

STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE

REVISED

10/13/92 be
10/13/92 pk
10/14/92 yw
10/15/92 gn
10/16/92 gd
10/16/92 bf
10/16/92 sn
10/16/92 cy
10/19/92 tn
10/20/92 we
10/20/92 be
10/21/92 yw
*10/21/92 gn

"Babel"

#40511-405

Written by

Ira Steven Behr

Directed by

Paul Lynch

FINAL DRAFT

OCTOBER 7, 1992

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION

"Babel"

CAST

SISK0	ASOTH
O'BRIEN	BUSINESSMAN
BASHIR	STARFLEET MALE *
DAX	GALIS
KEIKO	JAHEEL
KIRA	NURSE JABARA
JAKE SISK0	VICTIM #1
ODO	VICTIM #2
QUARK	SURMAK
	BAJORAN SECURITY GUARD

COMPUTER VOICE

Non-Speaking

N.D. BAJORANS

N.D. ALIENS

SUPERNUMARIES (INFIRMARY)

STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE

"Babel"

SETS

INTERIORS

DEEP SPACE NINE
AIRLOCK
CORRIDOR
LABORATORY
OPS
ACCESS TUNNEL
QUARK'S
PROMENADE
O'BRIEN'S QUARTERS
 (LIVING AREA)
INFIRMARY
EMPTY CREW QUARTERS
COMMANDER'S OFFICE
CREW QUARTERS
HOSPITAL WARD
DOCKING PORT FIVE
GALIS' OFFICE (VIEWSCREEN)
SURMAK'S OFFICE (VIEWSCREEN)
JAHEEL'S BRIDGE (VIEWSCREEN)

EXTERIORS

DEEP SPACE NINE
JAHEEL'S SHIP
RUNABOUT
DOCKING PORT FIVE

*
*
*

STAR TREK: "Babel" - 10/19/92 - PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE

"Babel"

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

BAJORAN	bah-JOR-an
BAJORA	bah-JOR-uh
BAJOR	BAY-jor
CARDASSIANS	car-DASS-ee-en
SURMAK	SIR-mak
ASOTH	AY-soth
KOHLANESE	KO-lan-ese
JABARA	JUH-bar-uh
JAHEEL	JAH-heel
HIGA METAR	HIGH-guh MET-ar

STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE

"Babel"

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 OMITTED 1 *

2 INT. CLOSE ON AIRLOCK GATE 2 *

Three newly arrive visitors to DS Nine (one Bajoran national, one human and one N.D. alien) are trapped inside the airlock. They bang their fists in frustration against the window. O'BRIEN, looking tired and harried, stands on the other side of the gate, trying to placate them. *

O'BRIEN
Look, save your energy. We'll
have you out of there as soon as
possible.
(muttering under his
breath)
I hope.

He turns toward his repair crew (two humans) who are working inside an open panel. *

O'BRIEN
Try re-routing the power
coupling...

A hand reaches into frame and taps O'Brien impatiently on the shoulder.

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED:

2

JAHEEL (V.O.)
Mister O'Brien...

O'BRIEN
(to repair crew;
ignoring the tap.)
... See if you can activate the
interlock servos.

Another shoulder tap. This time even more insistent.

JAHEEL (V.O.)
Mister O'Brien...

An annoyed O'Brien turns to confront CAPTAIN JAHEEL, a
wiry bearded alien.

O'BRIEN
Captain Jaheel, those people have
been stuck in that air lock for
over an hour. Now if you'll just
wait until we get that door
opened, I'll be happy to discuss
any problem you might have. *

JAHEEL
But I've already been waiting two
days for your people to readjust
my ship's antimatter-flow
converter.

O'BRIEN
I'm afraid we've fallen a bit
behind in our maintenance
schedule.

JAHEEL
I'm not interested in hearing
excuses. I have a shipment of
Tamen Sasheer waiting to be
delivered to Largo Five, and I'll
need to do better then warp one to
get there before it spoils. *

O'BRIEN
I'll try to get a repair crew on
it before the end of the day. Now
that's the best I can do.

JAHEEL
Your best, Mister O'Brien, hardly
seems good enough.

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED: (2)

2

Jaheel turns and storms away leaving behind a scowling O'Brien.

DAX'S COM VOICE
Dax to O'Brien.

*

O'BRIEN
(taps combadge)
O'Brien here.

DAX
Can you spare a minute, Chief. I
have a little problem here at the
lab.

O'Brien glances over at the repair crew. He figures
they can handle things at this end.

O'BRIEN
On my way.

3 INT. CORRIDOR OUTSIDE LABORATORY

3

DAX stands by the laboratory door as O'Brien
approaches.

DAX
Thanks for coming, Chief.

*

O'BRIEN
What are you doing out here?

Dax answers by touching the door's entry panel. The
door slides open and we are assaulted by a LOUD
CACOPHONOUS WHINE BLARING from within the room.

4 INT. LABORATORY - CONTINUOUS

4

Dax and O'Brien have to shout to be heard above the
noise.

O'BRIEN
Have you checked the EPS
convertor?

DAX
Yes. First thing.

O'BRIEN
How about the intensity grid?

*

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED:

4

DAX
(nodding)
It's fine.

O'BRIEN
Then it's probably the secondary
phase modulator. We had trouble
with them last week in the main
power core.

He opens up a panel. Makes some adjustments.

O'BRIEN
This should do it.

The noise abruptly stops. At the same moment lights go
out, plunging the room into utter darkness. A beat,
then...

O'BRIEN (V.O.)
Anything else I can do for you?

5 INT. OPS

5

Close on KIRA who leans over her desk console as she
talks to someone O.S.

KIRA
The navigational computer hasn't
been working reliably for three
days. I ask for the star charts
of the Argosian sector and the
Glessene sector comes up instead.

*

Pan down to REVEAL O'Brien half buried in an open
panel.

O'BRIEN
Uh-huh.

KIRA
That's when I can even coax the
system on line.

O'BRIEN
Try it now.

Kira taps a control panel. The console lights up.

KIRA
(pleased)
That's more like it.

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED:

5

O'Brien sighs. Another victory for the good guys. Wearily, he closes the panel and gets to his feet.

KIRA
You look like you could use some sleep.

O'BRIEN
Who has time for sleep... ?

In the background SISK0 stands before a food replicator.

SISK0
(to replicator)
Coffee.

O'Brien sits down at Kira's station.

O'BRIEN
I'd settle for five minutes of peace and quiet.

Sisko takes his first deep sip of Java... and nearly gags... it's awful.

SISK0
Chief, I thought you were going to fix the replicators. *

O'Brien shoots Kira a long suffering look as he hauls himself out of the seat.

O'BRIEN
(to Sisko, emphatic)
You're absolutely right, Sir. I knew I'd forgotten something. Can't have the operations chief sitting around daydreaming when there's work to be done, can we? I'll get right on it.

He EXITS. Sisko looks over at Kira. What's his problem? *

6 INT. CORRIDOR/ACCESS TUNNEL (OPTICAL)

6 *

O'Brien lies on his back in an access tunnel, grumbling as he works on the circuitry with various tools. *

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED:

6

O'BRIEN

Fix the Replicators, Chief... My console's off line, Chief... I should've transferred to a cargo drone... no people, no complaints...

He completes the repair and moves out of the tunnel and into the corridor. There's a small REPLICATOR UNIT in the wall. He touches the panel... and the entire display BLACKS OUT... a BRIGHT ELECTRICAL DISCHARGE envelopes the panel.

O'Brien steps back, startled. Now what's going on? Suddenly, the DISCHARGE DISAPPEARS... the panel looks completely normal again.

O'Brien scans the unit with his tricorder... there's nothing wrong with it. He scowls.

O'BRIEN

(touches panel)

Hot coffee black, double sweet.

A steaming mug of coffee MATERIALIZES. O'Brien picks it up and takes a wary sip. A smile breaks slowly across his face... it's delicious. Finally, something's working.

7 INT. REPLICATOR

7 *

Camera looking out through the open panel at O'Brien. He takes a big gulp from the MUG and CLOSES THE PANEL, we HEAR HIM EXIT down the corridor, whistling. Hold a beat... then as music builds ominously the camera pans along the replicator circuitry... coming to rest on...

8 OMITTED

8

8A AN ALIEN DEVICE

8A

attached to the circuitry. As the camera pushes in closer the device suddenly activates... a LIGHT PULSATING on and off to eerie effect. Whatever this thing is, it definitely doesn't belong here.

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

(NOTE: Episode credits fall over opening scenes)

*

9 INT. QUARK'S

9

ODO observes the premises from his seat at the bar. Actually there's not much to see... only three or four customers in the entire place. Odo seems quite pleased at the lack of activity, an attitude in sharp contrast to QUARK who appears positively morose as he wipes down the bar counter top.

*
*
*

ODO

Tell me, Quark, am I mistaken or is business a little slow today?

QUARK

Slow? It's been almost non-existent for the past three days.

ODO

Who knows, if things don't improve you may have to close down altogether.

QUARK

You'd like that, wouldn't you?

ODO

Let's just say that without you around, my job would be considerably easier.

QUARK

Without me around you'd be forced to find some other, poor innocent to persecute. Think about that while you sit here gloating at my misfortune.

ASOTH (V.O.)

Quark!

Angle to include ASOTH who slams his food bowl onto the bar.

ASOTH

You call this Kohlanese stew?

*

Confronted by the large, angry alien, Quark turns on his most obsequious charm.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (2)

9

QUARK

If your meal isn't satisfactory
I'm sure we could exchange it for
something more to your liking.

Asoth grabs Quark by the collar.

ASOTH

Aren't you the least bit curious
how it tastes?

He spoons up some of the stew and shoves it into
Quark's mouth. Quark takes one bite... and immediately
spits out the hideous tasting gruel.

ASOTH

Oh no you don't. You served it.
You're going to eat it.

He scoops up another spoonful. Odo appears behind him.
Places a restraining hand on his shoulder.

ODO

All right. That's enough.

Ignoring Odo, Asoth tries thrusting the spoon between
Quark's lips.

ASOTH

You heard me. Eat.

Odo's hand clamps down on Asoth's shoulder. The Alien
drops the spoon and grunts in pain.

ODO

(quiet authority)
I said leave him alone.

Asoth nods in agreement. Odo releases him. Clutching
his shoulder the Alien beats a hasty retreat.

ODO

(watching him exit)
Another satisfied customer.

Quark glares at the bar's replicator unit.

QUARK

It's these replicators. If I
don't get them repaired soon,
they'll destroy my business.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (3)

9

ODO

Why not get O'Brien to fix them.
He has the replicators on the
command level working perfectly.

Quark's eyes narrow. This is news to him.

QUARK

I'm on his waiting list. He
assures me he'll get to them as
soon as he can.

ODO

No telling when that will be. The
Chief's a very busy man.

*

Odo EXITS.

10 ANGLE QUARK

10

*

Who immediately moves to a computer panel behind the
bar.

QUARK

Computer... display a station
layout. Highlight locations of
all repaired replicators on the
command level.

*

*

COMPUTER VOICE

Information restricted to security
clearance five and above. Please
enter security verification.

Quark pulls out a drawer full of the Cardassian
equivalent to isolinear chips. He counts off five of
them... pulls out the fifth one... places it into the
computer panel.

COMPUTER VOICE

Clearance verified.

The computer displays a graphic of the station plans,
indicating several locations. Quark studies the
layout, a self-satisfied grin on his face.

11 INT. OPS

11

Close on O'Brien's hand removing a coffee cup from
inside the replicator.

12 ANGLE

12

As O'Brien passes the coffee to SISK0 --

O'BRIEN
Here you go, Sir. I think you'll
find it more to your liking.

Sisko takes a sip. Smiles.

SISK0
Much appreciated Mister O'Brien.

O'BRIEN
Don't mention it Sir.
Unfortunately, there are still
plenty of replicators around the
station that need looking after... *

O'Brien mops at his brow.

SISK0
You all right, Chief?

O'BRIEN
Bit warm, that's all.
Environmental controls must be
acting up again.

O'Brien starts away but is stopped by Sisko.

SISK0
Please send my regards to Mrs.
O'Brien. Jake tells me she's a
wonderful teacher.

O'BRIEN
That's nice to hear, Sir. She's
flower units about the lad
herself.

SISK0
(sure he's misheard)
Excuse me?

O'BRIEN
(confused)
Sir?

SISK0
What was that you just said?

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED:

12

O'BRIEN

She's quite fond of the lad
herself.

It's a weird moment... but Sisko lets it go.

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED: (2)

12

SISKO
Glad to hear it.

O'BRIEN
Very good, Sir.

A somewhat perplexed O'Brien heads back to his station. *

13 INT. PROMENADE

13

Dax and Kira, off duty, are strolling through the complex. A BAJORAN SECURITY GUARD passes by and shoots Dax a warm smile.

BAJORAN SECURITY GUARD
Lieutenant Dax.

She returns the smile. An alien BUSINESSMAN comes out of a shop and nods pleasantly.

BUSINESSMAN
Ladies.

Dax and Kira nod back. A few more steps and they encounter a STARFLEET CREWMEMBER. He grins boyishly at Dax.

STARFLEET MALE
Hello, Lieutenant.

Dax smiles. She looks over at Kira. They share a laugh.

DAX
I'd forgotten how different it was.

KIRA
How different what was? *

DAX
Being female. I haven't been one for over eighty years.

She reacts to another smile from a friendly passerby.

DAX
All this attention.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED:

13

KIRA

I imagine it must take some
getting use to.

DAX

Actually I find it quite
enjoyable.

QUARK (V.O.)

Major Kira... Lieutenant Dax...

14 ANGLE ON QUARK

14

Leaning against the part of the bar counter facing the
Promenade. Behind him, we see that business has picked
up considerably. Customers are eating and drinking
with gusto.

QUARK

I'd be honored to have you join my
little party. As my guests, of
course.

KIRA

What's all this, Quark? You cheat
your one-thousandth customer?

Quark lets loose with an insincere laugh... quickly
replaced by a sharp glare toward Kira.

QUARK

Who says Bajorans have no sense of
humor?

(pointing to the
activity taking place
behind him)

Actually we're celebrating the
repair of the bar's replicator
system.

(to Dax)

Perhaps I could interest you in a
nice double-whipped I'danian spice
pudding.

*

DAX

(to Kira; tempted)

What do you think?

KIRA

I think I'm due back at OPS. But
go on, enjoy yourself.

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED:

14

Kira EXITS. Dax looks over at Quark who anxiously awaits her decision. Dax shrugs why not. She moves toward the doorway.

15 INT. QUARK'S - CONTINUOUS

15

Dax ENTERS. She makes her way over to the bar where Quark is giving the bum's rush to a customer in order to make room for her. He fawningly escorts her to a seat.

QUARK

(exaggerated courtesy)

Please, make yourself comfortable, Lieutenant. I did say a double whipped spice pudding, didn't I?

From beneath the counter he pulls out an outrageously caloric dessert. Places it in front of Dax.

DAX

It's lovely. I almost hate to eat it.

QUARK

By all means, take the time to admire its beauty... While I admire yours.

15A INT. OPS - CLOSE ON O'BRIEN

15A

at his station. Looking sweaty and pale. He steadies himself against a console; tries to clear his head.

15B ANGLE WIDENS

15B

to include a concerned Kira.

KIRA

Chief...?

O'BRIEN

(trying to cover, but failing)

How can I help you, Major?

She touches his brow.

KIRA

You're the one who could use a little help.

(CONTINUED)

15B CONTINUED:

15B

O'BRIEN
I'm fine, really.

KIRA
I guess this isn't a good time to
tell you the number three
Turbolift has broken down again.

O'Brien gives Kira a puzzled look.

KIRA
I'm joking, Chief.

(Note: From here on dialogue spoken by characters with
aphasia will appear as gibberish in the script. A
translation will be provided upon request, but it would
probably be more effective if the actors really were
unable to communicate.)

O'BRIEN
Major. Cat's lark pepper.

(CONTINUED)

15B CONTINUED: (2)

15B

KIRA

What?

O'BRIEN

(frustration building)

Let birds go further loose maybe.
Shout easy play.

KIRA

Chief, you're not making any
sense.

*

An agitated O'Brien, struggles to make himself
understood.

O'BRIEN

Round the turbulent quick.

A worried Kira shakes her head.

O'BRIEN

Close the reverse harbor.

By now, the rest of the Ops crew is staring at O'Brien,
wondering what's going on.

O'BRIEN

(shouting at them)

Ankle try sound reset gleaming?

Realizing he still isn't getting through to anyone
O'Brien heads for the Turbolift.

O'BRIEN

Dinner to bug. When.

KIRA

Chief... wait...

As she hurries after him...

16 OMITTED

16

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN

17 INT. INFIRMARY

17

O'Brien is seated on the diagnostic bed, as BASHIR examines his eyes with a sophisticated scanner.

BASHIR
Computer continue neural imaging
scan. Stimulate visual cortex.

A beat, as the scanner runs through its tests. Then --

COMPUTER VOICE
All visual responses normal.

18 ANGLE WIDENS - TO INCLUDE KIRA AND NURSE JABARA

18 *

Bashir crosses to a work station and grabs a piece of Med tech which he places over O'Brien's ears.

BASHIR
Computer begin auditory stimuli.

Another series of tests are completed. Then --

COMPUTER VOICE
No physiological damage. All
brain functions within normal
parameters.

Bashir removes the equipment. He's clearly puzzled by the results.

BASHIR
(a thoughtful beat)
Nurse, pull up Mister O'Brien's
neuro-physiological history.

NURSE JABARA
Yes, Doctor.

She seats herself at a work station and begins accessing the information. Mister O'Brien looks at Bashir and knows the diagnosis isn't good. He gets up and grabs a PADD, punches in a message which he pushes toward the Doctor.

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED:

18

KIRA
What is it? What's he writing?

*

BASHIR
I wish I knew.

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED: (2) 18
He shows the PADD to Kira.

19 INSERT - PADD (OPTICAL) 19
The screen is filled with gibberish.

20 RESUME SCENE 20
O'Brien's desperation building. He feels trapped and alone.

O'BRIEN
(exasperated)
Flame the dark true salt.

Bashir tries to gently direct him back to the bed.

BASHIR
Please, Chief, have a seat.

O'Brien pushes away.

O'BRIEN
Way link complete. Way link.

Kira touches his shoulder. He whirls around. Their eyes lock in silent sympathetic communication. He allows her to lead him to the bed.

KIRA
(to Bashir)
What's wrong with him?

BASHIR
He appears to be suffering from a form of aphasia. It's a perceptual dysfunction in which aural and visual stimuli are incorrectly processed by the brain. His actual thinking hasn't been affected. But he's incapable of expressing himself or understanding others.

O'BRIEN
(despairing)
Strike limits victory frosted wake. Simple hesitation.

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED: 20
Kira and Bashir exchange concerned looks. *

21 INT. OPS 21
Sisko, Bashir, Dax and Kira at the operations table. *

SISKO
I'm not sure I follow you, Doctor.
You say Mister O'Brien is aphasic,
but all of his tests come up
negative.

Dax wipes her forehead; she appears a bit flushed.

DAX
(to Bashir)
Isn't aphasia typically associated
with some kind of cranial trauma?

BASHIR
Yes. It can occur as a result of
a stroke or blow to the head. But
there's no evidence of that here.

DAX
Have you checked the medical
library for precedents?

BASHIR
And re-checked. Nothing so far.

SISKO
Have you any theories?

A hard admission for Bashir.

BASHIR
Not yet.

SISKO
Find one.
(to Kira)
Major, get hold of the Chief's
personal duty log.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

22 EXT. - SPACE - DEEP SPACE NINE (OPTICAL) 22

23 INT. INFIRMARY - DAY TWO 23 *

Sisko and Bashir are at a wall monitor studying an Okudagram which details a virus-like organism.

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED:

23

BASHIR

Commander, spontaneous development of aphasia is virtually impossible. But we saw Lieutenant Dax become aphasic before our eyes. That told me we were dealing with a disease that only mimics aphasia. So I ran a full neuro-synaptic comparison of Dax and O'Brien.

(pointing to monitor)
And found this in the temporal lobes of both patients.

SISKO

A virus?

BASHIR

(nods)

It imposes itself within established synaptic pathways and then randomly reroutes them. For example, when I look at this...

(picks up tricorder)

...a process occurs in my brain which connects this stimulus to the word "tricorder". The virus disrupts that process.

SISKO

I'd see the tricorder but I would say something ridiculous like... window.

BASHIR

Exactly.

Suddenly we HEAR a BABBLE OF VOICES from behind them.

23A NEW ANGLE

23A

Sisko and Bashir turn to see NURSE JABARA and two STARFLEET CREWMEMBERS at the doorway.

NURSE JABARA

Doctor, I think you better get over here.

Sisko and Bashir walk over and are immediately confronted by the crewmembers, both talking at once... and making no sense at all.

(CONTINUED)

23A CONTINUED:

23A

STARFLEET APHASIA VICTIM ONE
Night, the flow trade again.

STARFLEET APHASIA VICTIM TWO
View lost pile luck. Away tunnel
back the garden.

Sisko and Bashir exchange a look.

SISKO
Doctor, I want this station put
under emergency quarantine
immediately.

24 INT. SPACE - DEEP SPACE NINE (OPTICAL)

24

25 INT. PROMENADE - ANGLE ON ODO

25

As he exits Turbolift. He glances up and down the
street, which is deserted except for two passersby.
Odo is about to reenter the Turbolift to continue his
rounds, when he hears noise coming from Quark's. He
goes to investigate.

26 INT. QUARKS

26

Surprisingly busy, Odo ENTERS, takes one look at the
crowd, and makes a bee line for Quark, who is behind
the bar.

ODO
Quark, what is going on here?

QUARK
What's it look like?

ODO
It looks like business as usual.
But that's impossible, because all
shops and business have been
closed until further notice.

QUARK
Except, of course, for essential
station operations.

ODO
For which this place hardly
qualifies.

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED:

26

Quark eyes the house.

QUARK

I don't think they would agree.
This quarantine has everyone on
edge, Constable. Would you
deprive them of a little harmless
diversion?

ODO

They'd be safer in their quarters.

*

Asoth passes by.

ASOTH

Quark, that Kohlanese stew...
magnificent.

Quark nods modestly, then notices Odo's questioning
look.

QUARK

Fortunately my assistant, Rom, was
able to fix the replicators.

ODO

Yes, very fortunate.

But Odo's suspicions have been raised...

27 INT. PROMENADE SECOND LEVEL

27

CAMERA PANS along the empty corridor until it comes to
rest on JAKE, who leans against the railing, looking
down at the street below.

SISKO (V.O.)

Jake!

Jake's head snaps up... sees his father headed his way.

SISKO

(an angry parent)
I expected you home an hour ago.

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED:

27

JAKE

Sorry. I was over at Nog's.

*

They start down the staircase.

JAKE

Dad, about this quarantine, it's going to be okay, isn't it?

SISKO

(reassuring)

It's just a precaution. Nothing more.

*

28 INT. PROMENADE - FIRST LEVEL - CONTINUOUS

28

They reach the bottom of the stairs only to find an anxious Captain Jaheel waiting for them.

*

*

JAHEEL

I wish I shared your confidence Commander.

Sisko gives Jake an encouraging pat.

SISKO

Go on home, son. I'll see you at dinner.

Jake EXITS - Sisko watches him go then turns a disapproving eye towards Jaheel.

SISKO

Captain Jaheel, all visitors have been confined to their ships.

JAHEEL

Believe me, there is no place I'd rather be.

*

SISKO

Then what are you doing here?

JAHEEL

Searching for you. Commander, I officially request permission to leave this station.

Sisko's response is immediate and leaves no room for doubt.

(CONTINUED)

28 CONTINUED:

28

SISKO
Request denied.

JAHEEL
But none of my crew has been
affected by this virus of yours,
and unless I depart at once my
entire cargo will be ruined...

SISKO
(an order)
Captain, I suggest you return to
your ship. Now.

JAHEEL
(urgent)
Please... I don't want to get
sick.

Sisko's tone softens as he realizes Jaheel is terrified
of the virus.

SISKO
I'm sorry, but until we find a
cure for this thing no one's going
anywhere.

A beat. Then mustering up his remaining dignity Jaheel
nods and EXITS.

Hold on Sisko's reaction.

29 INT. CORRIDOR

29

Quark pushes a small cart along the passageway.

29A ANGLE

29A

as he stops in front of a door with a Starfleet logo
prominently displayed. He checks the corridor - it's
clear. He taps a code into a Ferengi PADD. We HEAR A
CLICK; the door OPENS and he ENTERS.

*
*

30 INT. EMPTY CREW QUARTERS (OPTICAL)

30

The room is dark. Quark moves quickly to the
replicator, checks a PADD.

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED:

30

QUARK

Let's start with one Ferengi
Stardrifter, please. Extra
strong.

*

The goblet sized drink MATERIALIZES. Quark turns to
place it on the cart -- which suddenly MORPHS into Odo.

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED: (2)

30

A startled Quark drops the glass, but quickly regains his wits. After all he's been playing "games" like this with Odo for many years.

QUARK

I thought the front wheels were sticking a bit.

ODO

Unauthorized access to crew quarters is a crime, Quark.

(a beat)

You could have just asked to use the replicators.

QUARK

There's an old Ferengi saying,
'Never ask when you can take.'

(trying to hide his
annoyance)

How did you figure it out, anyway?

ODO

You claimed Rom fixed your replicators.

QUARK

So?

ODO

Rom's an idiot. He couldn't fix a straw if it was bent.

As he leads Quark out of the room.

QUARK

You're right. He is an idiot. Remind me to get rid of him tomorrow.

31 INT. OPS

31

Sisko, Bashir, and Kira at the operations table.

BASHIR

Based on the levels of the virus found in the patients blood, I believe it's being absorbed through ingestion.

SISKO

You're saying it's in our food?

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED:

31

KIRA

That's not possible. All the food
on the station is replicated and
all the replicators use bio-
filters. They automatically
screen out contaminants, including
viruses.

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED:

31

BASHIR

Major, I have analyzed samples from all over the station. All of the food on the command level is contaminated with the virus.

SISKI

But all of us here have eaten from those replicators. How come we're not aphasic?

BASHIR

This virus is highly adaptable. Its gestation period seems to vary within each individual.

Both Sisko and Kira consider this news for a beat.

KIRA

According to O'Brien's duty log the last thing he did before becoming aphasic was fix the command level replicators. But I had a repair crew inspect the site. They found nothing suspicious.

SISKI

Look again. Closer.

Kira nods.

SISKI

(continuing, to Bashir)

Let's shut down the command level replicators. At the very least we can contain this thing.

BASHIR

I'm not sure that's going to do it, sir. I've been getting aphasic patients from all over the station...

SISKI

But how is that possible...

ODO (O.S.)

You can thank Quark.

32 ANGLE TO INCLUDE ODO

32

as he joins the group.

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED:

32

ODO

I caught him using a replicator in
one of the vacant crew quarters.
He was producing his entire menu
out of there.

SISKO

And contaminating all his
customers.

A long beat as the implications sink in. Bashir takes
a reading with his medical tricorder --

BASHIR

If this virus is present in a
large enough segment of the
population, it could mean...

Bashir rises.

33 NEW ANGLE

33

As he quickly crosses over to Dax's station. He feeds
the information from the tricorder into a monitor.

SISKO

What is it, Doctor?

BASHIR

I just took an air sample.

34 INSERT MONITOR

34 *

We recognize the same organism we saw earlier in the
Infirmary.

35 RESUME SCENE

35

Sisko recognizes it too.

SISKO

The virus?

BASHIR

(nodding)
It's mutated into an airborne
variety.

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED:

35

ODO
(speaking for all)
Which means?

BASHIR
Which means the whole station is
infected.

*

And off their reactions we...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

36 EXT. SPACE - DEEP SPACE NINE (OPTICAL) 36

SISKO (V.O.)
Station log Stardate 46423.7.
Nearly sixty percent of DS Nine's
population has now contracted the
aphasia virus. We are advising
all incoming ships to maintain
their distance from the station
until further notice. *

37 INT. ACCESS TUNNEL (SAME LOCATION AS TEASER) 37

Kira and a repair crew are carefully rechecking every
inch of the tunnel. Kira scans an open panel with a
tricorder. She reacts to a reading and carefully
reaches inside the circuitry and as her fingers close
around her target...

38 INT. COMMANDER'S OFFICE 38

The ALIEN DEVICE we saw in the teaser is now resting on
Sisko's table.

38A WIDEN TO INCLUDE 38A

Sisko and Kira.

KIRA
I found it inside the replicator's
pattern generator.

SISKO
O'Brien must have accidentally
triggered it when he repaired the
system.

KIRA
According to Bashir, it introduced
an anomalous programming sequence
into the materialization
subroutine. In effect it built
the virus directly into the
replicated food at a molecular
level.

SISKO
So what we have here is sabotage.

(CONTINUED)

38A CONTINUED:

38A

KIRA
Cardassian sabotage.

SISK0
How can you be sure?

Kira picks up the device and slowly turns it over in her hands.

KIRA
It has a diboridium core for a power source. That's Cardassian technology.

She hands the device over to Sisko who studies it.

*

(CONTINUED)

38A CONTINUED: (2)

38A

BASHIR'S COM VOICE
Bashir to Sisko.

SISKO
(taps com)
Sisko here.

BASHIR'S COM VOICE
I think you'd better get down here
to the Infirmary, Commander.

SISKO
On my way.

And he's in motion...

39 INT. INFIRMARY

39

Sisko ENTERS and is met by a solemn Bashir.

SISKO
You wanted to see me, Doctor?

Before Bashir can answer, Sisko spots Jake seated on
the diagnostic bed, alone and scared.

*
*

SISKO
Jake?

40 ANGLE - SISKO AND JAKE

40

as they embrace.

*
*

SISKO
It's okay, son. It's okay. I'm
here.

JAKE
Left become better control entire
hope.

Sisko gives Jake a reassuring smile, but he's a very
worried father right now.

(CONTINUED)

40 CONTINUED:

40

BASHIR

We've converted some empty crew quarters into a hospital ward. He'll be well looked after.

SISKO

I'll take him there myself.
(to Jake)
Come on Jake. It's going to be all right.

He drapes his arm around Jake's shoulder and leads him toward the door.

BASHIR

Commander, when you have a moment... I've found something I'd like to show you.

Sisko nods and EXITS with Jake.

41 INT. HOSPITAL WARD

41

Transformed into what at first glance resembles a refugee camp. Aphasic victims are scattered throughout the room, many seated on cots that have been set up along the walls. Volunteer nurses (including Nurse Jabara) patrol the area, communicating with the patients by gesture and body language.

42 ANGLE ON SISKO AND JAKE

42

as they ENTER. Sisko spots Quark struggling to make himself understood to an N.D. Bajoran seated on a cot.

QUARK

Money... hand... mine... give.

SISKO

Well, Quark, I see even you couldn't weasel your way clear of this one.

Quark straightens up and flashes a self-satisfied grin.

QUARK

You underestimate the Ferengi immune system, Commander. I'm merely here to visit some of my less fortunate customers...

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

42 CONTINUED:

42

QUARK (Cont'd)

To make certain they're not faking
the illness to avoid paying their
bills.

SISKO

No one's that devious Quark.

QUARK

I am.

He turns back to the Bajoran patient.

QUARK

You... gold... owe... me.

43 NEW ANGLE

43

as Sisko leads Jake deeper into the room. At first
they both are hesitant, this place looks pretty grim,
but they lighten up when they notice O'Brien and Dax
who approach. Sisko and Dax exchange rueful smiles.

*

*

SISKO

(simply)

We're doing everything possible.

*

And though Dax and the others can't understand the
words, Sisko's concern comes through loud and clear.

Dax holds out a comforting hand to Jake. He looks over
at Sisko who leans over and kisses him on the head.

*

(CONTINUED)

43 CONTINUED:

43

SISKO

I'll be back as soon as I can.

Sisko turns and EXITS. Leaving his son behind is no easy thing.

44 INT. INFIRMARY

44

Bashir directs Sisko over to a wall monitor... activates the screen. An Okudagram of a DNA sequence appears on the monitor.

BASHIR

The virus is synthetic, Commander. Its nucleotide sequence is too perfect. It's clearly not natural.

SISKO

You're saying the Cardassians genetically engineered this thing?

BASHIR

That's what I thought at first. But I've studied Cardassian genetic engineering. They always build distinctive monoclonal links into their DNA. This virus has none of those features.

SISKO

All right, then who made it.

BASHIR

(enthusiasm rising)

That's what I wanted to find out. So I referenced all known DNA construction techniques in the Federation records...

Indicates a section of the DNA.

BASHIR

This protein series was the key. It indicates that...

SISKO

(enough already)

Doctor, who created this virus?

BASHIR

The Bajorans, sir. I believe this must have been a terrorist plot to sabotage the Cardassians while they were here.

*

(CONTINUED)

44 CONTINUED: (2)

44

Off Sisko's surprised reaction...

45 INT. COMMANDER'S OFFICE

45

Sisko, Kira, and Odo. Kira is holding the Cardassian programming device.

KIRA

The energy decay of this power core indicates that it dates back to the building of the station.

ODO

That's eighteen years ago. I suppose the Bajoran underground could have smuggled it aboard during construction.

(a beat)

Before I took over as head of security.

SISKO

But why would the underground go to all the trouble of planting a booby trap and then not set it off?

Good question.

ODO

Maybe they forgot.

KIRA

More likely they were captured or killed before they could release it.

SISKO

We need to find out who created the virus.

(to Kira)

You're our best hope.

Kira nods, knowing she has her work cut out for her.

KIRA

Eighteen years is a long time.

(CONTINUED)

45 CONTINUED:

45

ODO

Besides, even if she finds this person... that's no guarantee he can help us.

SISKO

We just have to hope he remembers the antidote.

ODO

That's assuming he ever bothered to create one.

That leaves them all with something to think about.

46 INT. OPS - CLOSE ON KIRA

46

standing in front of a monitor at Dax's station. GALIS BLIN, a middle aged Bajoran woman is on the screen. (In b.g. we see that Ops is running on a skeleton crew.)

KIRA

... Had to be someone in the underground familiar with genetic engineering.

*
*

GALIS

(thinks for a beat)
Eighteen years ago... sounds like something Dekon Elig might have thought up.

*
*
*

KIRA

How can I find him?

GALIS

(thinking)
Last I heard he was in a Cardassian prison.

*
*

KIRA

Where was he being held?

GALIS

The Velos Seven Internment Camp. But that was nine years ago.

*
*

KIRA

And you have no idea where he is now?

(pressing)

Think, Galis. This is important.

(CONTINUED)

46	CONTINUED:	46	*
	GALIS		*
	(sympathetic)		*
	I'm sorry Kira, but it was all so		*
	long ago.		*
46A	HOLD ON KIRA	46A	*
	not ready to give up.		*
47	OMITTED	47	*

48 INT. CREW QUARTERS/HOSPITAL WARD

48

Nurse Jabara is making her rounds when she hears a commotion on the other side of the room.

49 NEW ANGLE

49

As a frantic Jake comes running over.

*

JAKE

*

Roll linger when life. Roll
linger when.

NURSE JABARA

What is it, Jake?

*

Jake drags her over to where Dax is kneeling over a motionless O'Brien. Dax is checking his vital signs.

*

DAX

(to nurse Jabara)

Other support strong courage.

She takes the nurse's hand and presses it to O'Brien's forehead.

NURSE JABARA

He's running a high fever.

JAKE

*

Open way long. Openway.

Nurse Jabara taps her combadge.

NURSE JABARA

Doctor, we have an emergency here
in the crew quarters.

BASHIR (COM VOICE)

I'll be right there.

50 CAMERA HOLDS

50

on an unconscious O'Brien, his face drawn and sweating.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN.

51 INT. INFIRMARY - CLOSE ON O'BRIEN 51

His body racked with fever.

52 ANGLE ON BASHIR 52

Checking his vital signs monitor. They're dangerously low.

53 ANGLE WIDENS 53

to include a grim faced Sisko.

SISKO

How is he, Doctor?

BASHIR

Not good, I'm afraid. It seems the virus has attacked his autonomic nervous system.

SISKO

Can he be stabilized?

BASHIR

He hasn't responded to neural stimulation. I've given him thirty c.c.'s of corophizine to avoid secondary infection, but so far I've been unable to lower his fever.

SISKO

What are his chances?

*

Bashir eyes the monitor, then faces Sisko.

BASHIR

Unless I find some way to counteract the virus, he'll be dead in twelve hours.

*

SISKO

(gently; knows Bashir is doing his best)

Have you made any progress?

(CONTINUED)

53 CONTINUED:

53

BASHIR

(a painful admission)

No... I've tried base pair de-stabilizers, sequential disruption, nothing seems to affect it.

(a beat)

Sir, I have seven other aphasic patients displaying the same symptoms as O'Brien here. And I'm afraid it's only the beginning.

SISKO

Keep searching, Doctor. And let's hope Major Kira can find whoever's responsible for creating this virus.

BASHIR

I'd like to meet that person myself. This virus is a work of genius.

SISKO

(dryly)

I'll try and arrange it for you.

54 OMITTED

54

54A INT. OPS - CLOSE ON KIRA

54A

at her station.

*

(CONTINUED)

54A CONTINUED:

54A

COMPUTER VOICE

Link established with the Bajoran
Archival Records.

KIRA

Locate files on Velos Seven
Internment camp.

COMPUTER VOICE

Ready.

KIRA

Do you show a record of an inmate
named Dekon Elig?

COMPUTER VOICE

Affirmative.

KIRA

Biographical data...

COMPUTER VOICE

Dekon Elig. Geneticist...

Kira smiles triumphantly.

COMPUTER VOICE

Former member of the Higa Metar
Sect of the Bajoran underground.
Killed while attempting escape
Stardate 39355. Certificate of
Death on file.

The worst news possible. Kira slumps back in defeat.

SISK0 (V.O.)

No need to ask how you're doing.

55 ANGLE WIDENS

55

To include Sisko as he EXITS from the Turbolift.

(CONTINUED)

55 CONTINUED:

55

KIRA

I'm chasing after ghosts.

SISKO

You have twelve hours to catch one.

KIRA

And then?

SISKO

People start dying.

A silent beat between them, then Sisko LEAVES. Kira turns back to her console.

KIRA

(a stab in the dark)

Computer, display Dekon Elig's Certificate of Death.

The certificate is brought up on her monitor. (We do not have to see this on screen.)

KIRA

(continuing)

Identify signature of witness.

COMPUTER VOICE

Certificate of Death was witnessed by Surmak Ren, Bajoran Medical Assistant.

KIRA

Show me biographical data on Surmak Ren.

*

COMPUTER VOICE

Doctor Surmak Ren. Former member of the Higa Metar sect of the Bajoran underground. Repatriated to Bajor upon closing of the Velos Seven Internment Camp, Stardate 46302. Current status... unknown.

55A HOLD ON KIRA

55A

the closer she gets to an answer... the farther away she has to go.

56 INT. QUARK'S

56

abandoned except for Quark alone at the Dabo table. As the wheel grinds to a halt.

QUARK
(half heartedly)
Dabo!

ODO
Having any luck?

57 ON ODO

57

standing in the doorway. He makes his way over to the table.

QUARK
I haven't won a spin in hours.
(brightening)
Care to place a friendly wager?
(off Odo's hesitation)
If it's your reputation you're
thinking about... no one need ever
know.

ODO
It has nothing to do with my
reputation. The truth is I've
never...
(a beat)
...learned the game.

(CONTINUED)

57 CONTINUED: (2)

57

QUARK
(incredulous)
You mean, you've sat in here all
these years and you don't even
know how to gamble?

ODO
(stiffly)
That's correct.

QUARK
(laughing)
No wonder you always look so
bored.
(smells a quick killing)
The rules are quite simple,
actually. I would be happy to
teach them to you... *

ODO
Some other time perhaps. Sisko
needs me in OPS.
(pointedly)
And with the entire security force
stricken with aphasia, that leaves
the promenade in a very vulnerable
position.

Quark's eyes light up at that thought.

QUARK
How... unfortunate.

ODO
Consider it a warning, Quark.
Because I'm holding you personally
responsible for anything that
turns up missing. Is that
understood?

QUARK
Perfectly.

Odo stares flatly at Quark until he's convinced that
the Ferengi has gotten the message. Then he turns and
EXITS.

58 HOLD ON QUARK

58

who gives the wheel a frustrated spin... *

(CONTINUED)

58 CONTINUED:

58

QUARK
(a curse)
Dabo!

59 INT. INFIRMARY

59

Bashir is in front of a wall monitor, using the computer to test antidotes. He is exhausted.

BASHIR
Computer, analyze test sample
thirty-seven delta. Detail
effects on viral containment.

59A ON MONITOR - BASHIR'S POV

59A

We see a medical readout. The words are clearly in English and make perfect sense.

COMPUTER VOICE
Working...
(beat)
Analysis complete. Sample thirty-
seven delta ineffective...

*

59B ANGLE ON BASHIR

59B

he sags... Another failure.

COMPUTER VOICE
(continuing)
... Viral protein sheath is
unaffected... Nucleotide sequence
remains intact...

Bashir's head snaps up, a look of dread in his face.

BASHIR
Computer... Replay morning.

COMPUTER VOICE
Command unclear. Please repeat.

60 ON MONITOR - BASHIR'S POV

60

The medical read out on the screen is now an indecipherable jumble.

(CONTINUED)

60 CONTINUED:

60

BASHIR

Glass lunch judge a bin to let
it...

COMPUTER VOICE

Command unclear. Please repeat.

★
★

61 RESUME BASHIR

61

As he realizes what has happened.

62 INT. OPS

62

A weary Kira is still at her console.

KIRA

Computer, establish link with the
Bajoran Medical Index for
Northwestern District...

*
*

COMPUTER VOICE

Link established.

KIRA

Access all information on Doctor
Surmak Ren.

COMPUTER VOICE

There are no records matching that
name.

Kira's not surprised.

KIRA

Try the Northeastern District.
Same search.

*

COMPUTER VOICE

Doctor Surmak Ren, currently
serving as Chief Administrator of
the Ilvian Medical Complex.

Kira jolts forward in her seat.

KIRA

Computer, open a channel to the
Ilvian Medical Complex...
Administrators office.

*

A soft, rather pudgy man SURMAK REN appears on the
console.

SURMAK

(a pleasant smile)

This is Doctor Surmak. And you
are?

KIRA

Major Kira Nerys. Bajoran liaison
to Deep Space Nine.

*

SURMAK

Ah yes, the old Cardassian mining
station. How can I help you?

KIRA

That depends.

(CONTINUED)

62 CONTINUED:

62

SURMAK

On what?

KIRA

On whether or not you helped Dekon
Elig plant an aphasia virus here,
eighteen years ago.

*

SURMAK

(smile vanishing)

I have no idea what you're talking
about.

The screen goes blank. Kira slams the deck in
frustration.

63 INT. COMMANDERS OFFICE

63

Odo, ill at ease, stands before Sisko.

ODO

Look here, Sisko. I'm a security
officer. A good one. But that
doesn't make me qualified to help
you run station operations.

SISKO

You're probably right,
Constable...

He gestures toward Ops.

(CONTINUED)

63 CONTINUED: (2)

63

SISKO

But as you can see, you're all
I've got.

Odo reluctantly accepts his fate.

*

64 NEW ANGLE

64

as Kira comes hurrying into Sisko's office.

KIRA

Commander, I think I found our
scientist.

SISKO

Does he have an antidote?

KIRA

I don't know. He broke the
connection the minute I mentioned
the virus.

She heads towards the door. Sisko on her heels.

SISKO

Major, you mind telling me where
you're going?

KIRA

To continue my conversation with
Doctor Surmak.

Sisko blocks her path..

SISKO

Major, I can't allow you to break
quarantine. We can't risk
spreading the virus to Bajor.

KIRA

I'm well aware of that, Commander.
As a matter of fact, I don't
intend to step foot on the planet.

(CONTINUED)

64 CONTINUED: (2)

64

Sisko still isn't sure. Odo steps forward to break the stalemate.

ODO

Better let her go, Sisko.

Sisko's gaze demands Odo give a reason.

ODO

(continuing)

She's all we've got.

A beat. Sisko steps aside. Kira nods goodbye, EXITS the office.

*
*

ODO

I just hope there's someone left to greet her when she returns.

Hold on Sisko. His thoughts exactly.

65 EXT. SPACE DEEP SPACE NINE (OPTICAL)

65

as Kira's Runabout leaves the station.

66 INT. CREW QUARTERS/HOSPITAL WARD (DAY THREE)

66

Jake and Dax are among a crowd watching another aphasic patient, in an advanced state of the disease, being carried out on a stretcher.

67 ANGLE SISKO

67

Making his way through the crowd.

SISKO

Jake!

Jake brightens at the sight of his dad.

SISKO

How's it going, fella?

(CONTINUED)

67 CONTINUED:

67

They hug, Sisko exchanges glances with Dax, who sensing their need for privacy, nods and steps away.

68 NEW ANGLE

68

Sisko seats Jake on a cot, then kneels down so that they can be at eye level. He knows Jake can't understand him, but he's hoping that his tone and expression can convey all that he's feeling.

SISKO

I've missed you, son. I know
things don't look too good right
now. But they'll get better. You
have to believe that. Because...
I'm not going to lose you, Jake.
You hear me? I'm not going to
lose you.

★
★
★
★
★
★
★

And the intensity of Sisko's words do get through to Jake, who smiles and gives him a "we're in this together" nod. Sisko smiles back. And for a moment, there is communication and understanding.

★
★

69 OMITTED

69

70 INT. OPS

70

Odo at the operations table, stares at a panel with growing unease.

*

71 ANGLE SISKO

71

as he ENTERS OPS.

ODO

You better take a look at this...
We have activity on Docking Port
Five. I think a ship's about to
depart.

SISKO

Docking Port Five? That's
Jaheel's ship. Put him on screen.

72 THE VIEWSCREEN (OPTICAL)

72

*

The image of Captain Jaheel appears. He's frantically
working his ship's control panels.

73 INTERCUT WITH SISKO AND ODO (OPTICAL)

73

*

Sisko, tensing in anger.

SISKO

Captain, your ship has not been
cleared for departure. The
mooring clamps are locked. And I
don't intend to release them.

(CONTINUED)

73 CONTINUED:

73

JAHEEL

I suggest you change your mind.
I'm taking aft thrusters to one
half.

*
*
*

74 EXT. SPACE - JAHEEL'S SHIPS (OPTICAL)

74

Engine's firing but the vessel remains held fast to
station.

75 INT. OPS (OPTICAL)

75

as before.

SISKO

Captain, cut your engines before
you rip your ship apart.

ODO

(checking panel)
He's not reducing power.

SISKO

Jaheel, I'm ordering you to stand
down.

Jaheel's ship shudders from the strain of his engines.

*

JAHEEL

Your orders are no concern of
mine. My entire crew has been
confined to your hospital. I must
leave now while I can still
function.

*

SISKO

Look, I understand you're
frightened. But believe me,
you're better off here. You don't
want to be out there alone and get
hit by the virus.

*
*
*

JAHEEL

Don't worry about me. I'm fine
and I intend to stay that way.

Sisko hits a panel to mute communication with Jaheel.

(CONTINUED)

75 CONTINUED:

75

SISKO

Damn.

ODO

What's wrong?

SISKO

There's too much stress on the
mooring clamps. They're not
retracting.

A violent shake almost knocks Sisko and Odo off their
feet. The Viewscreen image disappears into static.

(CONTINUED)

75 CONTINUED: (2)

75

ODO

His aft isolation plate buckled.

*

Sisko comes over to check the console.

SISKO

The main power core's been
ruptured. If the internal fuel
cells collapse the whole ship will
explode.

*

ODO

And take half the docking ring
with it.

Off Sisko and Odo's expressions...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

75A EXT. SPACE - THE RUNABOUT (OPTICAL) 75A

Orbiting around Bajor.

75B INT. RUNABOUT 75B

Kira in the cockpit, taking readings.

KIRA

Computer, isolate a comline to the
Ilvian Medical Complex.
Administrator's office. *

COMPUTER VOICE

Line isolated.

KIRA

Scan the office for lifeforms. *

COMPUTER VOICE

One life form present.

KIRA

Lock on and stand by to transport.

She works console.

75C INCLUDE MONITOR (OPTICAL) 75C

as Surmak Ren appears on screen.

SURMAK

This is Doctor Surmak.

KIRA

Hello again, Doctor. Just wanted
to make sure you were in your
office.

SURMAK

I have nothing to say to you...

Surmak moves to sever their connection, but Kira is
quicker -- she touches a panel and Surmak
DEMATERIALIZES. A delighted Kira swirls around in her
chair.

76
thru
82

OMITTED

76
thru
82

83 NEW ANGLE (OPTICAL)

83

to find a flabbergasted Surmak MATERIALIZING on the
runabout's Transport pad.

(CONTINUED)

*

83 CONTINUED:

83

KIRA
Welcome aboard.

Surmak steps off the pad... and it's wrath of God time.

SURMAK
This is outrageous. I demand you
return me to my office
immediately.

KIRA
Relax, Doctor. You won't be gone
long.

84 ANGLE KIRA

84

Working panels... plotting a new course... Surmak feels
the ship leaving orbit.

SURMAK
Where are you taking me?

KIRA
To the space station.

Off Surmak's reaction.

*

84A INT. OPS (FORMERLY SCENE 76)

84A

Sisko and Odo are staring at the static filled Viewscreen.

SISKO
Try to re-establish visual contact
with Jaheel's ship.

ODO
(working console)
No response. His com lines are
down.

SISKO
Bypass communications through his
secondary grid. See if you can
switch to external pickups.

ODO
(working feverishly)
Got it.

84B ON VIEWSCREEN (OPTICAL)

84B

The static clears -- replaced with the burning bridge
of Jaheel's vessel. (Jaheel's nowhere in sight)

ODO
His fire control systems don't
appear to be working.

SISKO
(checking console)
We have about fifteen minutes
before the fuel cells collapse.

Sisko is hit by a wave of dizziness. He tries to fight
it off.

ODO
I hope you feel better than you
look.

SISKO
(sweating)
It must be that damn virus.
(hitting console)
This is Sisko.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

84B CONTINUED:

84B

SISKO (Cont'd)

Any station personnel who can understand what I'm saying should come to Ops immediately. We need help up here.

(to Odo)

We have to get that ship away from the station.

ODO

Why don't we explode the mooring clamps. The blast should push the ship away from the docking ring.

SISKO

(agreed)

We'll have to get down there and blow them manually.

ODO

I'll do it.

SISKO

All right... You can cross barrels all job appalled.

ODO

What was that you...

SISKO

Bread the arrive seen earlier.

ODO

Oh, I see...

One look at Odo's face and Sisko knows he's through. He slumps down helplessly in his chair.

84C EXT. SPACE RUNABOUT (OPTICAL)

84C

84D INT. RUNABOUT

84D

Surmak and Kira still going at it.

(CONTINUED)

84D CONTINUED:

84D

SURMAK

Major, this is kidnapping. Turn this ship around or I swear you'll spend the rest of your life in Kran-Tobol Prison.

KIRA

Fine. But first we need your help. The aphasia virus is spreading through the station.

SURMAK

But why come to me.

KIRA

You helped create the virus didn't you.

Surmak sits down beside her, nervously trying to cover any suggestion of guilt.

SURMAK

No! I had practically nothing to do with it. Dekon Elig created the virus. I was merely his medical assistant.

(half to himself)

It all seems like a life time ago. I was only with the underground six months before we were captured.

(to Kira, urgent)

I am not responsible for this.

KIRA

I'm not looking to place blame. All I want is the antidote.

SURMAK

But I don't know of any antidote. If Dekon made one, he never told me.

KIRA

(reacts, a beat)

Look, all I know is I have a station full of dying people, and you're the closest thing to an expert on this virus.

(CONTINUED)

84D CONTINUED: (2)

84D

SURMAK
I sympathize, Major. But I don't
think I can help you. *

Kira stares at Surmak for a beat.

KIRA
Alright, then how about helping
yourself?

SURMAK
Meaning what?

KIRA
(leaning toward him for
emphasis)
Meaning I've been infected with
your virus, Doctor. So now you're
infected too.

85 TIGHT ON SURMAK

85

As Kira's words hit home.

86 INT. OPS

86

Odo taking readings. Doesn't like what he sees.
(Sisko in b.g.)

ODO

(hits com panel)

To anyone who can hear me... this
is Odo. Sisko's infected. I
could really use some help in Ops.

QUARK (V.O.)

Do I detect a note of panic in
your voice?

86A WIDER SHOT

86A

To include Quark. Odo reacts. A mixture of surprise
and suspicion.

ODO

Quark, am I to believe you're
volunteering to help?

QUARK

Who said anything about
volunteering? But we can haggle
over price later.

(enjoying the power)

Now how may I be of service?

86B HOLD ON ODO

86B

weighing his options. Then --

ODO

I need to get to Docking Port
Five, now. That ship is going to
explode in five minutes.

QUARK

I'll beam you over.

Quark moves to the Transporter control panel. Notices
Odo's hesitation.

QUARK

Relax. I served on a Ferengi
freighter for eight years.

Odo steps onto the Transporter pad.

(CONTINUED)

86B CONTINUED:

86B

QUARK
(carefully, studying
panel)
I must have witnessed this
procedure hundreds of times.

ODO
Witnessed? You mean to say you
never handled the controls
yourself?

But before Odo can step off the pad --

QUARK
(working panel)
Energizing.

87 ANGLE (OPTICAL)

87

Odo DEMATERIALIZES.

88 INT. DOCKING PORT FIVE

88

Odo appears out of the smoke pouring through an open
airlock (we do not see him MATERIALIZE).

88A INT. OPS

88A

Quark crosses over to take Odo's place at the
operations table.

KIRA'S COM VOICE
Kira to Ops. Approaching landing
pad seven. Request clearance to
initiate docking procedure.

QUARK
Welcome back Major. I could use
some help up here.

KIRA'S COM VOICE
Quark what are you doing in Ops?

Quark smiles. Pleased at her surprise.

88B INT. INFIRMARY

88B

as Kira, looking pale, ENTERS with Surmak.

SURMAK
First thing I need to see is your
Doctors' viral characterization
research.

(CONTINUED)

88B CONTINUED:

88B

He seats himself at a wall monitor. He taps the console and the monitor displays Bashir's notes.

SURMAK

(scans data)

He was beginning to develop an
antidote series. Let's take a
look at that.

Kira dabs at her forehead. Her hand comes away damp
with sweat.

KIRA

I'll be in Ops. If you need me
use the string...

Surmak looks at her oddly. She hesitates, confusion
lining her face.

KIRA

...impact lots show red intense.

SURMAK

I think you'd better sit down,
Major.

He helps her to a seat then turns back to the monitor.

88C INT. DOCKING PORT FIVE

88C

Odo makes his way through the smoke. We HEAR A GROAN
O.S.

89 ODO'S POV

89

Jaheel, having escaped from his ship, lies half
conscious on the floor.

90 RESUME SCENE

90

Odo lifts him up.

JAHEEL

(aphasic)

Dog fellow distance.

(CONTINUED)

88B CONTINUED:

88B

He seats himself at a wall monitor. He taps the console and the monitor displays Bashir's notes. Kira dabs at her forehead. Her hand comes away damp with sweat.

KIRA

I'll be in Ops. If you need me
use the companel...

She hesitates, confusion lining her face. Surmak waits for her to continue.

KIRA

...string lots show red intense.

SURMAK

You're not going anywhere Major.

He helps her to a seat then turns back to the monitor.

88C INT. DOCKING PORT FIVE

88C

Odo makes his way through the smoke. We HEAR A GROAN
O.S.

89 ODO'S POV

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conscious on the floor.

90 RESUME SCENE

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JAHEEL

(aphasic)

Dog fellow distance.

(CONTINUED)

90 CONTINUED:

90

ODO
Tell me about it.

He lifts Jaheel.

91 INT. OPS - TIGHT ON QUARK AT OPERATIONS TABLE

91

Starting to feel the pressure, as he checks a console.

QUARK
Odo, that ship's going to explode
in one minute.

92 INT. DOCKING PORT FIVE

92

Odo carry's Jaheel to safety then continues on his mission.

92A INT. INFIRMARY

92A

Surmak scanning the monitor keeps up a running commentary for Kira. She doesn't understand a word but she watches him intently, hoping for some sign of success.

SURMAK
(scanning info)
Virum protein sheath.. uh-huh...
Nucleotide sequence... yes...
(remembers)
That's right, it's an adaptive
synaptic inhibitor... Dekon was
brilliant, there's no doubt of
that.

He continues to work.

92B INT DOCKING PORT FIVE

92B

Odo over to the wall near the airlock, searches for the correct access panel.

QUARK'S COM VOICE
Forty seconds.

*

Odo finds the panel, tears it open... Reveals a lever in an upright position. Odo slams it down.

93 INT. OPS

93

If Ferengis do indeed have hearts, then Quark's is
banging out of his chest.

QUARK

Thirty seconds. Hurry.

94 INT. DOCKING PORT FIVE

94

Odo crossing through the smoke to the other side of the
airlock, heaves open another access panel... flips down
another lever.

95 INT. OPS - QUARK

95

Assuming a defensive position known as the Ferengi
cringe.

QUARK

Twenty seconds.

96 INT. DOCKING PORT FIVE 96

Odo doubletimes it through the smoke.

ODO
(muttering)
I know. I know.

He arrives at a control panel... presses a button, the
airlock doors close... He quickly punches in a code
sequence... braces himself against the wall. We HEAR
THE SOUND OF THE MOORING CLAMPS EXPLODE.

*
*

97 EXT. DOCKING PORT FIVE (OPTICAL) 97

Blown free of the clamps, Jaheel's ship is pushed clear
of the docking port.

98 INT. OPS 98

Quark prays to whatever God Ferengis pray to as he and
Sisko are jolted by the blast.

99 OMITTED 99

100 INT. OPS 100

As the shaking subsides... Quark gets to his feet.

*

QUARK
Quark to Odo. You still with us?

101 INT. DOCKING PORT FIVE 101

As Odo picks himself up off the floor.

ODO
Try not to sound too disappointed.

102 INT. OPS 102

Quark leaning comfortably back in Kira's chair.

QUARK
Now, about that little matter of
my hazard pay...

103 INT. DOCKING PORT FIVE

103

Odo's eyes narrow. One of these days he's going to throttle that greedy rodent.

103A INT. INFIRMARY

103A

Kira and Surmak as before.

SURMAK

(confidence growing)

Your doctor came very close to finding the antidote himself. The answer is in a progressive base pair substitution.

He gets up and crosses to an equipment drawer and takes out a twenty-fourth century syringe.

SURMAK

(to Kira)

Now I just need to take a blood sample.

And as he begins to draw Kira's blood...

104 EXT. SPACE - DEEP SPACE NINE (OPTICAL)

104

SISKO (V.O.)

Station log, Stardate 46425.8. We're continuing to administer Doctor Surmak's antidote throughout the station. Things are slowly returning to normal.

105 INT. OPS

105 *

Fully staffed... Business as usual. Sisko, Dax, Kira and O'Brien all at their stations. Sisko crosses to the replicator. Passes O'Brien.

SISKO
Good to have you back, Chief.

O'BRIEN
Thank you, sir.

106 ON O'BRIEN

106

He sees where Sisko's headed, and a look of panic crosses his face.

SISKO (O.S.)
Hot coffee, black.

107 RESUME SCENE

107

Sisko, cup in hand, takes a big gulp... And nearly gags. The coffee's awful -- again.

SISKO
O'Brien... !

All eyes turn to O'Brien. And as O'Brien's eyes turn to the heavens, we...

FADE OUT.

THE END