

STAR TREK
DEEP SPACE NINE

FIRST SCRIPT

DEEP SPACE NINE

"Emissary"

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 WHITE LETTERS ON BLACK:

1

WOLF 359
STARDATE 44002.3

After a beat:

PICARD/LOCUTUS (V.O.)
You will be assimilated.
Resistance is futile.

HARD CUT TO:

2 CLOSE UP OF LOCUTUS (VIEWSCREEN)

2

PICARD/LOCUTUS
You will disarm all weapons and
escort us to sector zero zero one.
If you attempt to intervene, we
will destroy you.

3 REVERSE ANGLE - INT. BRIDGE - THE SARATOGA

3

A Battle Bridge... a male Vulcan Captain, a burly male
Bolian tactical officer (Lieutenant rank), female
humans at Con and Ops (Ensign rank)... our primary
attention is on Lieutenant Commander BENJAMIN SISKI,
the first officer, a rugged, charismatic man in his
late thirties... they react to the viewscreen
pronouncement... Sisko is monitoring signals on a
panel...

SISKI
Sir, Admiral Hanson has deployed
the Gage, the Kyushu and the
Melbourne...

CAPTAIN
Move us to position alpha,
Ensign...

CON OFFICER
Aye, sir...

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED:

3

CAPTAIN
Load all torpedo bays... ready
phasers...

TACTICAL OFFICER
The Borg ship is attempting to
lock on to the Melbourne with its
tractor beam...

CAPTAIN
(to tactical)
Target the origin point of that
beam, Lieutenant. Fire when
ready.

4 EXT. SPACE - THE SARATOGA (OPTICAL)

4

fires phasers and photons as the Borg ship sends out
a cutting beam at the Melbourne... when the Melbourne's
shields fail, there is a massive explosion. The Borg
ship immediately turns its attention to the Saratoga...
sending out another tractor beam...

5 INT. SARATOGA - BRIDGE

5

A shake...

TACTICAL OFFICER
The Borg are attempting to lock
on to us...

CAPTAIN
Evasive maneuvers... delta
pattern...

CONN OFFICER
Delta pattern initiated...
(reacts)
We're not moving...

OPS OFFICER
They've locked on...

6 EXT. SPACE - THE SARATOGA (OPTICAL)

6

caught in the Borg tractor beam... two more Starfleet
ships come to the rescue... fire several rounds at the
Borg without success...

7 INT. BORG SHIP - STOCK (OPTICAL)

7

Locutus watches on his viewscreen with dispassion...

8 INT. SARATOGA BRIDGE

8

As before...

OPS OFFICER

Our shields are being drained...
sixty-four percent... forty-two...

CAPTAIN

Recalibrate shield nutation...

TACTICAL

Modulation is having no effect...

OPS OFFICER

Shields have failed. We're
going...

She is interrupted by a huge explosion on the Bridge...
that obliterates our view... and when it clears there
is smoke and fire... and massive damage... the forward
consoles are spitting sparks... emergency lights come
on... Sisko has been thrown to the floor, his forehead
is cut... he tries to regain his bearings...

SISKO

Damage report...

No answer...

SISKO

Damage report...

The tactical officer is the only other one alive in the
room and he's hurt worse than Sisko... he struggles to
his feet to read his console...

TACTICAL OFFICER

Direct hit... decks one through
four...

Sisko has checked the dead Captain and other
officers...

SISKO

(to com)

Engineering, your status...

No response... he exchanges a look with his tactical
officer...

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED:

8

COMPUTER VOICE

Warning. Damage to warp core.
Containment failure in four
minutes...

There is no choice...

SISKO

(to com)

All hands, prepare to abandon
ship.

Sisko moves toward the exit... the tactical officer is
still trying to make something on his console work...

SISKO

Let's get the civilians to the
escape pods, Lieutenant...

The tactical officer acknowledges, follows Sisko out...

9 INT. CORRIDOR

9

engulfed in fire... yelling and cries in the
background... stabilizers are failing, and everything
is leaning left just a little bit... we find a
Turbolift door opening and Sisko and the Tactical
Officer come out... react to the sight... they fight
their way through the fire... find some injured
civilians, trying to gather personal possessions in
their arms to take with them... Sisko is alert,
professional...

SISKO

Leave everything... Go to your
assigned evacuation area now.

COMPUTER VOICE

Warning. Damage to warp core.
Containment failure in three
minutes...

He reacts as they come to a wounded woman struggling to
get down the hallway...

SISKO

Doran...

She leans exhausted into him... the Tactical officer
lifts her...

TACTICAL OFFICER

I'll take care of her... go on...

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED:

9

SISKO
(to the woman)
Have you seen Jennifer...

She looks at Sisko with mournful eyes... and his heart jumps into his throat... he moves down the hallway with more focus... comes to a door that is jammed open... smoke is billowing out...

10 INT. SISCO'S QUARTERS

10

Destroyed... an explosion has ripped a hole in the floor... fire and smoke is streaking up through it...

SISKO
(calling out)
Jennifer...?

He pushes his way through the rubble... he sees no sign of her...

SISKO
Computer, locate Jennifer Sisko...

There is no response... he kicks fragments of furniture and metal out of the way... continues searching for his family... finally he sees a hand... and he urgently pulls things away to get to her... he uncovers the upper part of her body... beside her is an unconscious nine year old boy...

SISKO
(calm, controlled)
It's gonna be okay... I'll get you out of there... you're gonna be okay...

But he can't lift the wreckage that has crushed her lower half... his calm demeanor is betrayed by...

11 HIS HANDS

11

desperately trying to lift heavy debris...

12 RESUME

12

as he ignores the pain... but fails to make any headway, so he returns to the front and tries to pull the boy free... he's small enough to be eased out... he moves slightly so that we know he's alive...

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED:

12

SISKO

Okay, Jake... we'll just get your
Mom now and get outta here...

Jake is still unconscious, doesn't respond...

13 ANGLE

13

the tactical officer ENTERS...

TACTICAL OFFICER

(let's go)

Commander...

SISKO

Help me...

The officer moves in... examines Jennifer's lifeless
body with his tricorder... quickly determines she's
dead...

TACTICAL OFFICER

Sir, we have to get to the...

He stops, reacting as he sees --

14 SISKO'S HANDS

14

incredibly bloody and burned...

15 SISKO

15

glances numbly at the hands...

SISKO

Just help me get her free...

16 RESUME

16

as the tactical officer picks up the boy...

TACTICAL OFFICER

She's gone. There's nothing we
can do...

SISKO

Transporters...

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED:

16

TACTICAL OFFICER
None of them are functional,
sir... we have to go...

COMPUTER VOICE
Warning. Damage to warp core.
Containment failure in two
minutes...

Sisko shakes his head... takes her hand in his...

SISKO
You go ahead, Lieutenant. Take
the boy.

His voice is calm and reassuring and another man might leave him behind... but as a security man sticks his head in the door, making one last check through the quarters, the tactical officer hands off the boy to him and firmly pulls Sisko to his feet...

TACTICAL OFFICER
Now, sir...

SISKO
(still falsely calm)
No, I can't leave without her...

He needs all of his Bolian strength to force his commanding officer out... Sisko is without emotion, tight... he feels no pain from his hands... and yet he holds them up above the elbow level like a beggar...

SISKO
Dammit... we can't leave her
here...

And they're out...

17 INT. ESCAPE POD (OPTICAL)

17

as the tactical officer leads in Sisko... where the security officer is seated holding Jake... along with a dozen others in cramped lifeboat fashion. The tactical officer presses panels... the door slides shut and then without ever cutting outside, there is a woosh and a shake and in the window, we see the Saratoga as our pod shoots away from it... and Ben Sisko never takes his eyes off it... and we may see other pods as we get further away... and other wreckage of broken ships... and notice the flashes of lightning from continued warfare with the Borg not far away...

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED:

17

but we stay inside the pod... and then the Saratoga
explodes... and the light fills Ben's face...

FADE TO BLACK

18 SUPER WHITE LETTERS:

18

STARDATE XXXXX
THREE YEARS LATER

HARD CUT TO:

19 A CORK ATTACHED TO A FISHING LINE

19

bobbing in the water...

SISKO (O.C.)

Jake?

And move to find twelve year old JAKE SISKO holding a
fishing pole, sitting on a rock... and we're

20 EXT. FISHING POND - DAY

20

Jake's trousers are rolled up to the knees, his bare
feet dangling in the water, his shirt unbuttoned...
he turns to the sound of the voice... and a moment
later, Sisko appears, dressed in his Starfleet uniform,
a full Commander now... he smiles at the vision before
him...

SISKO

Hey there, Huckleberry.

The boy gives him a reluctant grin. Sisko comes over;
sits beside him on the rock...

SISKO

How they biting?

JAKE

Small fries. Threw 'em back.
You want to go for a swim?

SISKO

Don't have time. We've got to
get ready.

Jake frowns. Sisko notices.

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED:

20

SISKO

It won't be so bad. I've heard
Bajor is a beautiful world...

JAKE

So why can't we live on the planet
instead of some old space station?

SISKO

Well, it's what Starfleet
decided...

JAKE

You promised we'd stay on shore
duty.

SISKO

(defensive)

The station is in orbit of Bajor,
Jake. It'll be just like shore
duty.

JAKE

Will there be kids there?

SISKO

Absolutely. Lots of kids.

Sisko hopes he's telling the truth.

FEMALE COM VOICE

Bridge to Sisko.

SISKO

Yes, Captain...

FEMALE COM VOICE

We're approaching Deep Space Nine,
Commander. We'll be docking in
seven minutes.

SISKO

Acknowledged.

(puts his arm around
Jake)

C'mon, Huckleberry, we'll take
the pond with us.

The boy is not happy and doesn't give his father the
satisfaction of a smile.

SISKO

Computer, end program.

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED: (2)

20

And the yellow grid of the Holodeck walls replace the
woodsy setting... and as Jake reels in his incongruous
fishing line...

21 INT. CORRIDOR (NOT THE ENTERPRISE)

21

They exit the Holodeck, Jake carrying the pole over his
shoulder... and as they come to an observation
window... they pause as they see outside...

JAKE
Is that it?

Sisko acknowledges with a nod...

22 ANGLE (OPTICAL)

22

to see what they see -- the strange, intriguing shape
of the alien space station designated Deep Space Nine
by Starfleet...

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

23 EXT. SPACE - DS9 (OPTICAL)

23

Establishing. In this angle, we can see the Enterprise and a few other ships are docked.

SISKO (V.O.)

Commence station log, Deep Space Nine, Commander Benjamin Sisko, Stardate xxxxx.x. At the request of the Bajoran provisional government, Starfleet has agreed to establish a Federation presence in this system following the withdrawal of Cardassian occupational forces.

24 INT. AIRLOCK - CLOSE ON MILES O'BRIEN

24

his face straining with physical exertion... sweating... pulling back to find him working inside an open panel manually working the levers and gears... this is not Starfleet technology by any means... as he struggles, the airlock slowly opens to reveal Sisko and Jake standing there... they ENTER...

O'BRIEN

Sorry about that, Commander... all the interlock servos in this airlock were stripped by the Cardassians...

SISKO

We would've transported aboard if we'd known you were having problems...

As he struggles to manually close the door...

O'BRIEN

That wouldn't have been possible either, sir. We've got some stray nucleonic emissions that have to be tracked down before we can safely reinstate transporter operations. It's a junkyard the bloody Cardies left us with, if you ask me...

He's finished... comes out...

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED:

24

O'BRIEN
(continuing)
Miles O'Brien. Your Chief
Operations Officer.

He sticks out his hand to shake then realizes that it is covered with sludge from the panel he was just in and pulls it back... Sisko is cordial... but throughout the first three acts, there is a grudging subtext... he's doing his duty but he doesn't want to be here.

SISKO
Ben Sisko... my son, Jake.

JAKE
Hi.

O'BRIEN
Can I show you to your quarters,
Commander...

Sisko nods and they move down the corridor...

SISKO
Is it my imagination or is it
unusually warm...

O'BRIEN
The environmental controls are
all stuck at thirty-two 'C'...
we're working on it...

(NOTE: throughout Act One... everyone should be a
little sweaty...)

JAKE
Are there any kids here?

O'BRIEN
Kids?

O'Brien glances at Sisko...

O'BRIEN
(continuing)
Well, sure, some... I have a two
year old... but she's a little
young for you... I think I've seen
a Ferengi boy about your age...
if he hasn't left with the
others...

Whereupon the doors open and they enter...

25 INT. PROMENADE

25

And our first look at this extraordinary setting is a shock. The striking Cardassian/Bajoran architecture is mysterious and impressive... and we can see how exciting a locale this could once have been. But now it is almost deserted... and it has been ravaged by vandals... storefronts have been broken out... trash and broken stock from the stores litter the thoroughfare... phaser blasts have burned scars on the walls... a statue has been toppled...

26 SISKO

26

reacts... his jaw tight... this is worse than he could have possibly imagined...

27 MOVING WITH THEM

27

along the devastation... in one store, a Bajoran woman cleaning the mess glances up at them as they pass... they go by an outdoor cafe where only one despondent man is having a drink...

O'BRIEN

I'm told the Cardassians decided to have some fun the day they left... four Bajorans were killed trying to protect their shops...

They pass by the Bar... looking inside, they can see QUARK, the Ferengi proprietor and a couple Ferengi AIDES are packing up gambling and bar equipment...

SISKO

(tight)

Why hasn't anybody cleaned this up...

O'BRIEN

We've got all available personnel assigned to repairing primary systems, sir... the Cardassians took every component of value, we have virtually no defenses... Major Kira, the Bajoran attache, and I decided...

SISKO

Understood. But what about the civilians who operated these shops...?

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED:

27

O'BRIEN

A lot of them lost everything...
a few are trying to rebuild, but
most are packing up to leave...

28 ANGLE

28

to see ahead of them is a Bajoran Temple badly damaged
by vandals, but repairs are clearly underway... and as
they approach a strange old MONK (male) appears at the
doorway... his eyes lock onto Sisko's as they
approach... it's an eerie moment...

29 AT THE TEMPLE

29

MONK #1

Welcome, Commander. Please enter.
The prophets await you.

Beat. Sisko feels uncomfortable with the Monk's
stare...

SISKO

Another time, perhaps.

They move on... And the camera lingers as the monk's
gaze follows him a mysterious beat...

MONK #1

(beat)

Another time.

30 INT. SISKO'S QUARTERS

30

As they ENTER... it is dark and grim with a huge
outrageous looking Cardassian master bed. The room
doesn't raise Sisko's spirits... O'Brien notices...

O'BRIEN

When my wife, Keiko, saw our
quarters, she started talking
about visiting her mother in
Kumomoto...

Sisko examines the strange bed... as Jake goes and
looks into an adjoining bedroom... O'Brien takes the
opportunity alone with Sisko to say quietly --

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED:

30

O'BRIEN

Sir, I wouldn't allow the boy to go roaming... we're still having some security problems...

JAKE (O.C.)

Dad...!

Appearing at the door...

JAKE

There's nothing to sleep on in here except a cushion on the floor!

O'BRIEN

We can get you a real bunk off the Enterprise...

(to Sisko)

Oh, and I almost forgot, Captain Picard wants to see you as soon as possible.

SISKO

(eyes off O'Brien, a throwaway)

He does...

O'Brien wouldn't notice an attitude, but we do because we know of Sisko's experience with Locutus... a beat, as Sisko deliberately ignores the urgency of the request...

SISKO

Any word on our science and medical officers?

O'BRIEN

They're expected tomorrow.

Sisko acknowledges.

SISKO

Jake, I want you to stay here until I come back...

JAKE

Where's the food replicator?

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED: (2)

30

O'BRIEN

(pained)
I'm afraid they're all off-line...
there's plenty of emergency
rations... I could send some
down...

JAKE

(I hate this place)
Dad...

SISKO

We're just gonna have to rough
it til we get things up and
running, Jake... okay?

JAKE

(not okay)
Okay.

SISKO

(this isn't going to
work, but I'll try to
make it look that I
really think it will,
smiles)

Okay.

He looks at O'Brien and they EXIT. Jake frowns...

31 INT. OPS

31

Sisko and O'Brien ENTER from a Turbolift... the
multi-tiered facility lined with computer and
life-support systems, tactical controls, a master
communications panel and transporter padd. It is in
disarray... panels are open... noticeable gaps appear
where machinery has been removed... conduits hang out
of panels... several Bajorans and a couple of Starfleet
supernumeraries are busily working on various
repairs...

O'BRIEN

I'd like to ask the designer what
he was thinking about when they
built this place... I still
haven't been able to find an O-D-N
access... that's the Prefect's
office up there...

Sisko looks up...

32 ANGLE

32

The office is on the mezzanine with a balcony like Mussolini might have designed for himself... Sisko shakes his head...

SISKO

So all others have to look up with respect. Cardassian architecture.

O'BRIEN

Yessir.

(awkward)

Major Kira has been using it...

Sisko glances around, sees no other office...

SISKO

The only office in Ops?

O'Brien acknowledges. They exchange a look. Sisko starts to move toward the office...

SISKO

I guess it's time to meet Major Kira...

O'BRIEN

Sir, have you ever served with any Bajoran women?

SISKO

No. Why?

O'BRIEN

(I warned you)

Just wondering, sir.

Sisko nods... and walks up the stairs to his office... as he reaches the outside, he can hear her raised voice booming through the walls in a conversation...

KIRA (o.c.)

...YOU'RE THROWING IT ALL AWAY...
ALL OF YOU...

MALE VOICE (O.C.)

(monitor)

...You're being a fool...

33 INT. COMMANDER'S OFFICE

33

Seeing Major KIRA NERYS for the first time... a striking Bajoran woman in her early thirties... dressed in a Bajoran military uniform...

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED:

33

ending her conversation to the Bajoran official on the monitor...

KIRA
(fuming)
...THEN DON'T ASK FOR MY OPINION
NEXT TIME!

She turns off her monitor with a slap of her hand. As the chime rings... she moves impatiently to the door and opens it...

KIRA
Yes?

SISKO
I'm Benjamin Sisko...

KIRA
(without a beat)
I suppose you want the office.

Sisko does a take... suppressing an incredulous smile... ENTERING...

SISKO
Well, actually I thought I'd say hello first and then take the office... but we could do it in any order you'd like.

KIRA
(exaggerated)
Hello.

SISKO
Is something bothering you, Major?

KIRA
You don't want to ask me that, Commander...

SISKO
Why not?

KIRA
Because I have a bad habit of telling the truth... even when people don't want to hear it.

SISKO
(pleasant)
Perhaps I want to hear it.

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED: (2)

33

A beat. All right, fine...

KIRA

I don't believe the Federation
has any business being here.

Sisko nods, takes a beat, then...

SISKO

The provisional government
disagrees with you...

KIRA

The provisional government and
I don't agree on a lot of
things... which is probably why
they've sent me to this
god-forsaken place.

(beat)

I have been fighting for Bajoran
independence since I was old
enough to pick up a phaser...
finally, we drive out the
Cardassians... and what do our
new leaders do... call up the
Federation and invite them in...

SISKO

The Federation is only here to...

KIRA AND SISKO

(in unison)

...help us/you.

KIRA

(continuing)

...yes, I know. The Cardassians
said the same thing sixty years
ago.

SISKO

Major, when I was ordered here,
I requested a Bajoran national
as my first officer. It made
sense. It still does. At least
to me. Now, you and I are gonna
have to...

An alarm goes off... Kira reacts... presses some
panels... moves to a companel... a map of the station
comes on the monitor... with a signal flashing at a
certain location... she hits a panel... the monitor
changes to a closeup of ODO in the security office.
Odo has an unfinished face without distinct features.

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED: (3)

33

We'll learn why later on.

KIRA

Odo, are you reading something
at A-fourteen?

ODO

My security array has been down
for two hours... I'll meet you
there...

The monitor goes back to standard feeds...

KIRA

(on the move)

We've been having a lot of
break-ins lately... no need to
come along, Commander...

But he ignores that and follows her out...

34 INT. ASSAYING OFFICE (OPTICAL)

34

A nervous teenage Ferengi (NOG) checks outside the door
as a huge, hideous looking adult alien... uses a
futuristic tool to short-circuit a forcefield and then
a safe opens to reveal valuable mineral samples...

NOG

Hurry up.

The alien puts them into a pouch and hurries to join
Nog at the door and they EXIT...

35 INT. PROMENADE

35

As they come out, they react as they see Odo arriving
in one direction...

ODO

All right, just stand where you
are.

The thieves react, turn the opposite direction... only
to see Kira and Sisko arriving... and this all happens
very fast: Nog knows he's caught... doesn't try to get
away (note: he doesn't put up his hands)... but the
other alien takes out a knife-like weapon... and,
throws it at

36 ODO (OPTICAL)

36

who twists his entire mid-section out of shape... and the weapon flies by harmlessly and embeds itself in a wall... meanwhile, the alien tries to sprint by him but Odo reforms...

37 WIDER (OPTICAL)

37

...and grabs him roughly... the alien's bulk makes him difficult to contain... and it looks like it could be a long fight but before it even gets started... they are interrupted by a phaser blast above their heads... they both react and turn to see --

38 SISKO

38

holding a phaser...

SISKO
That's enough.

ODO
Who the hell are you?

KIRA
This is our new Starfleet
commander, Odo.

ODO
(unimpressed)
I don't allow weapons on the
Promenade. That includes phasers.

QUARK
(O.C.)
Nog? What's going on?

They turn to see Quark arriving (we saw him earlier
in the bar).

ODO
(to Quark)
The boy's in a lot of trouble.

The boy looks away from Quark's inquiring look...
Quark turns to Sisko...

QUARK
Commander, my name is Quark.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

38 CONTINUED:

38

QUARK (Cont'd)

I used to run the local gambling establishment... this is my brother's boy... surely you can see that he only has a peripheral involvement in all this... we're scheduled to depart tomorrow... if we could be permitted to take him, I promise you he will be severely...

Sisko's mind is working... Interrupting --

SISKO

That won't be possible.

(to Odo)

Take him to the brig.

Odo acknowledges, leads Nog and the alien away as Quark stares bitterly at Sisko... then follows the others...

KIRA

(shakes her head)

Quark probably sent the two of them here to steal the ore samples in the first place...

SISKO

(thoughtful)

Major, there's a Ferengi legal tradition... it's called Plea Bargaining. I might let the boy go... but I want something in exchange from Mister Quark... something very important...

She looks at him curiously, before she can ask what he's talking about...

O'BRIEN'S COM VOICE

O'Brien to Commander Sisko.

SISKO

(presses his combadge)

Go ahead.

O'BRIEN'S COM VOICE

Sir, the Enterprise hailed us again. Captain Picard is waiting to see you.

(CONTINUED)

38 CONTINUED: (2)

38

SISKO
(frowns)
Acknowledged.
(tight, to Kira)
This won't take long.

He leaves toward the airlock... as she watches him
go...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

39 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL) 39
docked at DS9.

40 INT. OBSERVATION LOUNGE (OPTICAL) 40
DS9 is visible in the window... ships move in and out of dock. Picard sits at the end of the table, going over some information on a padd... a chime...

PICARD

Come.

The door opens and Sisko ENTERS... Picard rises to greet him warmly...

PICARD

Commander, come in. Welcome to Bajor.

Picard shakes his hand.

SISKO

It's been a long time, Captain.

Picard looks at him curiously as they sit.

PICARD

Have we met before?

SISKO

Yessir. We met in battle. I was on the Saratoga at Wolf 359.

Picard blinks, acknowledging that Sisko has said something entirely inappropriate. He chooses to move on... but there is a definite subtext that runs through the scene... Picard is curt, remote... Sisko is Starfleet attentive but his eyes are cold and angry...

PICARD

I assume you've been briefed on the political situation on Bajor.

SISKO

I know the Cardassians ravaged the planet before they left...

(CONTINUED)

40 CONTINUED:

40

PICARD

(nods)

It's their retribution for the years of Bajoran terrorism. The relief efforts we've been coordinating are barely adequate.

He stands, deliberately putting distance between him and Sisko, looks out the window at the planet in the distance...

PICARD

I've come to know the Bajora. I'm one of the strongest proponents for their entry into the Federation.

SISKO

Is it going to happen?

PICARD

Not easily. The ruling parties are at each others throats... factions that were united against the Cardassians have resumed old conflicts...

SISKO

(with an attitude)

Sounds like they're not ready.

Picard turns and looks at him sharply.

PICARD

Your job is to do everything short of violating the Prime Directive to make sure they are.

Sisko defensively acknowledges. Picard moves closer.

PICARD

Starfleet has made me aware of your objections to this assignment, Commander. I would think that after three years at the Utopia Planitia yards, you'd be ready for a change.

SISKO

(not backing off a bit)

I have a son that I'm raising alone, Captain. This is not the ideal environment.

(CONTINUED)

40 CONTINUED: (2)

40

PICARD

Unfortunately, as Starfleet officers, we do not always have the luxury of serving in an ideal environment.

SISKO

I realize that, sir. And I'm investigating the possibility of returning to Earth for civilian service.

Picard reacts, studies him, doesn't like him.

PICARD

Perhaps Starfleet Command should begin to consider a replacement for you.

SISKO

That's probably a good idea.

A beat.

PICARD

I'll look into it. In the meantime...

Sisko rises... interrupting...

SISKO

In the meantime, I'll do the job I've been ordered to do to the best of my ability, sir... thank you for the briefing.

He waits to be dismissed, locking eyes with Picard. Obviously, Picard hadn't intended to end the discussion here... but finally after a long beat...

PICARD

Dismissed.

Sisko EXITS and...

41 EXT. SPACE - DEEP SPACE NINE (OPTICAL)

41

SISKO (V.O.)

Station log. Supplemental.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

41 CONTINUED:

41

SISKO (Cont'd)
Chief O'Brien has finally
'un-stuck' the environmental
controls... so at least it's a
little more comfortable around
here. But we've got a lot more
to accomplish if this station is
going to be fit to live in.

42 INT. SECURITY OFFICE - STARTING ON QUARK

42

who is sitting...

SISKO (O.C.)
It's really quite simple, Quark,
you're not going to leave.

Moving to reveal Sisko who is leaning against a wall,
casually... Odo's sitting at his desk... Odo reacts,
looks at Sisko...

QUARK
(reacts)
Not going to leave... But we're
all packed and ready to...

SISKO
Unpack.

QUARK
Why would you want me to stay?

ODO
(looking to Sisko)
I'm curious myself. The man is
a gambler and a thief.

QUARK
I am not a thief.

ODO
You are a thief.

QUARK
If I am, you haven't been able
to prove it for four years...

Sisko moves to the door, looking out to the
Promenade...

(CONTINUED)

42 CONTINUED:

42

SISKO

My officers, the Bajoran engineers, all their families depend on the shops and services of this Promenade... but if people like you abandon it, this is going to become a ghost town. We need someone to step forward and say, 'I'm staying'... 'I'm rebuilding'... we need a community leader... and it's going to be... you, Quark...

QUARK

Me? A Community Leader?

He glances at Odo... who sort of leans back in his chair and grins, kind of liking this situation that Quark finds himself in...

ODO

You seem to have all the character references of a politician.

QUARK

How could I possibly operate my establishment under Starfleet rules of conduct?

SISKO

This is still a Bajoran station. We're just here to administrate. You run honest games, you won't have any problems from me.

ODO

(grumps)

'Honest' games, hmph...

A beat. Quark shakes his head.

QUARK

Commander, I've made a career out of knowing when to leave. This Bajoran provisional government is far too provisional for my taste. And when governments fall, people like me are lined up and shot...

(CONTINUED)

42 CONTINUED: (2)

42

SISKO

(beat, preparing to
leave)

That poor kid is about to spend
the best years of his life in a
Bajoran prison. I'm a father
myself. I know what your brother
must be going through. The boy
should be with his family... not
in a cold jail cell...

(beat)

Think about it.

He EXITS. Quark is stunned... turns and looks at an
amused Odo...

ODO

You know, at first I didn't think
I was gonna like him.

On Quark's reaction...

43 INT. PROMENADE

43

Kira using a shovel to pick up trash along a
thoroughfare... and put it in a trash bin... usually
far too mundane a job for an officer. Sisko arrives,
reacts.

SISKO

Major...?

KIRA

(shrugs)

Everyone else is busy repairing
the primary systems...

She pauses to make a point.

KIRA

(challenging)

I suppose Starfleet officers
aren't used to getting their hands
dirty...

Sisko raises an eyebrow, moves to pick up a near-by
shovel...

KIRA

In the refugee camps, we learned
to do whatever had to be done...
it didn't matter who you were...

(CONTINUED)

43 CONTINUED:

43

And as they start to shovel trash... two passers-by react to the odd sight...

SISKO

(changing the subject)

I was just talking to our good neighbor Quark... he's laying odds the government's going to fall...

KIRA

Quark knows a sure bet when he sees it.

(off Sisko's reaction)

This government will be gone in a week... and so will you...

SISKO

What happens to Bajor then?

KIRA

Civil War.

(beat)

The politicians are too busy drawing their maps to see what has to be done.

In the background, the small Bajoran Temple can be seen...

SISKO

And what's that?

KIRA

Nothing Starfleet can help us with.

(off his look)

The only one who can prevent a civil war is Opaka.

SISKO

Opaka?

KIRA

Our spiritual leader. She's known as the Kai. Our religion is the only thing that holds my people together. If she would call for unity, they would listen.

44 TWO SHOT

44

She has to put down the shovel to pick up some smaller pieces, Sisko kneels down next to her and helps...

(CONTINUED)

44 CONTINUED:

44

KIRA
(continuing)
I've been trying to get to her
for days... but she won't see me.

SISKO
(beat)
Perhaps she might be more
receptive if someone from the
Federation asked to meet with her.

KIRA
You?
(grunts)
Believe me, she has no more use
for the Federation than I do...

But on that line, a shadow falls over them and they
look up to see --

45 LOW ANGLE - THE OLD MONK

45

standing above them looking down... a long beat.

MONK #1
Commander. It is time.

46 SISKO'S FACE

46

reacts curiously and...

47 EXT. BAJOR CAPITOL CITY - DAY - ESTABLISHING (MATTE)

47

Like Berlin after the war. Devastated... wreckage...
burned out buildings... what remains is a mystical
looking skyline with rounded domes and spherical shapes
-- ancient architecture that has somehow survived...

48 INT. MONASTERY - DAY

48

Dark, shadows... light streaming through cracks and
holes in the walls... close on a Monk (#2) who chants
in mournful three part harmony... as another, who is
hobbled by injuries, makes repairs to the building...
moving to find Sisko who is shocked by the damage
before him... the desecration is appalling... windows
smashed out... walls crushed... statues beheaded...

KAI OPAKA (O.C.)
Commander Sisko...

Sisko turns toward the shadows of an entry way to see

49 THE FIGURE OF A WOMAN

49

And as she emerges from the dark... we see a strange looking, middle aged Bajoran dressed in a colorful sheath... there is a centered calm in her, she seems to exist on a higher plane. Yet there is a deep sadness in this woman who carries the pain of her people. She has been hurt... her face is badly bruised... her scalp has a small bandage... a cane supports a bad limp...

KAI OPAKA

I apologize for the conditions
in which we greet you...

SISKO

(knowingly)

The Cardassians...?

Opaka leads Sisko deeper into the Monastery...

KAI OPAKA

(acknowledges)

Desecrating the center of our
spiritual life was a way to strike
at the heart of the Bajoran
people.

They reach...

50 A SACRED AREA

50

Opaka sits not on a pulpit but in a casual area side
by side with Sisko on a wooden bench...

KAI OPAKA

(continuing)

Your arrival has been greatly
anticipated.

Sisko reacts, good, maybe this will be easy... and he
can make a quick exit...

SISKO

I'm glad to hear that. If Bajor
can join the Federation it will
bring stability...

KAI OPAKA

(interrupting)

I do not speak of the Federation.
I speak of your arrival...

SISKO

Mine?

(CONTINUED)

50 CONTINUED:

50

Opaka doesn't respond but reaches out with a hand and gently cups one side of Sisko's face like a grandmother studying the face of a child...

KAI OPAKA

Have you ever explored your pagh,
Commander?

SISKO

Pagh?

Opaka's hand moves to Sisko's ear... a finger runs down the outer rim slowly...

KAI OPAKA

A Bajoran draws courage from his
spiritual life... our lifeforce,
our pagh, is replenished by the
prophets...

An inner calm coming to her eyes, a witness to a
miracle... terribly moved... Opaka squeezes the
earlobe... surprising Sisko who's head jerks with
pain...

KAI OPAKA

(knowingly, with
sympathy)

Breathe.

SISKO

(uncomfortable)

Kai Opaka, if we could discuss
your role in the post-Cardassian
transition...

KAI OPAKA

Breathe.

And begins to run her fingers back up the edge of the
ear...

KAI OPAKA

Ironic. One who does not wish
to be among us is to be the
emissary.

Sisko reacts, the emissary to Bajor? What did she
mean? Is his lack of interest so obvious? Her face
studies every microridge...

KAI OPAKA

There is much to be learned from
your pagh, Commander.

(CONTINUED)

50 CONTINUED: (2)

50

Finally, she is finished.

KAI OPAKA

The prophecies are true.

SISKO

Prophecies?

KAI OPAKA

Please come with me...

Opaka abruptly stands and Sisko reacts, rises, curious, follows...

51 INT. A SECRET CAVERN DEEP BELOW THE MONASTERY

51

Dark... mysterious... lit by candles... a curved stone stairway leads into a graceful room with much sacrament... Opaka, using her cane, leads Sisko down the stairs...

KAI OPAKA

You are correct that Bajor is in grave jeopardy... as grave as any time in our history... but it is the threat to our spiritual life that far outweighs any other...

SISKO

Perhaps, but I'm powerless until I have a unified...

KAI OPAKA

I cannot give you what you deny yourself...

SISKO

I'm sorry...?

KAI OPAKA

Look for solutions from within, Commander...

Sisko tries to figure that one out as Opaka moves to an ark and opens it...

52 ANGLE (OPTICAL)

52

Inside, there is a mesmerizing sight... floating within a forcefield is a strange, floating orb, shaped like an hour glass... glowing green, transparent... Opaka steps away...

53 CLOSE ON SISKO 53

as he moves forward, studying it, his face green with the reflected light...

SISKO
What is it?

54 ANGLE 54

to see Opaka behind him... move to a panel on the back wall...

KAI OPAKA
The tear of the prophet.

She presses a panel and disappears through a secret passageway... which closes behind her and as Sisko reacts, turns...

55 REVERSE ANGLE (OPTICAL) 55

to see the orb's forcefield disappear... and suddenly the green light spins out and envelops Sisko, like a whirling cyclone, blinding out the surrounding chamber... and when it clears... he's standing just as before, but he's no longer in the chamber and no longer in his Starfleet uniform... instead he finds himself on...

56 EXT. BEACH - DAY 56

wearing a bathing suit, holding a tray of three drinks... he's fifteen years younger... looking around him...

SISKO
What... the hell... Opaka?

Some passers-by give him an odd look... after a second, he realizes that

57 HIS FEET 57

are burning on the sand...

SISKO
(re: his feet)
Ahh...

He prances on his tip-toes looking for some relief...

58 ANGLE

58

Looking rather silly, finally, because he just has to do it... he jumps on a stranger's blanket... inadvertently kicking sand on a woman who is laying on her stomach...

JENNIFER

Hey!

SISKO

I'm sorry... it's just that the sand was burning my...

He stops as she turns over, holding the loose bra to her breast... she's wearing 24th century sunglasses... he is stunned as he looks at her... doesn't say a word... as he kneels down and reaches out... and she recoils a bit as she doesn't know what he's doing... and he takes her sunglasses off...

SISKO

Jen... Jennifer...?

JENNIFER

(unrecognized blinks)
Yes...? I'm sorry... did we meet last night at George's party...?

SISKO

George? Jennifer... Wait a minute... this is impossible...

JENNIFER

Are you okay?

He stands up... looks around in nightmarish confusion...

SISKO

What are you doing here? What am I doing here?

JENNIFER

You should really wear a cap when you're out in the sun...

SISKO

(looking around,
stunned, to himself)
I know this place... This is Gogil Beach. Where we met.

JENNIFER

We've met here... before?

(CONTINUED)

58 CONTINUED:

58

SISKO
I was carrying...

He looks at the three lemonades.

SISKO
...three lemonades...

She looks at him uneasily... ties her brassiere on...

SISKO
(continuing)
My feet were burning... I stopped
here... do you understand how
incredible this is? No of course
you don't. Jennifer.

He looks at her trying to contain the emotions...
there are so many things he wants to tell her... but
all he can get out is --

SISKO
Have a lemonade.

JENNIFER
Sorry, I don't accept drinks from
strange men on the beach...

She looks at him with vague amusement, gets up, starts
to walk briskly along the water's edge... he gets up,
follows her...

59 ALONG THE BEACH

59

as he catches up... they continue to walk...

JENNIFER
Tell me the truth. Did we really
meet before?

A beat. Sisko looks at her... how does he tell her...
what can he tell her... finally, he decides to tell
the 'truth'...

SISKO
No.

JENNIFER
(smiles, shakes her
head)
So how did you know my name?

(CONTINUED)

59 CONTINUED:

59

SISKO

I...

(beat)

George told me...

JENNIFER

Then you were at the party last night...

SISKO

Late... I got there late... and you were just leaving...

JENNIFER

Are you going to tell me your name?

SISKO

Oh. Sorry. Ben Sisko. I... I just graduated from Starfleet Academy... I'm waiting for my first posting...

JENNIFER

A junior officer. My mother warned me to watch out for junior officers...

SISKO

Your mother's going to adore me.

JENNIFER

You're awfully sure of yourself.

SISKO

It's not every day you meet the girl you're going to marry.

That stops her in her tracks... she laughs at his impudence.

JENNIFER

Do you use this routine a lot with women...?

SISKO

No. Never before. And never again.

JENNIFER

Sure...

(CONTINUED)

59 CONTINUED: (2)

59

SISKO

How about letting me cook dinner
for you tonight... my father was
a gourmet chef... I'll make his
famous aubergine stew.

JENNIFER

I don't know...

SISKO

You're supposed to say yes...

60 ANGLE (OPTICAL)

60

The Orb is floating in the air above the beach... only
he can see it... he reacts... she looks at him and
smiles, shakes her head...

JENNIFER

I'll probably be sorry...

SISKO

(urgently)
Jennifer...

The green light spins out of the orb...

SISKO

No... wait...

The light envelopes him... and she's gone... The light
clears... he is back in...

61 INT. CAVERN UNDER THE MONASTERY

61

As the experience has ended... he turns and sees Opaka
standing there... he is shaken by the experience, his
legs tremble... his attempt to disguise the emotional
impact of the event is far short...

SISKO

(softly)
Is it some kind of holographic
device?

KAI OPAKA

No. What you experienced barely
begins to reveal its powers.

She closes the ark, the orb inside.

(CONTINUED)

61 CONTINUED:

61

KAI OPAKA

This orb appeared in the skies over a thousand years ago. Eight others have been discovered since. They have been studied and documented for a millennium. Tradition says they were sent from the Celestial Temple. What they have taught us has shaped our theology.

She lifts the arc and hands it to Sisko... it is a meaningful, spiritual moment for Opaka...

KAI OPAKA

I entrust this to you.

SISKO

Why?

KAI OPAKA

It will lead you to the Temple.

SISKO

Excuse me...?

KAI OPAKA

(with greater emphasis)
It must lead you to the Celestial Temple so you may warn the prophets.

Sisko looks at Opaka for a long beat, trying to find a way to tell her to forget this foolishness. She saves him the trouble...

SISKO

(beat)

Warn 'them' about what?

KAI OPAKA

The Cardassians took the other eight orbs. They will stop at nothing to decipher their powers... even if it means discovering where they came from. If they do, they might destroy the Celestial Temple itself... which could mean the spiritual disintegration of Bajor.

SISKO

To expect me to go off on some sort of... of quest...

(CONTINUED)

61 CONTINUED: (2)

61

KAI OPAKA

I cannot unite my people until
I know that the prophets have been
forewarned.

She looks at him -- it's as simple as that. Do this
or I cannot help you. A slight sympathetic smile
crosses her face...

KAI OPAKA

We knew you would be a
disbeliever.

SISKO

There are a lot of disbelievers.

The Kai looks at him knowingly...

KAI OPAKA

You will seek the prophets. In
the end, not for Bajor and not
for the Federation... but for
yourself, for your own pagh. It
is, quite simply, Commander, the
journey you have always been
destined to take.

Off Sisko's reaction...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

62 EXT. SPACE - DS9 (OPTICAL) 62

Establishing.

63 INT. SISKO'S QUARTERS 63

Dark as he ENTERS... he moves through the first room without turning on the lights into...

64 JAKE'S ROOM 64

where the boy is asleep in his clothes on the floor on the cushion, looking uncomfortable... we might see some 24th century teenage paraphernalia to establish that the kid has had something to do in his room all this time... Sisko looks down at him and grins, kneels to pull a blanket over him... studies the boy's face... after a beat, the boy's sleepy eyes open and see his father looking down at him...

JAKE
(sleepy)
What?

SISKO
(softly)
I was just thinking how much you
look like your mom.

The boy smiles in his sleep and Sisko strokes his hair once and stands... and as he moves out of the room...

KIRA
Kira to Sisko...

Sisko closes the door behind him before responding...

SISKO
Go ahead, Major.

KIRA
Sorry to disturb you, Commander.
But there's something on the
Promenade you might want to see.

Off his reaction...

65 INT. PROMENADE

65

On a Turbolift as Sisko arrives... reacts to what we don't see yet... but we do hear alien music and as he leads us there, we reveal that Quark's is open for business... and it is a beacon for the otherwise unlighted thoroughfare... people are arriving... we can see smiling faces for the first time...

66 INT. QUARK'S - CLOSE ON A SPINNING VERTICAL WHEEL

66

an alien version of roulette... moving to find the Ferengi Pit Boss running the game...

PIT BOSS

Fortune's fates are with you
today, friends... prompt wagers,
please... I'm sorry, Madame,
Quark's does not accept travelers'
vouchers... gold or hard currency,
please... final wagers...

And as we continue to move to see a crowded, smoky gambling facility... various gaming tables, some games we recognize, some we don't... at one table, a voice yells --

VOICE

Dabo!

And everyone at the table groans like someone lost big... we continue our move to see an alien musician playing a strange triple keyboard... past the stairs, where a couple is being escorted up by a Ferengi... finally coming to the entrance where Sisko is ENTERING from the Promenade... glancing around... he moves toward the Bar...

67 AT THE BAR

67

Quark moves to him...

QUARK

What'll you have, Commander?

SISKO

How's the local synthale?

QUARK

You won't like it.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

67 CONTINUED:

67

QUARK (Cont'd)
(off Sisko's reaction)
I love the Bajorans... such a
deeply spiritual culture... but
they make a dreadful ale. Don't
ever trust an ale from a god
fearing people...

During the above, Quark has been drawing an ale from
beneath the bar... and as he places it front of Sisko,
with punctuation...

QUARK
(continuing)
...or a Starfleet Commander who
has one of your relatives in jail.

Over Sisko's even reaction...

VOICE (O.C.)
Dabo!

68 EXT. SPACE - DEEP SPACE NINE (OPTICAL)

68

The Enterprise still in dock. Another ship arriving.

SISKO (V.O.)
Station log. Stardate xxxxx.x.
The Enterprise has been ordered
to the Lapolis system. They're
scheduled to depart at zero-five
hundred hours after offloading
three runabouts. Meanwhile, our
medical and science officers are
about to arrive... and I'm looking
forward to a reunion with a...
very old... friend.

69 INT. AIRLOCK

69

A variety of non-Starfleet civilians are coming out of
the 'gate'... after a beat we see two blue Starfleet
uniforms... one is on Doctor JULIAN AMOROS, human,
male, mid-twenties, wide shouldered with a boyish face,
trying to appear confident. The other is Lieutenant
JADZIA DAX, late twenties, very attractive with a
serene manner. She smiles with recognition as she
sees...

70 ANGLE - SISKO AND KIRA

70

coming from the Promenade to greet them... Dax moves to Sisko and kisses him on the cheek... (a definite breach of protocol and this is not uncommon for Dax... it's not that she is flaunting disregard for appropriate Starfleet conduct, it's just that she feels that after centuries of service, that she's rather beyond all that. If she wants to kiss Sisko on the cheek, that's exactly what she's going to do... and she couldn't care less what anyone else thinks. Like your great aunt visiting from Milwaukee.) Sisko is really caught off guard by the kiss, reacts almost like he's been licked by a dog and she enjoys the reaction... he's never seen Dax in this body.

DAX
Hello, Benjamin...

Their intimacy is noted by Doctor Amoros who might be a little jealous as he's already interested in Dax himself.

SISKO
This... is going to take some
getting used to...

DAX
Don't be ridiculous. I'm still
the same Dax, more or less...

KIRA
Major Kira Nerys.

Shaking hands...

DAX
Jadzia Dax... and this is Doctor
Julian Amoros.

Amoros reaches out his hand to Sisko, a little nervous about meeting his commanding officer, and they shake as well. Dax, who is very tactile, puts her arm through Amoros' to calm him...

DAX
(motherly)
Julian's been a wonderful
travelling companion. Did you
know he finished second in last
year's graduating class at
Starfleet Medical?

(CONTINUED)

70 CONTINUED:

70

AMOROS

(shrugs, not good at
being modest)

I mistook a preganglionic fiber
for a postganglionic nerve during
the orals or I would have been
first.

KIRA

Commander, if you'd like me to
give them a tour of the station...

SISKO

You and Doctor Amoros go ahead...
I'm afraid I have to put
Lieutenant Dax right to work...

As she begins to lead him toward the Promenade, Amoros
turns to Dax trying not very successfully to disguise a
deeper interest with a casual invitation --

AMOROS

Maybe we could get together later,
Jadzia... for dinner or a drink...

DAX

I'd be delighted.

Sisko raises an eyebrow at Amoros' interest... and they
separate. We stay with Dax and Sisko as they move down
a corridor...

SISKO

He's a little young for you, isn't
he?

DAX

(slightly amused)

He's twenty-seven. I'm twenty-
eight.

SISKO

Three hundred and twenty-eight,
maybe. Did you tell him about
that slug inside you?

Meant and received as an affectionate insult that only
one's closest friend would make. She smiles.

DAX

Yes, Benjamin, he knows I'm a
Trill. He finds it fascinating.
He's never met a joined species
before.

(CONTINUED)

70 CONTINUED: (2)

70

SISKO

I wonder if he'd've been as
fascinated if you still looked
the way you did the last time I
saw you.

DAX

(teasingly)

Perhaps not.

They walk into as Turbolift.

71 INT. INFIRMARY

71

Kira leads Amoros inside a small, examining room type
facility... one table... some panels... major damage
has been done by vandals...

KIRA

I'm afraid we've had some security
problems... looks like looters
got in here...

Amoros looks around... rather than being depressed by
the size or lack of equipment... there is an excitement
in his eyes...

AMOROS

This'll be perfect... real...
(searching for the right
description)
...frontier medicine...

KIRA

Frontier medicine?

AMOROS

Major... I had my choice of any
job in the fleet...

Noting the arrogance...

KIRA

Did you...

AMOROS

(gung-ho)

I didn't want some cushy job...
or a research grant... I wanted
this. The farthest reaches of
the galaxy. One of the most
remote outposts available.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

71 CONTINUED:

71

AMOROS (Cont'd)

This is where the adventure is.
This is where heroes are made.
Right here. In the wilderness.

KIRA

(dry, not without humor)
This wilderness is my home.

AMOROS

(reacts)
I didn't mean...

KIRA

Start thinking about the adventure
of controlling the dysentery the
food replicators are causing, will
you...?

She smiles and EXITS... on his reaction...

72 INT. LABORATORY - CLOSE ON THE ORB

72

behind the forcefield...

SISKO (O.C.)

Opaka is right about one thing...

Moving to reveal Sisko showing it to Dax...

SISKO

(continuing)

...The eight other orbs are
undoubtedly in some Cardassian
laboratory... being turned upside
down and inside out...

DAX

I can run a scan to see if it
matches any configuration in
Starfleet records...

SISKO

I already have...

(shakes his head,
nothing)

We do have one advantage. The
Cardassians' contempt for the
Bajorans let them overlook the
most valuable source of
information.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

72 CONTINUED:

72

SISKO (Cont'd)
(off her reaction)
The monks have been studying these
things for a thousand years...

DAX
Can we interface with their
historical data banks?

SISKO
I'll set it up with Opaka...

She nods. He begins to leave...

DAX
Benjamin...
(he pauses)
I was happy when I heard you'd
accepted this assignment... I'd
been worried about you...

He looks at her evenly. With affection --

SISKO
It's good to see you too, old man.

She smiles and he EXITS.

73 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL) 73
docked at the station...

74 INT. O'BRIEN'S QUARTERS 74
O'Brien ENTERS...

O'BRIEN
Keiko...?

No answer... he walks through the living room into...

75 THE BEDROOM - CLOSE ON KEIKO 75

sitting on the bed in the dark, cradling the sleeping
2-year old baby, tears running down her cheeks... she
doesn't look up as O'Brien ENTERS...

O'BRIEN
What's this?

He sees the tears...

(CONTINUED)

75 CONTINUED:

75

O'BRIEN

Aw, honey... don't...

He sits next to her, they talk in hushed voices...

O'BRIEN

We talked about this...

KEIKO

I'm still wondering what a
botanist is going to do on a
Bajoran space station.

O'BRIEN

From the looks of the place, the
Cardassians must think sterility
is an art form... you could turn
it into a garden...

KEIKO

I don't need busy work, Miles.
I have a career on the
Enterprise... I'm happy here...
we met each other here...

They look at each other... what else can you say at
a time like this...

O'BRIEN,

I love you...

Keiko sucks it in, smiles...

KEIKO

I'll be fine once we get settled.

O'BRIEN

Are you all packed?

KEIKO

(nods)

Everything's been sent over...

O'BRIEN

Why don't you take the baby. I'll
be along in a couple of minutes...
there are a few things I still
need to do...

She acknowledges...

76 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

76

The Turbolift opens... O'Brien comes out, walks along the aft stations looking at command which is on nightwatch lighting, manned by supernumeraries... a Lieutenant glances over and sees O'Brien looking around...

LIEUTENANT

The Captain's in the Ready Room, Chief... Should I tell him you're here?

O'BRIEN

(a beat, shakes his head)

That's okay. Thanks.

After a last sentimental look around, O'Brien EXITS to the Turbolift.

77 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM

77

O'Brien ENTERS... a female transporter chief is waiting...

O'BRIEN

Transport me to the Ops pad, Maggie...

TRANSPORTER CHIEF

Yessir.

O'Brien moves to the padd when a voice behind him, stops him...

PICARD (O.C.)

Mister O'Brien...

78 ANGLE

78

O'Brien turns to see Picard ENTERING...

PICARD

I believe I just missed you on the Bridge...

O'BRIEN

Yessir... I didn't want to disturb you...

Picard motions for the transporter chief to leave... she does.

(CONTINUED)

78 CONTINUED:

78

PICARD

Your favorite transporter room,
isn't it...?

O'BRIEN

Number three, yessir.

PICARD

(nods)

You know, yesterday, I called down
here... and asked for you without
thinking. It won't be quite the
same...

O'BRIEN

(shrugs)

It's just a transporter room, sir.

Picard nods, they grin at each other, knowing the
sentiment that comes with leaving your old station...
it's about as much sentiment as O'Brien can handle.

O'BRIEN

Permission to disembark,
Captain...?

PICARD

Permission granted.

79 ANGLE (OPTICAL)

79

O'Brien climbs onto the padd. Picard moves to the
console. They look at each other a long beat.

O'BRIEN

Energize.

Picard presses the panels and O'Brien DEMATERIALIZES...
on Picard...

80 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

80

moves away from the docking position... and after a
beat, it warps away...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

81 EXT. SPACE - DEEP SPACE NINE (OPTICAL) 81

82 INT. LABORATORY 82

Dax is working on a computer... scrolling information,
fascinated by what she sees...

DAX
Computer, plot a correlation
analysis grid based on the
location of each orb's
discovery...

COMPUTER VOICE
Insufficient data...

Dax frowns, thoughtful...

DAX
Create a chronological data base
for all historical references to
the orbs... plus...
(thinking, shrugs, why
not)
...all reports of any unexplained
phenomena in Bajoran space...
including all supernatural
occurrences recorded in Bajoran
mythology...

COMPUTER VOICE
Time parameters?

DAX
One thousand years.

COMPUTER VOICE
Initializing data base. Requested
function will require two hours
to complete.

Dax nods, leans back... stretches, takes a deep
breath... she looks at...

83 ANGLE - INCLUDE THE ORB (OPTICAL) 83

behind the forcefield... and as she studies it, her
curiosity cannot be denied... she stands... walks over
and after a beat, presses a panel...

(CONTINUED)

83 CONTINUED:

83

and the forcefield disappears... and the green light swirls out and envelops her... and when it disappears she is no longer in the Laboratory but in...

84 INT. MEDICAL FACILITY - DAY

84

And she is dressed in an operating gown... and she looks around, reacting to the sudden change... sees the way she's dressed... and as she turns, she's looking into the eyes of a very old man who is dying... he is lying on an operating table...

DAX
(recognizes him,
surprised)
Curzon...?

The old man reaches out a frail hand and takes her hand and squeezes it, smiles weakly at her... a moment later the arms of a doctor guide Dax to a table beside the old man... she climbs up...

85 ANGLE - TWO SHOT

85

to see the old man's table in the background of Dax's table... as a dripping wet worm-like symbiont crawls out of an orifice in the general area of the human navel... and he places it near the identical orifice of the young woman. It burrows its way into her... and as it does...

86 DAX'S FACE

86

is filled with an enlightenment... a wonder... an excitement... new wisdom... new peace...

87 ANGLE (OPTICAL)

87

to include the orb in the shot... and as the green light begins to swirl... the light envelops her... and when it clears... she is back...

88 INT. LABORATORY (OPTICAL)

88

As before... as she stares at the orb...

89 INT. COMMANDER'S OFFICE (OPTICAL)

89

Sisko watches a recorded transmission from a University Chancellor on Earth...

CHANCELLOR (MONITOR)

...it's not every day we have the chance to recruit someone with your experience, Ben. We hope you'll consider our offer seriously... I look forward to getting your response...

A panel appears noting the end of transmission. Sisko stares at the screen.

KIRA'S COM VOICE

Kira to Commander Sisko. A Cardassian warship has just entered Bajoran space...

He rises...

SISKO

On screen.

Walks out to his balcony...

90 INT. OPS (OPTICAL)

90

O'Brien is at his station... Kira is at the command center... some Bajoran supernumeraries are continuing repairs... on the viewscreen: a huge Cardassian warship moves toward them...

O'BRIEN

Message coming in from their commander, Gul Dukat...

KIRA

Dukat. He used to be the Cardassian Prefect of Bajor...

O'BRIEN

He's requesting permission to come aboard... to greet us...

(sarcastic)

Surely a coincidence that the Enterprise just left...

They look to Sisko for orders... as he studies the screen --

(CONTINUED)

90 CONTINUED:

90

SISK0
Mister O'Brien, tell Gul Dukat
I look forward to meeting him.

And we push into him... as he awaits his first
confrontation with the Cardassians...

91 INT. PROMENADE

91

As there is evidence that the rebirth has taken hold...
increased activity along the thoroughfare... a few more
shops than before are open... more civilians staying
and cleaning up... it certainly feels warmer and safer
than before. One of the people walking down the street
is Jake... looking kind of lonely... and he stops as
he sees Nog getting some alien-looking glop-on-a-stick
at a kiosk...

JAKE
Hi.

Nog turns and reacts at the sight of the boy... with a
toughness...

NOG
What do you want, Hew-man?

He walks away. Jake moves with him...

JAKE
My name is Jake.

NOG
I know who you are.

JAKE
What's yours?

NOG
Why do you care?

JAKE
Not exactly a lot of friends to
choose from here, you know what
I mean?

Nog looks at Jake... and perhaps he has long known that
sense of loneliness too...

NOG
Nog... my name's Nog.

Their connection is interrupted by --

92 ANGLE

92

the Gestapo-like arrival of a dozen Cardassian officers from the Airlock... led by GUL DUKAT... a most intimidating figure. The officers move toward Quark's. Dukat moves with familiarity toward a Turbolift. Jake looks and notices the bitter look of Nog toward the Cardassians and...

93 INT. COMMANDER'S OFFICE

93

Sisko is at his desk... Dukat ENTERS without knocking.

DUKAT
Good day, Commander.

SISKO
(nods a greeting,
rising)
Gul Dukat...

DUKAT
Excuse my presumption, but this
was my office only two weeks
ago...

He sits down... he is overly cordial as classic bullies
can be...

DUKAT
So, have you been able to get the
food replicators to work properly.

SISKO
Frankly, no.

DUKAT
Neither could we. That's one
technology you have over us. You
know how to make a perfect onion
soup.

He stands up again, uncomfortable...

DUKAT
I'm not used to being on this side
of the desk.

He stands, up, looks out at the Ops area below that
used to be part of his domain.

DUKAT
I'll be honest with you,
Commander. I miss this office.
I wasn't happy about leaving it.

(CONTINUED)

93 CONTINUED:

93

SISKO

Drop by any time you're feeling homesick...

DUKAT

You are very gracious. And allow me to assure you that we only want to be helpful in this difficult transition. You are far from the Federation fleet, alone in this remote outpost, with poor defense systems. Your Cardassian neighbors will be quick to respond to any problems you might have.

SISKO

We'll try to keep the dog off your lawn.

Dukat looks at Sisko, measuring him. Abruptly changing the subject...

DUKAT

So what did you think of Kai Opaka?

Sisko looks at him evenly for a beat... Dukat barely pauses...

DUKAT

Oh, I stay informed... I know you went to the surface to see her... I understand you brought back one of the orbs. We thought we had them all. Perhaps we could have an exchange of information, pool our resources.

SISKO

I don't know anything about an orb.

Dukat takes a beat and nods, okay, if you insist on this game...

DUKAT

We will be in close proximity should you wish to reconsider my suggestion. In the meantime, I assume you have no objection to my men enjoying the hospitality of the Promenade.

(nods, goodbye)

Commander...

And he EXITS. On Sisko's reaction...

94 EXT. SPACE - DEEP SPACE NINE (OPTICAL)

94

The Cardassian ship station moves about a kilometer away from DS9.

95 INT. LABORATORY

95

Sisko ENTERS to find Dax at a computer station... she's working panels... reading off monitors...

DAX

What do you know about the Denorios asteroid belt?

SISKO

Your basic navigational hazard... nobody gets anywhere near it unless they have to...

DAX

(summarizing what she's reading)

In the latter part of the 22nd century, a ship carrying Kai Taluno was disabled for several days in the Denorios Belt... where he claims to have had a vision...

SISKO

Let me guess -- he saw the Celestial Temple of the Prophets.

DAX

Not quite, but he did say 'the heavens opened up and nearly swallowed his ship...'

SISKO

Are we reduced to chasing metaphors to solve this?

She smiles, rises, musing anecdotally like an old wizened advisor... certainly a voice that seems to belong to a different body...

DAX

Your cynicism is not one of your attractive qualities, Benjamin. As a matter of fact, Kai Taluno was not a man prone to exaggeration...

(CONTINUED)

95 CONTINUED:

95

SISKO
(raises an eyebrow)
I suppose you knew him.

DAX
Just to say hello, I was a
diplomatic apprentice at the
time... we met at a peace
conference... he was a rather
dour, dogmatic man actually...

SISKO
(interrupting)
...you really think his 'vision'
has anything to do with this?

DAX
Perhaps.

She sits back down at a console and punches up some
data on the monitor...

DAX
I've been able to confirm that
at least five of the orbs were
found in the Denorios Belt...

Calling up another reference on the monitor... he sits
beside her...

DAX
(continuing)
...There have also been
twenty-three navigational reports
over the years of unusually severe
neutrino disturbances in the same
area...

Pressing another panel...

DAX
(continuing)
And thirty-two years ago, a vessel
of unknown origin appeared there,
carrying a new lifeform... an
infant shape shifter...

SISKO
(reacts)
A shape shifter. There's a
shape-shifter right here on D.S.
Nine... he's the Bajoran security
officer...

(CONTINUED)

95 CONTINUED: (2)

95

DAX
I've been trying to correlate all
these reports in one analysis
grid...

96 ANGLE (OPTICAL)

96

To include the monitor so we can see it... the three
dimensional grid creates and emphasizes a small
delineated area in space...

DAX
(lightly)
Our Celestial Temple?

SISKO
(shrugs)
Worth a look...

97 RESUME

97

Sisko stands... thoughtful...

SISKO
We've got a Cardassian on our back
doorstep... somehow we need to
get by them undetected...

A thoughtful beat...

98 INT. QUARK'S

98

Lots of action... a roar from the tables as the
Cardassians win... they have accumulated a lot of
gold... moving to find Kira and O'Brien ENTERING the
door, she glances around, picks up a metal mug and
bangs it loudly on the Bar... gets the attention
of the room...

KIRA
Can we have your attention,
please... this establishment is
being closed...

Groans from the crowd...

99 ANGLE TO FIND QUARK

99

as he explodes in a rage... moving to confront Kira...

(CONTINUED)

99 CONTINUED:

99

QUARK

What do you mean? You can't do this.

O'Brien moves to block his accostment of Kira...

O'BRIEN

If you have a problem, sir, you'll have to take it up with Commander Sisko...

QUARK

I intend to. This is outrageous... my apologies friends... a minor misunderstanding that will be rectified shortly...

People start to leave... Quark sees the Cardassians with all the gold before them... to the pit boss...

QUARK

Give them something to put their winnings in...

The pit boss acknowledges, moves a short distance away, reaches under a table and pulls out a knapsack... As the Cardassians begin to load their gold into the knapsack, we may catch a glance passed between Quark and a deadpanned Kira and O'Brien...

100 EXT. SPACE - THE CARDASSIAN WARSHIP (OPTICAL)

100

101 INT. CARDASSIAN WARSHIP - CLOSE ON THE KNAPSACK

101

being carried by a Cardassian officer down a corridor...

CARDASSIAN OFFICER #1 (O.C.)

...because we were winning too much, of course...

Group laughter...

CARDASSIAN OFFICER #2 (O.C.)

Leave it to Starfleet to ruin a fine day...

We never see who's talking as the knapsack is placed in a locker... and the door is shut and the officers leave...

(CONTINUED)

101 CONTINUED: 101

a long beat later, an odd substance, the same color as the knapsack, oozes out of the cracks of the locker... follow it as a pool of it forms on the floor and then...

102 ANGLE (OPTICAL) 102

the pool reshapes and grows into Odo... who looks both ways and moves quickly down the corridor...

103 INT. DS9 TURBOLIFT (OPTICAL) 103

Dax and Sisko ENTER.

SISKO
Runabout Pad 'C'...

The doors close...

104 EXT. SPACE - DEEP SPACE NINE (OPTICAL) 104

The Turbolift moving through a clear tunnel on top of the inner ring... stopping at the first of three runabouts stationed on the surface... Sisko and Dax climb out of the bubble directly into the ship...

105 INT. OPS 105

Kira and O'Brien at master control...

O'BRIEN
Lieutenant, scanners are picking up fluctuations in the Cardassian's energy distribution net...

Kira checks her panels... reacts, delighted...

KIRA
Their computer's crashing... shields and sensors are down... Ops to Giotto...

SISKO'S COM VOICE
Go ahead.

106 INT. RUNABOUT 106

Sisko and Dax in the cockpit, going through pre-flight routine...

KIRA'S COM VOICE
We're in business.

SISKO
Beginning launch sequence.

107 INT. OPS 107

O'BRIEN
Cleared for departure.

KIRA
Maintain visual blackout. Set
audio to secure channel
three-five-zero.

108 INT. RUNABOUT 108

SISKO
Acknowledged.

DAX
Course laid in.

109 EXT. SPACE - DEEP SPACE NINE (OPTICAL) 109
is launched...

110 INT. OPS 110

A signal flashes on the master control panel...

KIRA
Odo's reached the transport
site...

O'BRIEN
Trying to lock on...

A short delay...

O'BRIEN
I've never done this with a
Cardassian Transporter...

O'Brien presses more panels... nothing...

(CONTINUED)

110 CONTINUED:

110

O'BRIEN

Dammit, what's the problem...

Finally, he kicks the control panel and...

111 ANGLE (OPTICAL)

111

to include the Transporter padd... as Odo
MATERIALIZES...

KIRA

Nice work, Constable.

Odo acknowledges with a simple nod...

112 EXT. SPACE - RUNABOUT (OPTICAL)

112

races past the camera, the space station in the
background...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

113 EXT. SPACE - RUNABOUT (OPTICAL) 113

as it moves at impulse into the asteroid belt.

114 INT. RUNABOUT (OPTICAL) 114

Dax and Sisko take readings... The plotted grid analysis is on her monitor...

DAX

Approaching grid perimeter...
neutrino levels are up but not
significantly...

SISKO

Slowing to one quarter impulse.

115 INT. OPS 115

Kira and O'Brien listening... monitoring the ship on sensors... Bajoran supernumeraries man other stations...

SISKO'S COM VOICE

Adjusting course to fifty-three
by one-fourteen... following outer
grid boundary...

116 EXT. SPACE - RUNABOUT (OPTICAL) 116

as it makes a course change...

117 INT. RUNABOUT (OPTICAL) 117

As before.

DAX

(reacting to something)
Computer, give me visual at
bearing two-three, mark
two-one-seven, range
three-one-zero-zero kilometers...

The monitors display more asteroids... Off Sisko's
look --

(CONTINUED)

117 CONTINUED:

117

DAX
(curious)
Sensors are picking up unusually
high proton counts...

118 INT. OPS

118

O'BRIEN
(to com)
Lieutenant, in that asteroid belt,
you could be looking at chrondrite
echoes...

SISKO'S COM VOICE
We're going in for a closer look.

119 EXT. SPACE - RUNABOUT (OPTICAL)

119

moving deeper into the belt...

120 INT. RUNABOUT

120

DAX
The neutrino disturbances are
getting stronger as we approach
the coordinates...

121 INT. OPS

121

Kira and O'Brien listen, read their panels...

SISKO'S COM VOICE
Whatever it is, it's not affecting
our systems...

122 INT. RUNABOUT

122

Dax working panels with both hands... checking multiple
read-outs...

DAX
(hard to believe)
All external wave intensities are
increasing exponentially but...
checking... confirmed... there
is no corresponding increase
inside the cabin... how is that
poss...

Suddenly there is a lurch... a hard shift... an
incredible burst of light through the windows...

123 EXT. SPACE - RUNABOUT (OPTICAL) 123
going into a giant rip in the fabric of space...

124 INT. RUNABOUT (OPTICAL) 124
Sisko and Dax trying to maintain control...

SISKO
Sensors are not functioning...

DAX
(trying a panel)
We've lost all contact with the
space station...

125 INT. OPS 125
O'Brien at his station...

O'BRIEN
Scanners are reading a major
subspace disruption at their last
known coordinates...

Kira moving to join him...

KIRA
What the hell is happening out
there?

O'BRIEN
I don't know, sir. They're
just...
(beat)
...gone.

126 EXT. SPACE - RUNABOUT (OPTICAL) 126
inside the wormhole now... an incredible light show
surrounds the small craft...

127 INT. RUNABOUT 127
Sisko is frantically checking readings... hitting
panels...

SISKO
(reacting)
Are your navigational readings
going crazy?

(CONTINUED)

127 CONTINUED:

127

DAX
(calm, confirming)
I'll recalibrate them when I have
a moment.

SISK0
(hanging on for dear
life)
Take your time.

Another lurch and suddenly they're out... into clear
space...

128 EXT. SPACE - RUNABOUT (OPTICAL)

128

coming out of the other side of the wormhole... which
disappears behind them...

129 INT. RUNABOUT

129

SISK0
Can you get a fix on our
coordinates...?

DAX
(checking)
There's a star just under five
light years away... no M class
planets... Computer, identify
closest star system...

COMPUTER VOICE
Idran... a ternary system
consisting of a central supergiant
and twin O-type companions...

SISK0
(reacts)
Idran... that can't be right...

DAX
Computer, basis of
identification...

COMPUTER VOICE
Identification of Idran is based
on the hydrogen-alpha spectral
analysis conducted in the
twenty-second century by the
Quadros-One probe of the Gamma
Quadrant.

(CONTINUED)

129 CONTINUED:

129

SISKO

(stunned)

The Gamma Quadrant. Seventy
thousand light years from Bajor.
I'd say we just found our way into
a wormhole...

DAX

(checking panels)

It's not like any wormhole I've
ever seen. There were none of
the usual resonance waves...

A beat as they take this all in...

SISKO

You think this is how the orbs
found their way into the Bajoran
system?

DAX

Not an unreasonable hypothesis.

SISKO

If it's true, that would mean this
has been here for at least a
thousand years. We might have
just discovered the first stable
wormhole known to exist.

As they exchange a glance...

DAX

You may want to wait until we get
safely back before you put your
name in the history books,
Benjamin...

SISKO

Our names, old man, our names...
Bring us about, Lieutenant...

130 EXT. SPACE - RUNABOUT (OPTICAL)

130

comes around and moves forward... and the wormhole
illuminates into view again... the Runabout moves back
in...

131 INT. RUNABOUT (OPTICAL)

131

A light show in the window again... with a sense of
satisfaction --

(CONTINUED)

131 CONTINUED:

131

SISKO

This is even better than finding
a Celestial Temple...

DAX

Better?

SISKO

Think about it. A stable wormhole
to the Gamma Quadrant in Bajoran
space is going to solve a lot more
of their problems than the Kai
ever could. Expeditions from
countless worlds will be coming
through here now... they'll give
Bajor an economic base... a way
to rebuild...

(beat, reflective)

...A perfect capstone...

DAX

What are you talking about?

A beat as he tries a way to keep it casual and tell
her...

SISKO

(beat)

I'll probably be leaving soon...
going back to Earth...

And Dax is disturbed by this, but not entirely
surprised, because she's known how he's struggled since
the death of his wife.

DAX

To do what?

SISKO

The University at Vasteras thinks
I might have something to offer
their Astrionics program...

DAX

A professor...

SISKO

(trying too hard to be
amusing)

I'll have a beard... wear a baggy
corduroy jacket with elbow
patches...

DAX

(sad)

And grow old before your time...

(CONTINUED)

131 CONTINUED: (2)

131

SISKO
That's a fine thing coming from
you of all people...

DAX
(noticing something)
Did you reduce impulse power?

SISKO
No...

DAX
We're losing velocity...

132 EXT. SPACE - RUNABOUT (OPTICAL) 132
in the wormhole... slowing down...

133 INT. RUNABOUT 133
Reactions. Checking panels...

DAX
(confused)
Power output is still constant...

SISKO
Computer, conduct a level two
diagnostic of impulse power flow
downstream of the reaction
chambers...

COMPUTER VOICE
Impulse systems are functioning
within normal parameters.

SISKO
We're down to one-twenty kph...

DAX
Computer, identify cause of
deceleration...

COMPUTER VOICE
Cause unknown.

SISKO
Increasing impulse reactor
output...

He does... nothing...

(CONTINUED)

133 CONTINUED:

133

DAX
(shakes her head)
Velocity is still falling...

He reacts... rechecking his controls...

SISKO
(incredulous)
Engine output is running seventy
percent above normal...

DAX
Down to sixty kph...

COMPUTER VOICE
Warning, impulse system
overload... auto shutdown in
twelve seconds...

SISKO
(working)
Disengaging engines.

DAX
Velocity is five kph.
(reacts)
I'm picking up an atmosphere,
Benjamin...

134 ANGLE (OPTICAL)

134

to include the windows... filled with bright light...

SISKO
Inside a wormhole?

DAX
Capable of supporting life...

Suddenly, there is a bump... a reaction... checking
readings... glances at Dax...

DAX
We've just landed...

SISKO
On what?

Off reactions...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FIVE

ACT SIX

FADE IN:

135 EXT. RUNABOUT - DAY 135

Close on the hatch as it pops open... and Sisko comes through first, holding his phaser... as he comes out and looks around... move with him to reveal --

136 EXT. BRUTAL TERRAIN - DAY 136

Rock cliffs, dark, strange electrical storms, winds swirling around him...

137 EXT. RUNABOUT - DAY 137

Angle back on the hatch as Dax comes out... holding a tricorder... and as we move with her, we reveal the same setting to be --

138 EXT. GARDEN - DAY 138

And Sisko is standing in the garden with her... but of course he doesn't see it at all...

DAX
It's beautiful.

He glances at her... and as we change

139 ANGLE TO FAVOR HIM 139

we're back in the rugged terrain... storms everywhere...

SISKO
You have a strange eye for beauty...

140 ANGLE TO FAVOR HER 140

in the garden...

DAX
You don't think this is one of the most idyllic settings you've ever seen...?

141 ANGLE TO FAVOR HIM

141

in the rugged terrain...

SISKO

(sarcastic)

It can't beat the sulfuric mine pits of Hadas Four...

DAX

How can you say that? The colors... all the flora...

And now he begins to realize there is something more than meets the eye...

SISKO

I don't see any flora, Dax...

She reacts...

142 ANGLE FAVORING HER

142

In the garden.

DAX

We're standing in a garden...

143 ANGLE FAVORING HIM

143

in his rugged terrain...

SISKO

We're standing on a rockface...

(beat)

Do you see the storms?

144 ANGLE FAVORING HER

144

In the garden.

DAX

Clear as a summer's day.

Their eyes are caught by...

145 ANGLE (OPTICAL)

145

still in the garden... an orb appears floating twenty yard ahead... they both react to the appearance...

(CONTINUED)

145 CONTINUED: 145

SISKO
You see it too...

DAX
Yes.

146 ANGLE - FAVORING HIM (OPTICAL) 146

in the rugged terrain... the orb sends out a scanning green beam that probes these new entities from head to toe... Dax checks her tricorder...

DAX
Low level ionic pattern, it's probing us...

SISKO
Someone's idea of shaking hands, maybe...

The probe seems to stutter and change to uneven color as it reaches her abdomen... and then the scanning beam shuts off... Sisko takes a step forward to speak...

147 ANGLE - FAVORING HER (OPTICAL) 147

in the garden, as Sisko takes another step...

SISKO
I am Commander Benjamin Sisko of the United Federation of Planets...

But suddenly the orb sends out a cutting blade of light which splits the reality in two... and for a brief instant we see both of Dax's and Sisko's perceptions as their universes are literally torn in half... and Sisko is thrown backwards...

148 DAX (OPTICAL) 148

Her garden collapses around her into a spinning orb-like ball of green light on a blank white background...

149 SISKO (OPTICAL) 149

sinking into a quicksand of white light... winds and storms crash around him... he sees the orb forming around Dax... but there is nothing he can do about it...

(CONTINUED)

149 CONTINUED: 149

she is completely wrapped by the orb and suddenly it is flung into the sky... as he disappears into the quicksand of light...

150 EXT. SPACE - THE ASTEROID BELT (OPTICAL) 150

as the wormhole illuminates into view and the orb containing Dax comes out...

151 INT. OPS 151

O'Brien at his station... Kira at master... Bajoran supernumeraries at various stations...

O'BRIEN
(reacting to sensors)
Another neutrino disruption...

KIRA
Scanners are picking up an object near their last known coordinates... it isn't a starship...

O'BRIEN
(checking)
Lieutenant, there's something inside it... some kind of lifeform...

More information in from the sensors.

O'BRIEN
(reacts)
It's human...

KIRA
Are the Cardassian sensors picking it up?

O'BRIEN
They should be back on line by now... We have to assume they know everything we know...

Kira takes a moment to consider the consequences...

KIRA
Yellow alert... secure Ops. Beam it aboard Mister O'Brien, but put it in a level one security field...

(CONTINUED)

151 CONTINUED: 151

O'BRIEN
Aye, sir... locking on...

He presses some panels...

152 ANGLE ON THE TRANSPORTER PAD (OPTICAL) 152

As the orb MATERIALIZES... and the orb disintegrates into spinning light and disappears revealing Dax. Off reactions.

153 WHITE SCREEN (OPTICAL) 153

Discovering a state-of-the-art optical effect to be determined... that suggests Sisko in an altered state... no reality we've ever experienced... it may be just his eyes in some disengaged fashion... for this draft, it will be described as 'WHITE SCREEN - SISKO'S EYES'. A heartbeat... and breathing the only sounds... suddenly --

154 A RUSH OF IMAGES 154

Five separate shots, each less than a second:

--Jennifer looking up at the beach...
--Sisko's bloody burned hands...
--A baseball landing in a catcher's mitt...
--Locutus on a viewscreen...
--Jennifer's lifeless hand on the Saratoga...

155 THE WHITE SCREEN - SISKO'S EYES (OPTICAL) 155

As before. Heartbeat... breathing...

SISKO (V.O.)
Who are you?

No response... only --

156 ANOTHER RUSH OF IMAGES 156

Five, each less than a second --

--Jennifer and Sisko kissing on a picnic blanket...
--A newborn baby crying...
--Kai Opaka looking at Sisko as she cups her hand to his face...
--Jake fishing at the pond...
--Doran's mournful eyes in the burning corridor of the Saratoga...

157 THE WHITE SCREEN - SISKO'S EYES 157

As before. The heartbeat... the breathing...

SISKO (V.O.)
Who are you?

158 EXT. BEACH - DAY 158

As we saw it in the first orb sequence... Jennifer is looking up, holding her brassiere, but it is not Jennifer, it is alien, remote...

JENNIFER ALIEN
(observing him)
It is corporeal... a physical entity...

159 REVERSE ANGLE - SISKO 159

standing on the blanket, holding the tray of drinks... it takes him a second to get his bearings...

SISKO
What... what did you say...

HARD CUT TO:

160 INT. ENTERPRISE OBSERVATION LOUNGE 160

As we saw it in Act Two, Picard studies Sisko... except it is not Picard, it is alien...

PICARD ALIEN
It is responding to visual and auditory stimuli... linguistic communication...

And Sisko stares at him, understands that he is not Picard but an alien...

(CONTINUED)

160 CONTINUED:

160

SISKO
Yes, linguistic communication...
are you capable of communicating
with me?

HARD CUT TO:

161 INT. MONASTERY - DAY

161

Kai Opaka cups his face with her hand... as we saw in
Act Two... but it is not Opaka... it is alien...
making eye contact with him, talking to him, not about
him...

KAI OPAKA ALIEN
Why do you harm us?

SISKO
I don't wish to harm anyone.

HARD CUT TO:

162 INT. SARATOGA BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

162

Locutus on the viewscreen... but it is not Locutus,
it is an alien...

LOCUTUS ALIEN
You deceive us...

163 REVERSE ANGLE - SISKO

163

in uniform as we saw him in the Teaser... full crew,
all of them aliens... he does a take at his new
environment... trying to think as he grasps what the
hell is going on... fencing off the quick verbal spars
as best he can for the moment...

SISKO
No, I'm telling you the truth.

HARD CUT TO:

164 EXT. FISHING POND - DAY

164

As we saw it in the Teaser... Jake is fishing on the
rocks... but it is not Jake, it is an alien...

JAKE ALIEN
What are you?

165 REVERSE ANGLE - SISKO

165

SISKO
My species is known as human.
We come from a planet called
Earth...

Jake Alien blinks without understanding... Sisko
groping for definition... motions to the surrounding
environment...

SISKO
This... this is what my planet
looks like...

Jake alien looks around with no appreciation...

A beat... this is getting nowhere...

SISKO
You and I are very different
species. It will take time for
us to understand one another.

JAKE ALIEN
Time. What is this? Time...

A reaction from Sisko as he realizes the magnitude of
the situation he's in...

166 THE WHITE SCREEN - SISKO'S EYES

166

As before. Heartbeat. Breathing.

167 EXT. SPACE - DEEP SPACE NINE (OPTICAL)

167

Establishing.

168 INT. OPS

168

At the master control table... Kira, Odo, Dax, O'Brien
and Amoros... planning a rescue attempt...

DAX
Navigational sensors will be
useless... We won't be able to
retrace our steps to Benjamin's
location...

O'BRIEN
Now that we know it's a wormhole,
we can use a field density
compensator...

(CONTINUED)

168 CONTINUED:

168

DAX

It's not an ordinary wormhole.
My analysis suggests it isn't even
a natural phenomenon...

AMOROS

Not natural... you mean it was
constructed...?

DAX

(acknowledges)

It's very possible that whoever
made the orbs also created this
wormhole.

O'Brien is monitoring sensors on his panel... reacts
as he sees something...

O'BRIEN

The Cardassians are leaving their
position... on a course toward
the asteroid belt.

Kira frowns... stands...

KIRA

(beat, to O'Brien)

What would it take to move this
station to the mouth of the
wormhole?

O'BRIEN

This isn't a starship, Major.
We've got six working thrusters
to power us and that's it. A
hundred-sixty million kilometer
trip is gonna take two months.

KIRA

It's got to be there tomorrow.

O'BRIEN

(reacts)

That's not possible, sir...

KIRA

Find a way.

O'BRIEN

Find me a class six starship to
tow us...

(CONTINUED)

168 CONTINUED: (2)

168

KIRA

Find another way.

(beat)

That wormhole might just reshape
the future of this entire
quadrant. The Bajorans have to
stake a claim to it...

(beat, character
movement)

And I have to admit that claim
will be a lot stronger if there's
a Federation presence there to
back it up.

O'BRIEN

I wish I knew how it could be
done...

DAX

(calm)

Couldn't you modify the subspace
field output of the deflector
generators... just enough to
create a low-level field around
the station...

A beat. O'Brien begins to get her logic...

O'BRIEN

So we could lower the inertial
mass...

DAX

(nods)

If you can make the station
lighter, those six thrusters would
be all the power we would need.

O'BRIEN

(a beat, it might just
work)

This whole station could break
apart like an egg if it doesn't
work...

DAX

Even if it does work, we're going
to need help from Starfleet once
we get there...

O'BRIEN

The Enterprise is still the
nearest starship... it would take
them two days to get here...

(CONTINUED)

168 CONTINUED: (3)

168

DAX
Put in a call to command... tell
them we need backup...

KIRA
You have Ops, Mister O'Brien...
I'm leading the rescue mission...
(on the move)
Lieutenant, you're with me... you
too, Doc, time to be a hero...

AMOROS
Yes, Sir...

They EXIT... Odo follows...

169 INT. CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

169

On the move... Kira reacts to Odo keeping step...

KIRA
Constable...

ODO
(anticipating, right
on top of her voice)
This is a security matter... I'm
in charge of security...

KIRA
...security here, on the station.
I can't justify taking you into
this wormhole... we don't know
what we're dealing with in
there... it could be hostile...

They reach a Turbolift...

ODO
Major, I was found in the Denorios
Belt. I don't know where I came
from... no idea if there are any
others like me. All my life, I've
been forced to pass myself off
as one of you... always wondering
who I really am. The answers to
a lot of my questions may be
somewhere on the other side of
that wormhole.

The Turbolift arrives... Kira is about to continue the
argument but Odo walks by her into the Turbolift...

(CONTINUED)

169 CONTINUED:

169

ODO
You coming?

She reacts, glances at the others... and after a beat
leads them into the Turbolift with Odo.

170 EXT. SPACE - DEEP SPACE NINE (OPTICAL)

170

as the Runabout is launched and runs by the camera into
space...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT SIX

ACT SEVEN

FADE IN:

- 171 THE WHITE SCREEN - SISKO'S EYES (OPTICAL) 171
Heartbeat. Breathing.
- 172 INT. ENTERPRISE OBSERVATION LOUNGE - SUBJECTIVE POV - 172
ECU OF PICARD
as we saw him in Act Two... but it is an alien
Picard...
- PICARD ALIEN
The creature must be destroyed
before it destroys us.
- 173 INT. SARATOGA BRIDGE - VIEWSCREEN - SUBJECTIVE POV - 173
LOCUTUS
LOCUTUS ALIEN
It is malevolent.
- 174 EXT. BASEBALL FIELD - SUBJECTIVE POV - DAY - 174
TY COBB
in a batter's box, dressed in his uniform of the era...
- TY COBB ALIEN
Aggressive. Adversarial.
- 175 INT. OBSERVATION LOUNGE 175
PICARD ALIEN
It must be destroyed.
- 176 REVERSE ANGLE 176
And Sisko is with Picard as he was in Act Two...
- SISKO
I'm not your enemy... I've been
sent here by the people you
contacted.
- PICARD ALIEN
Contacted?

(CONTINUED)

176 CONTINUED:

176

SISKO
With your devices. Your orbs...

PICARD ALIEN
We sought contact with other
lifeforms... not corporeal
creatures who would destroy us...

SISKO
I have not come to destroy
anyone...

177 INT. CHAMBER BENEATH THE MONASTERY

177

Sisko and Opaka stand as they did...

KAI OPAKA ALIEN
Can you not see the damage you
have already done?

SISKO
If I have caused you any harm,
I deeply regret it. I am here
only to find those who sent the
orbs.

KAI OPAKA ALIEN
For what purpose?

A beat. Sisko realizes there are a lot of possible
answers to this question...

SISKO
To establish peaceful relations.
As we have with hundreds of other
species.

KAI OPAKA ALIEN
(reacts)
Hundreds of other corporeal
species?

178 INT. SARATOGA BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

178

Locutus on the viewscreen. Growing tension... voice
upon voice...

CONN OFFICER ALIEN
This creature will lead them
here...

(CONTINUED)

176 CONTINUED:

176

SISKO
With your devices. Your orbs...

PICARD ALIEN
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lifeforms... not corporeal
creatures who would destroy us...

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(reacts)
Hundreds of other corporeal
species?

178 INT. SARATOGA BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

178

Locutus on the viewscreen. Growing tension... voice
upon voice...

CONN OFFICER ALIEN
This creature will lead them
here...

(CONTINUED)

178 CONTINUED:

178

OPS OFFICER ALIEN
They will annihilate us...

LOCUTUS ALIEN
Destroy it now...

Sisko sees that there is a growing danger here, moves
to encounter it head on... Aggressively --

SISKO
My species respects life above
all else. Can you say the same?
(beat)
If you are going to destroy me...
at least know who it is you
destroy...

179 INT. SARATOGA BRIDGE

179

CAPTAIN ALIEN
We know all that we need to know.

OPS OFFICER ALIEN
You endanger our domain.

SISKO
You've simply glanced at an
unknown lifeform... and you
condemn it...?

Dax alien studies him... Sisko is making progress...

SISKO
I don't understand the threat I
bring to you. But I am not your
enemy. Allow me to prove it.

TACTICAL OFFICER ALIEN
Prove it?

SISKO
(a beat, mind working)
It can be argued that a human is
ultimately the sum of his
experiences. You obviously have
access to mine.

180 EXT. FISHING POND - DAY

180

JAKE ALIEN
'Experiences'- what is this?

(CONTINUED)

180 CONTINUED:

180

SISKO

Memories... events from my past...
like this one...

JAKE ALIEN

Past?

SISKO

Things that happened before now...

Jake Alien looks at him blankly...

SISKO

(mostly to himself)
You have absolutely no idea what
I'm talking about.

JAKE ALIEN

What came before now is no
different than what is now...
or what is to come. It is one's
existence.

SISKO

(beginning to
understand)

Then, for you, there is no linear
time...

181 EXT. BEACH - DAY

181

JENNIFER ALIEN

'Linear time' - what is this?

SISKO

My species lives in one point in
time. And once we move beyond
that point, it becomes the past.
The future... all that is still
to come... does not exist yet for
us...

JENNIFER ALIEN

(alarmed)

Does not exist yet?

SISKO

That is the nature of a linear
existence. And if you examine
it more closely, you will see that
you do not need to fear me.

A beat as Jennifer alien studies him and...

- 182 THE WHITE SCREEN - EYES (OPTICAL) 182
Breathing. Heartbeat. A long beat.
- 183 EXT. SPACE - DEEP SPACE NINE (OPTICAL) 183
Establishing...
- 184 INT. OPS - MOVING WITH O'BRIEN 184
Bajoran supernumeraries in the background... with much urgency... lights dip and thrum... a definite strain to the reactor sounds...
- O'BRIEN
Dammit! Computer... analyze subspace field integrity...
- COMPUTER VOICE
Power frequency imbalance is preventing field closure...
- O'BRIEN
Add reactor three to the power grid...
- 185 EXT. SPACE - DEEP SPACE NINE (OPTICAL) 185
to see the warp field struggle to zap into place but reaches only about ninety percent of the station...
- 186 INT. OPS 186
As before.
- COMPUTER VOICE
Partial field established.
Instability at twelve percent.
- O'BRIEN
(reacts)
Partial field.
(a beat, dammit)
Is the station's inertial mass low enough to break orbit?
- COMPUTER VOICE
Procedure is not recommended at this time.
- (CONTINUED)

186 CONTINUED:

186

O'BRIEN

Dammit, I didn't ask for an opinion... just tell me whether or not we can get enough thrust with only a partial field established...

COMPUTER VOICE

Affirmative.

O'BRIEN

All right. Initiate transit mode, three-axis stabilization. Status of aft thrusters?

COMPUTER VOICE

Aft thrusters ready.

O'BRIEN

(beat)

Engage.

187 EXT. SPACE - DEEP SPACE NINE (OPTICAL)

187

Close on the thrusters firing... the huge structure rumbles...

188 ANGLE - LONG SHOT (OPTICAL)

188

as the station breaks orbit, gaining velocity...

189 INT. PROMENADE

189

rumbling with the move... people come out on the street to look out the windows...

190 INT. OPS

190

O'Brien moving along his console... checking readings... a klaxon rings...

COMPUTER VOICE

Warning. Field integrity declining. Instability at twenty-one percent.

(CONTINUED)

190 CONTINUED:

190

O'BRIEN

(on the move, to
supernumeraries)

We've got to close that gap in
the field... or we're going to
tear ourselves into a million
pieces.

COMPUTER VOICE

Warning - station is now beyond
safe shutdown velocity. Subspace
field collapse in sixty seconds...

The vibrations continue... O'Brien moves to his
console, searching for an answer... looking at the
Cardassian symbols... after a beat... yells to the room
--

O'BRIEN

Does anyone here know if the
inertial dampers can feed the
deflectors?

The Bajoran the supernumeraries look at him with blank
stares... O'Brien's on his own... he sighs, turns back
to the console...?

O'BRIEN

(to himself)

A good time to find out.

Starts working panels furiously...

O'BRIEN

Computer, transfer energy from
the inertial dampers to reinforce
the subspace field...

COMPUTER VOICE

Procedure is not recommended.

O'BRIEN

Dammit... transfer the energy!

COMPUTER VOICE

Unable to comply. Level One
safety protocols have cancelled
request.

O'BRIEN

(reacts)

Cancelled it...

(CONTINUED)

190 CONTINUED: (2)

190

COMPUTER VOICE
Warning. Subspace field collapse
in thirty seconds.

O'BRIEN
(yelling to
supernumeraries)
I'm gonna transfer it manually...
(to one)
On my mark, redirect the flow to
the deflectors...
(to another)
Keep the power balanced...

COMPUTER VOICE
Field collapse in fifteen
seconds...

O'BRIEN
Now!

O'Brien and supernumeraries look like a trio of
pianists playing three baby grands... hitting panels,
flipping busbars... the lights dim again... the whine
changes... O'Brien looks up, did it work...

191 EXT. SPACE - DEEP SPACE NINE (OPTICAL)

191

as the field zaps completely into place surrounding the
station...

192 INT. OPS

192

The vibration stops and the whine disappears...

COMPUTER VOICE
Field energy now within flight
tolerances.

Everybody reacts... O'Brien smiles weakly at the others
and then mutters...

O'BRIEN
Computer... you and I have to have
a little talk...

193 EXT. SPACE - RUNABOUT (OPTICAL)

193

As it moves into the asteroid belt...

194 INT. RUNABOUT (OPTICAL)

194

Kira and Dax in the pilot and co-pilot seats (left and right respectively)... Odo behind Kira, Amoros behind Dax...

DAX

The Cardassian warship is in visual range...

KIRA

On screen...

On monitors, the Cardassian ship appears... checking readings... confirmed...

KIRA

(sighs, angry)

They're going right to it...

Kira taps her fingers, thoughtfully...

AMOROS

They've got to listen to reason, don't they? When we warn them what could happen if they go in there...

ODO

(forever cynical)

Doctor, most people in my experience wouldn't know reason if it walked up and shook their hand. You can count Gul Dukat among them.

Kira presses some panels... hailing the Cardassian ship...

KIRA

This is the Federation ship Khorana... Major Kira Nerys in command...

Some beeps and the image of Gul Dukat appears on the monitors...

DUKAT

Yes, Major...

KIRA

Gul Dukat, we know you're headed for the wormhole...

DUKAT

Wormhole? Which wormhole is that?

(CONTINUED)

194 CONTINUED:

194

KIRA

I strongly suggest you do not proceed. We encountered a hostile lifeform inside... Commander Sisko has already been captured... we're about to attempt a rescue...

DUKAT

Perhaps they would be less hostile to Cardassians than to humans...

ODO

(wearily impatient)

Dukat, you know I won't lie to you... and I know you probably won't listen to me... but these people are trying to save you from a lot of trouble.

DUKAT

(sarcastic)

Really... I suppose you'd also tell me these are not the lifeforms that sent the orbs... or that your Commander Sisko is not negotiating for their technology...

(beat)

Thank-you for your concern. But I think we'll see for ourselves.

The monitor returns to the Cardassian ship moving through the asteroid belt... Odo glances at Amoros --

ODO

So much for reason...

195 THE WHITE SCREEN - SISKO'S EYES (OPTICAL)

195

Heartbeat. Breathing.

196 EXT. PARK - DAY

196

And Jennifer alien and a younger Sisko are on a picnic blanket... a basket of food spread out... she's wearing a flowered spring dress... they are reclining, she's laying, cradled in his arm...

JENNIFER ALIEN

(identifying herself)

Jennifer.

(CONTINUED)

196 CONTINUED:

196

He takes a moment to realize where he is, reacts... quickly detaches himself from her... sits across from her... a beat...

SISK0

Yes, that was her name.

JENNIFER ALIEN

She is part of your existence.

SISK0

She is part of my past. She's no longer alive.

JENNIFER ALIEN

(confused)

But she is part of your existence.

SISK0

Yes, she was a most important part of my existence. But I lost her some time ago.

JENNIFER ALIEN

'Lost' - what is this?

SISK0

In a linear existence, we can't go back to the past to get something we left behind... so it's lost...

JENNIFER ALIEN

(come on, you've got to be kidding)

It is inconceivable that any species could exist in such a manner... you are deceiving us...

SISK0

No, this is the truth...

Standing, taking in the setting...

SISK0

This day... this park... it was almost... fifteen years ago. Far in the past. It was a very important day to me... a day that shaped every day that followed. That is the essence of a linear existence... each day affects the next...

She studies him intently... we pan to follow her look as she sees --

197 ANGLE (OPTICAL)

197

An exact duplicate of the setting we were just in... a second set of Sisko and Jennifer are reclining on the ground... in each other's arms... playful children's voices are way in the background... this is a replay of the actual experience... Jennifer Alien and Sisko watch their doubles...

SISKO #2
(enjoying the moment)
Listen to it...

JENNIFER
To what?

SISKO #2
The sound of children playing.
What could be more beautiful...

JENNIFER
So you like children...?

SISKO #2
(beat)
That almost sounds like a domestic inquiry...

198 ANGLE - TWO SHOT

198

Losing Jennifer Alien and Sisko.

JENNIFER
I've heard Starfleet officers
don't want families because they
complicate their lives.

SISKO #2
Starfleet officers don't often
find mates who want to raise
families on a starship...

JENNIFER
That almost sounds like a domestic inquiry...

SISKO #2
(smiles, the question
in his eyes)
I think it was...

Her answer to him is a deeply felt kiss...

She reacts curiously to the kiss... the emotional impact is heavy on Sisko but he watches... tries to remain the detached instructor...

SISKO

As corporeal entities, humans find physical touch to cause pleasure...

JENNIFER ALIEN

'Pleasure' - what is this?

SISKO

Good feelings... happiness...

...but the words get lost in his throat as the moment finally hits him... rack focus as Jennifer alien turns to observe him... Sisko turns his eyes away and finds himself looking at --

200 DORAN, THE WOMAN IN THE FIERY CORRIDOR

200

with the mournful eyes, except she's an alien... and suddenly he's back on the Saratoga...

201 REVERSE ANGLE - INT. CORRIDOR

201

as he looks around... sees the Bolian Tactical Officer (an alien) next to him... he reacts... he does not want to revisit what is at the end of this... the aliens notice the reluctance... he looks down the corridor toward his quarters... does not want to go...

DORAN ALIEN

(what's the problem?)

This is your existence...

SISKO

Yes. But... it is difficult to return here... more difficult than any other memory...

TACTICAL OFFICER ALIEN

Why?

And this is hard for him, analyzing the death of his wife, standing by the flames that killed her... impossible to stay detached from the emotions this raises...

(CONTINUED)

201 CONTINUED:

201

SISKO

Because this was the day... I lost
Jennifer... it was the most
painful day of my life.

TACTICAL OFFICER ALIEN

'Painful?'

SISKO

The opposite of pleasure. Hurt.
Sadness.

(exhausted)

I don't know how to explain...

(beat)

I don't want to be here...

And now he looks up to see the incongruous arrival of
Jennifer alien in her bathing suit... moving coolly down
the fiery hallway to him...

JENNIFER ALIEN

Then why do you exist here?

SISKO

I... I don't understand...

JENNIFER ALIEN

(confused)

You exist here.

He looks at her... feeling miserable, confused... but
before any further explanations can be attempted...
something startling occurs... the images freeze and
begin to melt away... like an optical version of film
getting caught in a projector and burning...
accompanied by an eerie shrill sound we've never heard
before...

SISKO

What's wrong... what's happening?

202 EXT. SPACE - THE CARDASSIAN SHIP (OPTICAL) 202

is at the mouth of the wormhole and going into it...

203 INT. SARATOGA CORRIDOR (OPTICAL) 203

As it completely MELTS away... leaving Sisko back in

204 THE WHITE SCREEN - SISKO EYES (OPTICAL) 204

heartbeat... breathing... The shrill alien sound grows
louder as...

- 205 EXT. SPACE - THE CARDASSIAN SHIP (OPTICAL) 205
in the wormhole... after a beat, it comes out the other
end into the Gamma Quadrant...
- 206 THE WHITE SCREEN - SISKO'S EYES (OPTICAL) 206
Stronger heartbeat... heavier breathing... the shrill
sound growing...
- 207 EXT. SPACE - THE RUNABOUT (OPTICAL) 207
moving toward the wormhole which is still
illuminated... and suddenly the wormhole shatters into
a million points of light in front of them...
- 208 EXT. SPACE - THE CARDASSIAN SHIP (OPTICAL) 208
as the shattering continues behind them... leaving them
stranded...
- 209 THE WHITE SCREEN - SISKO'S EYES (OPTICAL) 209
The shrill sound ends abruptly. Stronger heartbeat...
heavier breathing...
- 210 EXT. SPACE - THE RUNABOUT (OPTICAL) 210
as the last sparks of the collapsed wormhole blink
out...
- 211 INT. RUNABOUT 211
The turbulence ends... off reactions...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT SEVEN

ACT EIGHT

FADE IN:

212 EXT. SPACE - DEEP SPACE NINE (OPTICAL) 212

still in transit, moving into the asteroid belt...

213 INT. OPS (OPTICAL) 213

seeing the Runabout crew on screen...

O'BRIEN

Are you sure it collapsed... it
could have withdrawn deeper into
subspace...

Dax is working furiously, pressing panels, taking
readings...

DAX

We haven't found any indication
of that, but we're still checking.

O'BRIEN

Should I turn this thing around
and go back?

INTERCUT:

214 INT. RUNABOUT (OPTICAL) 214

O'Brien on monitors.

KIRA

What's your position?

O'BRIEN

I'll be at your coordinates in
less than three hours...

KIRA

Maintain your course. We'll
rendezvous here... by then our
scans should be complete...

O'BRIEN

Aye, sir.

(beat)

By the way... we've been getting
queries from the Cardassians since
their ship disappeared from the
sensor field...

(CONTINUED)

214 CONTINUED:

214

KIRA
I'm sure you have.

ODO
(without humor)
They'll see Gul Dukat in about
sixty or seventy years if he
starts back right away.

O'Brien acknowledges and...

215 EXT. SPACE - RUNABOUT (OPTICAL)

215

as it moves through the asteroid belt continuing to
search for some trace of the wormhole.

216 THE WHITE SCREEN - SISKO'S EYES

216

Heartbeat. Breathing.

SISKO (V.O.)
Talk to me. Are you still there?
What just happened?

217 EXT. BEACH - DAY - JENNIFER ALIEN

217

walking along the shore as seen in Act Two...

JENNIFER ALIEN
More of your kind.

218 REVERSE ANGLE - SISKO

218

SISKO
Another ship... in the wormhole?

JENNIFER ALIEN
'Wormhole' - what is this?

SISKO
It is how we describe the kind
of passage that brought me here...

219 INT. OBSERVATION LOUNGE

219

PICARD ALIEN
It has been terminated.

(CONTINUED)

219 CONTINUED:

219

SISKO
Terminated...

PICARD ALIEN
You led others to annihilate us.

SISKO
My people know I am in danger.
They would come to help me...

220 INT. SARATOGA BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

220

CAPTAIN ALIEN
Our existence is disrupted each
time one of you enters the
passage...

CONN OFFICER ALIEN
Your linear nature is inherently
destructive.

OPS OFFICER ALIEN
You have no regard for the
consequences of your acts.

SISKO
That's not true. We're aware that
every choice we make has a
consequence...

TACTICAL OFFICER ALIEN
But you claim you do not know what
it will be...

SISKO
We don't...

221 EXT. FISHING POND - DAY - JAKE ALIEN

221

JAKE ALIEN
(interrupting)
Then how can you take
responsibility for your actions...

SISKO
We use past experience to help
guide us.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

221 CONTINUED:

221

SISKO (Cont'd)

(beat)

For Jennifer and me, all the experiences in our lives prepared us for the day we met on the beach... helped us recognize that we had a future together. When we married, we accepted all the consequences of that act, whatever they might be... including the consequence of you.

JAKE ALIEN

Me?

SISKO

My son, Jake...

222 INT. STARSHIP SICKBAY - CLOSEUP ON A NEWBORN BABY BOY

222

and Sisko finds himself holding his child in his hands for the first time... as a Starfleet doctor and nurses, all aliens, tend to Jennifer in bed... who looks up in her post labor flush...

JENNIFER ALIEN

The child with Jennifer.

SISKO

Yes.

JENNIFER ALIEN

(beginning to understand)

Linear... procreation...?

SISKO

(acknowledges)

Yes. Jake is the continuation of our family...

JENNIFER ALIEN

(remembering)

'The sound of children playing'.

223 A CATCHER'S MITT

223

as a bat swings and misses a ball as it pops into the glove. Pan up to find Jake Alien is the catcher... and Ty Cobb is the batter... there's also an umpire...

(CONTINUED)

223 CONTINUED:

223

COBB ALIEN
Aggressive. Adversarial.

224 REVERSE ANGLE - EXT. BASEBALL FIELD - DAY

224

Sisko is standing on a pitcher's mound, wearing a Boston cap circa 1915... and his Starfleet uniform...

SISKO
(correction)
Competition. For fun. It's a
game... that Jake and I play...
on the Holodeck... it's called
baseball.

And Jake alien stands out of his crouch and as he takes off the mask and looks at it curiously... and then looks around at the environment... joining Sisko on the mound...

JAKE ALIEN
'Baseball' - what is this?

SISKO
I was afraid you'd ask that...

A beat... How the hell do you explain baseball to an alien... he takes a deep breath, well, here goes...

SISKO
I throw the ball to you... and
this other player stands between
us with a stick, a bat... and
he... he tries to hit the ball
in between these two white
lines...

Jake alien blinks with confusion, Sisko pauses... regroups... getting another idea...

SISKO
The rules aren't important...
what's important is -- it's
linear.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

224 CONTINUED:

224

SISKO (Cont'd)

Every time you throw this ball a hundred different things can happen in the game... he might swing and miss, he might hit it... the point is you never know... you try to anticipate, set a strategy for all the possibilities as best you can... but in the end it all comes down to throwing one pitch after another... and seeing what happens. With each new consequence, the game begins to take shape...

COBB ALIEN

(grasping the meaning)

And you have no idea what that shape will be until it is completed...

SISKO

(beat)

That's right. In fact, the game wouldn't be worth playing if we knew what was going to happen.

JAKE ALIEN

(flabbergasted)

You value your ignorance of what is to come?

SISKO

(acknowledges, driving home his point)

That may be the most important thing to understand about humans. It is the unknown that defines our existence. We are constantly searching... not just for answers to our questions... but for new questions. We are explorers... we explore our lives day by day... and we explore the galaxy, trying to expand the boundaries of our knowledge. And that is why I'm here. Not to conquer you either with weapons or with ideas. But to co-exist and learn.

225 JAKE ALIEN

225

studies him curiously for a beat...

226 SISKO 226
waits hopefully for a response... reacts as he looks down at

227 HIS HANDS 227
bloody and burned as they were at the Saratoga.

228 INT. SISKO'S QUARTERS 228
and he's back on the Saratoga... his quarters in flames... his wife dead... his son unconscious... standing with the Tactical Officer...

TACTICAL OFFICER ALIEN
If all you say is true... why do you exist here?

Sisko reacts, confused and...

229 INT. OPS - VIEWSCREEN (OPTICAL) 229
Three huge Cardassian warships approaching.

230 REVERSE ANGLE 230
to see Kira at Master watching... with O'Brien, Dax, Odo and Amoros at various stations...

KIRA
Mister O'Brien, can you establish a high energy Thoron field before they get into sensor range... I don't want them to be able to scan our defense systems...

O'BRIEN
Aye, sir...

DAX
They're hailing us.

KIRA
On screen.

231 ANGLE - INCLUDE VIEWSCREEN 231
The Cardassian Commander, GUL JASAD, appears, in his ready room.

(CONTINUED)

231 CONTINUED:

231

KIRA
This is First Officer Kira Nerys.

JASAD
(arrogant)
May I speak with the Starfleet
Commander?

KIRA
He's not available.

JASAD
I'm not used to talking to Bajoran
Majors.

KIRA
I'm all you've got.

INTERCUT:

232 INT. CARDASSIAN READY ROOM (OPTICAL)

232

A beat, he studies her on a monitor.

JASAD
I am Gul Jasad of the Cardassian
Guard, Seventh Order. Why have
you moved the space station?

KIRA
We were taking it to the mouth
of a wormhole...

JASAD
Our sensors show no indication
of a wormhole.

KIRA
That's because it just collapsed.

JASAD
(reacts, impatient)
Where is our warship?

KIRA
With any luck, they're in the
Gamma Quadrant. On the other side
of the wormhole.

JASAD
(explodes)
There has never been any evidence
of a wormhole in this sector.

233 INT. OPS (OPTICAL)

233

DAX

We believe it was artificially
created. That may be why our
sensors never picked up any of
the usual wave pattern
fluctuations...

JASAD

Someone created a wormhole. And
now disassembled it.

(beat)

Very convenient.

He signs off... the viewscreen shows the ships...

O'BRIEN

They're powering up their forward
phasers...

KIRA

Red alert. Shields up.

O'BRIEN

What shields?

Off reactions...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT EIGHT

ACT NINE

FADE IN:

234 EXT. SPACE - DEEP SPACE NINE (OPTICAL) 234

235 INT. OPS 235

As before. O'Brien on the move from his station...

O'BRIEN

I've transferred all available power to establish partial shields around critical areas... but if they hit any of the lower decks, we'll sustain heavy damage...

KIRA

(to Odo)

Constable... if you could coordinate moving all civilians and support personnel to the upper decks...

He acknowledges, EXITS... Dax checks panels...

DAX

The Cardassians are flooding subspace with anti-lepton interference... they've cut off our communications with Starfleet...

KIRA

What was the last reported position of the Enterprise?

DAX

At least twenty hours away...

KIRA

We've got to hold out till they get here...

AMOROS

I can't believe the Cardassians would ever attack a Federation outpost...

O'BRIEN

Doctor, you ever studied your military history of the border wars? Ever heard of the Setlik Three massacre?

(CONTINUED)

235 CONTINUED:

235

DAX
They're hailing us again.

KIRA
On screen.

236 ANGLE INCLUDE THE VIEWSCREEN (OPTICAL)

236

JASAD
Major Nerys...

KIRA
I am properly addressed as Major
Kira...

JASAD
(nods, whatever)
We do not accept your explanation.
We assume you somehow destroyed
our warship... and we hereby
demand the surrender of this
station.

KIRA
(playing for time)
I'll need at least a day to make
the necessary preparations...

JASAD
You have an hour.

He signs off... the Cardassian ships reappear on the
viewscreen. A beat.

KIRA
Mister O'Brien, would you agree
that surrender is not a preferable
option?

O'BRIEN
You know what they do to their
prisoners, sir...

Kira nods silently a beat... thoughtful... glances at
Amoros...

KIRA
Did I mention, Doctor, that heroes
often die young?

Off his reaction...

As before... Sisko and the Tactical Officer alien...
the fire and smoke billowing up around them...

SISKO

(angry)

I already explained that I don't
want to be here...

TACTICAL OFFICER ALIEN

You exist here.

SISKO

What's the point of bringing me
back again to this?

are there in their starship costumes... standing by
Jennifer's dead body and Jake's unconscious body still
on the floor...

JAKE ALIEN

We have not brought you here.

JENNIFER ALIEN

You have brought us here.

TACTICAL OFFICER ALIEN

You exist here.

Sisko blinks, not entirely understanding... but is
impatient to be done with it...

SISKO

Then give me the power to lead
you somewhere else.

is there...

KAI OPAKA ALIEN

We cannot give you what you deny
yourself...

Sisko reacts, looks at her... as she says the familiar
words...

KAI OPAKA ALIEN

Look for solutions from within,
Commander...

(CONTINUED)

SISKO #2 (O.C.)
Just help me get her free...

Sisko turns to see --

240 THE SAME SETTING (OPTICAL)

240

and a replay of the actual events (as we did with the picnic in the park)... Sisko and the alien versions of Jake, Jennifer, Opaka and the Tactical Officer watch Sisko #2 and Tactical Officer #2...

TACTICAL OFFICER
She's gone... there's nothing we can do...

SISKO #2
Transporters...

TACTICAL OFFICER
None of them are functional, sir... we have to go...

COMPUTER VOICE
Warning. Damage to warp core. Containment failure in two minutes...

Sisko #2 takes his dead wife's hand...

SISKO #2
You go ahead, Lieutenant. Take the boy.

The security man ENTERS and the Tactical Officer gives Jake #2 to him... The real Sisko watches, his eyes glued to the horror, his mouth dry as cotton...

SISKO
I was ready to die with her...

TACTICAL OFFICER ALIEN
'Die' - what is this?

And it is Jennifer Alien who answers... as understanding begins to grow...

JENNIFER ALIEN
The termination of their linear existence.

241 JENNIFER ALIEN AND SISKO

241

As she studies him and sees his pain... and then reaches out and places it on his shoulder with comfort... he reacts to the touch of her hand and looks into her eyes... and they aren't so alien anymore... it is the first overt physical contact they have made with him... a link... an understanding... she looks back at the scene --

TACTICAL OFFICER

Now, sir...

As the Tactical Officer lifts him by the shoulder...

SISKO #2

(still falsely calm)

No... I can't leave without her...

He continues to pull him out of the room...

SISKO #2

Dammit... we can't leave her here...

During the above, Sisko is beginning to make a realization...

SISKO

I've never left this ship...

JENNIFER ALIEN

You exist here.

SISKO

I... exist here.

The Tactical Officer leads Sisko #2 out... Sisko steps slowly forward and moves to his dead wife taking the place of his double... picks up her hand...

SISKO

(to the aliens)

I don't know if you can understand. I see her like this every time I close my eyes... in the darkness in the blink of an eye, she's there... like this...

JENNIFER ALIEN

None of your past experiences helped prepare you for this consequence...

Sisko shakes his head, slowly...

(CONTINUED)

241 CONTINUED:

241

SISKO
(softly)
And I've never figured out how
to live without her.

JENNIFER ALIEN
So you choose to exist here.

He nods, unable to speak... she moves closer...

JENNIFER ALIEN
It is not linear.

And of course it is so simple in its truth...

SISKO
No. It's not... linear.

Sisko gently places the hand of his dead wife down... and he stands, exchanging a meaningful look with the aliens, most notably Jennifer alien. In this moment, two species have finally come to understand one another... to learn from one another... it is the end to the conflict... and the beginning of a shared future. There is something of a compassionate smile from Jennifer alien that seals it... and as Sisko returns her smile with a warm look of his own...

242 THE WHITE SCREEN - SISKO'S EYES (OPTICAL)

242

thoughtful, showing the impact of what has occurred... heartbeat... breathing...

243 EXT. SPACE - DEEP SPACE NINE (OPTICAL)

243

as before.

244 INT. OPS

244

Kira, O'Brien, Dax, Odo, Amoros... O'Brien and Dax at their stations...

DAX
Their lead ship is hailing us...
Gul Jasad wants an answer...

KIRA
(acknowledges, a beat)
Are you ready, Mister O'Brien...?

(CONTINUED)

244 CONTINUED:

244

O'BRIEN
Yessir... when they penetrate our
Thoron field, it should raise a
few eyebrows over there...

KIRA
Then let's give them our answer.
Fire six photons across Jasad's
bow...

O'BRIEN
(reacts)
We only have six photons, Major...

KIRA
We're not going to win this battle
with torpedoes, Chief.

O'BRIEN
Aye, sir...

245 EXT. SPACE - DEEP SPACE NINE (OPTICAL)

245

launches six torpedoes... that explode off the lead
ship's starboard bow...

246 INT. OPS

246

O'BRIEN
An urgent hail from Jasad.

AMOROS
I guess we got his attention.

KIRA
On screen.

247 ANGLE INCLUDE THE VIEWSCREEN (OPTICAL)

247

Jasad is incredulous, but calm.

JASAD
This is your answer...?

KIRA
You don't think Starfleet took
command of this space station
without the ability to defend it,
do you?

(CONTINUED)

247 CONTINUED:

247

JASAD

Defend it? Your space station
could not defend itself against
one Cardassian warship...

A beat as she steps forward to the viewscreen...

KIRA

You're probably right, Jasad.
And if you were dealing with a
Starfleet officer, they'd probably
admit we have a hopeless cause
here... but I'm just a Bajoran
Major who's been fighting a
hopeless cause all her life...
So if you want a war, I'll give
you one.

Jasad shakes his head, cuts off transmission and the
screen returns to the Cardassian ships... Odo studies
her with a trace of admiration...

ODO

Major, remind me never to get into
a game of Roladan Wild Draw with
you...

Off her reaction...

248 EXT. SPACE - DEEP SPACE NINE (OPTICAL)

248

with the Cardassian ships.

249 INT. CARDASSIAN READY ROOM (OPTICAL)

249

Jasad studies the space station on a monitor... taps
his fingers... his officer ENTERS...

CARDASSIAN OFFICER

They were using a Thoron field
to block our sensors but we were
able to penetrate it...

JASAD

What are their defenses...?

CARDASSIAN OFFICER

According to our scans, an
estimated 5000 photons...
integrated phaser banks on all
levels...

(CONTINUED)

249 CONTINUED:

249

He hands Jasad a padd with information on it...

JASAD
I don't believe it...

CARDASSIAN OFFICER
Sir, I assure you that these readings have been carefully analyzed...

JASAD
When did they transport these armaments? How did they install them without our knowledge?

CARDASSIAN OFFICER
The analysis clearly shows...

Jasad throws the padd across the room... the officer reacts...

JASAD
Somehow they've created a massive illusion of duranium shadows...

CARDASSIAN OFFICER
But if it is not an illusion...

JASAD
It is!

CARDASSIAN OFFICER
Why risk a confrontation? The Fourth Order can be here in a day...

JASAD
And so can Starfleet.

A beat on Jasad as he thinks and...

250 INT. OPS (OPTICAL)

250

The Cardassian ships on the viewscreen... the crew waits for a response...

AMOROS
(wanting it to be true)
They went for the shadows...
we've done it...

(CONTINUED)

250 CONTINUED:

250

ODO
Not yet, they're still thinking
about it...

Dax is checking readings...

DAX
The lead ship is sending out a
subspace message asking for
reinforcements...

AMOROS
Yes...

KIRA
(watching the screen)
Too soon for a victory
celebration, Doctor... Mister
O'Brien...?

O'BRIEN
The ships are being deployed into
a standard attack formation,
sir...

The mood quickly shifts...

KIRA
(quietly)
Battle stations.

251 EXT. SPACE - DEEP SPACE NINE (OPTICAL) 251

as the Cardassians open fire... several charges explode
off the shields...

252 INT. PROMENADE (OPTICAL) 252

Emphasis on Jake as civilians, who have been crowded
into the main street, shake with the impact of the
explosions... see them out the windows...

253 INT. OPS 253

Shaking...

(CONTINUED)

253 CONTINUED:

253

O'BRIEN

They may just be testing us...
I could run a pulse compression
wave through the phaser banks,
put out a blast that'll make them
think twice...

KIRA

Do it...

254 EXT. SPACE - DEEP SPACE NINE (OPTICAL)

254

firing a huge phaser blast... connecting with a
Cardassian ship that sustains some damage... but the
Cardassians' fire shows no sign of letting up, connects
with a lower deck where there are no shields...

255 INT. OPS

255

A major shake...

KIRA

Damage report...

O'BRIEN

Direct hit... deck fourteen...
empty storage bays... no
casualties...

DAX

Shields are down to twenty seven
percent...

256 EXT. SPACE - DEEP SPACE NINE (OPTICAL)

256

The firing continues... the Cardassians connect with a
fuel depot... there is a huge explosion... and a series
of three smaller ones along a fuel line moving
toward...

257 INT. PROMENADE

257

where an underground line ruptures and the fire shoots
through the floor... people scatter as Bajoran
supernumeraries move quickly with 24th century fire
gear to contain the damage...

258 INT. OPS

258

O'BRIEN

Shields at eighteen percent and
falling...

DAX

A fuel line has ruptured on the
Promenade... casualty reports
coming in now...

AMOROS

(on the move)

I'm on my way...

ODO

I'll lend you a hand, Doctor...

They EXIT onto a Turbolift...

O'BRIEN

I might still be able to give you
one more round, Major...

A beat. Kira knows it's hopeless... there's nothing
else to do...

KIRA

No. Signal the lead Cardassian
ship that we will proceed with
the...

DAX

Major... I'm reading a neutrino
disturbance... fifteen kilometers
off the forward docking ring...
it's the wormhole...

KIRA

On screen...

259 ANGLE TO INCLUDE VIEWSCREEN (OPTICAL)

259

in time to see the wormhole explode into view...

260 REACTIONS

260

interactive lighting from the screen...

261 INT. CARDASSIAN READY ROOM (OPTICAL)

261

Jasad moves to a window to observe the phenomenon.

262 EXT. SPACE - THE WORMHOLE (OPTICAL) 262

to see an incredible sight... the tiny Runabout leading out the huge Cardassian warship, fifty times larger than the Starfleet vessel...

263 INT. OPS 263

SISKO'S COM VOICE
Giotto to D-S Nine.

KIRA
On screen. Go ahead, Commander.

264 ANGLE INCLUDING VIEWSCREEN (OPTICAL) 264

SISKO
Sorry to be so late. I didn't know we were having company. Clear me for docking, Mister O'Brien.

O'BRIEN
Aye, sir... cleared for pad 'C'...

265 EXT. SPACE - DEEP SPACE NINE (OPTICAL) 265

as the Runabout moves in for a landing...

266 INT. PROMENADE 266

As Sisko walks out of the Airlock... Jake runs out of the crowd and into his arms...

JAKE
Dad...!

Sisko looks at the damage to the Promenade... acknowledges Amoros and Odo who are tending to the wounded...

SISKO
Casualties?

AMOROS
Thirteen injured, Commander... none seriously...

Sisko nods and moves with Jake through the crowd... into a Turbolift...

267 INT. OPS

267

As Sisko and Jake arrive on the Turbolift...

DAX

The Cardassians are waiting to
speak to you, Benjamin...

Sisko puts Jake down...

SISKO

On screen.

268 ANGLE INCLUDE VIEWSCREEN (OPTICAL)

268

Jasad and Dukat are together in a Jasad's ready room...

SISKO

Welcome back, Gul Dukat.

DUKAT

Commander, I'm pleased that we
were able to escort you safely
home.

Sisko exchanges a glance with Kira... but lets his
comment pass...

SISKO

Gentlemen, I've made contact with
the lifeforms that created this
wormhole...

JASAD

We look forward to your arranging
appropriate introductions.

SISKO

They have agreed to allow us to
use it to explore the Gamma
Quadrant.

JASAD

Then, I must state our position
that this phenomenon is clearly
in territory which has been
controlled by the Cardassian
Empire for six decades and as
such...

(CONTINUED)

268 CONTINUED:

268

SISKO

(interrupting)

I've made an agreement with these beings on behalf of the planet Bajor that allows for safe passage through the wormhole. Anyone who violates that agreement will find themselves lost between here and the Gamma Quadrant. If you care to challenge what I am saying, I suggest you fly back into the wormhole and see for yourselves.

A beat. The Cardassians have little choice but to agree.

DUKAT

Just who are these beings?

SISKO

(a beat, as it occurs)

The Prophets of the Celestial Temple.

Off Dukat's reaction...

269 EXT. SPACE - DEEP SPACE NINE (OPTICAL)

269

The Enterprise has returned.

270 INT. COMMANDER'S OFFICE

270

there is no hostility from Sisko this time... Sisko has finished briefing him as we cut in...

SISKO

...and the Cardassians have made it clear they are prepared to cooperate... at least for now...

PICARD

It seems you've put Bajor on the map... this should become a leading center of commerce and scientific exploration...

(beat, with purpose)

And for Starfleet, one of our most important posts...

(CONTINUED)

270 CONTINUED:

270

SISKO

(beat)

Captain, regarding our
conversation about someone to
replace me...

PICARD

I'm sorry, I haven't had the time
to communicate it to Command...

SISKO

I would prefer you ignore it, sir.

PICARD

(a beat, not so easy)

I'm not sure I can, Commander...
are you certain this is what you
want? Because we can't afford
to have someone in command here
who...

SISKO

I'm certain, sir.

A beat, Picard studies the man, quite a different man
than the last time they met. He nods... shakes his
hand...

PICARD

Good luck, Sisko.

And Picard EXITS... a beat on Sisko...

271 EXT. BAJOR - MATTE SHOT - ESTABLISHING

271

272 INT. MONASTERY - DAY (OPTICAL)

272

Pulling back on the orb as it's ark is placed in a
shrine with eight others... moving to find Opaka is the
one putting it back... and that Sisko is watching...

KAI OPAKA

The Cardassians have returned all
the others as an expression of
friendship toward Bajor...

SISKO

I'm sure Bajor will be making a
lot of new friends now.

(CONTINUED)

272 CONTINUED:

272

KAI OPAKA

(nods)

The prophets have been generous...

SISKO

I have a lot to tell you about
your prophets, Opaka.

KAI OPAKA

Does it surprise you that I do
not wish to hear?

Sisko reacts, not really.

KAI OPAKA

Perhaps that is why a disbeliever
was destined to seek them -- one
should never look into the eyes
of his own gods...

SISKO

(wanting to share at
least this much)

It was... quite a journey.

KAI OPAKA

It was only the beginning of your
journey, Commander.

On Sisko's reaction...

273 EXT. SPACE - DEEP SPACE NINE (OPTICAL)

273

274 INT. PROMENADE

274

Moving to find Amoros walking with Odo...

AMOROS

So, where can someone practice
with his phaser around here...?Losing them as they pass by Quark's, where the camera
picks up Kira and Quark coming out of the door...

QUARK

New rules...?

KIRA

You're can't cheat every customer
who walks through your door
anymore, Quark... you're a
community leader now...

(CONTINUED)

274 CONTINUED:

274

Quark puts his hand on her hip in an awkwardly intimate move...

QUARK

Very well. Very well. Perhaps we could discuss these new rules over a drink later in my quarters.

KIRA

If you don't take that hand off my hip, you'll never be able to raise another glass with it.

She moves away... as Quark watches...

QUARK

I love a woman in uniform...

And he gasps as he sees Dax pass in her uniform with O'Brien... and we stay with them as they walk to greet Sisko arriving from the Airlock...

DAX

Benjamin, six Frunalian science vessels are four hours away, requesting permission to dock...

O'BRIEN

Problem is we've been retro-fitting the Airlocks, sir. Half of them were damaged during the move... and most of the others when the Cardassians blew out the...

And during the above, they move away out of earshot as we pull back for the wide shot of the activity...

275 EXT. SPACE - DEEP SPACE NINE (OPTICAL)

275

as the six ships arrive...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT NINE

THE END