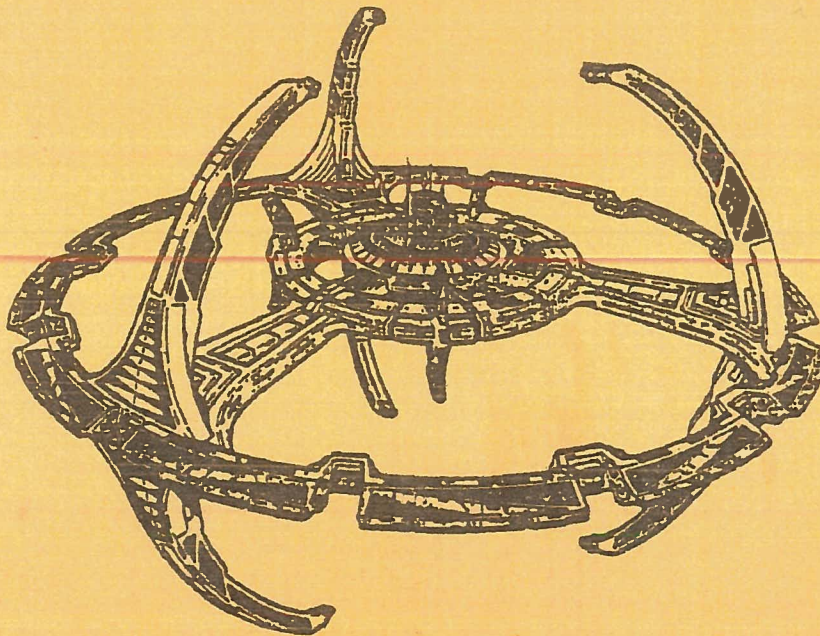


STAR TREK

DEEP SPACE NINE



“Emissary”

REVISED FINAL DRAFT

August 10, 1992

STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE

"Emissary"
#40511-721

Teleplay by
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REV. FINAL DRAFT

AUGUST 10, 1992

STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE

"Emissary"

CAST

BENJAMIN SISKO
JAKE SISKO
MILES O'BRIEN
KIRA NERYS
ODO
NOG
QUARK
KAI OPAKA
JULIAN BASHIR
JADZIA DAX
KEIKO
GUL DUXAT

COMPUTER VOICE
FEMALE COMPUTER VOICE

Non-Speaking

FERENGIS
2 YEAR OLD (Mollie)
SEVERAL BAJORANS

Non-Speaking

SEVERAL CARDASSIANS
ALIENS

PICARD
CON OFFICER
TACTICAL OFFICER
OPS OFFICER
VULCAN CAPTAIN
MONK #1
MONK #2
JENNIFER
FERengi PIT BOSS
A LIEUTENANT
FEMALE TRANS. CHIEF
CHANCELLOR (ON MONITOR)
CARDASSIAN OFF. #1
CARDASSIAN OFF. #2
BATTER ALIEN
GUL JASAD
CARDASSIAN OFFICER
BAJORAN BUREAUCRAT (ON
MONITOR)
DORAN, WOUNDED WOMAN
CARDASSIAN OFF. #3

Non-Speaking

BAJORAN DEPUTY
CURZON
DYING OLD MAN

STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE
"Emissary"

SETS

INTERIORS

DEEP SPACE NINE
AIRLOCK
PROMENADE
MONASTERY
SISKI'S QUARTERS
OPS
COMMANDER'S OFFICE
ASSAYING OFFICE
SECURITY OFFICE
JAKE'S ROOM
QUARK'S
INFIRMARY (MEDICAL FACILITY)
LABORATORY
CORRIDOR
RUNABOUT
MEDICAL FACILITY
OPERATING ROOM
BAJOR CITY
TEMPLE
MONASTERY
CHAMBER BENEATH MONASTERY

BEACH

THE SARATOGA
BRIDGE
CORRIDOR
SISKI'S QUARTERS

BORG SHIP

ESCAPE POD

HOLODECK (FISHING POND)

CORRIDOR

USS ENTERPRISE
OBS. LOUNGE
O'BRIEN'S QUARTERS
BEDROOM
MAIN BRIDGE
TRANSPORTER ROOM

CARDASSIAN WARSHIP
CORRIDOR
BRIDGE
STARSHIP SICKBAY

EXTERIORS

DEEP SPACE NINE

THE SARATOGA

BAJOR CITY

BEACH
CARDASSIAN WARSHIP

RUNABOUT

BRUTAL TERRAIN

GARDEN

ASTEROID BELT

THE WORMHOLE

BASEBALL FIELD

PARK

FISHING POND

USS ENTERPRISE

STAR TREK: DEEP-SPACE NINE

"Emissary"

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

KIRA NERYS	KIH-ruh nar-EES
ODO	OH-doo
KAI OPAKA	KI o-PAH-ku
BASHIR	bah-SHEER
JADZIA DAX	jahd-ZEE-uh DAX
QUARK	Kwark
GUL DUKAT	gull du-KOT
GUL JASAD	gull jahs-SAD
KYUSHU	kee-OOSH-ooh
KUMOMOTO	koo-moh-MUH-toh
BAJORAN	bah-JOR-an
BAJORA	bah-JOR-uh
CARDASSIAN	car-DASS-ee-en
LOCUTUS	low-KEW-tus
UTOPIA	yew-TOH-pea-uh
PLANITIA	plah-NIM-shee-uh
KAI TALUNO	XI tah-LOO-noh
TDRAN	TH-drahn
DENORIOS	dohn-OHR-ea-uhs
CURZON	KIHR-zahn
GILGO	GIHL-goh
DABO	DAH-bow
LAPOLIS	lah-PO-lis
MORAVIAN	mohr-A-vee-ahn
SETLIK	SET-lik
ROLADAN	rohl-AH-dun
FRUNALIAN	frow-NAY-lee-an
RIO GRANDE	REE-oh GRAND
YANGTZE Kiang	yang-se key-an
BAJOR	BAY-jor

DEEP SPACE NINE
"Emissary"

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 WHITE LETTERS ON BLACK: 1

On Stardate 43997, Captain Jean-Luc Picard of the Federation Starship Enterprise was kidnapped for six days by an invading force known as the Borg. Surgically altered, he was forced to lead an assault on Starfleet at WOLF 359

FADE TO BLACK.

AFTER A BEAT:

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

HARD CUT TO:

2 CLOSE UP OF LOCUTUS (VIEWSCREEN) (OPTICAL) 2

PICARD/LOCUTUS
You will disarm all weapons and escort
us to sector zero zero one.

If you attempt to intervene, we will destroy you.

3 REVERSE ANGLE - INT. BRIDGE - THE SARATOGA (OPTICAL) 3

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

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

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED:

3

CAPTAIN

Move us to position alpha, Ensign...

CON OFFICER

Aye, sir...

CAPTAIN

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

4 EXT. SPACE - THE SARATOGA (OPTICAL)

4

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

5 INT. SARATOGA - BRIDGE

5

A shake...

TACTICAL OFFICER

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

CAPTAIN

Evasive maneuvers... delta pattern...

5A EXT. SPACE - THE BORG SHIP (OPTICAL)

5A

LOCKS ON TO THE SARATOGA

5B INT. SARATOGA - BRIDGE

5B

CON OFFICER

Delta pattern initiated...

OPS OFFICER

(interrupting)
They've locked on...

6 EXT. SPACE - THE SARATOGA (OPTICAL) 6

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

7 INT. BORG SHIP - LOCUTUS - (OPTICAL) 7

watches the battle on a viewscreen with dispassion...

8 INT. SARATOGA BRIDGE 8

As before...

OPS OFFICER

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

CAPTAIN

Recalibrate shield nutation...

TACTICAL

Modulation is having no effect...

OPS OFFICER

Shields have failed.

CAPTAIN

Full reverse... maintain...

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

SISKO

Damage report...

No answer...

SISKO

Damage report...

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

TACTICAL OFFICER

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

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

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED:

8

COMPUTER VOICE

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

The Tactical Officer is still trying to make something
on his console work...

SISKO

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

The Tactical Officer acknowledges, follows Sisko out...

9 INT. CORRIDOR (OPTICAL)

9

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

SISKO

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

COMPUTER VOICE

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

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

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED:

9

SISKO

Doran...

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

TACTICAL OFFICER

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

SISKO

(to the woman)

Have you seen Jennifer...

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

10 INT. SISKO'S QUARTERS (OPTICAL)

10

Destroyed... an explosion has ripped a hole in the floor... fire and smoke is streaking up through it... outside the window we can see evidence that the battle with the Borg ship is continuing... Sisko enters, sees his wife buried in rubble... He urgently pulls things away to get to her... he uncovers the upper part of her body... beside her is an unconscious nine year old boy...

SISKO

(calm, controlled)

It's gonna be okay... I'll get you
out of there... you're gonna be
okay...

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

11 HIS HANDS 11

desperately trying to lift heavy debris...

12 RESUME 12

as he ignores the pain... but fails to make any headway,
so he returns to the front and tries to pull the boy
free... he's small enough to be eased out... he moves
slightly, barely conscious, but not hurt critically...

SISKO

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

Jake is still very groggy, doesn't respond...

13 ANGLE 13

the tactical officer ENTERS...

TACTICAL OFFICER

(let's go)
Commander...

SISKO

Help me...

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

TACTICAL OFFICER

Sir, we have to get to the...

He stops, reacting as he sees --

14 SISKO'S HANDS 14

incredibly bloody and burned...

15 SISKO 15

glances numbly at the hands...

SISKO

Just help me get her free...

16 RESUME

16

as the Tactical Officer picks up the boy...

TACTICAL OFFICER

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

COMPUTER VOICE

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

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

SISKO

You go ahead, Lieutenant. Take the boy.

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

TACTICAL OFFICER

Now, sir...

His calm is undermined by the force he uses to resist the tactical officer's attempts to pull him out... the officer needs all of his Bolian strength to force his commanding officer to leave... Sisko is without emotion, tight... he feels no pain from his hands... and yet he holds them up above the elbow level like a beggar...

SISKO

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

And they're out...

17 INT. ESCAPE POD (OPTICAL)

17

as the tactical officer leads in Sisko... where the security officer is seated holding Jake... along with a dozen others in cramped lifeboat fashion.

The tactical officer presses panels... the door slides shut and then without ever cutting outside, there is a woosh and a shake and in the window, we see the Saratoga as our pod shoots away from it... and Ben Sisko never takes his eyes off it... and we may see other pods as we get further away... and other wreckage of broken ships... and notice the flashes of lightning from continued warfare with the Borg not far away... but we stay inside the pod... and then the Saratoga explodes... and the light fills Ben's face...

FADE TO BLACK.

18 SUPER WHITE LETTERS:

18

STARDATE 46421
THREE YEARS LATER

HARD CUT TO:

19 CORK ATTACHED TO A FISHING LINE (DAY #1)

19

bobbing in the water...

SISKO (O.S.)

Jake?

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

20 EXT. FISHING POND - DAY (OPTICAL)

20

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

SISKO

There you are...

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

SISKO

How they biting?

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED:

20

JAKE

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

SISKO

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

Jake frowns. Sisko notices.

SISKO

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

JAKE

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

SISKO

Well, it's what Starfleet decided...

JAKE

You promised we'd stay on shore duty.

SISKO

(defensive)

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

JAKE

Will there be kids there?

SISKO

Absolutely. Lots of kids.

Sisko hopes he's telling the truth.

FEMALE COM VOICE

Bridge to Sisko.

SISKO

Yes, Captain...

FEMALE COM VOICE

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

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED: (2)

20

SISKO

Acknowledged.

(puts his arm around
Jake)

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

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

SISKO

Computer, end program.

And the yellow grid of the Holodeck walls replace the woodsy setting... and as Jake carries his incongruous fishing pole...

21 INT. CORRIDOR (NOT THE ENTERPRISE) (OPTICAL)

21

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

JAKE

Is that it?

Sisko acknowledges with a nod... and we move with them to see what they see -- the strange, intriguing shape of the alien space station designated Deep Space Nine by Starfleet...

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

22 EXT. SPACE - DS9 (OPTICAL)

22

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

SISKO (V.O.)

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

23 INT. AIRLOCK - CLOSE ON MILES O'BRIEN

23

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

O'BRIEN

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

He sticks out his hand to shake then realizes that it is covered with sludge from the panel he was just in and pulls it back...

O'BRIEN

Miles O'Brien, your chief operations officer...

Sisko is cordial... but throughout the first three acts, there is a grudging subtext... he's doing his duty but he doesn't want to be here.

SISKO

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

A Bajoran supernumerary manually closes the door behind them as O'Brien leads them down the corridor...

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED:

23

O'BRIEN

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

They EXIT and...

24 INT. PROMENADE

24

As they enter from the Airlock Gate... they react with shock to what they see... and we move with them to reveal our first look at this extraordinary setting....

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

25 SISK0

25

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

26 MOVING WITH THEM

26

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

O'BRIEN

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

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

SISKO

(tight)

Why hasn't anybody cleaned this up...

O'BRIEN

We've got all available personnel assigned to repairing primary systems, sir... the Cardassians took every component of value, we have virtually no defenses...

I discussed it with Major Kira, the attache assigned here by the Bajoran government and we decided...

SISKO

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

O'BRIEN

A lot of them lost everything...

a few are trying to rebuild, but most are packing up to leave...

27 ANGLE

27

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

28 AT THE MONASTERY

28

MONK #1

Welcome, Commander. Please enter.

The prophets await you.

(CONTINUED)

28 CONTINUED: 28

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

SISKQ
Another time, perhaps.

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

MONK #1
(beat)
Another time.

29 INT. SISKQ'S QUARTERS 29

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

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

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

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

JAKE (O.S.)
Dad... !

Appearing at the door...

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

O'BRIEN
We can get you a real bunk off the
Enterprise...
(to Sisko)
Oh, and I almost forgot, Captain
Picard wants to see you as soon as
possible.

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED:

29

SISKO
(eyes off O'Brien, a
throwaway)
He does...

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

SISKO
Any word on our science and medical
officers?

O'BRIEN
They're expected tomorrow.

Sisko acknowledges.

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

JAKE
Is this the food replicator?

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

JAKE
(I hate this place)
Dad...

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

JAKE
(not okay)
Okay.

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

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED: (2) 29

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

30 TNT, OPS 30

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

O'BRIEN

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

Sisko looks up...

31 ANGLE 31

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

SISKO

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

O'BRIEN

Yessir.

(awkward)

Major Kira has been using it...

They exchange a look. Sisko starts to move toward the office...

SISKO

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

O'BRIEN

The environmental controls in Ops are stuck at thirty-two "C"... we're working on it.

As they reach the office...

SISKO

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

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED:

31

O'BRIEN

Sir, have you ever served with any
Bajoran women?

SISKO

No. Why?

O'BRIEN

(I warned you)
Just wondering, sir.

Sisko nods... and walks up the stairs to his office...
as he reaches the door which is open... he can hear her
raised voice in a conversation...

KIRA...

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

BAJORAN BUREAUCRAT...

(MONITOR)

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

32 INT. COMMANDER'S OFFICE (OPTICAL)

32

Seeing Major KIRA NERYS for the first time... a striking
Bajoran woman in her early thirties... dressed in a
Bajoran military uniform... ending her conversation to
the Bajoran official on the monitor...

KIRA

(fuming)

... THEN DON'T ASK FOR MY OPINION
NEXT TIME!

She turns off her monitor with a slap of her hand...
looks immediately to Sisko at the door...

KIRA

Yes?

SISKO

I'm Benjamin Sisko...

KIRA

(without a beat)

I suppose you want the office.

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

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED:

32

SISKO

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

KIRA

(exaggerated)

Hello.

SISKO

Is something bothering you, Major?

KIRA

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

SISKO

Why not?

KIRA

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

SISKO

(pleasant)

Perhaps I want to hear it.

A beat. All right, fine...

KIRA

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

Sisko nods, takes a beat, then...

SISKO

The provisional government disagrees
with you...

KIRA

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

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED: (2)

32

KIRA

(beat)

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

SISKO

The Federation is only here to...

KIRA AND SISKO

(in unison)

... help us/you.

KIRA

(continuing)

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

SISKO

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

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

KIRA

Odo, are you reading something at A-
fourteen?

ODO

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

The monitor goes back to standard feeds...

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED: (3)

32

KIRA
(on the move)
We've been having a lot of break-ins
lately... no need to come along,
Commander...

But he ignores that and follows her out...

33 INT. ASSAYING OFFICE

33

A nervous teenage Ferengi (NOG), watching guard at the
door, glances back...

NOG
Hurry up.

Following his look to see the interior of the office is
burned out... finding a huge, hideous looking adult alien
looting a safe of some valuable mineral samples...
putting them into a pouch. And as he moves toward the
door...

34 INT. PROMENADE

34

... they EXIT... react as they see Odo arriving...

ODO
All right, just stand where you are.

The thieves turn the opposite direction and take a few steps
before they see Kira and Sisko arriving, cutting off that
route of escape too... Nog knows he's caught, gives up (NOTE:
He doesn't put up his hands) but the other alien takes out a
knife-like weapon... and throws it at...

35
thru OMITTED
37

35
thru
37

38 ODO (OPTICAL) 38

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

39 WIDER (OPTICAL) 39

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

40 SISKO 40

holding a phaser...

SISKO
That's enough.

ODO
Who the hell are you?

KIRA
This is our new Starfleet Commander,
Odo.

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

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

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

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

(CONTINUED)

40 CONTINUED:

40

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

QUARK

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

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

SISKO

That won't be possible.
(to Odo)
Take him to the brig.

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

KIRA

(shakes her head)
Quark probably sent the two of them
here to steal the ore samples in the
first place...

SISKO

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

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

O'BRIEN'S COM VOICE

O'Brien to Commander Sisko.

SISKO

(presses his combadge)
Go ahead.

O'BRIEN'S COM VOICE

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

(CONTINUED)

40 CONTINUED:

40

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

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

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

41 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL) 41

docked at DS9.

42 INT. OBSERVATION LOUNGE (OPTICAL) 42

Bajor is visible in the window... Picard sits at the end of the table, going over some information on a PADD... a chime...

PICARD

Come.

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

PICARD

Commander, come in. Welcome to Bajor.

Picard shakes his hand.

SISKO

It's been a long time, Captain.

Picard looks at him curiously as they sit.

PICARD

Have we met before?

SISKO

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

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

PICARD

I assume you've been briefed on the events leading to the Cardassian withdrawal.

(CONTINUED)

42 CONTINUED:

42

SISKO

Yessir... I understand they've spent
the last half century robbing the
planet of every valuable resource...
before abandoning it...

PICARD

(nods)

They've left the Bajorans without
any way to be self-sustaining...
the relief efforts we've been
coordinating are barely adequate.

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

PICARD

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

SISKO

Is it going to happen?

PICARD

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

SISKO

(with an attitude)

Sounds like they're not ready.

Picard turns and looks at him sharply.

PICARD

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

Sisko defensively acknowledges. Picard moves closer.

PICARD

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

(CONTINUED)

42 CONTINUED: (2)

42

SISKO

(not backing off a bit)

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

PICARD

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

SISKO

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

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

PICARD

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

SISKO

That's probably a good idea.

A beat.

PICARD

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

Sisko rises... interrupting...

SISKO

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

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

PICARD

Dismissed.

Sisko EXITS and...

43 EXT. SPACE - DEEP SPACE NINE (OPTICAL) (DAY #2) 43
44 INT. SECURITY OFFICE - STARTING ON QUARK 44

who is sitting...

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

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

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

SISKO
Unpack.

QUARK
Why would you want me to stay?

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

QUARK
I am not a thief.

ODO
You are a thief.

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

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

(CONTINUED)

44 CONTINUED:

44

SISKO

My officers, the Bajoran engineers,
all their families depend on the

shops and services of this
Promenade... but if people like you
abandon it, this is going to become
a ghost town. We need someone to
step forward and say, "I'm staying"...
"I'm rebuilding"... we need a
community leader... and it's going
to be... you, Quark...

QUARK

Me? A Community Leader?

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

ODO

(why not?)

You have all the character references
of a politician.

QUARK

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

SISKO

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

ODO

(grumps)

'Honest' games, hmph...

A beat. Quark shakes his head.

QUARK

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

SISKO

Well, there is that risk... but then
you are a gambler, Quark...

(CONTINUED)

44 CONTINUED: (2)

44

ODO
... and a thief...

SISKO
(preparing to leave,
overly "sincere")
That poor kid is about to spend the
best years of his life in a Bajoran
prison. I'm a father myself. I
know what your brother must be going
through. The boy should be with his
family... not in a cold jail cell...
(beat)
Think about it.

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

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

On Quark's reaction...

45 INT. PROMENADE

45

Kira lifting heavy fragments of a broken wall, putting
them in a trash bin... usually far too mundane a job for
an officer. Sisko arrives, reacts.

SISKO
Major... ?

KIRA
(shrugs)
Everyone else is busy repairing the
primary systems...

She pauses to make a point.

KIRA
(challenging)
I suppose Starfleet officers aren't
used to getting their hands dirty...

Sisko raises an eyebrow, moves to pick up a nearby
fragment...

(CONTINUED)

45 CONTINUED:

45

KIRA

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

And as they start to load the fragments into the bin...
two passersby react to the odd sight...

SISKO

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

KIRA

Quark knows a sure bet when he sees
it.

(off Sisko's reaction)
This government will be gone in a
week... and so will you...

SISKO

What happens to Bajor then?

KIRA

Civil War....

SISKO

You think it's inevitable...

KIRA

(nods)...
The only one who can prevent it...
is Opaka.

SISKO

Opaka?

KIRA

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

46 TWO SHOT

46

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

(CONTINUED)

46 CONTINUED:

46

KIRA
(continuing)
Leaders of all the factions have
been trying to get to her... but she
lives in seclusion and rarely sees
anyone...

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

47 LOW ANGLE - THE OLD MONK

47

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

MONK #1
Commander. It is time.

He moves away...

48 SISKO'S FACE

48

reacts curiously and he stands...

49 WIDE

49

as he finds himself drawn to follow the Monk. On Kira's
reaction...

50 EXT. BAJOR CAPITOL CITY - DAY - ESTABLISHING (MATTE) 50

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

51 INT. MONASTERY - DAY

51

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

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

Sisko turns toward the shadows of an entry way to see

52 THE FIGURE OF A WOMAN

52

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

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

SISKO
(knowingly)
The Cardassians... ?

Opaka acknowledges, leads Sisko deeper into the Monastery... they reach a sacred area featuring a lovely reflecting pool in the center... Opaka sits not on a pulpit but in a casual area side by side with Sisko on a wooden bench...

KAI OPAKA
(continuing)
Your arrival has been greatly
anticipated.

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

(CONTINUED)

52 CONTINUED:

52

SISKO

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

KAI OPAKA

(interrupting)

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

SISKO

Mine?

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

KAI OPAKA

Have you ever explored your pagh,
Commander?

SISKO

Pagh?

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

KAI OPAKA

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

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

KAI OPAKA

(knowingly, with
sympathy)

Breathe.

SISKO

(uncomfortable)

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

KAI OPAKA

Breathe.

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

52 CONTINUED: (2)

52

KAI OPAKA

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

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

KAI OPAKA

Please come with me...

Opaka abruptly stands and Sisko reacts, rises ... as
well... she takes a tiny remote control out of her
pocket and when she touches it...

53 ANGLE - THE REFLECTING POOL (OPTICAL)

53

Disappears... it was a hologram... revealing a carved
stone stairway. Sisko follows her down...

54 INT. A SECRET CAVERN DEEP BELOW THE MONASTERY

54

Dark... mysterious... lit by candles... the...
stairway leads into a small dark cellar... Opaka, using
her cane, leads Sisko down the stairs...

KAI OPAKA

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

SISKO

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

(CONTINUED)

54 CONTINUED:

54

KAI OPAKA
I cannot give you what you deny
yourself...

SISKO
I'm sorry... ?

KAI OPAKA
Look for solutions from within,
Commander...

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

55 ANGLE (OPTICAL)

55

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

56 CLOSE ON SISKO

56

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

SISKO
What is it?

57 ANGLE

57

to see Opaka behind him...

KAI OPAKA
The tear of the prophet.

She disappears behind a rockface, and as Sisko reacts,
turns...

58 REVERSE ANGLE (OPTICAL)

58

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

59 EXT. BEACH - DAY

59

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

SISKO

What... the hell... Opaka?

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

60 HIS FEET

60

are burning on the sand...

SISKO

(re: his feet)

Ahh...

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

61 ANGLE

61

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

JENNIFER

Hey!

SISKO

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

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

SISKO

Jen... Jennifer... ?

JENNIFER

(unrecognized blinks)

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

SISKO

George? Jennifer... wait a minute,
this is impossible.

(CONTINUED)

61 CONTINUED:

61

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

JENNIFER

Are you okay?

SISKO

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

JENNIFER

We've met here... before?

SISKO

I was carrying...

He looks at the three lemonades.

SISKO

... three lemonades...

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

SISKO

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

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

SISKO

Have a lemonade.

JENNIFER

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

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

62 ALONG THE BEACH

62

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

(CONTINUED)

62 CONTINUED:

62

JENNIFER

Tell me the truth. Did we really
meet before?

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

SISKO

No.

JENNIFER

(smiles, shakes her
head)

So how did you know my name?

SISKO

I...

(beat)

George told me... at the party...

JENNIFER

Are you going to tell me your name?

SISKO

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

JENNIFER

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

SISKO

Your mother's going to adore me.

JENNIFER

You're awfully sure of yourself.

SISKO

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

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

JENNIFER

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

(CONTINUED)

62 CONTINUED: (2)

62

SISKO

No. Never before. And never again.

JENNIFER

Sure...

SISKO

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

JENNIFER

I don't know...

SISKO

You're supposed to say yes...

63 ANGLE (OPTICAL)

63

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

JENNIFER

I'll probably be sorry...

SISKO

(urgently)

Jennifer...

The green light spins out of the orb... The light envelopes him... The light clears... he is back in...

64 INT. CHAMBER UNDER THE MONASTERY (OPTICAL)

64

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

SISKO

(softly)

Is it some kind of holographic device?

(CONTINUED)

64 CONTINUED:

64

KAI OPAKA

No. What you experienced barely begins to reveal its powers... This orb appeared in the skies over ten thousand years ago. Eight others have been discovered since. Tradition says they were sent from the Celestial Temple. What they have taught us has shaped our theology.

She lifts the ark and hands it to Sisko... it is a meaningful, spiritual moment for Opaka... Sisko reacts with curiosity...

KAI OPAKA

It will lead you to the Temple.

SISKO

Excuse me... ?

KAI OPAKA

(with greater emphasis)

You must find the Celestial Temple and warn the prophets.

SISKO

(beat)

Warn "them" about what?

KAI OPAKA

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

(CONTINUED)

64 CONTINUED: (2)

64

SISKO

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

KAI OPAKA

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

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

KAI OPAKA

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

Off Sisko's reaction...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

65 EXT. SPACE - DS9 (OPTICAL) 65

Establishing. The Enterprise is still docked.

66 INT. SISKO'S QUARTERS 66

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

67 JAKE'S ROOM 67

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

JAKE

(sleepy)

What?

SISKO

(softly)

I was just thinking how much you look like your mom.

The boy smiles in his sleep and Sisko strokes his hair once and stands... and as he puts down the glove and baseball on a table and... moves out of the room...

KIRA'S COM VOICE

Kira to Sisko...

Sisko closes the door behind him before responding...

SISKO

Go ahead, Major.

KIRA'S COM VOICE

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

Off his reaction...

68 INT. PROMENADE

68

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

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

69

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

PIT BOSS

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

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

FEMALE VOICE

Dabo!

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

70 AT THE BAR

70

Quark moves to him...

QUARK

What'll you have, Commander?

SISKO

How's the local synthale?

QUARK

You won't like it.

(off Sisko's reaction)

I love the Bajorans... such a deeply
spiritual culture... but they make a
dreadful ale.

(CONTINUED)

70 CONTINUED:

70

QUARK

Don't ever trust an ale from a god
fearing people...

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

QUARK

(continuing)

... or a Starfleet Commander who has
one of your relatives in jail.

Over Sisko's even reaction...

PIT BOSS VOICE (O.S.)

Dabo!

71 EXT. SPACE - DEEP SPACE NINE (OPTICAL) (DAY #3)

71

The Enterprise still in dock. Another ship arriving.

SISKO (V.O.)

Station log. Stardate xxxxx.x.
The Enterprise has been ordered
to the Lapolis system. They're
scheduled to depart at zero-five
hundred hours after offloading
three runabout class vessels.
Meanwhile, our medical and science
officers are arriving... and I'm
looking forward to a reunion with
a... very old... friend.

72 INT. PROMENADE

72

Sisko and Kira ENTER from the Airlock Gate accompanied by
two officers in Starfleet blue uniforms... one is DOCTOR
JULIAN BASHIR, human, male, mid-twenties, wide-shouldered
with a boyish face, cocky with a little too much confidence.
He carries a shoulder bag. The other is LIEUTENANT JADZIA
DAX, late twenties, very attractive with a serene manner
and a dry, affectionate sense of humor...

KIRA

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

(CONTINUED)

72 CONTINUED:

72

SISKO

You and Doctor Bashir go ahead...

I'm afraid I have to put Lieutenant Dax right to work...

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

BASHIR

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

DAX

I'd be delighted.

Sisko raises an eyebrow at Bashir's interest... and they separate. We stay with Dax and Sisko as they move down a thoroughfare... There's a quick, familiar repartee to their exchanges...

SISKO

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

DAX

(slightly amused)
He's twenty seven. I'm twenty eight.

SISKO

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

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

DAX

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

SISKO

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

DAX

(teasingly)
Perhaps not.

A beat. Sisko grins, shakes his head...

(CONTINUED)

72 CONTINUED: (2)

72

SISKO

This is going to take some getting
used to.

DAX

Don't be ridiculous. I'm still the
same Dax...

(a beat)

... more or less...

They walk into a Turbolift.

73 INT. INFIRMARY

73

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

KIRA

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

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

BASHIR

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

KIRA

Frontier medicine?

BASHIR

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

Noting the arrogance...

KIRA

Did you...

BASHIR

(gung-ho)

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

(CONTINUED)

73 CONTINUED:

73

BASHIR

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

KIRA

(dry)

This wilderness is my home.

BASHIR

(reacts)

I didn't mean...

KIRA

(sharp, with sarcasm)

The Cardassians left behind a lot of
injured people, Doctor... you can
make yourself useful by bringing
some of your Federation Medicine to
the "natives"... you'll find
them a friendly, simple folk...

She EXITS... on his reaction... ...

74 INT. LABORATORY - CLOSE ON THE ORB (OPTICAL)

74

behind the forcefield...

SISK0

We do have one advantage. The monks
have been studying these things for
ten thousand years...

I've had our computers set up to interface with their
historical data banks...

DAX

That should give us something...

(CONTINUED)

74 CONTINUED:

74

SISKO

(acknowledges)

Soon as possible, Dax. The eight other orbs are undoubtedly in some Cardassian laboratory... being turned upside down and inside out...

She nods. He begins to leave...

DAX

Benjamin...

(he pauses)

I was happy when I heard you'd accepted this assignment... I'd been worried about you...

He looks at her evenly. With affection --

SISKO

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

She smiles and he EXITS. Dax takes a thoughtful beat, where to begin?... moves to a console...

DAX

Computer, create a chronological data base for all historical references to the orbs... plus...

(thinking, shrugs,
why not)

... all reports of any unexplained phenomena in Bajoran space... including all supernatural occurrences recorded in Bajoran mythology...

COMPUTER VOICE

Time parameters?

DAX

Ten millenia.

(CONTINUED)

74 CONTINUED: (2) 74

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

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

75 ANGLE - INCLUDE THE ORB (OPTICAL) 75

behind the forcefield... and as she studies it, her
 curiosity cannot be denied... she stands... walks over
 and after a beat, presses a panel... and the forcefield
 disappears... and the green light swirls out and envelops
 her... and when it disappears she is no longer in the
 laboratory but in...

76 OMITTED 76

77 INT. OPERATING ROOM - DAY 77

Dax is on an operating table, dressed in a hospital gown,
 reacts to the sudden change. She tries to get her bearings.
 Beside her on another table is a very old man (CURZON) who
 is dying...

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

The old man reaches out a frail hand and take her hand
 and squeezes it, smiles weakly at her... in the
 background, we can see glimpses of people standing
 (no faces) as though some kind of ceremony is taking
 place...

78 ANGLE - 'TWO SHOT' 78

to see the old man's table in the background of Dax's
 table... as a dripping wet worm-like symbiont is guided
 by a pair of hands out of an orifice in the general area
 of the human navel... and as the hands lift it, another
 pair of hands uses ritual gold surgical scissors to clip
 an umbilical connection to the old man...

79 ANGLE - DAX'S STOMACH 79

... when the worm is placed on her stomach, it burrows
its way into her orifice... and as it does...

80 DAX'S FACE 80

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

81 ANGLE (OPTICAL) 81

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

82 INT. LABORATORY (OPTICAL) 82

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

83 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL) 83

docked at the station...

84		84
thru OMITTED		thru
84A		84A

85 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

85

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

(CONTINUED)

85 CONTINUED:

85

LIEUTENANT

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

O'BRIEN

(a beat, shakes his
head)

That's okay. Thanks.

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

86 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM

86

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

O'BRIEN

Transport me to the Ops pad, Maggie...

TRANSPORTER CHIEF

Yessir.

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

PICARD (O.S.)

Mister O'Brien...

87 ANGLE

87

O'Brien turns to see Picard ENTERING...

PICARD

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

O'BRIEN

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

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

PICARD

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

O'BRIEN

Number three, yessir.

(CONTINUED)

87 CONTINUED:

87

PICARD

(nods)

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

O'BRIEN

(shrugs)

It's just a transporter room, sir.

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

O'BRIEN

Permission to disembark, Captain... ?

PICARD

Permission granted.

88 ANGLE (OPTICAL)

88

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

O'BRIEN

Energize.

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

89 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

89

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

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

90 INT. COMMANDER'S OFFICE (DAY #4) 90

Sisko presses a control panel on a monitor and watches a recorded transmission from a university chancellor on Earth...

CHANCELLOR (MONITOR)

Just a follow-up, Ben... that old house you asked about on Moravian Lane is available... it's yours if you want it... we look forward to hearing your decision.

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

KIRA'S COM VOICE

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

He rises...

SISKO

On screen.

Walks out to his balcony...

91 INT. OPS (OPTICAL) 91

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

O'BRIEN

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

KIRA

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

O'BRIEN

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

(sarcastic)

Surely a coincidence that the Enterprise just left...

(CONTINUED)

91 CONTINUED:

91

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

SISKO

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

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

92 OMITTED 92

93 INT. PROMENADE 93

showing the Gestapo-like arrival of a dozen Cardassian officers. The officers move toward Quark's.

94 INT. COMMANDER'S OFFICE 94

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

DUKAT

Good day, Commander.

SISKO

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

DUKAT

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

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

DUKAT

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

SISKO

Frankly, no.

DUKAT

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

He stands up again, uncomfortable...

DUKAT

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

(CONTINUED)

94 CONTINUED:

94

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

DUKAT

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

SISK0

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

DUKAT

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

SISK0

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

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

DUKAT

So what did you think of Kai Opaka?

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

DUKAT

Oh, I stay informed... I know you
went to the surface to see her...

I understand you brought back one of the orbs. We thought
we had them all. Perhaps we could have an exchange of
information, pool our resources.

(CONTINUED)

94 CONTINUED: (2) 94

SISKO

I don't know anything about an orb.

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

DUKAT

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

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

95 EXT. SPACE - DEEP SPACE NINE (OPTICAL) 95

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

96 INT. LABORATORY 96

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

DAX

What do you know about the Denorios Belt?

SISKO

Your basic charged plasma field... nobody gets anywhere near it unless they have to...

DAX

(summarizing what she's reading)

In the twenty-second century, a ship carrying Kai Taluno was disabled for several days in the Denorios Belt... where he claims he had a vision...

SISKO

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

(CONTINUED)

96 CONTINUED:

96

DAX

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

SISKO

Are we reduced to chasing metaphors
to solve this?

She punches up some data on the monitor...

DAX

That's not all. At least five of
the orbs were found in the Denorios
Belt...

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

DAX

(continuing)

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

Pressing another panel...

(CONTINUED)

96 CONTINUED: (2) 96

DAX
(continuing)
And thirty-two years ago, a vessel
of unknown origin appeared there,
carrying a single lifeform, a species
never encountered before.

I've correlated all these reports in one analysis grid...

97 ANGLE 97

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

DAX
(lightly)
Our Celestial Temple?

SISK0
(shrugs)
Worth a look...

98 RESUME 98

Sisko stands... thoughtful...

SISK0
We've got a Cardassian on our back
doorstep... we need to get by them
undetected...

A thoughtful beat...

99 INT. QUARK'S 99

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

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

(CONTINUED)

99 CONTINUED: 99

Groans from the crowd...

100 ANGLE TO FIND QUARK 100

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

QUARK

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

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

O'BRIEN

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

QUARK

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

People start to leave... Quark sees the Cardassians with
all the gold before them...to one of his female croupiers...

QUARK

Give them something to put their
winnings in...

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

101 EXT. SPACE - THE CARDASSIAN WARSHIP (OPTICAL) 101

102 INT. CARDASSIAN WARSHIP - CLOSE ON THE KNAPSACK 102

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

CARDASSIAN OFFICER #1 (O.S.)

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

Group laughter...

(CONTINUED)

102 CONTINUED: 102

CARDASSIAN OFFICER #2 (O.S.)
Leave it to Starfleet to ruin a fine
day...

We never see who's talking as the knapsack is placed...

103 INSIDE THE LOCKER (OPTICAL) 103

And the door is shut... a beat later the knapsack begins to
lose its shape...

103A 103A
thru OMITTED thru
103C 103C

104 INT. CARDASSIAN SHIP - ON THE LOCKER (OPTICAL) 104

Panning down to the floor to see an odd substance, the
same color as the knapsack, oozing out of the cracks of
the locker...a pool of it forming on the floor and then...

105 ANGLE (OPTICAL) 105

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

106 INT. RUNABOUT 106

Dax and Sisko ENTER, take their positions...

SISKO

(to com)

Rio Grande to Ops. Initializing pre-launch systems...

KIRA'S COM VOICE

Confirmed.

107 EXT. SPACE - DEEP SPACE NINE (OPTICAL) 107

A hatch in the habitat ring opens and a runabout class ship comes up on an elevator...

108 INT. OPS 108

Kira and O'Brien at master control...

O'BRIEN

Major, scanners are picking up fluctuations in the Cardassian's energy distribution net...

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

(CONTINUED)

108 CONTINUED: 108

KIRA
Their computer's crashing... shields
and sensors are down...
Odo's done it... Ops to Rio Grande...

SISKO'S COM VOICE
Go ahead.

109 INT. RUNABOUT 109

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

KIRA'S COM VOICE
We're in business.

SISKO
Beginning launch sequence.

110 INT. OPS 110

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

111 OMITTED 111

112 EXT. SPACE - DEEP SPACE NINE (OPTICAL) 112

is launched...

113 INT. OPS 113

A signal flashes on the master control panel...

KIRA
Odo's reached the transport site...

O'BRIEN
Trying to lock on...

A short delay...

(CONTINUED)

113 CONTINUED:

113

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

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

O'BRIEN
Dammit, what's the problem...

Finally, he kicks the control panel and...

114 ANGLE (OPTICAL)

114

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

KIRA
Nice work, Constable.

Odo acknowledges with a simple nod...

115 EXT. SPACE - RUNABOUT (OPTICAL)

115

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

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

116 EXT. SPACE - RUNABOUT (OPTICAL) 116

as it moves at impulse into the Denorios Belt marked by streaks of blue space dust...

117 INT. RUNABOUT (OPTICAL) 117

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

DAX

Approaching grid perimeter...

SISKO

Slowing to one quarter impulse.

A beat. They check their sensors.

DAX

(reacting to something)

Computer, give me visual at bearing two-three, mark two-one-seven, range thirty-one hundred kilometers...

The monitor display looks routine... off Sisko's look

118 INT. OPS 118

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

DAX'S COM VOICE

(curious)

Sensors are picking up unusually high proton counts...

SISKO'S COM VOICE

Setting a new course to those coordinates...

119
thru OMITTED
120

119
thru
120

121 OMITTED 121

122 EXT. SPACE - RUNABOUT (OPTICAL) 122

moving deeper into the belt...

123 123
thru OMITTED thru
124 124

125 INT. RUNABOUT (OPTICAL) 125

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

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

(CONTINUED)

125 CONTINUED: 125

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

126 EXT. SPACE - RUNABOUT (OPTICAL) 126

going into a giant rip in the fabric of space...

127 INT. RUNABOUT (OPTICAL) 127

Sisko and Dax trying to maintain control...

SISKO

Sensors are not functioning...

DAX

(trying a panel)

We've lost all contact with the space station...

128 INT. OPS 128

O'Brien at his station...

O'BRIEN

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

Kira moving to join him...

KIRA

What the hell is happening out there?

O'BRIEN

I don't know, sir. They're just...

(beat)

...gone.

129 EXT. SPACE - RUNABOUT (OPTICAL) 129

inside the wormhole now... an incredible light show surrounds the small craft...

130 INT. RUNABOUT (OPTICAL) 130

Sisko is frantically checking readings...hitting panels...

(CONTINUED)

130 CONTINUED:

130

SISKO
(reacting)
Are your navigational readings going
crazy?

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

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

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

131 EXT. SPACE - RUNABOUT (OPTICAL)

131

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

132 INT. RUNABOUT (OPTICAL)

132

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

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

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

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

DAX
Computer, basis of identification...

(CONTINUED)

132 CONTINUED:

132

COMPUTER VOICE

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

SISK0

(stunned)

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

DAX

(checking panels)

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

A beat as they take this all in...

SISK0

Could this be how the orbs found their way into the Bajoran system?

DAX

Not an unreasonable hypothesis.

SISK0

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

As they exchange a glance...

DAX

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

SISK0

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

133 EXT. SPACE - RUNABOUT (OPTICAL)

133

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

134 INT. RUNABOUT (OPTICAL) 134

A light show in the window again... Dax works her panels...

DAX

I'm modifying the flight program to
compensate for the spatial
discontinuities. We should have a
smoother ride this time.

The shaking subsides a bit.

SISK0

(noticing something)
Did you reduce impulse power?

DAX

No...

SISK0

We're losing velocity...

135 EXT. SPACE - RUNABOUT (OPTICAL) 135

in the wormhole... slowing down...

136 INT. RUNABOUT (OPTICAL) 136

Reactions. Checking panels...

DAX

(confused)
Power output is still constant...

(CONTINUED)

136 CONTINUED:

136

SISK0
Increasing impulse reactor output...

He does... nothing...

DAX
(shakes her head)
Forward velocity down to one twenty
kph...

He reacts... rechecking his controls...

SISK0
(incredulous)
Engine output is running seventy
percent above normal...

DAX
Down to eighty kph...

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

SISK0
(working)
Disengaging engines.

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

137 ANGLE 137

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

SISKO
Inside a wormhole?

DAX
Capable of supporting life...

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

DAX
We've just landed...

SISKO
On what?

Off reactions...

138 EXT. RUNABOUT - DAY 138

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

139 EXT. BRUTAL TERRAIN DAY (OPTICAL) 139

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

140 EXT. RUNABOUT - DAY 140

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

141 EXT. GARDEN - DAY 141

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

DAX
It's beautiful.

He glances at her... and as we change

142 ANGLE TO FAVOR HIM 142

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

(CONTINUED)

142 CONTINUED:

142

SISKU

You have a strange eye for beauty...

143 ANGLE TO FAVOR HER

143

in the garden...

DAX

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

144 ANGLE TO FAVOR HIM 144

in the rugged terrain...

SISKO
(sarcastic)
It can't beat the sulfuric mine pits
of Hadas Four...

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

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

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

She reacts...

145 ANGLE FAVORING HER 145

In the garden.

DAX
We're standing in a garden...

146 ANGLE FAVORING HIM (OPTICAL) 146

in his rugged terrain...

SISKO
We're standing on a rockface...
(beat)
Do you see the storms?

147 ANGLE FAVORING HER 147

In the garden.

DAX
Clear as a summer's day.

Their eyes are caught by...

148 ANGLE (OPTICAL) 148

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

(CONTINUED)

148 CONTINUED:

148

SISKO
You see it too...

DAX

Yes.

149 ANGLE - FAVORING HIM (OPTICAL)

149

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

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

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

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

150 ANGLE - FAVORING HER (OPTICAL)

150

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

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

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

151 DAX (OPTICAL)

151

Her garden collapses around her into a spinning orb-like ball of green light on a blank background with only residual traces of the garden's color...

152 SISKO (OPTICAL)

152

being sucked into an incredibly bright, white light... winds and storms crash around him...

153 HIS P.O.V. (OPTICAL) 153

he sees the orb forming around Dax... but there is nothing he can do about it... she is completely wrapped by the orb and suddenly it is flung into the sky as...

154 SISKO (OPTICAL) 154

disappears into the light...

155 EXT. SPACE - THE WORMHOLE (OPTICAL) 155

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

156 INT. OPS 156

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

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

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

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

More information in from the sensors.

KIRA
Are the Cardassian sensors picking
it up?

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

Kira takes a moment to consider the consequences...

(CONTINUED)

156 CONTINUED: 156

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

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

He presses some panels...

157 ANGLE ON THE TRANSPORTER PAD (OPTICAL) 157

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

158 WHITE SCREEN (OPTICAL) 158

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

159 RUSH OF IMAGES (OPTICAL) 159

Five separate shots, each less than a second:

--Jennifer looking up at the beach...

--Sisko's bloody burned hands...

--A baseball landing in a catcher's mitt...

--Locutus on a viewscreen...

--Jennifer's lifeless hand on the Saratoga...

160 THE WHITE SCREEN - SISKO'S EYES (OPTICAL) 160

As before. Heartbeat... breathing...

SISKO
Who are you?

No response... only -

161 ANOTHER RUSH OF IMAGES (OPTICAL) 161

Five, each less than a second --

--Jennifer and Sisko kissing on a picnic
blanket...

--A newborn baby crying...

--Kai Opaka looking at Sisko as she cups her
hand to his face...

--Jake fishing at the pond...

--Doran's mournful eyes in the burning
corridor of the Saratoga...

162 THE WHITE SCREEN - SISKO'S EYES (OPTICAL) 162

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

SISKO

Who are you?

163 EXT. BEACH - DAY 163

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

(NOTE: In this, and all "alien" sequences, extras beyond
50 feet of camera position will be considered atmosphere
and continue normal activity... all extras within 50 feet
will be considered aliens and will stop whatever they're
doing and display curiosity about Sisko and what he's
saying...)

JENNIFER ALIEN

(observing him)

It is corporeal... a physical
entity...

164 THE WHITE SCREEN - SISKO'S EYES (OPTICAL) 164

SISKO

What... what did you say...

165 INT. ENTERPRISE OBSERVATION LOUNGE - PICARD 165

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

PICARD ALIEN

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

165A REVERSE ANGLE - SISKO IN THE OBSERVATION LOUNGE 165A

stares at Picard, understands that he is not really Picard
but an alien...

(CONTINUED)

165A CONTINUED:

165A

SISKU

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

A woman's hand cups his face and turns him to...

166 INT. MONASTERY - DAY

166

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

KAI OPAKA ALIEN

What are you?

167
thru OMITTED
169

167
thru
169

170 REVERSE ANGLE - SISKO 170

SISKO
My species is known as human.

We come from a planet called Earth...

170A EXT FISHING POND - DAY 170A

JAKE ALIEN
Earth?

Sisko groping for definition... motions to the surrounding environment...

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

Jake alien looks around with no appreciation... A beat... this is getting nowhere...

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

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

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

171 THE WHITE SCREEN - SISKO'S EYES (OPTICAL) 171

As before. Heartbeat. Breathing.

172 EXT. SPACE - DEEP SPACE NINE (OPTICAL) (DAY #5) 172

Establishing.

173 INT. OPS 173

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

(CONTINUED)

173 CONTINUED:

173

DAX

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

BASHIR

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

DAX

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

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

O'BRIEN

The Cardassians are leaving their
position... on a course toward the
Denorios Belt.

Kira frowns... stands...

KIRA

(beat, to O'Brien)
What would it take to move this
station to the mouth of the wormhole?

O'BRIEN

This isn't a starship, Major.

We've got six working thrusters to power us and that's it.
A hundred-sixty million kilometer trip would take two months.

KIRA

It's got to be there tomorrow.

O'BRIEN

(reacts)
That's not possible, sir...

KIRA

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

(CONTINUED)

173 CONTINUED: (2)

173

KIRA
(beat, character
movement)
And I have to admit that claim will
be a lot stronger if there's a
Federation presence to back it up.

DAX
(calm, to O'Brien)
Couldn't you modify the subspace
field output of the deflector
generators... just enough to create
a low-level field around the
station...

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

O'BRIEN
So we could lower the inertial mass...

DAX
(nods)
If you can make the station lighter,
those six thrusters would be all the
power we'd need.

O'BRIEN
(a beat, it might
just work)
This whole station could break apart
like an egg if it doesn't work...

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

(CONTINUED)

173 CONTINUED: (3)

173

O'BRIEN

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

DAX

Advise Starfleet that we will require
their assistance.

O'Brien acknowledges.

KIRA

You have Ops, Mister O'Brien...

(on the move)

Lieutenant, you're with me... you
too, Doc, time to be a hero...

BASHIR

Yes, Sir...

As they EXIT... hold a beat on Odo, thoughtful...

174 INT. CORRIDOR

174

Kira, Dax and Bashir on the move... after a beat, Odo
moves up behind them, keeping step... Kira reacts to his
arrival...

KIRA

Constable...

ODO

(anticipating, right
on top of her voice)

This is a security matter... I'm in
charge of security...

KIRA

... security here, on the station.

She stops.

KIRA

(continuing)

I can't justify taking you into this
wormhole... we don't know what we're
dealing with in there... it could be
hostile...

(CONTINUED)

174 CONTINUED:

174

ODO

Major, I was found in the Denorios
Belt. I don't know where I came
from... no idea if there are any others
like me.

(CONTINUED)

174 CONTINUED: (2)

174

ODO

All my life, I've been forced to
pass myself off as one of you...
always wondering who I really am.
The answers to a lot of my
questions may be somewhere on the
other side of that wormhole.

He walks ahead...

ODO

You coming?

She reacts, glances at the others... and after a beat,
they follow...

175 EXT. SPACE - DEEP SPACE NINE (OPTICAL)

175

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

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FIVE

ACT SIX

FADE IN:

176 THE WHITE SCREEN - SISKO'S EYES (OPTICAL) 176

Heartbeat. Breathing.

177 INT. ENTERPRISE OBSERVATION LOUNGE - SUBJECTIVE POV 177

ECU OF PICARD
as we saw him in Act Two... but it
is an alien Picard...

PICARD ALIEN
The creature must be destroyed before
it destroys us.

178 INT. SARATOGA BRIDGE - VIEWSCREEN - SUBJECTIVE POV - 178
LOCUTUS (OPTICAL)

LOCUTUS ALIEN
It is malevolent.

179 EXT. BASEBALL FIELD - SUBJECTIVE POV - DAY 179

BASEBALL PLAYER
in a batter's box, dressed in a
Chicago Cubs uniform of the early
1920s...

BATTER ALIEN
Aggressive. Adversarial.

180 INT. OBSERVATION LOUNGE 180

PICARD ALIEN
It must be destroyed.

INTERCUTTING:

181 THE WHITE SCREEN - SISKO'S EYES (OPTICAL) 181

SISKO
I'm not your enemy... I've been sent
here by the people you contacted.

PICARD ALIEN
Contacted?

(CONTINUED)

181 CONTINUED:

181

SISKO

With your devices. Your orbs...

PICARD ALIEN

We seek contact with other
lifeforms... not corporeal creatures
who would annihilate us...

SISKO

I have not come to annihilate
anyone...

182

thru OMITTED

183

182

thru

183

184 INT. SARATOGA BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

184

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

(CONTINUED)

184 CONTINUED:

184

LOCUTUS ALIEN
Destroy it now...

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

SISKO
My species respects life above all
else. Can you say the same?

The aliens study him... Sisko is making progress...

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

184A INT. CHAMBER BENEATH THE MONASTERY - OPAKA ALIEN

184A

KAI OPAKA ALIEN
Prove it?

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

185 EXT. FISHING POND - DAY

185

JAKE ALIEN
"Experiences" - what is this?

(CONTINUED)

185 CONTINUED:

185

SISKO

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

JAKE ALIEN

Past?

SISKO

Things that happened before now...

Jake Alien looks at him blankly...

SISKO

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

JAKE ALIEN

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

SISKO

(beginning to
understand)
Then, for you, there is no linear time...

186 EXT. BEACH - DAY

186

JENNIFER ALIEN

"Linear time" - what is this?

SISKO

My species lives in one point in
time. And once we move beyond that
point, it becomes the past.

The future... all that is still to come... does not exist
yet for us...

JENNIFER ALIEN

(alarmed)
Does not exist yet?

SISKO

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

A beat as Jennifer alien studies him and...

187 THE WHITE SCREEN - SISKO'S EYES (OPTICAL) 187

Breathing. Heartbeat. A long beat.

188 EXT. SPACE - DEEP SPACE NINE (OPTICAL) 188

Establishing...

189 INT. OPS - MOVING WITH O'BRIEN 189

Bajoran supernumeraries in the background... with much urgency... lights dip and thrum... a definite strain to the reactor sounds...

O'BRIEN

Dammit! Computer... analyze subspace field integrity...

COMPUTER VOICE

Power frequency imbalance is preventing field closure...

O'BRIEN

Add reactor three to the power grid...

190 EXT. SPACE - DEEP SPACE NINE (OPTICAL) 190

to see the warp field struggle to zap into place but reaches only about ninety percent of the station...

191 INT. OPS 191

As before.

COMPUTER VOICE

Partial field established.

Instability at twelve percent.

O'BRIEN

(reacts)

Partial field.

(a beat, dammit)

Is the station's inertial mass low enough to break orbit?

COMPUTER VOICE

Procedure is not recommended.

(CONTINUED)

191 CONTINUED: 191

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

COMPUTER VOICE
Affirmative.

O'BRIEN
All right. Initiate transit mode,
three-axis stabilization. Engage
thrusters.

192 EXT. SPACE - DEEP SPACE NINE (OPTICAL) 192

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

193 ANGLE - LONG SHOT (OPTICAL) 193

as the station breaks orbit, gaining velocity...

194 OMITTED 194

195 INT. OPS 195

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

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

(CONTINUED)

195 CONTINUED:

195

O'BRIEN
(on the move, to

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

COMPUTER VOICE
Warning - Subspace field collapse in

sixty seconds...

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

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

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

O'BRIEN
(to himself)
A good time to find out.

Starts working panels furiously...

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

COMPUTER VOICE
Procedure is not recommended.

O'BRIEN
Dammit... transfer the energy!

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

O'BRIEN
(reacts)
Cancelled it...

(CONTINUED)

195 CONTINUED: (2) 195

COMPUTER VOICE
Warning. Subspace field collapse in
thirty seconds.

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

COMPUTER VOICE
Field collapse in fifteen seconds...

O'BRIEN
Now!

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

196 EXT. SPACE - DEEP SPACE NINE (OPTICAL) 196

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

197 INT. OPS 197

The vibration stops and the whine disappears...

COMPUTER VOICE
Field energy now within flight
tolerances.

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

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

198 EXT. SPACE - RUNABOUT (OPTICAL) 198

As it moves through space...

199 INT. RUNABOUT (OPTICAL)

199

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

DAX

The Cardassian warship is in visual range...

KIRA

On screen...

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

KIRA

(sighs, angry)

They're going right to it...

Kira taps her fingers, thoughtfully...

BASHIR

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

ODO

(forever cynical)

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

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

KIRA

This is the Federation ship Yangtze Kiang... Major Kira Nerys in command...

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

DUKAT

Yes, Major...

KIRA

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

DUKAT

Wormhole? Which wormhole is that?

(CONTINUED)

199 CONTINUED:

199

KIRA

I strongly suggest you do not proceed.
We encountered a hostile lifeform
inside...

DUKAT

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

ODO

(wearily impatient)

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

DUKAT

(sarcastic)

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

(beat)

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

The monitor returns to the Cardassian ship moving
through the Denorios Belt... Odo glances at Bashir --

ODO

So much for reason...

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

200

Heartbeat. Breathing.

201 EXT. PARK - DAY

201

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

JENNIFER ALIEN

(identifying herself)

Jennifer.

(CONTINUED)

201 CONTINUED:

201

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

SISK0

Yes, that was her name.

JENNIFER ALIEN

She is part of your existence.

SISK0

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

JENNIFER ALIEN

But she is part of your existence.

SISK0

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

JENNIFER ALIEN

"Lost" - what is this?

SISK0

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

JENNIFER ALIEN

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

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

SISK0

No, this is the truth...

Standing, taking in the setting...

SISK0

This day... this park... it was
almost... fifteen years ago. Far in
the past. It was a very important
day to me... a day that shaped every
day that followed.

That is the essence of a linear existence... each day
affects the next...

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

202 ANGLE (OPTICAL)

202

An exact duplicate of the setting we were just in...

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

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

JENNIFER
To what?

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

JENNIFER
So you like children... ?

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

203 ANGLE - TWO SHOT

203

Losing Jennifer Alien and Sisko.

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

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

JENNIFER
That almost sounds like a domestic inquiry...

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

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

204 SISKO AND JENNIFER ALIEN

204

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

SISKO

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

JENNIFER ALIEN

"Pleasure" - what is this?

SISKO

Good feelings... happiness...

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

205 DORAN, THE WOMAN IN THE FIERY CORRIDOR

205

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

206 REVERSE ANGLE - INT. CORRIDOR (OPTICAL)

206

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

DORAN ALIEN

(what's the problem?)

This is your existence...

SISKO

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

TACTICAL OFFICER ALIEN

Why?

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

(CONTINUED)

206 CONTINUED:

206

SISKO

Because this was the day... I lost
Jennifer...

(beat, exhausted)

... And I don't want to be here...

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

JENNIFER ALIEN

Then why do you exist here?

SISKO

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

JENNIFER ALIEN

(confused)

You exist here.

He looks at her... feeling miserable, confused... but
before any further explanations can be attempted...
something startling occurs... the images freeze and
begin to melt away...

INTERCUTTING:

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

207

SISKO

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

But like an optical version of film getting caught in a
projector and burning, the effect continues, accompanied by
an eerie shrill sound we've never heard before...

208 EXT. SPACE - THE CARDASSIAN SHIP (OPTICAL)

208

is at the mouth of the wormhole which illuminates as the
ship goes into it...

209 INT. SARATOGA CORRIDOR (OPTICAL) 209

As it completely MELTS away...

210 THE WHITE SCREEN - SISKO'S EYES (OPTICAL) 210

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

211 EXT. SPACE - THE CARDASSIAN SHIP (OPTICAL) 211

in the wormhole, being shaken badly by the turbulence... after a beat, it comes out the other end into the Gamma Quadrant, a piece of the ship clearly damaged by the experience...

212 THE WHITE SCREEN - SISKO'S EYES (OPTICAL) 212

Stronger heartbeat... heavier breathing... the shrill sound growing...

212A INT. RUNABOUT (OPTICAL) 212A

As before...

DAX

We should be reaching the wormhole coordinates in two minutes...

KIRA

Slowing to one-third im-...

Suddenly in the windows there is a huge explosion...

213 EXT. SPACE - THE RUNABOUT (OPTICAL) 213

The wormhole shattering into a million points of light in front of them...

214 EXT. SPACE - THE CARDASSIAN SHIP (OPTICAL) 214

as the shattering continues behind them... leaving them stranded...

215 THE WHITE SCREEN - SISKO'S EYES (OPTICAL) 215

The shrill sound ends abruptly. Stronger heartbeat... heavier breathing...

216 EXT. SPACE - THE RUNABOUT (OPTICAL) 216

as the last sparks of the collapsed wormhole blink out...

217 INT. RUNABOUT

217

The turbulence ends... off reactions...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT SIX

ACT SEVEN

FADE IN:

218 EXT. SPACE - DEEP SPACE NINE (OPTICAL) (DAY #6) 218

still in transit, moving into the Denorios Belt...

219 INT. OPS (OPTICAL) 219

seeing the Runabout crew on screen...

O'BRIEN

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

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

DAX

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

O'BRIEN

Should I turn this thing around and
go back?

INTERCUTTING:

220 INT. RUNABOUT 220

O'Brien on monitors.

KIRA

What's your position?

O'BRIEN

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

KIRA

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

O'BRIEN

Aye, sir.

(beat)

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

(CONTINUED)

220 CONTINUED: 220

KIRA
I'm sure you have.

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

O'Brien acknowledges and...

221 EXT. SPACE - RUNABOUT (OPTICAL) 221
as it continues to search for some trace of the wormhole.

222 THE WHITE SCREEN - SISKO'S EYES (OPTICAL) 222
Heartbeat. Breathing.

SISKO
Talk to me. Are you still there?

What just happened?

223 EXT. BEACH - DAY - JENNIFER ALIEN (OPTICAL) 223
walking along the shore as seen in Act Two...

JENNIFER ALIEN
More of your kind.

INTERCUTTING:

224 THE WHITE SCREEN - SISKO'S EYES (OPTICAL) 224

SISKO
Another ship... in the wormhole?

JENNIFER ALIEN
"Wormhole" - what is this?

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

225 INT. OBSERVATION LOUNGE 225

PICARD ALIEN
It is terminated.

225A REVERSE ANGLE - SISKO IN THE OBSERVATION LOUNGE

225A

SISKO
Terminated...

PICARD ALIEN
Our existence is disrupted whenever
one of you enters the passage...

226 INT. SARATOGA BRIDGE

226

CONN OFFICER ALIEN
Your linear nature is inherently
destructive.

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

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

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

SISKO
We don't...

227 EXT. FISHING POND - DAY - JAKE ALIEN

227

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

SISKO
We use past experience to help guide
us.

(CONTINUED)

227 CONTINUED:

227

SISKO

(beat)

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

JAKE ALIEN

Me?

SISKO

My son, Jake...

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

228

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

JENNIFER ALIEN

The child with Jennifer.

SISKO

Yes.

JENNIFER ALIEN

(beginning to understand)

Linear... procreation... ?

SISKO

(acknowledges)

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

JENNIFER ALIEN

(remembering)

"The sound of children playing."

229 CATCHER'S MITT

229

as a bat swings and misses a ball as it pops into the glove. Pan up to find Jake Alien is the catcher... and a batter stands in front of him, both dressed in Chicago Cubs uniforms of the early 1920s...

BATTER ALIEN

(accusing)

Aggressive. Adversarial.

230 REVERSE ANGLE - EXT. BASEBALL FIELD - DAY

230

Sisko is standing on a pitcher's mound, wearing a Cubs cap circa 1923... and his Starfleet uniform... in the background, the rest of the Cubs' team works out...playing catch, hitting fungos, fielding... a few spectators and reporters in straw hats mill about...

SISKO

(correction)

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

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

JAKE ALIEN

"Baseball" - what is this?

SISKO

I was afraid you'd ask that...

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

SISKO

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

Jake alien blinks with confusion, Sisko pauses...
regroups... getting another idea... his delivery
growing with confidence as he continues...

SISKO

The rules aren't important... what's
important is -- it's linear.
Every time you throw this ball a
hundred different things can happen
in the game... he might swing and
miss, he might hit it... the point
is you never know... you try to
anticipate, set a strategy for all
the possibilities as best you can...
but in the end it all comes down to
throwing one pitch after another...
and seeing what happens. With each
new consequence, the game begins to
take shape...

(CONTINUED)

230 CONTINUED:

230

BATTER ALIEN

(grasping the meaning)

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

SISKU

(beat)

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

JAKE ALIEN

(flabbergasted)

You value your ignorance of what is
to come?

SISKU

(acknowledges, driving
home his point)

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

231 JAKE ALIEN

231

studies him curiously for a beat...

232 SISKU

232

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

233 HIS HANDS

233

bloody and burned as they were at the Saratoga.

234 INT. SISKO'S QUARTERS

234

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

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

Sisko reacts, confused and...

234A THE WHITE SCREEN SISKO'S EYES (OPTICAL)

234A

Heartbeat. Breathing.

235 INT. OPS - VIEWSCREEN (OPTICAL)

235

Three huge Cardassian warships approaching.

236 REVERSE ANGLE

236

to see Kira at Master watching... with O'Brien, Dax, Odo
and Bashir at various stations...

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

O'BRIEN
Aye, sir...

DAX
They're hailing us.

KIRA
On screen.

237 ANGLE - INCLUDE VIEWSCREEN (OPTICAL)

237

The Cardassian Commander, GUL JASAD, appears, in his ready
room.

KIRA
This is First Officer Kira Nerys.

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

KIRA
He's not available.

(CONTINUED)

237 CONTINUED:

237

JASAD

I'm not used to talking to Bajoran
Majors.

KIRA

I'm all you've got.

A beat. He studies her.

JASAD

I am Gul Jasad of the Cardassian
Guard, Seventh Order. Where is our
warship?

KIRA

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

JASAD

(explodes)

What wormhole? Our sensors show no
indication of a wormhole in this
sector.

KIRA

That's because it just collapsed.

DAX

We believe it was artificially
created. That may be why our sensors
never picked up any of the usual
quantum fluctuation patterns...

JASAD

(furious)

You expect me to believe that someone
created a wormhole...
And now conveniently disassembled it?

He cuts transmission... his ship reappears on the
viewscreen.

238 ANGLE - LOSING THE VIEWSCREEN

238

DAX

They're flooding subspace with anti-lepton interference... it'll cut off our communications with Starfleet...

O'BRIEN

... They're powering up their forward phasers...

KIRA

Red alert. Shields up.

O'BRIEN

What shields?

Kira reacts but before she has any time to pursue the matter...

DAX

They're hailing us again.

KIRA

(beat)

Open the channel.

239 ANGLE INCLUDE THE VIEWSCREEN (OPTICAL)

239

JASAD

We do not accept your explanation. Somehow you have destroyed our warship...

KIRA

Gul Jasad, I assure you...

JASAD

We demand the unconditional surrender of this station. Or we will open fire.

A beat. Kira glances at O'Brien, his last warning about the shields in her mind... back to the viewscreen.

KIRA

(playing for time)

I'll need at least a day to make the necessary preparations...

JASAD

You have an hour.

He signs off... his ship reappears... on reactions...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT SEVEN

ACT EIGHT

FADE IN:

A240 EXT. SPACE - DEEP SPACE NINE (OPTICAL)

A240

B240 INT. OPS

B240

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

O'BRIEN

I can transfer all available power
to establish partial shields around
critical areas... but if they hit
the docking ring we'll sustain heavy
damage...

KIRA

(to Odo)

Constable... if you would coordinate
moving all personnel to safer
locations...

He acknowledges, EXITS... turning to Dax --

KIRA

What was the last reported position
of the Enterprise?

DAX

At least twenty hours away...

KIRA

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

BASHIR

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

O'BRIEN

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

KIRA

I assume, Mister O'Brien you would
agree that surrender is not a
preferable option...

(CONTINUED)

B240 CONTINUED:

B240

O'BRIEN

You know what they do to their
prisoners, sir...

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

KIRA

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

Off his reaction...

C240 THE WHITE SCREEN - SISKI'S EYES (OPTICAL)

C240

Heartbeat. Breathing.

240 INT. SARATOGA - SISKI'S QUARTERS

240

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

SISKI

What is the point of bringing me
back again to this?

241 ANGLE - JENNIFER ALIEN AND JAKE ALIEN

241

are there (Jennifer is dressed in her park costume, Jake
is wearing his fishing pond costume)... standing by
Jennifer's dead body and Jake's unconscious body still on
the floor...

JAKE ALIEN

We do not bring you here.

JENNIFER ALIEN

You bring us here.

TACTICAL OFFICER ALIEN

You exist here.

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

(CONTINUED)

241 CONTINUED: 241

SISKO

Then give me the power to lead you
somewhere else.

242 ANGLE - KAI OPAKA ALIEN 242

is there...

KAI OPAKA ALIEN

We cannot give you what you deny
yourself...

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

(CONTINUED)

242 CONTINUED:

242

KAI OPAKA ALIEN
Look for solutions from within,
Commander...

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

Sisko turns to see --

243 THE SAME SETTING

243

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

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

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

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

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

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

SISKO
I was ready to die with her...

TACTICAL OFFICER ALIEN
"Die" - what is this?

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

JENNIFER ALIEN
The termination of their linear existence.

244 JENNIFER ALIEN AND SISKO (OPTICAL)

244

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

TACTICAL OFFICER

Now, sir...

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

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

SISKO #2

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

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

SISKO

I've never left this ship...

JENNIFER ALIEN

You exist here.

SISKO

I... exist here.

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

SISKO

(to the aliens)

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

JENNIFER ALIEN

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

Sisko shakes his head, slowly...

(CONTINUED)

244 CONTINUED:

244

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

JENNIFER ALIEN
So you choose to exist here.

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

JENNIFER ALIEN
It is not linear.

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

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

Sisko gently places down the hand of his dead wife... and as he accepts that this is really the end of their life together, tears roll down his cheeks, and he begins to truly grieve his loss. After a beat, he stands, turns... and Jennifer alien is no longer there. He understands, exchanges a meaningful look with the remaining three aliens (Tactical officer, Opaka, and Jake). In this moment, two species have finally come to understand one another... to learn from one another... it is the end to the conflict... and the beginning of a shared future. There is something of a compassionate smile from Jake alien that seals it... and as Sisko returns his smile with an appreciation for what they've done...

245 THE WHITE SCREEN - SISKO'S EYES (OPTICAL) 245

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

246 EXT. SPACE - DEEP SPACE NINE (OPTICAL) 246

as before.

247 INT. OPS 247

Kira, O'Brien, Dax, Bashir... O'Brien and Dax at their stations...

DAX
Their lead ship is hailing us...

Gul Jasad wants an answer...

(CONTINUED)

247 CONTINUED:

247

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

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

KIRA
All right, then, let's give them our
answer. Fire six photon torpedoes
across Jasad's bow...

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

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

O'BRIEN
Aye, sir...

247A
thru OMITTED
247B

247A
thru
247B

248 EXT. SPACE - DEEP SPACE NINE (OPTICAL)

248

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

249 INT. OPS

249

O'BRIEN
An urgent hail from Jasad.

BASHIR
I guess we got his attention.

KIRA
On screen.

250 ANGLE INCLUDE THE VIEWSCREEN (OPTICAL)

250

Jasad is incredulous, but calm.

JASAD
This is your answer... ?

(CONTINUED)

250 CONTINUED:

250

KIRA

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

JASAD

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

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

KIRA

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

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

O'BRIEN

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

Off her reaction...

251 EXT. SPACE - DEEP SPACE NINE (OPTICAL)

251

with the Cardassian ships.

252 INT. CARDASSIAN BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

252

Jasad studies the space station on a viewscreen...

his officer ENTERS...

CARDASSIAN OFFICER #3

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

JASAD

What are their defenses... ?

(CONTINUED)

252 CONTINUED:

252

CARDASSIAN OFFICER #3

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

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

JASAD

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

Jasad throws the padd across the room... the officer
reacts...

JASAD

Somehow they've created a massive
illusion of duranium shadows...

CARDASSIAN OFFICER #3

But if it is not an illusion...

JASAD

It is!

CARDASSIAN OFFICER #3

Why risk a confrontation? The Fourth
Order can be here in a day...

JASAD

And so can Starfleet.

A beat on Jasad as he thinks and...

253 INT. OPS (OPTICAL)

253

The Cardassian ships on the viewscreen... the crew waits for
a response...

(CONTINUED)

253 CONTINUED:

253

Dax is checking readings...

DAX

The lead ship is sending out a
subspace message asking for
reinforcements...

BASHIR

Yes...

KIRA

(watching the screen)
Too soon for a victory celebration,
Doctor... Mister O'Brien... ?

O'BRIEN

The ships are being deployed into a
standard attack formation, sir...

The mood quickly shifts...

KIRA

(quietly)
Battle stations.

254 EXT. SPACE - DEEP SPACE NINE (OPTICAL)

254

as the Cardassians open fire... several charges explode
off the docking ring...

255 INT. PROMENADE

255

Emphasis on Jake among civilians, who have crowded onto
the main street... The area shakes with the impact of the
explosions...

256 INT. OPS

256

Shaking...

O'BRIEN

They may just be testing us...
I could run a pulse compression
wave through the phaser banks,
put out a blast that'll make them
think twice...

KIRA

Do it...

257 EXT. SPACE - DEEP SPACE NINE (OPTICAL) 257

firing a huge phaser blast... connecting with a Cardassian ship that sustains some damage... but the Cardassians' fire shows no sign of letting up, connects with a lower deck...

258 INT. OPS 258

A major shake...

KIRA

Damage report...

O'BRIEN

Direct hit... level fourteen...
empty storage bays... no casualties...

DAX

Shields are down to twenty-seven
percent...

259 EXT. SPACE - DEEP SPACE NINE (OPTICAL) 259

The firing continues... the Cardassians connect with a fuel depot... there is a huge explosion... and a series of three smaller ones along a fuel line moving toward...

260 INT. PROMENADE (OPTICAL) 260

where an underground line ruptures and the fire shoots through the floor... people scatter as Bajoran supernumeraries move quickly with 24th century fire gear to contain the damage... Jake quickly moves out of the path of the surging crowd...

261 INT. OPS 261

DAX

(reacts)

A fuel conduit has ruptured on the
Promenade...

KIRA

(to O'Brien)

Can you divert the main power flow...

O'BRIEN

(trying in vain)

Controls are locked...

(CONTINUED)

261 CONTINUED: 261

ODO'S COM VOICE
Odo to Ops...

KIRA
Go ahead.

261A INT. PROMENADE 261A

Odo tending to the wounded...

ODO
(barking)
I've got wounded people down here.
Have you seen that doctor of yours
anywhere?

261B INT. OPS 261B

BASHIR
(reacts)
I'm on my way...

He EXITS onto a turbolift as the station is rocked with
more explosions...

O'BRIEN
(on the move)
I'm gonna have to shut down the
primary power flow or the whole
promenade will go up...
(beat, to himself)
Bloody Cardies... we just fixed the
damned thing...

He swings down into the hole and begins to work on a
console...

261C EXT. DEEP SPACE NINE (OPTICAL) 261C

The Cardassians continue to pummel the station with phaser
shots...

261D INT. PROMENADE (OPTICAL) 261D

The lights go out... Jake and others react with alarm...

the shaking continues... moving to find Bashir arriving
carrying a medical kit... he moves to Odo who is with a
civilian Bajoran woman who is seriously hurt... her neck
is bleeding... Bashir takes a quick tricorder reading,
his eyes narrow with concern...

(CONTINUED)

261D CONTINUED:

261D

Bashir grabs Odo's hand, surprising him, guides his finger to the woman's neck..

BASHIR

Press there... hard...

ODO

(awkward)

Look, Doctor... maybe I should find you someone...

BASHIR

(fully in command)

Hold it there...

And Odo blinks, obeys... Bashir uses a laser-like device on the woman's neck as he holds her head firm with his free hand (3 hands are clearly required...) his eyes determined to save her... the lights come back on... reactions...

261E INT. OPS

261E

O'Brien still in the hole...

O'BRIEN

That should do it for awhile...

He climbs out of the hole as another blast rocks the station...

DAX

Shields at eighteen percent and falling...

(CONTINUED)

261E CONTINUED:

261E

O'BRIEN

I might still be able to give you
one more phaser blast, Major...

A beat. Kira knows it's hopeless... there's nothing else
to do...

KIRA

No. Signal the lead Cardassian ship
that we will proceed with the...

DAX

Major... I'm reading a huge neutrino
disturbance... fifteen kilometers
off the forward docking ring...

(beat)

It's the wormhole...

KIRA

On screen...

262 ANGLE TO INCLUDE VIEWSCREEN (OPTICAL) 262

in time to see the wormhole explode into view...

263 REACTIONS 263

interactive lighting from the screen...

264 INT. CARDASSIAN BRIDGE - JASAD (OPTICAL) 264

As he reacts to the viewscreen displaying the wormhole...
behind the space station...

KIRA'S COM VOICE

What did I tell you, Jasad...
There's your wormhole...

265 EXT. SPACE - THE WORMHOLE (OPTICAL) 265

to see an incredible sight... the tiny Runabout towing
out the huge Cardassian warship, at the end of a tractor
beam, fifty times larger than the Starfleet vessel...

266 INT. OPS

266

SISKO'S COM VOICE
Rio Grande to D-S Nine.

KIRA
On screen. Go ahead, Commander.

267 ANGLE INCLUDING VIEWSCREEN (OPTICAL)

267

SISKO
Sorry to be so late. I didn't know
we were having company.

Clear me for docking, Mister O'Brien.

O'BRIEN
Aye, sir... cleared for pad "C"...

On the elated reactions of the crew...

268 EXT. SPACE - DEEP SPACE NINE (OPTICAL)

268

as the Runabout moves in for a landing...

269 INT. PROMENADE

269

As Sisko walks out of the Airlock gate... he sees the
damage to the promenade, reacts, begins to move
perceptibly faster... and he has to be wondering about
Jake... he finally finds Odo and Bashir tending to the
wounded... The Bajoran woman is lying nearby, conscious,
holding hands with a member of her family...

SISKO
Casualties... ?

BASHIR
Thirteen injured, Commander...
No fatalities...

And Sisko's face eases immediately... as he looks up to
motion in the crowd and Jake pushes to the front...
smiles as he sees his father... Sisko grins back with
love... and as the boy runs to him, Sisko lifts him up
and carries him on his hip... and as they move down the
thoroughfare...

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

270 EXT. SPACE - DEEP SPACE NINE (OPTICAL) (DAY #7) 270

Revealing the Enterprise arriving...

SISKO (V.O.)

Station log, Commander Benjamin Sisko,
stardate xxxxx.x. The lifeforms who
created the wormhole have agreed to
allow safe passage for all ships
traveling to the Gamma Quadrant.
With the arrival of the Enterprise,
the Cardassians have left the area...

271 INT. COMMANDER'S OFFICE 271

there is no hostility from Sisko this time... Sisko has
finished briefing him as we cut in...

PICARD

(dry)

I suspect the sight of their warship
being towed back by a Starfleet
runabout took the heart out of their
fight...

SISKO

We're not done with the Cardassians
yet. Not with the strategic
importance that wormhole brings...

PICARD

It seems you've put Bajor
on the map, Commander.
This will shortly become a
leading center of commerce and
scientific exploration...

(beat, with purpose)

And for Starfleet, one of our most
important posts...

(CONTINUED)

271 CONTINUED:

271

SISKO

(beat)

Captain, regarding our conversation
about someone to replace me...

PICARD

I'm sorry, I haven't had the time to
communicate it to Command...

SISKO

I would prefer you ignore it, sir.

PICARD

(a beat, not so easy)

I'm not sure I can, Commander...
are you certain this is what you
want? Because we can't afford to
have someone in command here who...

SISKO

I'm certain, sir.

A beat, Picard studies the man, quite a different man than
the last time they met. He nods... shakes his hand...

(CONTINUED)

271 CONTINUED: (2) 271

PICARD
Good luck, Sisko.

And Picard EXITS... a beat on Sisko...

272 EXT. BAJOR - MATTE SHOT - ESTABLISHING (OPTICAL) 272

273 INT. MONASTERY - DAY (OPTICAL) 273

Pulling back on the ark as it's placed in a shrine...
moving to find Opaka is doing it... and that Sisko is
with her...

SISKO
Fourteen planets have already
contacted us about opening trade
routes through Bajoran space...

KAI OPAKA
(nods)
The prophets have been generous...

SISKO
I have a lot to tell you about your
prophets, Opaka.

KAI OPAKA
Does it surprise you that I do not
wish to hear?

Sisko reacts, not really.

KAI OPAKA
Perhaps that is why a disbeliever
was destined to seek them -- one
should never look into the eyes of
his own gods...

SISKO
(wanting to share at
least this much)
It was... quite a journey.

KAI OPAKA
It was only the beginning of your
journey, Commander.

On Sisko's reaction...

274 EXT. SPACE - DEEP SPACE NINE (OPTICAL) 274

275 INT. PROMENADE 275

Moving to find Bashir walking with Odo...

BASHIR

So, where can someone practice with
his phaser around here... ?

Losing them as they pass by Quark's, where the camera
picks up Kira and Quark coming out of the door...

QUARK

New rules... ?

KIRA

You're can't cheat every customer
who walks through your door anymore,
Quark... you're a community leader
now...

Quark puts his hand on her hip in an awkwardly intimate
move...

QUARK

Very well. Very well. Perhaps we
could discuss these new rules over a
drink...

KIRA

If you don't take that hand off my
hip, you'll never be able to raise
another glass with it.

She gives him a hard look, moves away... as Quark
watches...

QUARK

I love a woman in uniform...

And he gasps as he sees Dax pass in her uniform with
O'Brien... and we stay with them as they walk to greet
Sisko arriving from the Turbolift...

DAX

Benjamin, three Frunalian science
vessels are requesting permission to
dock...

O'BRIEN

Problem is we've been retro-fitting
the Airlocks, sir.

(CONTINUED)

275 CONTINUED:

275

O'BRIEN

Half of them were damaged during the
move... and most of the others when
the Cardassians blew out the...

And during the above, they move away out of earshot as we
pull back for the wide shot of the activity...

276 EXT. SPACE - DEEP SPACE NINE (OPTICAL)

276

as the three ships arrive...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT EIGHT

THE END