.

50 **EXT. SPACE - WORMHOLE (INTERCUT)**

Still open and swirling, with the debris field in front...

...and Jake's tiny SHUTTLE creeps out from shadow beneath the nearest *Aldebaran* fragment, and sneaks inside...

51 **INT. DS9 - MAIN OPS CENTRE (INTERCUT)**

Shar reads off his panels...

SHAR

Tcha'voth says they might have a reading... Wait, they've lost it. If it was there, it's gone now.

BOWERS

Then it's just the residuals off the fragment. Step down, people.

(to Ro, displeased)

Lieutenant Ro, this is no place for civilians. Please escort our guests out of Ops.

RO

Happily.

At Ro's polite-but-don't-mess-with-me gesture, Yevir demurs and heads to the other turbolift. Ro and Kasidy follow...

52 **EXT. SPACE - WORMHOLE**

...and the wormhole closes up again.

53 **INT. SHUTTLE COCKPIT**

Jake watches out the window as the blue-gold-white currents of the wormhole interior unfold before his ship, the pages from Ohalu's book gripped tight in his hands...

JAKE

Okay, dad. I'm here. Come on. We can do this, together, you and me.

And he sits there, waiting...

54 **INT. DS9 - KIRA'S QUARTERS**

Kira kneels before her prayer mandala, meditating. Remain on her for a while as she breathes and relaxes. Then...

SHAR (comm)

Ops to Colonel Kira. Sorry to interrupt, sir, but the *Enterprise* just dropped out of warp. They've sent a text message requesting docking clearance and maintenance.

A text message? That's odd. What's gone wrong now?

KIRA

Give them upper pylon two. Inform Captain Picard that I'll meet him in ten minutes.

55 **INT. DS9 - DOCKING CORRIDOR**

A door cycles open; PICARD and VAUGHN step out. Kira and two security guards welcome them.

KIRA

Captain Picard. Welcome to DS9.

PICARD

Colonel Kira, it's a pleasure to see you again. And may I present Commander Elias Vaughn, on special assignment by Starfleet Tactical. We've just been filled in on your status and the Allied task force, which I'm afraid is all news to us. We came here primarily for maintenance and repairs, after some adventures in the Badlands chasing Breen privateers.

KIRA

I thought you were too early. And you won't know about the Jem'Hadar either. I'm sorry, would you like a drink, or dinner?

VAUGHN

The task force won't get here any faster, so I think we have time. Although how about a walk instead? I've heard much about your station - I'd like to see some of it.

KIRA

Absolutely. Please, follow me.

They start walking down the corridor.

VAUGHN

So tell me about this Jem'Hadar...

56 INT. DS9 - PROMENADE

Ezri Dax steps out of a turbolift and catches view of the Infirmary door. She stops, indecision all over her face. After a while, the doors open and Bashir emerges. He sees her, approaches politely and cautiously.

BASHIR

Hello, Ezri.

DAX

Hi.

BASHIR

I'm on my way to see Kitana'klan, to replenish his ketracel-white. Didn't you see him today?

DAX

He's just the same - facts without interpretations. Maintains that Odo sent him to observe, and he'll comply with our restrictions until we're sure we can trust him. Kira says someone just arrived on the *Enterprise* who may be able to shed some light on him, actually.

(trying her best)

You should come with me.

BASHIR

Can't. I don't want our guest to
be suffering withdrawal symptoms
when I get there, thanks.

(awkward pause)

Well, I'd better get to it.

He walks off, leaving Dax very uncertain. She turns...

...and sees Kira and Picard approach. When Dax sees who is
with them, she tenses all over again, mutters to herself...

DAX

Vaughn? Gods, just what I need.

KIRA

(introductions)

And this is Lieutenant Ezri Dax,
our senior counsellor. She's been
working with Kitana'klan.

VAUGHN

Dax... it's been a while.

DAX

It certainly has.

KIRA

You two know each other?

VAUGHN

(not entirely happy)

It's a long story.

KIRA

Well, Commander Vaughn was telling
me about a new Starfleet
Intelligence study on individual
personality traits of Jem'Hadar.

VAUGHN

Yes. It's easy to misjudge them.
Most people assume the Jem'Hadar
are all the same, but it's coming
to light that no two are alike.

DAX

I'm sure it could be arranged for you to speak to him, if you want.

VAUGHN

An excellent idea. Colonel, I hope we'll be able to talk more later. Lead on, Lieutenant.

Dax and Vaughn head off in one direction. Before Kira and Picard can head off in the other, Kira's combadge signals.

KIRA

This is Kira.

RO (comm)

Colonel, this is Ro. I've got a situation here with Vedek Yevir, and Kasidy Yates. I, ah, request your immediate presence at the security office. Sir.

KIRA

I'm sorry, Captain. There's something I have to deal with.

PICARD

Quite alright. I'm sure you've got enough to do without babysitting.

Kira leaves for the security office, and Picard remains on the shrine steps, watching her go...

57 INT. DS9 - CARGO BAY

Bashir enters. The two Bajoran security guards follow, one staying by the door and the other with Bashir. Kitana'klan calmly walks towards them, as unthreatening as he can be.

BASHIR

Kitana'klan, I'm Doctor Bashir. We met yesterday for a few moments.

KITANA'KLAN

You were at the table with the Andorian who exposed me.

BASHIR

That's right. I've brought you a new white cartridge. I'd like to scan your metabolic fluctuations as you receive the enzyme...?

KITANA'KLAN

I have no objection.

Bashir moves closer. Kitana'khan watches him closely...

58 INT. DS9 - SECURITY OFFICE

Ro, Kasidy and Yevir stand stiffly, waiting for Kira.

Ro looks out of the door, and sees PICARD. She's blindsided by the presence of her old captain, who turns to look at her briefly before walking away. Finally, Kira ENTERS...

KIRA

Report, Lieutenant.

RO

Colonel, it appears that three-and-a-half hours ago, someone with access to the Ohalu translation uploaded it, in its entirety, to the Bajoran comnet. Questions are coming in from every province.

KASIDY

I had a call from the Commerce Ministry. They received a thousand calls in the last hour asking to speak to me. They wanted to know if they could release a statement saying that I believe the book is fake. Nerys, I don't want to deal with this. Not now.

Kira seems troubled by this, but not surprised.

KIRA

Everything's going to be okay, Kas.

YEVIR

I don't see how you can say that.
All moral issues aside, a crisis
has been deliberately unleashed -
(re Ro)
- all because an admitted opponent
of the Vedek Assembly was given
access to sensitive materials. She
used her position to promote her
intolerance, with no thought of
how it would affect anyone else.

RO

Colonel, I absolutely did not do
that. Vedek Yevir is... mistaken.

YEVIR

The word of a non-believer. That
certainly holds with a lie.

RO

Please don't call me a liar.

59 INT. DS9 CARGO BAY

Kitana'klan pulls his collar open, revealing his empty
white cartridge...

Bashir steps closer, momentarily distracted as he prepares
the new cartridge...

...and Kitana'klan drops, KICKing Bashir's legs out from
under him, plus the nearer guard. They both go down...

The guard by the door desperately FIRES his phaser...

...but it goes wide. Lightning fast, Kitana'klan grabs the
spare white cartridges, THROWS them like darts...

...hitting the guard in the temple and putting him down.

Kitana'klan reaches down and GRABS a groggy Bashir in the
usual Jem'Hadar chest grab...

...and PUNCHES him hard in the head.

60 **INT. DS9 SECURITY OFFICE**

With Ro, Kira, Yevir and Kasidy still arguing...

YEVIR

I just don't understand why you
won't admit to it, child. You're
the only one with reason. That
treacherous book validated your
damaged beliefs, and you couldn't
stand to be alone anymore, could
you? A non-believer from a world
that embraces spirituality, how
cold your life must be --

RO

I did not do it!

DOLLY-ZOOM on Kira as she decides she has no choice...

KIRA

I did it! I uploaded Ohalu's book.
It wasn't Ro, it was me.

All three of them stare at her, stunned...

61 **INT. DS9 CARGO BAY**

On the deck, eye bloodshot, blood pooling around him,
Bashir lolls his head to the side, sees his medkit, tries
to reach for it...

But big heavy boots KICK it aside on their way out of the
room. Bashir watches him go until he can no longer focus...

...and the room goes dark.

BLACK OUT:

THE END