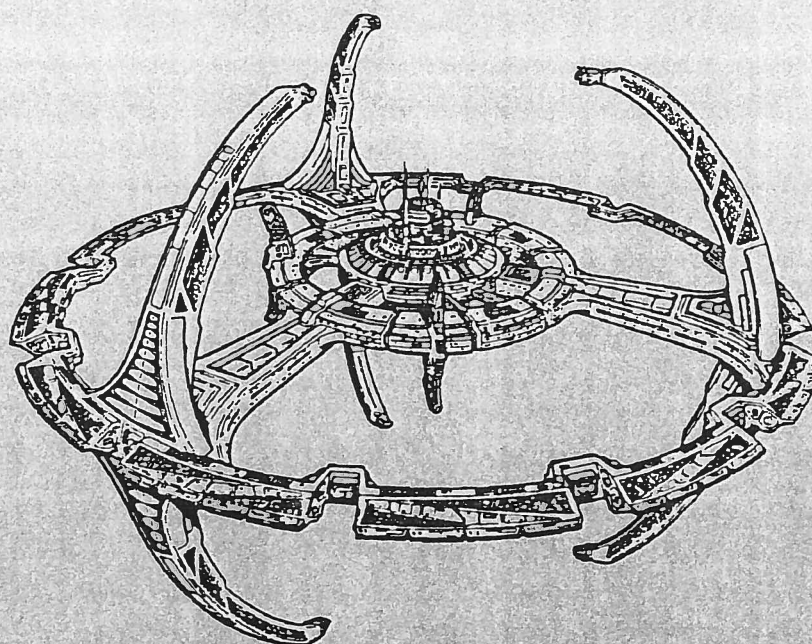


STAR TREK

DEEP SPACE NINE



Broken Link

FINAL DRAFT

April 8, 1996

STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE

REVISED

04/09/96 be

04/10/96 pk

*04/12/96 yw

"Broken Link"

#40510-498

Story
by
George A. Brozak

Teleplay
by
Robert Hewitt Wolfe & Ira Steven Behr

Directed
by
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FINAL DRAFT

April 8, 1996

STAR TREK: DS9 - "Broken Link" - 04/08/96 - CAST

STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE

"Broken Link"

CAST

SISKO

GARAK

ODO

GOWRON

BASHIR

AROYA

DAX

FEMALE SHAPESHIFTER

QUARK

AMAT'IGAN

O'BRIEN

RIONOJ

KIRA

WORF

Non-Speaking

Non-Speaking

N.D. SUPERNUMERARIES

STAR TREK: DS9 - "Broken Link" - 04/08/96 - SETS

STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE

"Broken Link"

SETS

INTERIORS

DEEP SPACE NINE
CAPTAIN'S OFFICE
CARGO BAY
GARAK'S SHOP
PROMENADE
SURGERY
WARDROOM

DEFIANT

BRIDGE
CORRIDOR
CORRIDOR OUTSIDE MESS HALL
JEFFERIES TUBE JUNCTION
MEDICAL BAY
MESS HALL

EXTERIORS

DEEP SPACE NINE

ATOLL
SHAPESHIFTER SEA

DEEP SPACE NINE -"Broken Link"- 04/10/96 - PRONUNCIATION

STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE

"Broken Link"

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

CHALAN AROYA	chuh-LAN uh-ROY-uh
ARCHANIS	are-KANE-is
EDOSIAN	eh-DOZE-ee-an
FALANGIAN	fah-LANE-jee-an
INKARIAN	in-KAR-ee-an
MERROK	mer-ROK
MORA	MAW-ra
USTARD	OO-stard
NUCLIDES	NEW-clides

STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE

"Broken Link"

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 INT. GARAK'S SHOP

1

ODO ENTERS to find GARAK folding some outfits at the counter.

ODO
You wanted to see me, Garak?

GARAK
Constable, how good of you to stop by.

Garak's eyes glance over at one of the dressing rooms.

ODO
(quietly)
Shoplifter?

Garak looks back at Odo in confusion.

GARAK
Excuse me?

ODO
Is something wrong?

Before Garak can answer the dressing room door/curtain is flung open and out steps an attractive Bajoran woman in her late thirties. This is AROYA. She's wearing a sexy alluring dress, but there's nothing obvious or overstated about her like a Dabo girl. She's a restaurateur, accessible but classy. She twirls to show off the dress.

AROYA
What do you think?

GARAK
"A thing of beauty is a joy forever."

AROYA
Put it on my account. I'll wear it to work.

GARAK
A splendid idea.

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED:

1

Aroya just stands there, smiling at Garak. Garak remembers why he's asked Odo here.

GARAK

Security Chief Odo, allow me to introduce Chalan Aroya. One of my best customers.

Aroya walks over and takes Odo's hand.

AROYA

I own the Celestial Cafe. The new Bajoran restaurant overlooking the Promenade.

ODO

I'm familiar with it.

AROYA

I watch you walk by every morning on patrol. Oh nine thirty seven. You're very precise.

ODO

(out of his element)

How... nice of you to notice.

It's beginning to dawn on Odo that Garak has set him up. The only reason he's here is to meet this woman. He looks over at Garak who smiles innocently.

AROYA

I was hoping one day you might stop in. When you're not working.

ODO

I don't eat.

AROYA

I do. And I hate to eat alone. Think about it.

She starts to leave, then turns around.

AROYA

(with a farewell smile)

And next time you're on the Second Level, don't forget to say "hello."

She EXITS. Odo turns to Garak, and looks at him accusingly.

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED: (2)

1

ODO

The next time you call me, it'd
better be to report a crime.

GARAK

Now that you mention it, I just
witnessed a crime.

(off reaction)

Letting Aroya walk out of here
without arranging a date. You
should be locked away for that.

ODO

You humanoids. You're all
obsessed with these convoluted
mating rituals of yours.

GARAK

True. But do you think we'd waste
so much time on something that
wasn't worth while?

(a beat)

I'll never understand you. You're
such a curious man, yet there're
so many aspects of humanoid life
you simply refuse to explore.

This whole subject is making Odo distinctly
uncomfortable.

ODO

I have no desire to become a slave
to humanoid obsessions.

GARAK

But you have to admit, she was
quite lovely.

ODO

(reluctantly)

She was, wasn't she?

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED: (3)

1

Odo starts to leave, but before he reaches the door, he suddenly seems to stumble and grabs the counter to steady himself.

GARAK

Odo, what's wrong?

2 CLOSE ON ODO (OPTICAL)

2

As he holds onto the counter to keep himself from falling.

ODO

I don't know.

Odo's hit by a spasm of pain. He doubles over, then looks up at Garak and lets out a horrible groan.

Suddenly, waves of Shapeshifter goo ripples throughout Odo's torso. Odo is overcome by pain, as each successive wave seems to hit him harder than the last one. Finally, his whole body ripples and Odo collapses to the floor.

Garak's immediately at his side.

GARAK

(hits Odo's combadge)

Garak to Doctor Bashir. I need a medical emergency team sent to my shop, immediately.

And as Garak looks down at Odo's unconscious form, we...

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

(NOTE: Episode credits fall over opening scenes)

3 INT. SURGERY

3

BASHIR is completing his examination of Odo, who is lying on the examining table, conscious, but still weak.

Odo is frustrated and a little tense. He feels helpless and there's nothing he dislikes more than feeling helpless.

ODO

Doctor, this is a waste of time.
You don't know enough about
Changeling physiology to diagnose
what's wrong with me. No one
does.

BASHIR

Actually, I do have some idea
what's going on. I've compared
your current medical scans with
ones I've made over the last four
years and there're noticeable
differences.

(referring to readouts)

Normally when you're in humanoid
form, you have a specific density
of one point four which is
consistent throughout your body.
Your mass and density only vary
when you change shape. But right
now, your mass and density are in
a state of fluctuation.

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED:

3

ODO

Do you know what's causing it?

BASHIR

No.

ODO

Do you know how to prevent it from happening again?

BASHIR

Not yet.

ODO

(rising)

Then tell me when you do.

Bashir gently places a restraining hand on Odo's chest.

BASHIR

I'm afraid I can't let you leave just yet. Moving seems to increase the fluctuations. And that could bring on another attack.

ODO

Are you saying that I have to lie here until you discover a cure?

BASHIR

Or until the fluctuations stop on their own. For all I know, this could be a normal biological process, the Changeling equivalent of puberty or menopause.

ODO

That's an interesting theory.

(with an edge)

One I suggest you keep to yourself.

BASHIR

Don't worry. It could just as easily turn out to be a virus or a bacterial infection.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED: (2)

3

BASHIR (CONT'D)
Now lie back and I promise I'll do
everything I can to get you out of
here as soon as possible.

With a sigh of resignation, Odo lies back and stares at the ceiling. He's not convinced Bashir can make good on his promise.

4 EXT. SPACE - DEEP SPACE NINE (OPTICAL)

4

Establishing.

5 INT. WARDROOM (OPTICAL)

5

Close on the monitor which displays an image of GOWRON, the chancellor of the Klingon Empire, giving a political speech. Gowron's controlled, assured, and confident. These aren't the ravings of a madman; they're the words of a calculating, uncompromising dictator.

GOWRON
(on monitor)
We find the Federation's demands
that we return the captured
Cardassian colonies insulting and
provocative. Klingon blood was
spilled to conquer those worlds.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED:

5

GOWRON (CONT'D)

They are now part of the Klingon
Empire and we will never give them
up.

6 REVERSE ANGLE (OPTICAL)

6

On SISKO, KIRA, DAX and WORF, somberly listening to
Gowron's polemic.

GOWRON

(on monitor)

Furthermore, if the Federation
still harbors any hope of peaceful
coexistence with the Klingon
Empire, it must abandon all
Starbases and military
installations in the Archanis
Sector. Our claim to Archanis
Four and the surrounding territory
is ancient and indisputable. We
advise the Federation to leave
Archanis, or prepare to face the
consequences. Long Live the
Empire.

And with that, the image of Gowron is replaced by the
Seal of the Klingon Empire.

7 NEW ANGLE

7

As Sisko reaches over and deactivates the monitor. For
a moment, everyone's quiet as they ponder Gowron's
words.

SISKO

This recording was sent to the
Federation Council three days ago.

WORF

If Gowron is willing to go to war
over the Archanis Sector, then he
has become even more dangerous
than I thought.

Kira is still stewing over Gowron's demands.

KIRA

I don't get it. The Klingons
relinquished their claims to
Archanis Four a hundred years ago.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED:

7

DAX

I guess they changed their minds.

SISKO

I don't think Gowron gives a damn about Archanis. He's just looking for an excuse to rattle his sabre. The question is... why?

DAX

Yesterday I talked to an old friend of Curzon's in the Diplomatic Corps. She says representatives from Federation worlds near the Klingon border are already urging a preemptive strike.

KIRA

Sounds like war may be inevitable.

SISKO

I hope you're wrong, Major. But right now, there's not much we can do about it either way. Archanis Four is a long way from here.

Suddenly Kira bursts into a staccato series of sneezes.

DAX

(counting)

Two, three... I say she stops at seven.

SISKO

(quickly)

I'll go eight. Mister Worf?

WORF

Ten.

Kira continues the short violent sneezes until she reaches eight, then rears back her head like she's going to have another, waits, and finally...

KIRA

I hate being pregnant.

SISKO

I win.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED: (2)

7

KIRA

My nose hasn't stopped itching for weeks.

DAX

We've noticed.

SISKI

Isn't there something Doctor Bashir can do?

KIRA

I'm Bajoran. Human women get nauseous. We sneeze.

(a beat)

Besides, I think Doctor Bashir has his hands full right now.

Sisko exactly knows what she means.

SISKI

How is the Constable?

Kira looks worried.

KIRA

Still no news. I was thinking of going to visit him.

WOF

I doubt he'd want to be seen in such a weakened state.

DAX

What if he wants some company? Someone to take his mind off his problems?

WOF

That is doubtful. Odo values his privacy. He doesn't like to socialize.

DAX

I think that's just an act.

WOF

It's not an act. He told me so himself.

DAX

But you were socializing with him when he said it.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED: (3)

7

Worf reacts to Dax's needling.

WORF
(to Sisko)
Captain, was Dax's last host as
argumentative as this one?

SISKO
Worse.

DAX
Thank you, Benjamin... I think.

Sisko thinks for a beat, trying to decide whether
visiting the Constable will do more harm than good.

SISKO
(back to Odo)
Hopefully Odo will be back on his
feet soon. In the meantime, I
want him left alone to rest.
Agreed?

Kira starts sneezing again.

SISKO
(as if that's his
answer)
Agreed.

8 EXT. SPACE - DEEP SPACE NINE (OPTICAL)

8

Re-establishing.

9 INT. SURGERY

9

Odo is lying in bed, looking a little morose.

KIRA (O.C.)
May I come in?

10 NEW ANGLE

10

To reveal Kira, who's just ENTERED the room.

ODO
If you're looking for Doctor
Bashir, he's not in right now.

KIRA
Actually, I came to see you.

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED:

10

This information doesn't cheer Odo up. Right now he just wants to be left alone.

ODO

To be honest, Major, I don't really feel like company right now.

Kira doesn't take it personally.

KIRA

I didn't plan on staying.
(holds out a PADD)
I came to give you this.

Odo looks at the PADD and for the first time, he brightens.

ODO

Today's criminal activities report?

KIRA

I figured you might be getting tired of staring at medical consoles all day.

Odo smiles and immediately starts reading the reports.

ODO

That was very... thoughtful of you, Major.

KIRA

If there's anything else you need, let me know.

Odo nods, engrossed in the report.

ODO

I'll do that.

Kira looks at Odo for a beat. She's worried about him, but it's good to see him active. She smiles and EXITS.

11
thru OMITTED
14

11
thru
14

15 CLOSE ON ODO 15

As he peruses the report. Suddenly something catches his eye and he sits up in bed.

CUT TO:

16 INT. CARGO BAY 16

The Boslic freighter captain (RIONOJ) is supervising her men as they load crates onto her ship.

RIONOJ
Keep moving. I'll feel a lot better once we're off this station.

ODO (O.C.)
Too bad. Because you're not leaving.

17 NEW ANGLE 17

As Rionoj turns and sees Odo ENTERING the Cargo Bay. Rionoj knows why Odo's there, but she tries to feign ignorance.

RIONOJ
Security Chief Odo. I heard you were indisposed.

ODO
You heard wrong. Now, you and I need to talk about those missing Falangian Diamonds.

RIONOJ
I told you before, I don't know anything about them.

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED: 17

ODO
Tell me again.

Rionoj looks at Odo for a beat, then makes a break for the airlock leading to her ship.

18 CLOSE ON ODO (OPTICAL) 18

As he moves to intercept.

ODO
No you don't.

But as Odo reaches out for Rionoj, he's hit by an intense wave of pain. Roiling waves of goo wash over him. He doubles over, then completely loses control of his form and collapses into a puddle of goo.

Rionoj takes one look at Odo and then decides not to hang around.

RIONOJ
Let's go.

Rionoj and her men EXIT without even bothering to load the rest of her cargo.

19 CLOSE ON THE PUDDLE OF GOO (OPTICAL) 19

As Odo tries to form a hand, then fails. The hand collapses back into the puddle and we...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

20 INT. SURGERY

20

Odo's lying on a bed, covered by a sheet. The bed's been modified to include a curved lip which will hold him if he reverts to liquid.

Bashir ENTERS to check on his patient. He's been running more tests and the results haven't been encouraging.

BASHIR

How are you feeling?

ODO

See for yourself.

With an effort, Odo pushes aside the sheet.

21 CLOSE ON ODO (OPTICAL)

21

Odo's body is only partially formed. In some places it looks relatively normal, in others it's an ill-formed mass of goo. As we watch, part of the goo solidifies and part of the solid mass turns to goo.

Even the solid parts of Odo's body, including his face, are damp with a slick of goo.

BASHIR

It's gotten worse.

22 NEW ANGLE

22

As Odo slumps back down and covers himself with the sheet.

ODO

Very observant, Doctor.

Odo didn't mean to bite Bashir's head off. He eases up.

ODO

It's becoming more and more difficult for me to maintain humanoid form.

This is a hard admission for Odo to make and when he speaks there is more than a trace of anxiety in his voice.

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED:

22

BASHIR

The latest test results aren't encouraging. The destabilization of your molecular structure is increasing at an alarming rate.

ODO

How much longer before I completely lose my ability to stay... solid.

BASHIR

A week. Maybe two. And after that, if the destabilization continues...

Bashir trails off ominously. Odo gets the idea. He's not surprised.

BASHIR

I sent my findings to Doctor Mora. Frankly, he's as baffled as I am. He wants you to come to his laboratory on Bajor for further tests.

ODO

Seven years playing lab rat for him was quite enough. Besides you have complete access to his data. If the answer was there, you'd've found it by now.

BASHIR

I don't suppose you'd agree to a trip to Starfleet Medical?

ODO

Doctor, I think we both know where I have to go.

Bashir nods. He and Odo are thinking along the same lines, but neither of them is eager to follow through on their idea.

BASHIR

I was hoping it wouldn't come to that.

ODO

It seems we don't have much choice. You have to take me back to my people.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED: (2) 22

ODO (CONT'D)
The only ones who can help me
now... are the Founders.

Bashir wishes he had a better solution, but he doesn't.

23 INT. CAPTAIN'S OFFICE 23

Sisko is meeting with Kira and Bashir to discuss their options.

SISKO
Once we enter the Gamma Quadrant,
we'll begin transmitting a
subspace signal explaining the
purpose of our mission. Then
we'll enter Dominion space and try
to locate the Founders' new
homeworld.

KIRA
Odo's only got a few weeks at
best. What makes you think we can
find his people in time?

BASHIR
(wryly)
If we go into Dominion space
without cloaking, we'll get their
attention.

SISKO
You can be sure of that.

KIRA
I'd like to come along.

SISKO
I don't think so, Major.
(before she can object)
I know Odo's your friend, but I
need you here. Besides...

She sneezes.

KIRA
Yeah. I know, I know.
(a beat)
When do you leave?

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED: 23

Sisko looks to Bashir for his medical opinion.

BASHIR
As soon as possible.

SISKO
(heading for the door)
We'll prepare the Defiant. You
prepare the Constable.

24 INT. DEFIANT - BRIDGE 24

Sisko, O'BRIEN, Worf and Dax are readying the Defiant
for departure.

O'BRIEN
(to Sisko)
All systems are ready for
departure.

SISKO
Thank you, Mister O'Brien.

25 NEW ANGLE 25

Bashir ENTERS from the back of the Bridge.

BASHIR
The Medical Bay's all set but
it'll take a little while to get
Odo on board.

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED:

25

WORF

Why not use the Transporter?

BASHIR

His molecular structure is scrambled enough as it is. The last thing he needs is a trip through a Transporter buffer.

Just then, Dax reacts to something surprising on one of her readouts.

DAX

Benjamin, there's someone asking permission to come aboard.

SISKO

Who is it?

DAX

(puzzled)

Garak.

WORF

Tell him the ship's off limits to Cardassian spies.

BASHIR

Sir, if Garak's asking to come aboard, I'm sure he has a good reason.

Sisko thinks about it for a moment, then makes a decision.

SISKO

Have Mister Garak escorted to the Mess Hall. I'll meet him there.

26 INT. DEFIANT - MESS HALL

26

Garak awaits Sisko's arrival under the watchful eyes of two Starfleet Security Officers.

GARAK

Personally I think Starfleet should allow their officers more latitude in accessorizing their uniforms. You'd be surprised what a nice scarf can do.

The Security Officer studiously ignores the Cardassian.

27 NEW ANGLE

27

As Sisko ENTERS the Mess Hall.

GARAK

Captain. How good of you to see me.

SISKO

Make it brief, Garak.

GARAK

I'd like to accompany you on your mission.

(off Sisko's reaction)

I have some questions I'd like to ask them.

SISKO

Such as?

GARAK

The Cardassian Empire lost a number of ships during their aborted attack on the Dominion. I want to know what happened to the crewmembers.

SISKO

I was under the impression that those ships were destroyed with all hands.

GARAK

We don't know that for a fact. As I recall, when the Defiant left the scene of the battle, a number of Cardassian warships were still fighting.

SISKO

And you think some of their crewmembers might've been taken prisoner?

GARAK

I live in hope.

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED:

27

Garak senses that his argument has not proved persuasive and tries another tack.

GARAK

Besides, if you do take me along,
I think you'll find me quite
useful. I'm a man of many
talents.

SISKO

I don't have much need for a
tailor on this mission... let
alone a spy.

Sisko studies Garak thoughtfully. An idea occurs to him.

SISKO

But maybe there is something you
can do for me.

(off Garak's reaction)

This won't be an easy trip for
Odo. He'll need someone to occupy
his attention, take his mind off
his condition.

GARAK

You want me to keep him company?

SISKO

No. Anyone could do that. Dax,
Bashir, myself. But what would we
have to offer him? Kindness?
Sympathy? That's the last thing
he wants.

GARAK

(with pride)

But where you offer kindness, I
offer mystery. Where you offer
sympathy, I offer intrigue.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED: (2)

27

GARAK (CONT'D)

Just give me a seat near Odo's bed
and I promise you, I will conjure
up enough innuendos, half-truths,
and bald-faced lies about my
"career" in the Obsidian Order to
keep the Constable distracted for
days.

Sisko nods. That's just what he had in mind.

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED: (3)

27

GARAK
(smiles)
If there's one thing Cardassians
excel at, it's conversation.

SISKO
You've got yourself a job. But
whatever questions you have for
the Founders will have to wait
until after Odo's gotten the help
he needs.

GARAK
We share the same priorities,
Captain.

Sisko smiles. He still doesn't trust Garak all that
much, but at least he knows he can use him.

SISKO
Make sure you remember that.

28 INT. PROMENADE (OPTICAL)

28

Favoring the entrance to the Infirmary, as an enfeebled
Odo walks painfully out the door, supported on either
side by Bashir and Kira. There're large blotches of
goo (a practical effect of some kind) clinging to his
body, and his skin glistens with a thin layer of slime.
Quark ENTERS from his bar and goes to Odo.

(CONTINUED)

28 CONTINUED:

28

QUARK
(calling)
Odo.

He hurries over.

ODO
Not now, Quark, I'm busy.

QUARK
I hear you're taking a little trip
to the Gamma Quadrant.

ODO
Care to come along?

QUARK
Are you kidding? I expect to own
this station by the time you get
back. With you gone, profits from
smuggling alone should be up sixty
percent.

Odo knows Quark is half-joking, but he plays along.

ODO
Well don't get used to it. I'll
be back making your life miserable
before you know it.

Quark sets aside their rivalry for a moment and looks
at Odo with concern and sympathy.

QUARK
Then you are coming back?

ODO
Count on it.

QUARK
I will.

Quark steps aside.

28A CLOSE ON ODO

28A

As he looks down the Promenade, anticipating the long
painful journey ahead of him.

KIRA
(knowing what he's
thinking)
Take your time. I promise the
Defiant won't leave without you.

(CONTINUED)

28A CONTINUED: 28A

Odo starts to walk but it's obviously a painful, difficult act.

28B NEW ANGLE 28B

As Odo walks down the Promenade, a crowd of people gathers to watch, with a mixture of curiosity, concern and sympathy. Bashir looks at Odo. He knows the Constable is an intensely private man and doesn't want to make a spectacle of him.

BASHIR
Would you like me to have the
Promenade cleared?

28C CLOSE ON ODO 28C

As he looks at the crowd. The last thing he wants to do is show weakness in front of the people he's sworn to protect. He straightens his body.

ODO
That won't be necessary.

Odo forces himself to walk with his head held high.

28D NEW ANGLE 28D

As Odo, Kira and Bashir pass by camera and we watch them proceed down the Promenade. The crowd watches him go with respect and awe.

CUT TO:

29 EXT. SPACE - DEEP SPACE NINE (OPTICAL)

29

As the Defiant pulls away from the station and enters the wormhole.

30 INT. DEFIANT - BRIDGE

30

Sisko, Dax, and O'Brien are at their stations. Worf stands near O'Brien.

DAX

We've cleared the wormhole.

SISKO

Begin transmitting our request for assistance and set a course for the Dominion.

DAX

Aye, sir.

31 ANGLE ON WORF AND O'BRIEN

31

As O'Brien looks up at the Viewscreen.

O'BRIEN

It's funny. I've served on a half-dozen ships, and none of them've had cloaking devices except the Defiant. But now that we're not using it, I feel kind of naked.

WORF

It is disconcerting, to say the least.

SISKO

Gentlemen, I feel the same breeze you do.

Dax can't help but smile.

O'BRIEN

(notices)

What're you smiling at?

DAX

I don't know. I guess it's just being in the same room with so many naked men.

CUT TO:

32 INT. DEFIANT - MEDICAL BAY (OPTICAL)

32

A redress of the Mess Hall. Odo is lying in a Starfleet style medical bed with the same kind of side modifications as the one in the Infirmary. Bashir is monitoring his vital signs and though Odo is still weak, his attention is definitely focussed on Garak, who's seated beside him.

GARAK

Ah, yes. The Assassination of Proconsul Merrok of Romulus. Such a tragedy.

(with fondness)

I met him once, a few weeks before he died. I was working as a gardener at the Cardassian embassy.

ODO

You were a gardener on Romulus?

GARAK

My specialty was Edosian Orchids. Beautiful yet highly toxic.

ODO

(getting suspicious)

As I recall, Proconsul Merrok was poisoned.

GARAK

Funny, I don't remember that. But then again so many Romulan dignitaries died unexpectedly that year.

BASHIR

It must be hard to keep them all straight.

GARAK

You can't imagine.

BASHIR

Maybe we should let the Constable get some rest.

But Odo's too interested in Garak to want peace and quiet.

ODO

I'll let you know when I need rest, Doctor.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED:

32

ODO (CONT'D)
(to Garak)
A gardener? At the Cardassian
embassy on Romulus?

Garak nods. Odo smiles; he's on the hunt.

ODO
Fascinating.

CUT TO:

33 EXT. SPACE

33

The Defiant at warp.

34 INT. DEFIANT - BRIDGE

34

Sisko, Worf, Dax and O'Brien are at their stations.
O'Brien is in the midst of a story.

O'BRIEN
So I get off duty the other night,
and walk into my quarters and
there're Keiko and Major Kira
talking.

DAX
Go on.

O'BRIEN
The moment I walked in, they
stopped. It was like turning off
a Holosuite program.

WORF
They didn't want you to overhear
what they were saying.

O'BRIEN
Exactly. And I think they were
talking about me.

SISKO
Come on, Chief. You have no way
of knowing that.

O'BRIEN
I don't have proof, but I do know
one thing. Molly was there and
when she saw me, she started
giggling.

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED: 34

Dax smiles and shakes her head.

O'BRIEN

Laugh all you want. I'm thinking
of having Julian move in with us
too. Even the odds a little.

Just then...

DAX

Hold on. I'm reading warp
signatures headed our way. Looks
like our signal's finally getting
a little attention.

SISKI

Full stop. On screen.

35 NEW ANGLE - TO INCLUDE THE VIEWSCREEN (OPTICAL) 35

On the Viewscreen, a half dozen Jem'Hadar warships
approach on an intercept course.

SISKI

Make that a lot of attention.

And as the crew reacts to the large number of warships.
we...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

0A EXT. SPACE (OPTICAL)

A36

The Defiant and the Dominion fleet.

36 INT. DEFIANT - BRIDGE

36

As before. Sisko, Dax, O'Brien and Worf react to the Dominion fleet.

DAX

We're being hailed. They want to beam someone aboard to discuss our request.

WORF

I'd advise against allowing Dominion representatives aboard this ship.

O'BRIEN

(backing Worf up)
It might be better to negotiate over the Viewscreen.

SISKO

I agree, but I don't want to give them any reason to think we're hiding something. Odo needs their help and I'm going to make sure he gets it.

WORF

Understood.

SISKO

(to Dax)
Commander, tell the Jem'Hadar that I'll meet their representative in the Transporter Bay.

DAX

Aye...

But before she can even finish...

37 NEW ANGLE (OPTICAL)

37

A Dominion transporter beam appears in the middle of the Bridge and four figures MATERIALIZE near O'Brien's station. Three of them are Jem'Hadar (including AMAT'IGAN), but it's the fourth Dominion representative that gets everyone's attention. It's the FEMALE SHAPESHIFTER from "THE SEARCH" and "HEART OF STONE."

The Jem'Hadar all carry rifles.

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED:

37

O'Brien goes for his phaser, but before he can draw it, a Jem'Hadar grabs him by the chest and starts to squeeze the life out of him. Sisko and the others draw their weapons and the other Jem'Hadar take aim.

FEMALE SHAPESHIFTER
(softly)
That's enough. Let him go.

The Jem'Hadar immediately releases O'Brien.

FEMALE SHAPESHIFTER
Please, everyone... Lower your
weapons. There's no need for
violence.

The other Jem'Hadar lower their guns. Sisko and his crew follow suit.

DAX
(looking to O'Brien)
Are you okay?

O'Brien rubs his chest.

O'BRIEN
I've felt better.

The Female Shapeshifter approaches Sisko.

FEMALE SHAPESHIFTER
I've come for Odo.

SISKO
Can you help him?

FEMALE SHAPESHIFTER
Only the Great Link can help him.
Leave him with me and you may
return home unharmed.

SISKO
I can't do that.

As soon as Sisko contradicts the Female Shapeshifter, First Amat'igan raises his rifle.

AMAT'IGAN
A Founder has given you an order.
You will obey it.

FEMALE SHAPESHIFTER
(to Amat'igan, a
reprimand)
I'll let you know when I need you.

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED: (2)

37

Amat'igan stands down, but continues to glare at Sisko.

FEMALE SHAPESHIFTER

I understand your concern for Odo.
I feel it too.

SISKO

Then let's not stand here and
argue. Just tell us where we need
to take him. The faster we get
moving, the better off he'll be.

The Female Shapeshifter smiles. She expected this
reaction.

FEMALE SHAPESHIFTER

Your loyalty to Odo is
commendable.

(a beat)

I won't stop you from accompanying
him on the rest of his journey.
However, I'm sure you understand
my reluctance to reveal the
location of our new home.

(turns to Dax)

Commander, I must ask you to
surrender the helm. Amat'igan
will guide your ship for the
remainder of the voyage.

Amat'igan steps forward. Dax looks reluctant to give
up the helm.

DAX

(checking with Sisko)
Captain?

FEMALE SHAPESHIFTER

My terms are not open to
negotiation.

SISKO

Give him your seat, Commander.

Dax gets up. Amat'igan takes her place. He removes a
device from his belt and attaches it to the helm.

AMAT'IGAN

This will prevent your
navigational computers from
retaining any record of our
journey.

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED: (3)

37

WORF
Captain...

Sisko knows Worf is about to protest. Sisko holds up his hand.

SISKO
Not now, Mister Worf.

38 NEW ANGLE (OPTICAL)

38

The Jem'Hadar navigator activates his device and the Viewscreen goes green, obscuring the view of the stars and the Jem'Hadar fleet.

FEMALE SHAPESHIFTER
There. That's better.
(turns to Sisko)
Now, Captain... if it's not too much trouble, I'd like to pay Odo a visit.

Sisko nods.

39 INT. DEFIANT - CORRIDOR

39

The Female Shapeshifter makes her way down the corridor, guarded by her two Jem'Hadar escorts, who are in turn kept under the watchful eyes of two Starfleet Security Officers. Everyone's on edge except the Female Shapeshifter, who seems completely in control.

They pass a pair of Starfleet Officers, who react in surprise to the presence of a Founder on their ship.

40 INT. DEFIANT - MEDICAL BAY (OPTICAL)

40

Odo is in bed. Bashir monitoring his condition. Garak is still here, but he's adjusting his outfit, preparing for the arrival of the Founder.

GARAK
How do I look, Doctor?

BASHIR
Does it matter?

(CONTINUED)

40 CONTINUED:

40

GARAK

Of course it matters. I'm here as a representative of the Cardassian Empire and I want to make a good first impression.

(turns to Odo)

Constable, what do you think?

ODO

I think the Romulans poisoned Proconsul Merrok and you were the one responsible for the Transporter accident that killed Sub-Commander Ustard.

GARAK

You're getting warmer.

(getting back to the subject)

Now about my collar...

Just then...

41 NEW ANGLE (OPTICAL)

41

The door to the Medical Bay opens to reveal the Female Shapeshifter, standing in the corridor.

FEMALE SHAPESHIFTER

May I come in?

ODO

You'll pardon me if I don't get up.

The Female Shapeshifter ENTERS, followed by a Jem'Hadar and a Starfleet Security Officer. The remaining Jem'Hadar stands guard in the corridor along with his Starfleet counterpart. The Female Shapeshifter studies Odo.

42 CLOSE ON ODO (OPTICAL)

42

Who's barely holding it together. Spots of slime are visible all over his body.

FEMALE SHAPESHIFTER

Poor Odo. Look what's become of you.

ODO

I'm not a pretty sight, am I?

(CONTINUED)

42 CONTINUED:

42

FEMALE SHAPESHIFTER

Pretty? I wasn't aware you applied such value to your outward appearance. Such concerns are more fitting of Solids.

BASHIR

Excuse me. I don't mean to interrupt. But is there anything you can do for him?

The Female Shapeshifter ignores Bashir. He's a Solid and barely even worth her notice.

FEMALE SHAPESHIFTER

Give me your hand, Odo.

Odo stares at her for a second. He knows what she has in mind and isn't eager to go along with it. The Female Shapeshifter sees his hesitation.

FEMALE SHAPESHIFTER

Don't be afraid.

Odo knows he's in no position to argue. He reaches over and takes her hand.

43 NEW ANGLE (OPTICAL)

43

As they touch, both Odo and the Female Shapeshifter's hands MORPH to goo. This is a scaled down version of the Link (as previously seen in "THE SEARCH, PART TWO").

Then suddenly, Odo is overcome by a ripple of pain similar to what he experience during the final battle in "THE ADVERSARY." He shudders and goes completely to goo, becoming an amorphous blob on the bed. The Female Shapeshifter concentrates intently. After a long beat, Odo begins to resolidify, starting with the hand that is touching the Female Shapeshifter. The solidity spreads across his body until he's humanoid again.

GARAK

Amazing.

When Odo resolidifies completely, he looks visibly better, less weak and with a reduction in the number of spots of slime on his body.

FEMALE SHAPESHIFTER

There. Feeling better?

(CONTINUED)

43 CONTINUED:

43

ODO

Yes. Though I still have to
concentrate to hold my form.

Bashir scans Odo with tricorder.

BASHIR

Your molecular structure is still
fluctuating, but it's not nearly
as unstable as it was.

FEMALE SHAPESHIFTER

(dismissive)

Leave now. I wish to speak to Odo
in private.

As far as the Jem'Hadar is concerned, this is an edict
from the gods. He takes a step toward Bashir, half
hoping he'll try to contradict her.

BASHIR

Odo is my patient, and...

ODO

(interrupting)

It's all right, Doctor.

Bashir looks at Odo to make sure he's not being
intimidated or coerced, then nods his agreement.

BASHIR

I'll be right outside.

Bashir turns to go, and nods to Garak to follow. Garak
looks at the Female Shapeshifter.

BASHIR

(knows what he's
thinking)

It can wait, Garak.

GARAK

Of course.

Garak and Bashir EXIT.

44 OMITTED

44

45 NEW ANGLE

45

As the Female Shapeshifter looks over at her Jem'Hadar guard.

FEMALE SHAPESHIFTER

What we have to say is not for
your ears. Wait for me outside.

Without a word, the Jem'Hadar soldier bows his head and
EXITS.

(CONTINUED)

45 CONTINUED:

45

The Starfleet Security Officer looks to Odo for direction, Odo nods and he EXITS as well. The Female Shapeshifter turns her attention back to Odo.

FEMALE SHAPESHIFTER
I wish this meeting were under
better circumstances.

ODO
I'm not exactly thrilled with the
circumstances myself.

FEMALE SHAPESHIFTER
(with regret)
I'd hoped you'd have returned to
us on your own by now. After all,
that Bajoran woman you're so fond
of seems to have taken an interest
in someone else.

This is a painful subject for Odo.

ODO
You know about Major Kira and
First Minister Shakaar.

FEMALE SHAPESHIFTER
Despite your rejection of us, we
still take an active interest in
your well-being.

ODO
And how exactly do you keep so
informed about my "well-being."

(CONTINUED)

45 CONTINUED: (2)

45

FEMALE SHAPESHIFTER

There's very little that escapes
our attention.

ODO

Are you saying you knew I was
sick? Even before we left the
station.

FEMALE SHAPESHIFTER

What do you think?

There's a beat, and suddenly it all becomes clear to
Odo.

ODO

I think you did this to me. You
caused my illness so I'd be forced
to come home.

FEMALE SHAPESHIFTER

(not denying it)
As I said, I wish the
circumstances of this meeting were
different.

The Female Shapeshifter studies Odo for a long beat.
She seems somehow saddened by the entire conversation.

FEMALE SHAPESHIFTER

You killed a Changeling, Odo.

Odo suspected this would come up eventually. It's an
event that still haunts him, and he'd prefer not to
talk about it.

ODO

He was trying to kill my friends.
I had no choice.

FEMALE SHAPESHIFTER

Of course you had a choice. And
you chose to side with the Solids.
To protect them, you were willing
to violate the most sacred law of
our people.

(CONTINUED)

45 CONTINUED: (3)

45

ODO
(knows what she means)
"No Changeling has ever harmed
another."

FEMALE SHAPESHIFTER
Until you. That's why we forced
you to return home. So you could
enter into the Great Link. And be
judged.

46 CLOSE ON ODO

46

As he reacts to this disturbing news, then...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

47 INT. DEFIANT - MEDICAL BAY - CONTINUOUS

47

As before.

ODO

What does that mean, I'm going to be judged?

FEMALE SHAPESHIFTER

You will join us in the Great Link, open your thoughts, and allow us to understand you.

(a beat)

Only then will we be able to decide if your actions were justified.

ODO

And if you decide they weren't?

The Female Shapeshifter looks a little uncomfortable with this topic of conversation.

FEMALE SHAPESHIFTER

You will be punished.

ODO

Punished how?

The Female Shapeshifter pauses for a beat. It's a difficult question.

FEMALE SHAPESHIFTER

You have to understand that nothing like this has ever happened in the entire history of our people. We've never had to sit in judgement over one of our own. That's why we took so long to bring you home. There was... disagreement in the Link over what to do with you.

ODO

(bitter)

I'm sorry I've caused you so much trouble.

FEMALE SHAPESHIFTER

Perhaps we're to blame. We sent you away.

(CONTINUED)

47 CONTINUED:

47

ODO
(questioning the logic)
But I'm the one who's going to be
punished.

FEMALE SHAPESHIFTER
That remains to be seen.

ODO
What if I don't cooperate? What
if I refuse to join the Link?

FEMALE SHAPESHIFTER
I stabilized your condition
temporarily, but only the Link can
heal you. If you refuse to join
with us... you'll die.

Odo reacts to this.

48 INT. DEFIANT - CORRIDOR

48

The Female Shapeshifter emerges from the Medical Bay.
Bashir and Garak are both waiting outside, along with
the Jem'Hadar guards and Starfleet Security.

FEMALE SHAPESHIFTER
You may go in now, Doctor.

BASHIR
(with an edge)
Thank you.

FEMALE SHAPESHIFTER
But try not to disturb him. He
needs his rest.

BASHIR
I'll keep that in mind.

Bashir EXITS into the Medical Bay.

49 NEW ANGLE

49

On Garak, who approaches the Female Shapeshifter,
determined to talk with her.

GARAK
Excuse me, Madam, may I have a
moment of your time?

The Female Shapeshifter glances at Garak, barely
reacting to his presence.

FEMALE SHAPESHIFTER
(dismissive)
You're a Cardassian.

(CONTINUED)

49 CONTINUED:

49

GARAK

That's right. And on behalf of my people, I'd like to learn if there were any survivors after our attack on...

The Female Shapeshifter turns to Garak. She's still cool, but somewhat more forceful than usual.

FEMALE SHAPESHIFTER

Cardassian survivors?

GARAK

Yes.

FEMALE SHAPESHIFTER

There were no Cardassian survivors.

GARAK

You mean, they're all dead?

FEMALE SHAPESHIFTER

They're dead, you're dead, Cardassia is dead. Your people were doomed the moment they attacked us.

(with contempt)

I believe that answers your question.

As far as she's concerned, that's the final word on the subject. A look of cold fury crosses Garak's face. Gone is the good-natured tailor and for a moment we see the cold-blooded killer behind the mask. For a second, it looks like Garak is going to do something rash, but then we actually see him put back on his mask of affability.

GARAK

(to the Female
Shapeshifter)

It's been a pleasure meeting you.

The Female Shapeshifter turns and walks away.

50 CLOSE ON GARAK

50

Alone in the corridor, plotting his next move.

51 EXT. SPACE (OPTICAL) 51

The Defiant and it's Jem'Hadar escorts at warp.

52 INT. DEFIANT - CORRIDOR OUTSIDE THE MESS HALL 52

Starfleet Security Guards (not the same ones escorting the Founder) are standing watch at the door.

53 INT. DEFIANT - MESS HALL 53

Sisko, O'Brien, and Worf are seated at Worf's favorite table, discussing their options. There's an urgency to their tone. They know that if there's an answer out there, they'd better come up with it soon.

O'BRIEN

I don't suppose there's any way
Odo could hide a communicator on
him when he links with the
Founders?

WORF

I don't think he'll be able to
hide anything from the Founders.

O'Brien's frustrated. He doesn't want to abandon the Constable.

O'BRIEN

There must be some way we can keep
a Transporter lock on him while
he's in the Link.

SISKO

What about injecting him with
radio-nuclides?

O'BRIEN

(considering)

That might give the Transporter
something to home in on, but
there's no way to be sure the
nuclides won't disperse throughout
the Link. If he's in there for
more than a few hours, we could
end up with a Transporter pad full
of Shapeshifters.

(CONTINUED)

53 CONTINUED:

53

ODO (O.C.)
I wouldn't worry about that,
Chief.

54 NEW ANGLE

54

On Odo, standing at the door with Bashir. Odo's weak. The Female Shapeshifter helped strengthen him, but he's not much better off than he was before they left the station.

SISKO
Constable, shouldn't you be in
bed?

BASHIR
He insisted on coming to see you.

ODO
I thought you might be trying to
help me. And I just wanted to
say... don't bother.

O'BRIEN
Odo, you don't really expect us to
stand by and watch while they do
God-knows-what to you?

ODO
That's exactly what I expect.
(to Sisko)
Don't you see, I want to be
judged. I was the first
Changeling to ever harm another.
I'm a murderer.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

54 CONTINUED:

54

ODO (CONT'D)

(a beat)

I've spent most of my life
bringing people to justice. Now
that it's my turn, how can I run
away?

Odo's compatriots are silent for a moment. They don't want lose him but they know he's a man of conviction who'll do what he thinks is right no matter what the consequences.

SISKO

Are you sure that's what you'll
find in the Great Link? Justice?

O'BRIEN

I've heard a lot of stories about
the Founders and the Dominion.
And justice seems to be the last
thing on their minds.

ODO

Nevertheless, they're my people
and I intend to accept their
judgement.

And as Sisko and the others react to this, we...

CUT TO:

55 INT. DEFIANT - BRIDGE

55

Sisko ENTERS. Dax is in the Captain's chair. The Female Shapeshifter is standing by Amat'igan, who's at the helm. Dax gives up the Captain's chair for Sisko.

SISKO

Report.

DAX

Everything's status quo. If you
want more details than that,
you'll have to ask our
"navigator."

Sisko crosses over to the Female Shapeshifter and Amat'igan.

SISKO

How much longer?

(CONTINUED)

55 CONTINUED:

55

AMAT'IGAN

You will be informed when we reach
our destination.

The Female Shapeshifter can see that Sisko's not
satisfied by that explanation. She decides it won't
hurt to tell him the truth.

FEMALE SHAPESHIFTER

We will be within Transporter
range of my world in less than one
hour. After we achieve orbit, Odo
and I will transport to the
surface.

SISKO

Doctor Bashir and I will be
joining you.

The Female Shapeshifter really doesn't care one way or
the other.

FEMALE SHAPESHIFTER

If you wish. But Odo may be in
the Link for days.

SISKO

We'll wait.

56 EXT. ATOLL - DAY (OPTICAL)

56

Close on a small bare outcropping of stone. Four
figures MATERIALIZE on the rock. They are Sisko, Odo,
Bashir, and the Female Shapeshifter.

Bashir looks around. He reacts to an impressive sight
just off camera.

PULL BACK TO REVEAL:

57 EXT. SHAPESHIFTER SEA (OPTICAL)

57

The stone outcropping is really just a rock jutting out
of a sea of Changelings, all in their liquid form.

58 CLOSE ON ODO

58

As he reacts to the sight of the Great Link.

59 NEW ANGLE (OPTICAL) 59

On the Female Shapeshifter, who's studying Odo's reaction.

FEMALE SHAPESHIFTER

Come, Odo. It's time.

Without even waiting for Odo, the Female Shapeshifter wades into the sea of Changelings, reverts to goo, and melts into the Great Link.

60 CLOSE ON ODO (OPTICAL) 60

As he watches her disappear for a long beat, then turns back and looks at...

61 SISKO AND BASHIR 61

Who silently nod their support.

62 CLOSE ON ODO (OPTICAL) 62

He gives them a half smile, thankful for their presence, then turns and...

63 NEW ANGLE (OPTICAL) 63

walks calmly into the sea of Changelings, then collapses down into goo and is immediately absorbed by it. In a few seconds, there's no evidence that he was ever even there.

64 CLOSE ON SISKO AND BASHIR 64

As they react to Odo's disappearance. For all they know, they may never see him again.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

65 EXT. ATOLL - DAY (OPTICAL) 65

Close on Sisko and Bashir as they wait, staring out at the Shapeshifter Sea. They've been here awhile. Bashir is sitting, tossing a small stone up and down in the air. Sisko is pacing around.

BASHIR
How long's it been?

Sisko's not sure.

SISKO
I've lost track.

BASHIR
So have I.

Bashir cocks his arm back to toss his stone into the sea. Sisko notices just in time.

SISKO
(a gentle reminder)
Doctor.

Bashir realizes what he was about to do. He looks at the stone.

BASHIR
Oh. Right.

He places the stone back on the ground. As they continue to wait, we...

CUT TO:

66 EXT. SPACE (OPTICAL) 66

The Defiant is in orbit of a cloud-wrapped, alien-looking world with no discernable land mass, just swirling goo-colored seas.

67 INT. DEFIANT - CORRIDOR 67

Close on Worf as he strides grimly down the corridor, flanked by two armed Security Officers. Something's ticked him off, and it shows. He looks ready to take on an entire battalion of Jem'Hadar warriors.

68 NEW ANGLE

68

As Worf reaches the access plate for a Jefferies Tube and rips it away from the wall.

WORF
(to the guards)
Wait here.

Worf starts to climb into the tube.

69 INT. DEFIANT - JEFFERIES TUBE JUNCTION

69

On Garak's back as he works at an open panel at the junction. Suddenly, Worf grabs him from behind and shoves him up against the wall.

WORF
Garak. Just as I thought.

GARAK
(placidly)
Don't tell me. I overlooked one
of the security monitors.

Worf looks at Garak's work.

WORF
You're trying to override the
launch controls for the quantum
torpedoes.

Garak knows there's no point in denying it.

GARAK
I was hoping to gain control of
the phasers as well. I just
hadn't gotten around to it yet.
(a beat)
Don't you see? We have an
opportunity here. A chance to end
the Dominion threat once and for
all.
(trying to win him over)
We have enough firepower on this
ship to turn that planet into a
smoking cinder. Personally, I
think that would be a very good
thing.

(CONTINUED)

69 CONTINUED:

69

WORF

And what about Odo, Captain Sisko,
and Doctor Bashir?

GARAK

They'll die. And once the
Jem'Hadar ships realize what we're
doing, so will we. But what are
our lives compared to saving the
entire Alpha Quadrant.

WORF

We are not here to wage war.

GARAK

I'm not talking about war. What
I'm proposing is wiping out every
Founder on that planet.
Obliterating the Great Link.
(off Worf's reaction)
Come now, Mister Worf, you're a
Klingon. Don't tell me you'd
object to a little genocide in the
name of self-defense.

WORF

I am a warrior, not a murderer.

Garak sees that no amount of talking will win Worf
over. He relaxes, as if giving in.

GARAK

What you are is a great
disappointment.

Just when it looks like Garak's given up, he suddenly
shoves Worf away and tries to reach the firing
controls. Worf recovers just in time, lunges at Garak
and tackles him away from the controls. They fight
violently, but Worf finally manages to subdue the
Cardassian.

70 CLOSE ON WORF

70

As he looks down at the semi-conscious Garak.

WORF

(genuine respect)
You fight well... for a tailor.

71 EXT. ATOLL - DAY 71

Sisko looks out at the Shapeshifter Sea. Bashir is resting, his head buried in his arms. Suddenly, Sisko sees something.

SISKO
(urgent)
Doctor.

Bashir looks up.

72 NEW ANGLE (OPTICAL) 72

The Shapeshifter Sea has begun to churn violently.

73 CLOSE ON SISKO AND BASHIR 73

As they react to the bizarre phenomenon.

74 ANGLE ON THE SEA (OPTICAL) 74

The churning grows even more violent. Suddenly, Odo is thrust to the surface, gasping for air like a drowning man. Though his face has the same indistinctness as always, his naked body is completely humanoid.

He goes down beneath the surface again.

75 ANGLE ON THE ROCKY SHORE (OPTICAL) 75

A wave of Changeling goo breaks against the shore of the atoll, then recedes like the tide. When it pulls back, it uncovers Odo, slumped on his side, naked as a newborn babe.

76 INCLUDE BASHIR AND SISKO 76

As they rush to Odo's side.

SISKO
Odo, are you all right?

Odo coughs violently. Bashir scans him with a medical tricorder.

(CONTINUED)

76 CONTINUED: 76

BASHIR
Captain, I'm getting some very
strange readings.

Suddenly, Sisko sees something off screen. He nudges
Bashir, who looks up and sees...

77 NEW ANGLE (OPTICAL) 77

The Female Shapeshifter steps out of the Shapeshifter
Sea.

78 CLOSE ON THE FEMALE SHAPESHIFTER 78

As she looks down at Odo with sympathy and perhaps a
touch of regret.

SISKO
What have you done to him?

FEMALE SHAPESHIFTER
He has been judged.

BASHIR
(off tricorder)
I'm reading a heart, lungs,
digestive system. It's as if he
were human.

FEMALE SHAPESHIFTER
We gave him what he wanted. We
made him a solid.
(a beat)
He's one of you now.

The Female Shapeshifter leans down and touches Odo's
face. Odo, too weak to talk, just looks up at her.

FEMALE SHAPESHIFTER
Poor Odo. Perhaps we should've
killed you. It would've been far
less cruel.

She gives Odo a final caress, then stands up and meets
Sisko's eye.

FEMALE SHAPESHIFTER
He's yours. Take him and go.

79 CLOSE ON SISKO 79

As he meets the Female Shapeshifter's gaze. He studies her for a beat, then hits his combadge.

SISKO
Sisko to Defiant.

DAX'S COM VOICE
Go ahead, Captain.

SISKO
Three to beam up.

80 NEW ANGLE (OPTICAL) 80

On Sisko, Odo, and Bashir are beamed away, leaving the Female Shapeshifter alone on the rocky shore.

CUT TO:

80A INT. DEFIANT - MEDICAL BAY 80A

Odo's sitting on a bed, wearing a hospital robe. He's lost in his own thoughts, trying to make sense of what's happened to him. Bashir is finishing up a complete medical exam. He draws blood from Odo's arm then holds it up and shakes it. It stays blood. Bashir continues to study it.

ODO
Staring at it isn't going to make it change shape.

BASHIR
It's blood, all right. Not a trace of Changeling protoplasm in the entire sample.

Bashir puts it in a slot in a medical console for analysis.

BASHIR
Type "O" negative, if you were wondering.

ODO
(without enthusiasm)
I'll be sure to remember that.

Bashir continues to study the console.

BASHIR
Physiologically, you're completely human.

(CONTINUED)

80A CONTINUED:

80A

ODO
Except for my face.

Bashir looks up at Odo. He knows this is painful for the Constable, but can't help but be curious.

BASHIR
I was wondering about that. Why they didn't change it, too.

ODO
They left it this way on purpose.
To make sure I'd never forget what I was.
(a beat)
And what I lost.

80B CLOSE ON ODO

80B

As he looks down at his hands and arms, studying his new body.

CUT TO:

81 EXT. SPACE (OPTICAL)

81

The Defiant emerges from the wormhole and makes a long slow arc back to Deep Space Nine.

SISKO (V.O.)
Captain's Log: Stardate 49962.4.
After leaving our Jem'Hadar escorts at the edge of Dominion space, the Defiant has returned home. But for Constable Odo, I'm afraid the journey has just begun.

81A INT. GARAK'S SHOP

81A

Garak's looking at one of his changing rooms expectantly. After a moment, Odo emerges, wearing his uniform.

GARAK
(proud of himself)
How does it feel? Comfortable?
Not too tight?

(CONTINUED)

81A CONTINUED:

81A

ODO

It's fine. Though it does make me
a little...

Odo doesn't have a word for what he's feeling, but he
scratches his arm.

GARAK

(helpful)
Itchy?

Odo nods.

GARAK

That's the Inkarian Wool. You'll
get used to it.

Odo suddenly starts rubbing his stomach.

GARAK

Unless of course you're allergic
to Inkarian Wool.

ODO

It's not the uniform.
(disgusted with himself)
I think I'm hungry.

GARAK

You know, I envy you. Think of
all the wonderful foods you'll get
to enjoy for the first time.

ODO

(not enthused)
I can hardly wait.
(a beat)
Well, you've done your job. Now
I have to do mine.

Garak looks around the shop for one last time.

GARAK

I suppose you do.
(musing)
Six months in a holding cell. The
thought is... unattractive, to say
the least.

ODO

If you ask me, Captain Sisko let
you off lightly. Sabotage,
assaulting a Federation officer,
attempting to incite a war between
the Federation and the Dominion...

(CONTINUED)

81A CONTINUED: (2) 81A

GARAK
Yes, but my heart was in the right
place.

81B NEW ANGLE 81B

As Chalan Aroya, the Bajoran restaurateur, ENTERS the
shop.

AROYA
There you are, Odo. I've been
looking all over for you.
(a beat)
I heard about what happened. I'm
so sorry.

ODO
Thank you.

AROYA
I know it won't be easy, but
eventually, you'll see that being
humanoid has its advantages.
(a beat)
If there's anything I can do to
help, just let me know.

And with that, she leaves. Garak and Odo watch her go.

GARAK
What a generous offer.
Odo doesn't want to talk about it.

ODO
Let's go, Garak.

And as they start out the door, we...

CUT TO:

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

Re-establishing.

82 thru 83 OMITTED 82 thru 83

84 INT. PROMENADE 84

Odo exits Security. Passersby look at him with
curiosity and maybe a little pity. Suddenly Odo stops
in his tracks. He looks a little shaky.

(CONTINUED)

84 CONTINUED:

84

SISKO (O.C.)
Constable, are you all right?

Odo turns and sees Sisko standing behind him.

ODO
It's nothing. Just... a headache.

Which isn't exactly true. Odo tries to explain.

ODO
Every once in a while I still get
flashes of memory from the Great
Link. A jumble of images, or a
word. But I can't quite make
sense of it.

SISKO
You know, there's no reason for
you to rush things. You don't
have to go back to work right
away.

ODO
Yes, I do.

Sisko looks skeptical. Though it's difficult, Odo
feels that Sisko deserves a further explanation.

(CONTINUED)

84 CONTINUED: (2)

84

ODO
(opening up a little)
When I joined with the other
Changelings in the Great Link, I
felt something I'd never felt
before. In that moment, I knew...
I was home. For the first time,
I felt like I understood my
people. Their distrust of Solids,
their willingness to do anything
to protect themselves. And then
in an instant it was all ripped
away.

(a beat)
I'm trapped in this body, I can
never rejoin the Link. My job is
the only thing I have left.

Odo sees the empathy on Sisko's face, and it makes him
uncomfortable. He starts walking again.

ODO
(closing up again)
Besides, I'm still the best law
enforcement officer on this
station.

SISKO
You're the best law enforcement
officer in this sector... maybe
the whole damn quadrant.

ODO
Maybe.

85 NEW ANGLE

85

As Sisko and Odo see a crowd of people gathered at one
of the monitors near Quark's.

ODO
What's that all about?

SISKO
I have no idea.

Sisko and Odo make their way to the monitor. Kira is
there among the crowd.

86 INCLUDE THE MONITOR (OPTICAL)

86

Which displays Chancellor Gowron, making a fiery
speech.

(CONTINUED)

86 CONTINUED:

86

GOWRON
(on monitor)
The Klingon Empire is tired of words, of negotiation, of the endless delaying tactics of the Federation.

KIRA
(explaining, overlapping with following)
It's coming in on all frequencies.

GOWRON
(continuing, on monitor)
Therefore as of today, a Klingon task force has been dispatched to the Archanis Sector. Starfleet has ten days to abandon their bases and withdraw their forces from the Sector.

Sisko, Kira, and Odo react to Gowron's threat, they talk as Gowron continues in the background.

SISKO
(to Kira)
Major, put the station on combat alert. Notify the Bajoran militia...

GOWRON
(on monitor, in background)
Any Starfleet vessels found in the Sector after that time will be considered the enemy and fired upon.

Suddenly Odo reacts with sudden realization. His eyes fixate on Gowron.

ODO
(interrupting)
Captain. It's him.

SISKO
Gowron? What about him?

ODO
During the Link, I sensed the other Changelings were trying to hide things from me. Faces, names. One of them... was him.

GOWRON
(continuous, in background)
Let there be no mistake, no misinterpretation of my words. Archanis is ours and we will take it back. Resist us in any way, and there will be war.

(CONTINUED)

86 CONTINUED: (2)

86

KIRA
What are you saying?

ODO
I'm saying that he's one of...
them. Gowron, the head of the
Klingon Empire... is a Changeling.

87 CLOSE ON SISKO, KIRA, AND ODO

87

As the implications of Odo's words sink in, we end
Season Four and...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FIVE

THE END