

STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE

10x19 - "Reset."

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. PRISON CELL

A single high window, out of reach of human hands but still barred. It lets in weak and watery light, the only light in the room. PAN DOWN from this window, until we find...

VAUGHN and RO, both dressed in the rough and dirty civilian clothes from 10x16, and both looking like they have been in a fight. They sit on the ground, backs against the walls...

RO
(amazed)
Ross?!

VAUGHN
Yup.

RO
(still not sure)
Ross?

VAUGHN
Just goes to show, doesn't it? To be fair to him, though, he doesn't consider himself a member. Doesn't believe in their policies. He just recognises that they have certain resources and techniques that can be useful. He likes to think he's using them. They're happy to let him have his illusions.

RO
I always thought, if there was any admiral up to their neck in Section 31, it wouldn't be Ross. It would be Akaar if anyone.

VAUGHN
(sympathetic)
I know you have your past with LJ. But I think you judge him unfairly.

RO
He ruined my life.

VAUGHN
He thought you betrayed him.

RO
It wasn't my fault.

VAUGHN
He doesn't know that. He has no
idea Section 31 even exists.

RO
But he's, like, seven hundred
years old. One of the highest
ranking admirals there is.

VAUGHN
Yes. He's also a true believer in
the virtue and honesty of the
Federation. And I've worked very
hard to keep him that way. Someone
has to have that confidence in the
system. I'd hate for everyone to
be as cynical as me.

RO
You and Batanides.

VAUGHN
Well... Marta's only been one of
us for about six years. I've been
in it for almost three decades.

RO
But she's in charge...?

VAUGHN
She is the admiral. Conversely,
since she's higher profile, she's
more vulnerable. Hence why I'm
taking point on this mission.
Besides... it's my fault we're in
this mess in the first place.

RO

What do you mean?

VAUGHN

L'Haan. I'm the one who called her in. I basically handed Taran'atar over to them. I had my suspicions. I didn't do anything about them. Not until it was too late.

RO

(gently)

Why didn't you?

VAUGHN

Because I didn't want to think I was right. I wanted to believe that I was out of that life for good. I'd started this whole new life on DS-Nine. Exploration, family... peace. I liked that.

RO

Well, now you've got Bashir. You've got me. You can be out of it, if you want.

VAUGHN

(shakes head)

Nice thought. But it doesn't work like that.

RO

Bashir wants to help, you know. You haven't forced him to do anything he doesn't want to.

VAUGHN

(sad smile)

What I've learned about Bashir is that he loves an adventure. A daring mission with little chance of success... he could never resist. I knew he'd agree to it. He made it easy for me.

RO
Are you going to use my issues to
get to me?

VAUGHN
(enigmatic)
Do I need to?

There's a CLANKing noise, a jangling and clunking of heavy metal. Vaughn looks towards the prison cell's cold steel door. The small eye-level hatch slides open...

VAUGHN
(cheerful)
Ah. Here we are.

BASHIR appears at the hatch, peering in, worried. Vaughn and Ro get to their feet, brush themselves down. The heavy metal door swings open, and Bashir stands there...

BASHIR
Commander? Lieutenant? You both
alright?

VAUGHN
Fine, Doctor. All part of the
plan. We've been expecting you.

RO
Part of the plan?

VAUGHN
Well, yes. The easiest way to get
into the heart of Section 31 was
to get them to bring us in.

RO
(outraged)
Getting beaten up was part of the
plan?!

VAUGHN
Look, it worked, didn't it?
(to Bashir)
Aren't you risking your cover
letting us out?

BASHIR

I don't think it's a problem.
Mister Cole is nowhere around.

RO

He's not? Where is he?

BASHIR

No idea. I haven't seen him in
days. He left me going over some
intelligence files. That's why it
took me so long to find you and
get you out. Sorry.

RO

Is that bad?

VAUGHN

I don't know. Have you managed to
track L'Haan down yet?

BASHIR

I'm afraid not. I tried everything
short of asking Cole "Hey, where's
L'Haan?" It's so frustrating! All
this time and we're no closer to
our goal.

VAUGHN

We don't have much more time left,
Doctor. The Ascendants are coming.

RO

For all we know, they might have
already hit while we've been in
here. Deep Space Nine and Bajor
could be rubble right now.

BASHIR

Don't say that. Don't tempt fate.

VAUGHN

L'Haan... where is she?

As Vaughn creases up his lined, old face with worry...

2 ON L'HAAN

The Vulcan woman L'HAAN rests calmly, her eyes closed in peaceful meditation. The light of a candle flickers on her face, but we don't yet see her surroundings.

There's a small, rhythmic beep - a computer indicator. She slowly opens her eyes, brings herself out of meditation. She turns - and we see a Cardassian comm panel beside her.

L'Haan works its controls, receives a message in Vulcan script, reads it with restraint and composure. Turns back to her meditation lamp, looking just the tiniest bit eager.

PULL BACK slowly... we see where L'Haan is sitting - a bare, disused industrial area, rusty machines and pulleys and pistons and trolleys. She's alone here.

PULL BACK further... as we recede through the body of the construct... seeing more and more industrial machinery in our way. Finally we PULL BACK through a grimy porthole...

3 EXT. DEEP SPACE NINE

...and find ourselves pulling away from the outer skin of Deep Space Nine. The porthole was in one of the engineering sections in the lower core area.

We continue to PULL BACK, gradually seeing the entire station, with the *Defiant* on the docking ring and freighters moving elsewhere...

BLACK OUT:

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

4 INT. DS9 - PROMENADE

Morning on the Promenade. Morning services are letting out at the Shrine, and the jumja kiosk is just opening, but Quark's Bar is already bustling with the breakfast crowd.

ETANA and RICHTER walk together out of Quark's after breakfast, hand-in-hand and perfectly content...

RICHTER

Ah, good old bacon and eggs for breakfast. Nothing like it. Even if it is replicated.

ETANA

If you say so. I still think it's foul stuff.

RICHTER

That's because you're a heathen who wouldn't know good food if it slapped her about the face.

It's all just cute couple-y banter. They pause outside the Infirmary, lean in for a quick kiss...

RICHTER

See you later, yeah?

ETANA

Yep. Gotta get that paperwork finished, but then the joy of mid-shift is mine to possess.

Another quick peck, and Etana heads off. Richter watches her go with a smile, then turns to enter the Infirmary...

5 INT. DS9 - INFIRMARY

Richter enters to find TARSES at the CMO desk, scanning and cataloguing the contents of the pharmacy alcove...

RICHTER
Morning, Doctor Tarses.

TARSES
Oh, hi Kristen. Sleep well?

RICHTER
Like a *temeseen*.

TARSES
I have no idea what that is, but
I'll assume it's good.

With an amused pout, Richter heads off to start her work...

6 INT. DS9 - HABITAT RING CORRIDOR

TARAN'ATAR walks along the corridor, alone. The civilians and officers he passes on the way are getting used to his being around, but they still keep a wary eye, just in case.

He reaches his quarters, the door opens...

7 INT. DS9 - TARAN'ATAR'S QUARTERS

...and he enters. The instant he does, he knows something is wrong. The door closes, and he drops into a fighting stance, his senses reaching out to detect the problem.

Then Admiral BATANIDES emerges from the bedroom. Small and gentle, nothing to a Jem'Hadar. She smiles confidently...

BATANIDES
Ambassador. A pleasure to meet you
at last.

TARAN'ATAR
Who are you? And why are you in my
quarters?

BATANIDES
My name is Marta. And... it's
about time we had a talk.

Taran'atar is wary, but he doesn't attack. He finds himself intrigued as to what this strange woman might say...

8 INT. DS9 - QUARK'S BAR

QUARK himself stands behind the bar, watching as...

...TREIR strolls up to Major CENN's table. She asks if he needs anything - by the look on his face, all he needs is Treir. Quark rolls his eyes and chuckles. Not a chance.

There's the beep of an incoming communication, and Quark turns away to his comm panel. He presses a few keys...

QUARK

Welcome to Quark's Bar, Grill,
Embassy, Gaming Hall and Holosuite
Arcade. Ambassador Quark at your
service. Please state the nature
of the catering emergency.

NOG (comm)

Uncle, it's me... Nog. I'm up in
Holosuite Three. Could you come up
here a minute?

QUARK

I'm busy, Nog. Can it wait?

NOG (comm)

Taran'atar tore a hole in the wall
again. I need your thumb print to
authorise the repairs. It'll take
five seconds.

QUARK

(grumble)

Fine. Treir can handle things for
five seconds, I guess.

He stabs the comm to close, mutters under his breath...

QUARK

That damn Jem'Hadar. Who'd have
thought I'd ever miss Worf?

With a humph, he heads out from the bar and up the spiral
staircase to the holosuites...

9 **INT. DS9 - QUARK'S BAR, HOLOSUITE CORRIDOR**

Quark stomps along, reaches the holosuite, enters...

10 **INT. DS9 - HOLOSUITE**

...and finds a bare holosuite grid. Walks in a few steps,
turns with an exasperated sigh. Nog is not here...

QUARK

Nog! Stop screwing around! I told
you I'm busy. ...Nog!

The door opens again, and DAX enters...

DAX

Hey, Quark. What's up?

QUARK

What's "up" ? What's up is that my
nephew has decided to waste my
time with stupid games...

(out loud)

...that do not befit the dignity
of a Starfleet officer!

There's no response. Dax looks at him, mystified...

DAX

No, I mean, what did you want to
see me about?

QUARK

I didn't want to see you about
anything. I'm here to see Nog.

The door opens again, and TENMEI rushes in...

TENMEI

Okay, I'm here! Nobody panic,
everything's under control. What's
the big crisis?

DAX

There is no crisis. Is there?

TENMEI

Well, there was two minutes ago,
when you called me up over the
comm and said, "Come to Holosuite
Three, we have a crisis."

DAX

I never called you, Prynn.

TENMEI

Uh, yeah, you did. Two minutes
ago. "Crisis."

DAX

No, I didn't. Quark called me up
here to meet me in private and
talk about something. Wouldn't
tell me what.

QUARK

And I got a call from Nog, he
needed me to authorise repairs.

TENMEI

Nog's in Ops.

They all look between themselves, baffled and increasingly
worried. What is going on here?

TENMEI

Okay, forget this. Somebody's
playing games with us.

Just as she turns to leave again, the holosuite door SLAMS
shut. The lights go out. It's almost completely dark...

QUARK

What the --

DAX

Dax to Kira. What's going on?

Cardassian TRANSPORTER signals suddenly light up the room.
Scared and surprised, Dax, Quark and Tenmei all dissolve in
the golden swirling beams. Holosuite Three is left empty...

11 **EXT. SPACE - EARTH ORBIT**

Bright and gleaming blue, Earth's surface looks peaceful and harmless. The mushroom Space Station is in orbit, and various ships and freighters move back and forth...

12 **INT. COLE'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM**

The wood-panelled, leather sofa'd lounge, as seen in 10x16 "I Will Survive." The room is unoccupied, the fire unlit.

The large double door creaks open, and Bashir pokes his head in. Scans the room visually, just to make sure. He nods and opens the door further, letting Vaughn and Ro in with him. Ro carefully closes the door behind them...

VAUGHN

I still don't like this. Cole is the director of Section 31. Or one of the directors at least. He wouldn't disappear like this unless he was on a mission.

RO

Might be nothing to do with us.

VAUGHN

It might... but do you really think we're that lucky?

BASHIR

Let's just take the chance we've been given. Even if it's a trick, we'll never get a better one.

RO

What are we looking for?

BASHIR

I don't know. Sloan already told me there's no paper trail or central store of what Section 31 gets up to. It would leave them open to exactly what we're trying to do. But we have to try anyway. Check that book shelf over there.

Ro does as Bashir says. Vaughn stands, pondering, thinking it all through.

Bashir goes to the big painting over the fireplace, begins feeling along its edge. Maybe there's a safe or something behind it. He finds a catch of some kind, presses it...

...and the painting DISSOLVES into thin air, via some kind of subtle transport beam. Behind it is a comm screen...

BASHIR

Commander... Lieutenant...

At the bottom of the screen is a flashing icon. Vaughn and Ro approach, curious. With a nod from Vaughn, Bashir pulls his sleeve over his hand and reaches with his cloth-covered finger to touch the icon. The screen comes to life...

...with a close-up image of QUARK. The Ferengi stares into the screen, eyes wide in panic, shaking, plainly terrified.

RO

Quark? What the hell are --

Quark reacts in desperate hope to the familiar voice...

QUARK (screen)

(gasping breaths)

Laren... help...

The image on the screen moves sideways, away from Quark. The next face in line is Dax. Just as scared as Quark, but controlling it better, and with a touch of righteous anger. Ro, Bashir and Vaughn share worried glances...

On screen, the image shifts sideways again, revealing the next face in line - Tenmei. Vaughn's eyes flare in fury. This is the worst possible thing someone could do to him.

The image shifts again, pulls back until we see all three side by side. They stand ram-rod straight in a dark room, with no clear sign of what has them so scared...

...until a new figure steps into frame - L'HAAN, wearing the all-black uniform of Section 31. She looks into the camera with infuriating calmness...

VAUGHN
What have you done to them?

L'HAAN (screen)
I have done nothing... yet. Once
I leave this room it will flood
with radiation. The forcefields
that currently surround your...
friends... are strong enough to
protect them from the radiation.
They are not, however, strong
enough to protect them from
themselves.

Vaughn, Bashir and Ro frown in confusion...

L'HAAN (screen)
If your companions move more than
a matter of centimetres, they will
contact the fields. This will
cause the fields to collapse...
and expose them to the radiation.
The result will be quite
remarkably painful, and in mere
moments, fatal. I believe I've
made myself clear.

The signal drops, and the screen goes blank. Bashir and Ro
both look to Vaughn for what to do next...

Vaughn tenses with renewed anger...

13 EXT. DEEP SPACE NINE

Sitting at rest, seemingly peaceful...

14 INT. DS9 - QUARTERS

Mister COLE sits calmly, with legs crossed, at a table.
Quite relaxed and chummy...

COLE
Thank you for meeting with me. I
realise your time is valuable
right now, so I'll try not to take
up too much of it.

COLE (cont)

(beat)

Let me start by saying how very helpful it's been having you here, keeping an eye on things for me. I especially value the reports you've submitted to me. They've helped me more than you know. And I know how difficult it must have been to stay... "invisible," so to speak.

(beat)

But there's something more I need you to do for me, if you wouldn't mind. You know I like my agents to remain hands-off whenever possible. But this is something I'm afraid I can't do through my normal channels. It's a tiny thing, barely noticeable. But you are in the perfect position to help me...

REVERSE ANGLE

...to reveal at last that he is talking to ETANA.

ETANA

That's alright, Mister Cole. I'm happy to help however I can. What do you need me to do?

Off Etana's open, helpful face...

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

15 INT. DS9 - INFIRMARY

ETANA strolls in - relaxed, happy, no problems, satchel over her shoulder. Looks through to the surgical suite...

...at Tarses examining a patient, Richter in support. Etana smiles for her girlfriend, moves on to the pharmacy area.

She opens up her satchel, pulls out a metal CANISTER. Goes to the shelf, removes the first one, replaces it with hers.

Then she pulls another device from her bag, points it at the label on the original canister. Activates the device...

INSERT - THE CANISTER

...and the device's beam rewrites the canister's LABEL.

BACK TO SCENE

...she then puts the device back in her bag.

RICHTER

Oh, hey babe. You just get in?

Changed canister still in hand, Etana turns to see that Richter has wandered up...

ETANA

Yeah, just a second ago. Thought I'd get a start on checking the pharmacy stores. Don't want to get yelled at again.

She nonchalantly places the changed canister somewhere else on the shelves, and nods at a job well done...

16 EXT. SPACE

A small, fast Starfleet SHIP zooms through space at highest possible warp. A runabout would do, but I'd rather it was something like Picard's supershuttle from "Insurrection."

17 **INT. SHUTTLE - COCKPIT**

VAUGHN driving the shuttle as fast as it will go, safety be damned. BASHIR nervously hovers behind. Further back is Ro - vibrating, twitching, ready to snap...

BASHIR
How did they know?

VAUGHN
I don't know, Doctor.

BASHIR
Has she been there all along?

VAUGHN
I don't know, Doctor.

Bashir steps away. They're all on edge. He goes to Ro...

RO
How much longer?

BASHIR
It's a few days' trip from Earth
to Bajor at best. Just be glad
Vaughn was able to commandeer this
shuttle on short notice.

Bashir notices Ro's agitated state...

BASHIR
Are you feeling alright?

RO
Not really, no.

BASHIR
Can I do anything to help?

RO
(sharp)
I don't need your help.

Bashir looks stung at her tone. Embarrassed at herself, Ro turns, heads into the rear cabin. Bashir watches her go...

18 INT. SHUTTLE - REAR CABIN

Ro stomps in, gingerly lowers herself onto a bunk, wary of her back. Reaches into her boot, brings out the hypospray she keeps stashed there, jams it against her neck...

...and nothing. Empty. Takes out the cartridge, shakes it, stuffs it back in, tries again. Nothing. Again. Nothing.

RO
Come on!

HURLS the hypospray, it SMASHes against the far wall...

SMASH CUT to:

19 INT. CAVES

Greyed out images, memory flashes. Vaughn and Ro are being attacked by black-clad FIGURES, masked and anonymous. She kicks one attacker's legs out, reaches for her backpack...

...an attacker takes the chance, PUNCHES her hard, grabs her backpack, throws it aside, VAPORISES it with a phaser. Ro's eyes flare in horror - her painkillers were in there.

CUT TO:

20 INT. SHUTTLE - REAR CABIN

Ro RIPS open a panel on the cabin's replicator, shoves her hands into the circuitry. Hands shaking as they break and remake connections. She's panting with desperation...

RO
Come on, dammit...

COMPUTER
Unable to comply.

Ro keeps working. The computer voice is choppy, garbled...

COMPUTER

Unable to comply. Unnn... aaay...
bullll... tooo...

Ro SCREAMS again, yanks her hands out, PUNCHES the panel in fury. The screen shatters, but she PUNCHES again. PUNCH. And PUNCH. And PUNCH again, screaming more with every one.

The door opens and Bashir rushes in, alerted by the noise. Ro is PUNCHing and PUNCHing. He grabs her, pulls her away from the wall. She struggles, but he holds her...

BASHIR

Laren! Laren! What's wrong? What are you doing?

RO

(shriek)

Get off me!

But Bashir holds her tight. After a moment, she calms. Her head sags. Once he is sure she is okay, he lets her go...

BASHIR

What was that all about?

RO

I'm okay. I'm okay. Just...
letting off a little steam.

BASHIR

We're all worried, Laren. What I suggest is that you take that frustration and channel it into figuring out what to do next.

RO

Yeah. I guess.
(sudden thought)
Don't tell Vaughn...

BASHIR

I think he's too busy driving the shuttle into the red zone to notice anything else...

21 **INT. SHUTTLE - COCKPIT**

Close on Vaughn, as he pushes the shuttle onwards. His mind is working over all the possibilities, good and bad...

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

KIRA and VANNIS sit across the desk from each other...

VANNIS

Not a day passes without at least one report of Jem'Hadar vessels fighting each other over some trivial slight or disagreement.

KIRA

Can't the Vorta control them?

VANNIS

The Vorta are as confused as the Jem'Hadar. They try to follow the wishes of the Founder, but...

Vannis fades off, ashamed of what she was about to say...

KIRA

It's alright. Go on.

VANNIS

I cannot criticise a Founder... But Odo, because of his unique upbringing... his desire is to find consensus wherever possible. By trying to please everyone...

KIRA

...he ends up pleasing no-one.

VANNIS

And what of the Ascendants?

KIRA

We got a new dispatch from our source this morning. They said things seem to have gone quiet. It only makes me more worried.

VANNIS

You suspect they are preparing for
a major offensive.

KIRA

I don't know what else to think.
Aren't you taking a risk too,
talking to me like this?

VANNIS

The Ambassador authorised this
meeting himself. I believe after
our last "confrontation," he is
attempting to soften his stance.

KIRA

Well, that's one good thing, at
least. Thank you for coming,
Vannis. Keep in touch.

Vannis nods, gets up from the chair and leaves. Alone
again, Kira sighs and tries to settle back to work.

The doors suddenly THUNK with heavy locks. BLUE LIGHTS in
the corners burst to life, bathing the room an eerie glow.
The air is suddenly pierced with a sharp, painful SQUEAL.

Kira looks up in alarm - she didn't do this. She winces,
covers her ears from the brain-hurting intensity of it. A
transporter signal forms in the lounge area...

... and deposits Vaughn, grim and hard. The whining sound
dies out, but the blue lights remain. Kira rushes to him...

KIRA

Commander!

VAUGHN

I don't have time to explain,
Captain. Section 31 is moving
against us, here and now.

KIRA

(re blue lights)

But I thought these things were
supposed to block transporters.

Vaughn brings up his arm - he's wearing a metallic wrist strap, like Major Cenn wore in 10x08 "Property Values"...

VAUGHN

Ro's transport inhibitors. Easy enough to retune them to pass through. And nobody not wearing one can follow. Now listen. L'Haan is here, on the station. She's kidnapped Quark, Dax...

(grits teeth)

...and Prynn. She's probably got a scattering field like this one, so they'll be tough to find.

KIRA

Do you have any clues at all?

VAUGHN

She threatened them with deadly radiation. She might have been lying about that, but we can't risk it, and it might be a clue.

KIRA

I'll have Tarses break out the hyronalin.

VAUGHN

This is my daughter, Captain. I'm trusting you to save her.

KIRA

I will, I promise. What about L'Haan? And Cole?

VAUGHN

You leave them to me.

Vaughn presses the controls on his wrist strap. The SQUEAL returns, the transporter forms, and Vaughn disappears.

Kira is instantly in action. Goes to her desk, flips up the secret panel, presses the control. The blue lights die and the doors unlock. She heads out onto Ops...

23 INT. DS9 - INDUSTRIAL ROOM

Dark, featureless, definitely somewhere on DS9. Quark, Dax and Prynn stand in their forcefield cocoons. All scared and sweaty, wavering on their feet, fighting to stay awake...

QUARK

I need to sleep...

DAX

Stay awake, Quark. If you fall asleep, we all die.

QUARK

You don't know that.

DAX

Try it and I'll kill you myself.

TENMEI

Guys... it'll be okay. My dad's gonna get us out of this. You know he is. Who was that woman anyway?

None of them know, but they all fear the worst...

25 INT. DS9 - CORRIDOR

Ro stalks carefully along the corridor, phaser out. Still shaking, on edge, but channelling it like Bashir said.

She reaches a corner, creeps up to it. Pokes her head round to check - nobody there. Steps out to turn the corner...

REVERSE ANGLE

...we see L'Haan standing behind her, tall and black and expressionless. Ro senses her presence, spins to her...

...but L'Haan effortlessly KICKS the phaser from her hand. It smashes to the wall, destroyed. Smug and superior...

L'HAAN

It is agreeable to see you again,
Lieutenant.

RO
I could'a done without it.

L'HAAN
But I must thank you. You made my
mission so much easier. You --

PUNCH in the face - Ro is in no mood to talk. L'Haan spins with it, SLAMS Ro right back - and they get into it.

L'Haan's moves are smooth, fluid, economical. Ro is loose and sloppy. Ro is a street-fighter. L'Haan is an assassin.

Finally L'Haan SWEEPS Ro's legs out from under her, like in the caves. Ro goes down with a clumsy THUD, a yell of pain as her back jars. L'Haan moves in for the kill...

...but Ro TWISTS, slaps something around the Vulcan's wrist - another transporter band. Ro grins victoriously at the confused Vulcan through bloodied teeth...

RO
All part of the plan.

...and then L'Haan disappears, beamed away. Ro collapses back to the ground with a tearful scream-moan of agony...

26 INT. DS9 - DARK ROOM

Another unidentified space somewhere in the depths of the station, dark and anonymous. The transporter beam forms...

...and deposits L'Haan into the room. She looks up in mild perplexity... and sees Vaughn holding a phaser. He FIRES.

27 INT. DS9 - INFIRMARY

The door opens, and Ro staggers into the doorway, bloody and beaten. Tarses is nearby, and sees her...

TARSES
Ro! What the --

Ro ignores him, heads straight to the pharmacy. Shaking, in blistering pain, no thoughts in her head but getting to her painkillers. Straight to the shelf, opens the canister...

TARSES

Ro, stop! You can't just -

She yanks out a drug cartridge, slips it into the hypo in her hand. Tarses tries to grab the hypo off her...

...she PUNCHES him out of the way. Tarses goes down with an OOF of shock. Etana rushes in from the other room...

...just in time to see Ro jam the hypo at her neck, and inject. And inject again. And again. And keeps going.

ETANA

Laren, stop, that's too much --

RO

Shut up! I need it!

Ro props herself up against the wall as she feels the drug flowing into her system. Peace and bliss in numbness...

...until her breath catches. Tries to walk, knees buckle beneath her, hits the floor with a sickening THUD, spasms, legs drumming on the floor, foaming at the mouth...

Tarses rushes to Ro, tries to hold her down...

Etana runs to the pharmacy, checks the canister - it's the one she swapped. She stares at it, stunned. Looks back at Ro, in the midst of a seizure on the Infirmary floor...

TARSES

Nurse! Help me! Nurse!

But Etana stares at Ro. Prophets, what has she done?

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

28 INT. DS9 - INFIRMARY

RO on the biobed, shuddering and grunting in her seizure.
Tarses and Richter both trying their best to control her.
Etana to one side, gripping the drug canister in horror...

TARSES

Nurse! I need to know what was in
that canister!

Etana can't respond. Richter looks at her, confused...

TARSES

(sharp, commanding)

Sergeant Etana! You will help me
with the patient or I will relieve
you of duty.

Coming back to herself a little, Etana shoves the canister
at Richter. The human woman takes it, looks at the label...

RICHTER

(shocked)

Maraji...

TARSES

What?! We don't even carry that!
And why the hell did Ro go for it?
What is she even doing here? I
thought she was on Kel-Artis.

ETANA

He said it was a test, to check if
anyone noticed...

RICHTER

Kol, what are you talking about?

Etana can't answer. She runs out of the room...

RICHTER

Kol!

TARSES

Let her go. She's useless to me
right now. Concentrate! Maraji
alone doesn't have this effect,
not even in the dose she took.
Something else is going on...

Tarses and Richter get to work saving Ro...

29 INT. DS9 - BASHIR'S QUARTERS

BASHIR stands in his quarters...

BASHIR

This is getting out of hand. I'm
asking you to stop it now before
it goes any further. Please.

...reveal he's talking to COLE, who stands opposite him,
arms folded, unimpressed and dismissive...

COLE

I hope you're not planning on
begging me. It would just make
the whole thing comical.

BASHIR

I'm serious, Cole! I tried to
trick you before. I admit it.
Obviously it didn't work. But I'm
not trying to trick you now.

COLE

And that's why you asked me to
meet you in your own quarters,
where you have the home turf.
Honestly, Doctor, I'm insulted
that you think so little of me.

BASHIR

Look, I just want to find a way
out of this that doesn't end up
with me and all my friends dead.

COLE

Might be a little late for that.

BASHIR
(oh no)
What have you done?

COLE
I'm guessing you haven't popped
into the Infirmary since you got
back. Lieutenant Ro's flopping
about on a biobed like a dying
fish as we speak.

Cole smiles evilly, trying to deliberately provoke Bashir.
Bashir is on the verge of taking the bait...

COLE
There's nothing you can pull on
me, Doctor. I've taken antidotes
to every airborne sedative. I'm
carrying every kind of transport
blocker known to man. Whatever you
really want... you won't get it.

THUMP. Cole slumps to the ground, the victim of a double-
fisted punch to the back of the neck...

...by Vaughn. He and Bashir look down at the body...

VAUGHN
Every technological trick in the
book... and you forget to look
behind you. Idiot.

BASHIR
Is it true about Ro?

VAUGHN
I don't know. She got L'Haan, but
I haven't seen her since.

BASHIR
I've got to get to the Infirmary.

Bashir heads to the door - Vaughn blocks his way...

VAUGHN
You're not going anywhere.

BASHIR
Ro could be dying!

VAUGHN
And there are other doctors to
treat her! Unless you're really so
arrogant as to think nobody else
in Starfleet is capable of saving
a woman's life but you?

(accusing)
You promised to help me with
Mister Cole, Doctor. You joined
this mission voluntarily. Now you
will follow through with it.

BASHIR
But Ro...

VAUGHN
Well then, I guess you have to
decide what's more important to
you right now. Helping a woman
who's already in safe hands...
or finishing what you started.

Bashir seethes with indecision...

30 INT. DS9 - MAIN OPS CENTRE

NOG and BOWERS are at their stations on the upper level,
feverishly working their panels. SHAR buzzes back and forth
between them and his own station, comparing and contrasting
readings and information with grim determination.

Kira trots up the stairs from the central table, leans over
the console to at least attempt some confidentiality...

KIRA
Anything?

NOG
Captain, all due respect... but
you've basically asked us to find
something that is meant to be
impossible to find, by design. We
need more to go on.

KIRA

I've given you everything I've got, Nog. A field that scatters all transporters, sensors and weapons, somewhere near a major radiation source. There are three people inside it, and we need to find them - now.

SHAR

Perhaps if we knew exactly what life signs to search for...

Kira looks unsure. She didn't want to have to tell them that... but maybe it will help.

KIRA

Alright, fine. You're looking for Trill, Ferengi and human.

Horrificed realisations as they figure out who it must be...

BOWERS

There's only one Trill on board.

NOG

There's only one Ferengi anyone would bother taking hostage.

SHAR

But who's the human?

Kira hesitates again - she knows this will be difficult...

KIRA

The human is Lieutenant Tenmei.

Shar blanches - Prynn. Nog looks over to him, sympathetic for his friend. With renewed resolve, Shar gets back to work on his consoles. Nog nods too...

NOG

We'll find them, Captain.

The three junior officers get back to work, hard.

31 INT. DS9 - DARK ROOM

Cole JERKS awake in Vaughn's dark room. He tries to move, finds himself unable to. He's tied by basic, low-tech means to a pillar, hands and feet bound but held upright.

He looks to the right, and L'Haan is there too, likewise. She looks as embarrassed as a Vulcan can. Vaughn watches them both. Cole tries not to show how annoyed he is...

VAUGHN

Mister Cole. I wish I could say
it's good to meet you in person at
last.

COLE

Elias Alfred Vaughn. Born 2274 on
Berengaria Seven, to colonist-
farmers Malcolm and Sandra Vaughn.
Starfleet rank - commander.
Veteran of the Tomed incident, the
Betreka Nebula, Arvada Three and a
hundred others.

Vaughn tries to control his reaction at this. Cole chuckles and shakes his head, again tries to purposely provoke...

COLE

After we killed T'Prynn, did you
really think we wouldn't keep an
eye on you too?

VAUGHN

(tense, tight)

It doesn't matter. I've got you
where I want you now.

COLE

(mocking)

Oh yes, I'm completely at your
mercy. Please... let me go. I
promise to never do it again.

(roll eyes)

So where's Doctor Bashir?

Bashir's voice comes from somewhere in the darkness...

BASHIR (o.s.)
I'm here.

COLE
Really? I must say I misjudged you then. I would have sworn that with Ro in such dire medical straits, you'd have insisted on being the one to look after her, leaving me alone with the Commander here. I guess you're just not as high-principled as I thought.

Bashir surges forwards out of the darkness right at Cole, PUNCHES him in the face. Cole just laughs it off...

COLE
Oh, come on. Bashir the tough guy now? Please. Whatever happened to your Hippocratic Oath?

BASHIR
What did you do to Ro?

COLE
Took advantage of her addiction, of course. What else?

Vaughn and Bashir look between each other, confused. Seeing this, Cole really bursts out laughing...

COLE
Oh my god! Are you telling me you brought a drug addict with you and didn't even know it? That's brilliant!

Bashir punches him again in fury. Cole keeps laughing...

COLE
Check your own medical records if you don't believe me. You'll find missing canisters of asinolyathin, morphenolog... whatever she could get her hands on.

VAUGHN

How could you possibly know what's
in our medical records?

Cole looks at him like, "Come on." Vaughn gets the answer -
he looks over to L'Haan, who has been silently observing...

COLE

Nope. Didn't need L'Haan for that.
I've had an agent here for more
than two years now.

Bashir and Vaughn's eyes flare in worry...

32 INT. DS9 - INFIRMARY

RO is now unconscious on the biobed, lying still, but a
mess from what she's been through. TARSES places a device
on her forehead and stands back, watching in concern...

TARSES

Alright. I've induced a coma so
she at least can't make it any
worse on herself while I clean out
her bloodstream.

As he moves off to get more medical devices...

BASHIR (v.o.)

Who is it?

COLE (v.o.)

You're the genetically enhanced
genius - you figure it out.

Tarses hands a device to Richter, keeps one for himself...

RICHTER

Isn't Maraji a hallucinogenic?

TARSES

Yes, it's a narcotic made from
rare Cardassian crystals. It's
highly addictive to Bajorans -
the few who could afford it got
themselves into quite a mess.

They continue to operate on Ro...

COLE (v.o.)

Who could tell me everything that goes on in the Infirmary - like when you handed in your resignation, Doctor? And also has a very close relationship with the Security department, the chief of which is also DS-Nine's new second officer?

Looking around with worry, Richter calls out loud...

RICHTER

Kol? Babe? Are you there?

But there's no answer...

33 INT. DS9 - SECURITY OFFICE

Major CENN is working behind the desk. The door opens, he looks up - ETANA stands there, tears in her eyes...

CENN

Sergeant? What's wrong?

ETANA

Place me under arrest, Major.

CENN

...why, exactly?

ETANA

Because I think I've made a horrible, horrible mistake.

Off Cenn's confusion and worry...

34 INT. DS9 - INFIRMARY

On Ro, as she lies unconscious, Tarses and Richter working around her...

CUT TO:

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

Ro looks around herself in surprise - how did she get into the corridor? She's back in uniform, and alone for now...

RO

What... how did I get here?

She looks up the long, empty corridor - it seems to stretch on forever. And then in the middle of the deck...

...TARAN'ATAR unshrouds.

Ro tenses, shaking, takes a couple of steps back, looks around for anything she can use as a weapon.

Taran'atar sneers at her threateningly...

RO

Taran'atar...

TARAN'ATAR

Shall we finish it, Lieutenant?
Once and for all?

Taran'atar begins to slowly stalk down the corridor towards her. Ro shudders in terror as her nightmare approaches...

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

36 INT. DS9 - HABITAT RING CORRIDOR

Taran'atar slowly advances down the empty corridor towards Ro... she backs away, but doesn't run...

TARAN'ATAR

This is all your own fault, you know. You're dying on the floor of the Infirmary right now, because you left yourself wide open to it.

RO

It wasn't me! It was Section 31!

TARAN'ATAR

It was you. If you hadn't been a pathetic drug addict, they'd never have had the opportunity.

RO

I'm not an addict!

TARAN'ATAR

What do you call one who steals, lies to her friends, thinks of nothing but her own pain and when she can take her next injection?

RO

You broke my back!

TARAN'ATAR

That healed months ago. Bashir told you so. Did he lie?

(no answer)

You'd weaned yourself off them once. So why? Why deliberately choose to use them again?

RO

Because of you!

37 INT. DS9 - DARK ROOM

BASHIR paces back and forth before the restrained COLE and L'HAAN. They are tied up, and yet Bashir is the one who feels helpless. VAUGHN stands back and observes...

BASHIR

You already had me. You had Ro and Vaughn. You didn't need to take Dax and the others too. They're not a part of this.

VAUGHN

No, they're not. But they're not the point either. They're just a distraction. Something to keep the rest of the crew occupied.

COLE

(shrug)

If your crew is as good as you think, then you have nothing to worry about, do you?

38 INT. DS9 - MAIN OPS CENTRE

On Shar, as he works his console with pin-point focus...

SHAR

Got it! A point-seven-three lag in the bounce-back from my tachyon scan around the central core, level nine. That means a sensor-shielded zone of about fifty square metres. They're there.

KIRA

(into action)

Bowers. Send your security team to the central core, level nine. All of you get down there too - we may have found them, but we need to get them out safely.

Shar, Nog and Bowers grab tricorders and phasers, head over towards the transporter platform...

KIRA

Ops to Tarses, possible medical emergency in the central core, level nine. Take a shipload of hyronalin with you - there may be radiation injuries.

The three of them stand on the transporter platform and dissolve away. Kira bites her lip in worry...

39 INT. DS9 - INFIRMARY

Tarses dashes around the room, grabbing triage kits...

TARSESES

Acknowledged, Captain. Tarses out.
Kris, keep an eye on Ro.

He runs to the pharmacy store, grabs three canisters and shoves them into his bag. He's about to run out...

RICHTER

Doctor!
(he turns back)
Check the canisters. If someone's been swapping the labels, you should make sure you're actually taking hyronalin.

TARSESES

Right. Good idea. Thanks.

Tarses takes the canisters back out again to check them...

Richter turns back to Ro. She's peacefully resting, tubes attached to both wrists and eyes fluttering in REM...

40 INT. DS9 - HABITAT RING CORRIDOR

Ro backs away. She can stagger a few inches, but seems incapable of running. Taran'atar continues to advance...

TARAN'ATAR

Me? I made you deliberately give yourself an addiction?

RO
Yes! Just by being here!

TARAN'ATAR
You told me you understood that my
hurting you wasn't my fault... So
why keep blaming me?

RO
Who else have I got to blame?

In answer, Taran'atar sneers at her. She has herself...

41 INT. DS9 - DARK ROOM

Cole sneers at Vaughn, refusing to play the victim...

COLE
You brought this on yourselves,
you know. If you'd just minded
your own business...

BASHIR
We're trying to stop a peaceful,
innocent people from being wiped
out. How in your twisted version
of morality is that a bad thing?

COLE
See, this is where you're going wrong.
Morality doesn't enter into it. It's
about what's best for the people of
the Federation. And whatever has to
be done to achieve that... we do.

BASHIR
My God... you're as bad as the Tal
Shiar or the Obsidian Order.

COLE
(laughing)
No we're not! We're much better
than them! Romulans, Cardassians,
they lived in constant fear of
what the secret police might do if
they spoke out of turn.

COLE (cont)

Us... the average Federation citizen doesn't even know we exist. We don't want to control them. We protect their rights to do whatever they want.

BASHIR

That's what Starfleet is for.

COLE

Bingo. We all work towards the same ends, Doctor. We just have slightly different methods.

VAUGHN

And yours include assassination, torture, genocide...

COLE

Oh, blah blah blah. We do what no-one else will, so they don't have to. You should be grateful.

BASHIR

(to a child)

You. Murder. People.

COLE

Needs of the many.

(nod to L'Haan)

A little something our Vulcan friends taught us years ago.

Bashir just can't get his head around how anybody could possibly think that way. Vaughn observes coldly...

42 INT. DS9 - INDUSTRIAL ROOM

Dax, Quark and Tenmei still stand where they've been. They look worse for wear but trying their best to hold on...

QUARK

I can't stand up any longer... my back hurts, my legs hurt...

DAX

I tell you what - I used to be a gymnast, and I know a lot of techniques for holding your posture as straight and smooth as possible with minimum effort.

QUARK

I don't know. I was never very good at... exercise.

DAX

Just start with the breathing. Take long, slow breaths. Roll your shoulders back.

All three of them follow her instructions...

DAX

Okay, good. Now - straighten the spine, switch on your core stomach muscles to protect the back. Imagine there's a string through the top of your head, and it's pulling you up tight.

Tenmei closes her eyes, breathes deeply, tries to do as she is told. Pause, deep breath. But she frowns, distracted...

TENMEI

I need to pee.

Dax SNORTS with involuntary laughter...

DAX

Stop it - don't make me laugh.

TENMEI

But I do! I can practically feel it running down my leg.

Now Quark LAUGHS too. Dax tries to stay firm, but...

DAX

Seriously, stop it. If you make me laugh, I'll wet myself too.

QUARK

You think if we do wet ourselves,
it'll stay inside the forcefield
and just keep building up?

TENMEI

I hope not. I had dinner at the
Bolian restaurant. I think I'd be
better off taking my chances with
the radiation.

Dax HOWLS with laughter. They're all laughing now. Then...

QUARK

Quiet! Somebody's out there.

DAX

I didn't hear anything.

QUARK

Perhaps you noticed the ears?

Dax accepts his reasoning. They take deep breaths...

ALL

Help! We're in here! Help!

43 INT. DS9 - LOWER ENGINEERING CORE

Nog, Shar and Bowers are working with machines against a
large bulkhead of grimy metal, down near the central core.
The THROB of the main fusion core rises and falls nearby.

With them are Tarses and some of our regular security faces
- SEVAK, ALECO, SHUL and others - all armed just in case.
Nog reacts to something only he can hear...

NOG

I heard something. I think they're
shouting.

BOWERS

At least that means they're alive.
Keep going.

Shar and Nog focus on their machines...

44 INT. DS9 - HABITAT RING CORRIDOR

Taran'atar is almost on top of the near-paralysed Ro...

TARAN'ATAR

You know in your mind that I am
not to blame for your problems.
You've been a mess all your life.
But your heart, your... *pagh*...
they cannot forgive me. And so you
escape from it all.

RO

(tearful, angry)

No...

TARAN'ATAR

Only it doesn't work, does it?
Because you're still a mess deep
down. You take the drugs so you
won't feel your pain... but all
you do is feel your pain.

RO

No! It's you! It's you!

And she launches into a furious flurry of PUNCHES, hitting
Taran'atar as hard as she can with everything she's got.
Taran'atar takes it without protest...

45 INT. DS9 - INFIRMARY

On Ro, as she lies on the bio-bed, eyes flickering in her
unconsciousness. Richter hovers somewhere out of sight...

46 INT. DS9 - DARK ROOM

Cole is still acting like he's the one in control. Vaughn
and Bashir glare at them from the darkness...

VAUGHN

I don't care how you justify it.
Me, Ro, Bashir... we're going to
put a stop to it. All of it.

(turns to L'Haan)

With you.

The Vulcan woman blinks in feigned surprise...

L'HAAN

My apologies, Commander - my mind drifted. Something was boring me to sleep... but I promise it was not your banal and pointless platitudes. It was something else entirely.

Cole smirks. Vaughn is not so impressed...

VAUGHN

So... you've both got smart mouths. You know what that tells me? That you're worried.

COLE

Or maybe we're just smart.

BASHIR

Then you must have guessed what we want. We want you to fix what you did to Taran'atar. Take out your subconscious control and let him make his own decisions.

L'HAAN

And if I refuse? Which I assure you I do? How do you propose to persuade me?

COLE

You can't torture us, Elias. For one thing, it would make you as "bad" as us. And for another... do you really imagine we haven't been trained to resist pain? Especially a Vulcan? Come on!

VAUGHN

Answer me this. Have you been trained to resist a seriously pissed off Jem'Hadar?

Vaughn lifts his arm, taps a control on the transporter wrist-strap. The darkness lights up with another advanced Starfleet transporter signal... which reveals TARAN'ATAR.

The Jem'Hadar soldier looks around, briefly disoriented. But as he spots Vaughn and Bashir, he understands. He looks at Cole and L'Haan, growls menacingly, advances...

TARAN'ATAR

You. Vulcan.

VAUGHN

You see, Mister Cole... you thought you were tricking me by sending L'Haan. I figured it out. Then I thought I was tricking you by sending Doctor Bashir. You figured that out. You tricked me by having Etana here as your spy all along. So now it's my turn again.

(beat)

You thought Taran'atar would be your perfect mark. Bred to do what he's told, no questions. Had it been any other Jem'Hadar, you might have been right. But this man is stronger than that.

(nasty grin)

And now, he knows exactly what you did to him.

47 INT. DS9 - HABITAT RING CORRIDOR

Ro PUMMELS Taran'atar as hard as she can, all the fear and rage and hatred and pain coming out. She shrieks at him...

RO

I hate you! I hate you!

And she PUNCHES and PUNCHES. He takes it...

ANGLE

Ro is punching herself, beating herself up...

48 INT. DS9 - DARK ROOM

Taran'atar is almost on top of L'Haan. Even through her Vulcan calm and control, she's worried...

TARAN'ATAR

I have been used, controlled,
twisted. By the Founders, the
Ghemor woman, the slave... and now
you. It is enough. I will not
allow any more.

VAUGHN

Doctor, please release L'Haan's
hands. She's going to need them.

BASHIR

(unsure)

Commander...

VAUGHN

Now. Doctor.

Reluctantly, Bashir unties L'Haan's hands. She instantly
whips them forward in an attack...

...but Taran'atar is too fast for her. He grabs her wrists,
bends them towards his own head... she resists...

49 INT. DS9 - HABITAT RING CORRIDOR

Ro BEATS the living daylights out of Taran'atar...

But then she's beating herself again...

And then it's Taran'atar... and then it's herself...

50 INT. DS9 - INDUSTRIAL ROOM

Tenmei, Dax and Quark shouting at the top of their lungs...

ALL

Help! Help! We're in here!

Tenmei shouts just a bit too enthusiastically --

-- and she touches the forcefield around her. It flickers, sputters. And then falls around all three of them.

They all look at each other in horror as the radiation begins to seep in...

51 INT. DS9 - DARK ROOM

L'Haan and Taran'atar struggle against each other - he dragging her hands to his head, she trying to keep away...

Bashir - uneasy. Vaughn - grim and determined. Taran'atar - furious. L'Haan - scared. Cole - worried but firm.

COLE

L'Haan, don't give in. You're a Vulcan. He can't force you to do anything.

ANGLE

Behind L'Haan... is MU-L'HAAN, the Intendant's handmaiden.

MU-L'HAAN

No... but I can.

MU-L'Haan reaches round and adds her weight to her double's arms, pushing them closer to Taran'atar's head. It catches S31-L'Haan by surprise, she can't resist...

...and the fingers connect. Mind-meld.

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

52 EXT. FOUNDERS' WORLD - DAY

The surface of the Founders' world, but with no Founders. Empty, deserted stone stretching out into the distance. TARAN'ATAR, RU-L'HAAN and MU-L'HAAN all face each other...

RU-L'HAAN
How did you do this? You are
nothing. An echo. Powerless.

MU-L'HAAN
Do you believe I hid in plain
sight of the Alliance and the
Intendant for so many years
without knowing how to appear
powerless when required?

53 INT. DS9 - DARK ROOM

COLE and VAUGHN watch as L'Haan and Taran'atar mind-meld...

COLE
What just happened?

VAUGHN
I'd say your agent was tripped up
by her own arrogance. You know,
once it's got a foothold, a *katra*
can be very hard to get rid of...

He's talking about T'Prynn. He smiles smugly...

54 EXT. FOUNDERS' WORLD - DAY

Taran'atar and the two L'Haans...

RU-L'HAAN
You have exhausted the last of
your energy on a futile errand,
L'Haan. I will not remove my
suggestion. Any attempt to force
me will be unsuccessful.

MU-L'HAAN

You spoke of a human phrase -
"evil twins." Of how those from
my universe are twisted, amoral
versions of those from yours. But
you are the evil one here.

RU-L'HAAN

Moral lectures are irrelevant. You
are powerless against me.

MU-L'HAAN

Then it is fortunate that you are
not my target.

Lightning quick, MU-L'Haan turns to Taran'atar, grabs him
in the DOUBLE MIND-MELD hold.

Taran'atar allows it, even grins with victory as he and MU-
L'Haan vibrate against each other...

RU-L'HAAN

Stop! What are you doing?!

MU-L'Haan and Taran'atar ignore her. RU-L'Haan grimaces at
the pain, fear, violation. Taran'atar sneer-grins...

55 INT. DS9 - LOWER ENGINEERING CORE

NOG's ears prick up...

NOG

They stopped shouting...

SHAR's antennae reach around, feeling...

SHAR

The forcefield is down.

BOWERS

Crap. Move move move!

BOWERS directs his security team to scatter. SEVAK covers
the corridor behind them, just in case. Nog and Shar get
their machines ready, TARSES prepares his hypospray...

56 **EXT. FOUNDERS' WORLD - DAY**

MU-L'Haan grips Taran'atar's head tight... they stare into each other's eyes, intense and focused...

She struggles to drag something out of Taran'atar - a ghostly IMAGE of another L'Haan, superimposed...

RU-L'Haan grips her own head in pain, trying to fight it...

57 **INT. DS9 - INDUSTRIAL ROOM**

QUARK slumps against the wall, strength fading...

 QUARK
 (weakly)
 Help... somebody...

...and here is SHAR with a small emitter... Nog, Bowers and Tarses behind, forcefield extending behind like a clear corridor... Nog grabs Quark, pulls him into the bubble...

 QUARK
 Nog... I always said... you were a
 good boy...

 NOG
 Doctor, get him out of here.

 QUARK
 Wait... Laren. Where's Laren?

Tarses avoids the question, just leads Quark away...

Bowers scoops DAX's half-conscious body into his arms, speeds her back to safety. Shar and Nog remain...

 SHAR
 Prynn! Are you here?

A faint, half-heard GROAN. Nog hears it...

 NOG
 Over there!

Shar runs, pushing the forcefield ahead of him...

TENMEI is curled up on the ground, skin visibly burned and fizzing. Shar hands his emitter to Nog, SCOOPS Tenmei off the ground, RUNS her to safety. She croaks out...

TENMEI
Shar... I guess this... makes us
even now...

Shar is only interested in getting her to safety...

58 EXT. FOUNDERS' WORLD - DAY

MU-L'Haan clings to the ghostly IMAGE between her hands... it wavers, tries to get free, but she won't let it...

RU-L'Haan SCREAMS with the strain of mentally pushing back against what MU-L'Haan is doing... but it's not enough.

MU-L'Haan THROWS the image at her opposite number... it hits, blends with her... RU-L'Haan's own image wavers...

MU-L'Haan and Taran'atar watch... RU-L'Haan writhes and fights... with a final wail, the Vulcan woman fades away.

59 INT. DS9 - DARK ROOM

Taran'atar and RU-L'Haan slump back, mind-meld over. Vaughn catches Taran'atar. BASHIR runs to check on L'Haan...

BASHIR
She's alive...

Vaughn doesn't seem overly impressed with that...

60 EXT. FOUNDERS' WORLD - DAY

MU-L'Haan and Taran'atar are now alone. She turns to him...

MU-L'HAAN
It is over, Taran'atar. I have
removed her influence. You are at
last truly free. I hope you are
finally able to accept it.

TARAN'ATAR
I believe I am. Thank you.

MU-L'HAAN
You are welcome. It is time for me
to accept my fate likewise. I wish
you well, Taran'atar.

And MU-L'Haan fades away to nothing, leaving him alone.

61 INT. DS9 - DARK ROOM

Taran'atar comes back to himself, lying in Vaughn's arms...

Vaughn stands him up, touches the transporter strap around
the Jem'Hadar's wrist. Taran'atar beams away...

62 INT. DS9 - TARAN'ATAR'S QUARTERS

...and reappears in his own quarters. Admiral BATANIDES
helps to steady him...

BATANIDES
I've got you. You're safe now.

63 INT. DS9 - DARK ROOM

With Taran'atar gone, Vaughn reaches for his phaser...

With alarm, Bashir specifically moves to block Vaughn...

BASHIR
I'm not going to let you do that,
Commander.

VAUGHN
You think we can just let them
walk out of here? Step aside.

COLE
Let him, Doctor. Plenty more where
we came from. Do whatever you want
to us, it won't stop them.

VAUGHN
I'll worry about them later. All I
need to worry about right now...
is you two.

BASHIR

Commander - no. It's not going to happen. Put down the phaser.

VAUGHN

You promised me you would see this through, Doctor.

BASHIR

And you promised me you weren't like Section 31. I'm starting to wonder.

VAUGHN

How can you possibly let them live after what they've done? To us, to Prynn, to Dax...

BASHIR

Because Cole was right about me earlier. Saving lives is more important to me than your great crusade. And I certainly won't kill two people in cold blood.

A moment of indecision... then with a ROAR of frustration, Vaughn casts the phaser aside. Bashir goes to untie L'Haan and then Cole. Cole helps the still groggy L'Haan...

BASHIR

Now get the hell off my station, both of you. If I see either of your faces ever again, it might force me to rethink my decision.

Without a word, Cole helps L'Haan out of the room, off into the darkness of the depths of the station...

VAUGHN

If this comes back to bite us, Doctor... it's all on you.

64 INT. DS9 - HABITAT RING CORRIDOR

RO is beating ten shades of bloody hell out of Taran'atar, roaring and crying and screaming cathartically all at once.

She grabs him by his uniform, THROWS him against the wall with such force that we hear the CRACK of his back...

Ro stands, glaring down at the unmoving body, panting...

And now it's Ro herself on the ground, in the same state.

65 INT. DS9 - INFIRMARY

Ro GASPS back to consciousness on the biobed. Sat by her bedside, looking burned and sore, QUARK jumps to alert...

QUARK

Doctor! She's awake!

RO

Quark...? What happened...?

QUARK

I don't know and I don't care. But we're both alive.

TARSES

You had a bad reaction to all the medication you took. And I think I know why... Are you sure you want to talk about it now?

Tarses glances to Quark, who has no idea what the doctor is on about. Ro sighs to herself - time to face up to it...

RO

Go ahead. He may as well hear the whole truth.

(takes Quark's hand)

If that's okay with you.

QUARK

Hey, don't worry about me. We Ferengi are made of tougher stuff than people think.

RO

Where's Etana?

Awkward look from Tarses...

ETANA's image on the rear screens, sat quiet and withdrawn in the security cells. KIRA, CENN and RICHTER watch...

KIRA

(cold)

How long has she been working for them?

CENN

I don't even know who "them" are. And I don't think she does either. She said he told her he was with Starfleet Intelligence when he recruited her two years ago.

RICHTER

Two years? That's the whole time she's been on the station. The whole time I've known her. Ever since the Iconian mission.

KIRA

Right after Cole's last visit to the station. Did she say what she did for him?

CENN

Just gave him access to her regular reports. But as the second in security, who then transferred to work directly under Bashir...

KIRA

...Those reports would have been pretty interesting stuff.

RICHTER

So... what are you going to do with her now?

KIRA

What do you want us to do?

Richter isn't sure what to think anymore...

67 **INT. DS9 - LOWER ENGINEERING CORE**

Cole and L'Haan move through deserted areas of the station.
L'Haan is still weak, burying her pain and embarrassment...

L'HAAN

What do we do now?

COLE

There is no "we", L'Haan. You're
finished with the organisation.

L'Haan stops, looks at Cole with confusion...

L'HAAN

For what reason?

COLE

What reason?! You failed the mission!
And not only that, you put everything
back the way it was before. You're
weak. We have thoroughly lost this
one, and it's completely thanks to
you. So yes, you're done.

That means death. L'Haan absorbs this calmly...

L'HAAN

I understand.

Cole turns to keep walking... and L'Haan ATTACKS.

A sharp STAB with her fingers to the back of the neck - not
enough to kill Cole, but enough to knock him down, daze
him... he tumbles to the ground... and she is on him.

Pins him down with her weight... grabs his face in a double
meld... forces herself on him, grimacing in fury... she
lets all her Vulcan rage and fire out on him...

He SCREAMS as she scrambles his brains... feet kicking,
eyes rolling back... skin SMOKING at the points of contact.
Finally he goes limp - she's burned out his brain.

She slowly gets her breath back, pulls herself under
control... and calmly walks away.

68 INT. DS9 - INFIRMARY

The door opens... and Bashir and Vaughn enter together from the Promenade. Tenmei and Dax both run to hug them...

TENMEI

Dad!

VAUGHN

Oh my beautiful baby girl. I'm so glad you're safe.

Dax hugs Bashir tight... pulls back and SLAPS him hard across the face... then grabs him back into the hug...

DAX

Never! ...do that again.

BASHIR

Don't worry, Ezri. I won't be.
This is where I belong.

He exchanges a look with Vaughn - he's out. No more.

TENMEI

You too. I'm not ready to lose you yet, Dad. Not after we only just found each other again.

VAUGHN

I promise, baby. I'm not going anywhere.

Three couples happily reunited - Dax and Bashir, Vaughn and Tenmei, and Quark and Ro.

69 INT. DS9 - TARAN'ATAR'S QUARTERS

Taran'atar stands by his window, looking out at the stars. Reflected in the window, we see Kira quietly approach...

KIRA

Looks like it's over. Bowers went back down to clear up. He found Cole's body. And there's no sign of L'Haan anywhere on the station.

KIRA (cont)

(beat)

It wasn't your fault, you know.
They used you.

TARAN'ATAR

Yes - again. How many times now?
For twenty-five years, I thought I
was strong. The oldest Jem'Hadar
alive - surely I must have been
strong. But I was never strong. I
let others use me, time and again.

KIRA

You can change that if you want.

TARAN'ATAR

Can I? Is this how it is - to have
free will? To be constantly pulled
back and forth by forces outside
your control?

KIRA

Not always as dramatically as
you've suffered it, but basically
yes. This is how it is.

TARAN'ATAR

Then this freedom that you all
prize so strongly - surely it is
an illusion. If your circumstances
dictate your choices, what value
do those choices have? They are
no more your own than if I were
following the orders of a Founder.
None of us controls our own fate.

KIRA

But that's what makes the decisions
you do make all the more important.
To have even that little bit of
control over your own life - to
say, "This is how it's going to be,
because I say so" - that's the real
victory, Taran'atar. That's
reclaiming your life.

TARAN'ATAR

Then... I make this one decision for myself, here and now. In my position as Ambassador, I agree to the alliance.

KIRA

Are you sure?

TARAN'ATAR

Yes. The Ascendants may not be responsible for my confusion, but they are responsible for the chaos of the Jem'Hadar. I will solve both problems at once. Contact the Vorta. Tell her - the Dominion will fight alongside Bajor... and we will destroy the Ascendants.

Kira takes a deep breath. This is it. We're going to war.

70 **INT. DS9 - VAUGHN'S QUARTERS**

Vaughn plods into his quarters, exhausted after a long few days. He slumps onto the sofa, drained. Looks to his guitar on its stand. Pictures of Prynn and Ruriko on a side table. A spare uniform, hanging on a hook against the wall...

VAUGHN

I put them all in danger. Played on their loyalties, insecurities, to get them to do what I wanted. Forced Bashir to compromise his ethics. Nearly killed Ro. Prynn, Dax, Quark... all terrified for their lives for days on end. All for my great crusade.

Batanides emerges from off screen, calm and sympathetic...

BATANIDES

It was all necessary, Elias. Hard, I know... but necessary.

Vaughn stares off into the distance. Was it, really?

73 **INT. DS9 - SECURITY CELLS**

Etana, alone in her cell. She looks up, into the eyes of...

...Ro, sat in a metal chair opposite her, outside the cell. She doesn't look angry, or upset. She's calm, pensive. Prepared to hear Etana out.

Etana looks back at her, desperate to explain or apologise or make it right somehow. They have a lot to talk about. But neither has any idea how to begin...

74 **EXT. SPACE**

Vaughn's super-shuttle zooms back through space at high warp, heading in the other direction...

75 **INT. SHUTTLE - REAR CABIN**

L'Haan sits cross-legged on the bunk. The lights are low, and her meditation lamp burns on the windowsill. Her eyes are closed, and she's having trouble ordering her thoughts. She's trying, but her Vulcan control has been hurt...

L'HAAN

I control my emotions. They do not
control me.

It's not working. L'Haan opens her eyes, stares into the flame. Works to control her thoughts. Repeats her mantra...

L'HAAN

I control my emotions. They do not
control me.

(beat)

That is the order of things.

BLACK OUT:

END OF SHOW