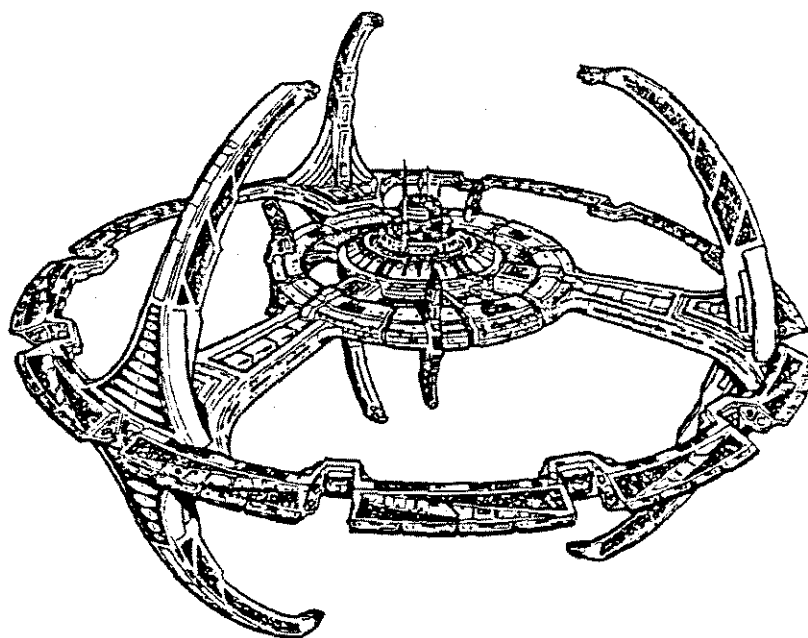


STAR TREK

DEEP SPACE NINE



Rejoined

FINAL DRAFT

AUGUST 30, 1995

STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE

REVISED

08/30/95 be
08/31/95 pk
08/31/95 yw
*09/01/95 gn

"Rejoined"
(fka "Once Joined")

#40510-478

Story
by
Rene Echevarria

Teleplay
by
Ronald D. Moore
&
Rene Echevarria

Directed
by
Avery Brooks

FINAL DRAFT

August 30, 1995

STAR TREK: DS9 - "Rejoined" - 08/30/95 - CAST

STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE

"Rejoined"

CAST

SISK0

EDDINGTON

KIRA

LENARA

ODO

BEJAL

BASHIR

PREN

DAX

QUARK

NURSE'S COM VOICE

O'BRIEN

WORF

Non-Speaking

N.D. SUPERNUMERARIES

N.D. BAJORAN DIGNITARIES

Non-Speaking

N.D. ENGINEERS

N.D. FERENG1 WAITER

STAR TREK: DS9 - "Rejoined" - 08/30/95 - SETS

STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE

"Rejoined"

SETS

INTERIORS

DEEP SPACE NINE
AIRLOCK CORRIDOR
CAPTAIN'S OFFICE
DAX'S QUARTERS
LENARA'S QUARTERS
PROMENADE/SECOND LEVEL
QUARK'S/SECOND LEVEL
REPLIMAT
WARDROOM

DEFIANT

BRIDGE
CORRIDOR
ENGINE ROOM/UPPER LEVEL
JEFFERIES TUBE

EXTERIORS

DEEP SPACE NINE
DEFIANT
ARTIFICIAL WORMHOLE

STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE

"Rejoined"

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

AUDRID	ODD-rid	
BARROS	BEAR-os	*
BEJAL OTNER	bay-ZHAL OUGHT-ner	
EMONY	EM-oh-knee	
GRAVITON	GRAV-ih-tahn	
HANOR PREN	HUH-nor PREN	
HASPERAT	HAS-per-uht	
JORAN	juh-RAN	
JUMJA	JUM-juh	*
LELA	LEE-luh	
LENARA KAHN	le-NAR-ruh CON	
MOBA	MOW-buh	
NILANI	nih-LAW-nee	
RATANA	ruh-TAH-nuh	
ROKEG	ROW-keg	*
SORABAR	SOAR-ah-bahr	*
TOBIN	TOE-bin	
TORIAS	tuh-RYE-us	
VEDEKS	VEH-decks	
VEKLAVA	ve-KLAH-vuh	

STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE

"Rejoined"

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 INT. QUARK'S

1

BASHIR and QUARK are closely watching DAX at the bar. She is in the middle of performing a magic trick for them. As they watch, she shows them there's nothing in her hands... nothing up her sleeves... then her expression changes to one of puzzlement... she seems to have something caught in her throat... she frowns and struggles for a moment... then produces an EGG from her mouth. She smiles in triumph.

QUARK

It's a trick.

BASHIR

Of course it's a trick. But do you know how she did it?

QUARK

She probably had the egg beamed directly into her mouth from one of the Transporters.

DAX

Actually, one of my previous hosts used to dabble in sleight of hand.

*

BASHIR

Tobin by any chance?

DAX

That's right.

BASHIR

He sounds like the type. Painfully shy, introverted, a certain lack of confidence... just the kind of person who would begin looking for ways to dazzle people with his "magical" abilities.

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED:

1

QUARK

(still thinking about
the trick)

She swallowed the egg before she
came into the bar. Then she
regurgitated it on cue. Quite
disgusting, actually.

*

DAX

Wrong again.

SISKI'S COM VOICE

Sisko to Dax. I'd like to see you
in my office, Commander.

*

DAX

(to com)

On my way, Benjamin.

(to Quark)

Don't worry, Quark. I'm sure
you'll figure it out eventually.

Dax peers closely at Quark's ear... frowns at something
she sees.

DAX

(continuing)

Hmm... no wonder you can't figure
it out.

QUARK

(worried)

What?

Dax reaches out and pulls a strip of LATINUM out of his
ear.

DAX

Your head's full of latinum.

She hands him the latinum with a smile and then heads
for the door. Bashir stands and applauds.

BASHIR

Ladies and gentlemen: The Amazing
Jadzia Dax!

*

*

Dax gives a mock bow on her way out. Bashir smiles and
picks up his drink. Quark is not amused. He pockets
the latinum... waits a beat... and then puts a hand to
his ear just in case there are any more strips in
there...

CUT TO:

2 INT. CAPTAIN'S OFFICE

2

SISKO is waiting as Dax ENTERS. He's serious, a man about to deliver some potentially disturbing news.

SISKO

Have a seat.

Dax sits and Sisko moves to sit on the edge of the desk close to her.

SISKO

(continuing)

A Trill science team is on its way to the station. They're coming to conduct field tests on an experimental technique for creating artificial wormholes.

DAX

Sounds interesting.

SISKO

It's an important project and I've agreed to let them use the Defiant for their experiments.

(beat)

But I thought you should know that the leader of the Trill science team... is Doctor Lenara Kahn.

*

Dax sits back in her chair and we can see that she's caught completely off-guard. She's shocked and can't quite decide exactly how she feels at this moment, but tries to maintain her usual calm.

DAX

Kahn? Lenara... Kahn?

*

SISKO

That's right.

(gently)

You have about three months worth of leave accumulated. Why don't you take some of it? We can get along without you for a while.

DAX

(wry)

Am I that dispensable around here?

SISKO

(joking)

We won't even notice you're gone.

Dax smiles a little, but lets out a long breath and makes her decision.

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED:

2

DAX
No. I'll stay. I can handle it.

SISKO
You sure?

DAX
I'm sure. I've never let my past
lives interfere with my job and
I'm not going to start now. I'll
be fine.

SISKO
Okay.

DAX
But thanks for giving me the
option.

SISKO
Any time... Old Man.

Dax smiles and then EXITS.

CUT TO:

3 EXT. SPACE - DEEP SPACE NINE (OPTICAL)

3

A TRILL TRANSPORT SHIP is docking at one of the docking
ports.

4 INT. AIRLOCK CORRIDOR

4

Dax is waiting outside the airlock as WORF and KIRA
arrive.

DAX
They... just finished docking.

Kira and Worf nod and wait for the door to open. Kira
notices that Dax seems a little distracted.

KIRA
Something wrong?

DAX
No.

But before Kira can pursue the matter any further, the
airlock doors OPEN and a male Trill scientist in his
50's named PREN steps out.

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED:

4

PREN

I'm Doctor Hanor Pren of the Trill science ministry.

KIRA

I'm Major Kira Nerys, and I'd like to welcome you to Deep Space Nine. This is our Strategic Operations Officer, Commander Worf, and of course our Science Officer Commander Dax.

*
*

Worf nods to Pren and Dax shakes his hand. Just then, two more Trill scientists, BEJAL -- a man in his mid-thirties, and LENARA KAHN -- a striking woman about the same age, ENTER from the airlock. Dax stiffens slightly, but keeps her emotions tightly under wraps.

PREN

Allow me to introduce our team leader Doctor Lenara Kahn and her brother Doctor Bejal Otner.
(introducing them to the Trill)
Major Kira, Commander Worf, and Commander Dax.

Everyone shakes hands and says hello... then comes the moment when Dax and Lenara finally face each other squarely. This is an awkward moment for both of them that they're trying very hard not to show.

DAX

It's been a long time.

LENARA

Yes, it has.

They hold each other's gaze just a fraction of a second too long, and Kira takes notice. Dax and Lenara break the moment and turn back to the others.

WORF

If you will come with me, I'll show you to your quarters.

*

Worf heads off down the Corridor and the Trill scientists follow him. Dax hangs back and Kira stops her for a moment.

KIRA

You know that woman?

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED: (2)

4

DAX
Oh, I know her.
(beat)
She used to be my wife.

Kira reacts as we...

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

(NOTE: Episode credits fall over opening scenes)

5 INT. QUARK'S

5

Quark, Bashir, and Kira are at the bar. Quark is struggling to make sense of Dax's Trill backstory.

QUARK

So let me get this straight.
Dax's first host was named Lela.
Right?

BASHIR

I think so.

KIRA

Lela Dax, that's right...

QUARK

Then Lela dies and the Dax
sybiont goes to a man named...
Tobin. And after Tobin dies, then
it's on to Emony... then...
(trying to remember)
... Torias.... Audrid...

KIRA

No, no. Audrid, then Torias.

QUARK

Sorry. Audrid, Torias, Joran,
Curzon... and then finally Jadzia.
(Bashir nods)
And this Doctor Lenara Kahn person
was once married to...?

BASHIR

Torias.
(beat)
But of course she wasn't Lenara in
those days.

QUARK

I knew it couldn't be that simple.

BASHIR

The Kahn sybiont that's now
joined to Lenara, used to be
joined to a woman named Nilani.
It was Nilani who married Torias
Dax.

*

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED:

5

KIRA

But Torias was killed in a shuttle
accident...

BASHIR

And so Nilani became a widow.
Years later, when she died, the
Kahn symbiont was joined to
Lenara.

*

An N.D. Ferengi Waiter moves behind the bar and begins
mixing some drinks.

QUARK

And now... Nilani is Lenara, and
Torias is Jadzia. So that makes
Lenara Jadzia's ex-wife.

*

*

KIRA

It's a little more complicated
than that, Quark.

*

QUARK

I'm sure it is. But to be honest,
I'm sorry I brought the whole
thing up. It's giving me a
headache.

BASHIR

Must be all that latinum rattling
around in there.

Quark gives him a dirty look, then Bashir reaches out
and seems to pluck a strip of LATINUM from Quark's ear.

BASHIR

I was right. You really should
have that looked at.

The N.D. Ferengi Waiter looks surprised and he leans in
close to peer into Quark's ear, looking for more
latinum. Quark glares at him.

QUARK

(deadly)

Get back to work.

The Waiter hurriedly returns to his job. Kira and
Bashir are clearly amused, but Quark isn't.

QUARK

(to Bashir & Kira)

If you'll excuse me...

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED: (2)

5

Quark heads off with an annoyed expression. Bashir and Kira take their drinks and head for a table of their own.

KIRA
(to Bashir)
Dax teach you that?

BASHIR
(nods)
Next time I want to pull a rabbit
out of his ear.

*

They sit down.

KIRA
One thing I don't understand is
why Dax and Lenara can't just...
pick up where they left off. I
mean, if they're still in love
with each other --

BASHIR
Ah, but there's the rub. Even if
they do harbor feelings for each
other, it's strictly against the
rules of Trill society for them to
acknowledge it in any way.

KIRA
The "rules"?

BASHIR
It's more of a... taboo, really.
Having a relationship with a lover
from a past life is called,
"reassociation," and the Trill
feel very strongly that it's...
unnatural.

KIRA
Unnatural? How can it be
unnatural for a married couple to
resume their marriage?

BASHIR
The whole point of joining is to
allow the symbiont to accumulate
experiences over the span of many
lifetimes. But in order to move
on from host to host, the symbiont
has to let go of the past... let
go of parents, children, siblings,
even spouses.

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED: (3)

5

KIRA

I don't understand how two people who've fallen in love, and made a life together, can be forced to just... walk away from each other because of some... taboo.

(beat)

There must be some Trill that "reassociate" with people from their past.

BASHIR

I asked Dax the same question. And it seems there have been a few cases...

*
*

KIRA

And what happened?

*

BASHIR

(grim)

They were exiled from the Trill homeworld.

KIRA

That would mean their symbionts would never be joined to new hosts.

BASHIR

Exactly. When the hosts die, the symbionts would die with them.

(beat)

So you see, however Dax may feel about Lenara, she's not going to risk that. To a joined Trill, nothing is more important than protecting the life of the symbiont. Nothing.

*
*
*

Off Kira's thoughtful look on this grim truth...

CUT TO:

6 OMITTED

6

7 EXT. SPACE - DEEP SPACE NINE (OPTICAL)

7.

Re-establishing the station.

8 INT. DAX'S QUARTERS

8

Dax is fixing her hair in a mirror, while wearing black pants and a black t-shirt. Her dress uniform is on a nearby chair and she's running a little late. The door CHIMES.

DAX

Come in.

Sisko, wearing his dress uniform ENTERS.

SISKO

I had a feeling you weren't going to be ready. I don't think Curzon was ever on time in his life. He was even late for his hundredth birthday party as I recall.

*

DAX

You're never going to let me forget that are you?

SISKO

Do you know how long I planned that party?

DAX

Three months. I know.

She finishes with her hair and Sisko picks up the uniform coat and helps her into it. (There's no combadge on the coat.) Dax begins to fasten the coat while checking herself in the mirror.

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED:

8

SISKO

(casual)

It's still not too late to back out of this reception, you know.

DAX

You know me. I hate to miss a party.

SISKO

I'm serious.

DAX

I know. And I appreciate what you're trying to do... but I'm going to be working with Lenara for the next week, so I better get used to being around her.

Dax finishes with the coat and grabs a combadge off a table and puts it on. She turns and gives him a confident smile.

DAX

Stop worrying about me, Benjamin. I'll be fine.

Sisko glances down at her combadge which is upside down. He reaches out and fixes it for her. They share a wry smile and then head for the door.

CUT TO:

9 INT. WARDROOM

9

A short time later. The formal reception is in full swing, and Bashir, Kira, ODO, and Worf are here in their dress uniforms, along with a few N.D. Bajoran Dignitaries, and a couple of N.D. Starfleet Officers. At the moment, Sisko is making a toast to the Trill science team -- Bejal, Pren, and Lenara, also in formal attire -- and everyone has a glass of champagne. Dax is watching from a discreet distance away.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED:

9

SISKO
(to scientists)
... so in the spirit of
friendship, we welcome you to Deep
Space Nine and wish you success in
creating the galaxy's first
artificial wormhole.

Everyone clinks glasses and wallahs "Here, here" as
they drink a toast. The party now breaks up into more
casual groupings as people begin to talk among
themselves.

9A ON KIRA, WORF, BEJAL & LENARA

9A

Who form a small conversation group.

LENARA
(to Worf)
I understand you'll be commanding
the Defiant during our
experiments.

WORF
Yes.

Worf is content to leave it at that, but the two Trill
are trying to make small talk.

BEJAL
(to Worf)
You must be very excited.
(off his look)
To... be a part of a potentially
history-making project.

WORF
I am... looking forward to it.

LENARA
(with a smile)
I think Mister Worf is less than
enthusiastic about commanding a
research mission. It's not
exactly what every Klingon dreams
about.

KIRA
(light)
What do Klingons dream about,
Worf?

(CONTINUED)

9A CONTINUED:

9A

Worf is a little tired of having his tail twisted. He fixes Kira with a deeply serious look.

WORF

(very serious)

Things that would send cold chills down your spine and wake you in the middle of the night. Believe me... it is better that you do not know.

He glowers at them for a moment, impressing them with his seriousness, then moves off. As soon as he turns away, we see just the slightest hint of a smile play about his lips.

KIRA

I can never tell when he's joking.

LENARA

(with humor)

Maybe it is "better that we do not know."

*

Off their faces as they share a small laugh...

9B ON DAX & ODO

9B

as they talk.

DAX

I thought you liked parties, Odo.

ODO

I enjoy parties that are given for my friends. But these diplomatic receptions... welcoming receptions... good-bye receptions... it all seems...

DAX

Unnecessary?

ODO

Exactly. I've never understood the humanoid obsession with bringing together groups of people and forcing them to interact socially.

Dax notices that Worf has gotten himself a drink and is off by himself.

(CONTINUED)

9B CONTINUED:

9B

DAX
Not all humanoids enjoy these
functions.

Odo follows her gaze and watches as a smiling Bajoran diplomat approaches Worf, ready to make small talk. Worf gives the man a "find someone else to talk to" look and the diplomat makes a hasty retreat.

ODO
Hmm. I think I may finally be
starting to understand Mister
Worf...

*
*
*

Odo moves off as Dax smiles to herself.

10 DAX

10

moves through the crowd over toward the food table and picks up a plate for herself. Nothing looks very appetizing, but she keeps poking around anyway. A few beats pass, then Lenara casually walks up next to her and picks up her own plate.

LENARA
(re: food)
Well... this looks wonderful.

DAX
Mmmm-hmm.

LENARA
I take it most of this is Bajoran.

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED:

10

DAX

(nods)

Hasperat... moba fruit...
veklava...

*
*

LENARA

Of course, I'm not in the least
bit hungry.

DAX

Me neither.

LENARA

(quiet, with humor)

But I suppose we should load our
plates anyway since the whole room
is watching us.

*

Dax glances over her shoulder and catches a glimpse of almost everyone in the room suddenly turning away, hoping not to be seen watching the two of them. Dax can't help but smile as she turns back to the table and joins Lenara in putting food on her plate.

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED: (2)

10

DAX
Quite an audience.

LENARA
Seems a shame to disappoint them.
We should probably do something.

DAX
We could get into a screaming
match... start throwing things at
each other...

LENARA
Not bad. Or I suppose we could
throw ourselves at each other...
profess our undying love and our
complete disregard for Trill
society. *

DAX
(laughs)
Doctor Pren would probably have a
heart attack.

LENARA
Forget about him, my brother's
head would explode. He's been a
nervous wreck ever since we
arrived. *

DAX
I know the feeling.

LENARA
Well, I'll tell you what I told
him: we're both mature adults and
we can handle this.

DAX
I agree completely. It's going to
be fine.

They look at each other and share a smile of
confidence.

LENARA
(without looking away)
They're watching again.

DAX
I know. I guess we better get
used to it.

Lenara extends a hand in an overly formal gesture and
gives Dax a mock serious look.

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED: (3)

10

LENARA
(mock serious)
Thank you, Commander Dax. I
appreciate your insightful
commentary on Bajoran cuisine.

*

Dax shakes her hand with the same serious look.

DAX
(mock serious)
It was my pleasure, Doctor Kahn.

Then, at the same moment, the two of them turn and look at the crowd -- again everyone turns away and tries to look like they weren't watching this whole exchange. Dax and Lenara share a smile of amusement and then Lenara walks off to join her brother. Dax feels much more relaxed as Bashir moves over to her.

BASHIR
Well... that seemed to go well.

DAX
I never doubted it.

She takes a sip of her champagne and moves away from the table, seemingly content and relaxed again. But once she's away from Julian, she pauses for a moment... no one is watching her... and she glances over at Lenara across the room.

11 DAX'S POV

11

Lenara is listening to Bejal talk to Sisko... after a beat, she seems to sense someone watching her and she turns her head slightly, and now looks directly at Dax.

12 NEW ANGLE

12

as Dax and Lenara's eyes meet across the room, and the physical distance between them allows them to drop the light joking pretense. For a fleeting moment, they really see each other for the first time... and there is definitely something in the air between them. They both break the moment and look away at the same time.

Dax lets out a long breath and is about to take a sip from her glass of champagne... but then she sees that her hand is trembling.

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED:

12

She puts it down and composes herself, but it's clear that she is anything but "fine".

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

13 EXT. SPACE - THE DEFIANT (OPTICAL) 13

The ship is docked at the station.

14 INT. DEFIANT - ENGINE ROOM 14

O'BRIEN and EDDINGTON are listening to Bejal describe the modifications that will need to be made to some of the Defiant's systems. Dax, Pren, and Lenara are nearby, and two N.D. Starfleet Engineers are also listening.

BEJAL

After we launch our target drone, the Defiant will have to generate a subspace tensor matrix in the twenty-five to thirty thousand cochrane range. Then the drone will send out a magneton pulse which should react with the matrix and create an opening in the space-time continuum.

*

EDDINGTON

How long will we have to keep generating the matrix?

*

*

PREN

Two minutes, maybe less. Once the wormhole forms, we can shut down the tensor matrix.

O'Brien thinks about this for a moment.

O'BRIEN

We'll need to reroute the pre-ignition plasma from the impulse deck down to the auxiliary intake to get that much power...

(beat)

But I think we can do it.

BEJAL

Excellent.

PREN

We'll also need to download our parameters for the matrix into one of your computers.

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED:

14

DAX

We'd better use the main computer.
I don't think the engineering
computer can handle it.

O'BRIEN

I agree.

DAX

(to Pren & Lenara)

If you'll come with me, we can go
up to the Bridge and begin
downloading the data.

*

*

PREN

All right.

As the three of them EXIT...

CUT TO:

15 INT. DEFIANT - BRIDGE

15

A few hours later. Dax is at the helm, working the console and checking a PADD, while Pren and Lenara are at a side station. Pren is working on a portable Trill computer about the size of a briefcase which he's set up on the console near Lenara. No one else is on the Bridge.

LENARA

(off console)

Everything looks good here. Dax?

DAX

The back-up navigation program is
still showing some calibration
drift. I think some data may have
been lost in the start-up routine.

PREN

(off portable console)

Well, that explains the seven
percent fall-off in AFR ratios I
keep seeing.

(sigh)

There must be a problem in the
diagnostic sub-routines. I have
a recalibration unit back in my
quarters that might solve the
problem.

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED:

15

DAX

I'll have someone bring it here. *

PREN

No, no. I need a break anyway. *

Pren EXITS, leaving Dax and Lenara alone for the first time. A few beats of silence pass as they both work their consoles.

LENARA

Now I'm getting a drop-off in the triple-R output. We might have a bigger problem than the diagnostic subroutines.

Dax gets up and moves over to take a look at Lenara's console.

DAX

Don't panic yet. It could just be a transtater failure. Happens all the time.

Dax is right next to Lenara as they both work the console. A few beats of silence.

LENARA

(quiet)

I wasn't panicking.

DAX

It's just an expression.

(looks at her in
surprise)

Sorry.

LENARA

(quickly)

No, I'm sorry. Forget it.

They work a moment longer.

LENARA

(continuing)

It's just that... you always used to -- I mean Torias always used to tell Nilani that she was panicking about things... making a big fuss over nothing.

*

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED: (2)

15

DAX

Well... Torias could be
insensitive at times...

(beat)

But... you have to admit, Nilani
did do her share of overreacting.

LENARA

(getting flustered)

That's because you were a pilot
and it made me nervous -- made her
nervous... Torias being a pilot
made Nilani nervous.

She trails off in frustration for a moment.

LENARA

(continuing)

I've never had quite this much
trouble sorting out my feelings
from those of a past host.

DAX

I know what you mean.

LENARA

(rueful smile)

Probably another reason why we're
not supposed to spend much time
together... we'd just get lost in
the past.

Dax looks at her and they share a look that neither of
them can hold for very long... there's an emotional
element here that is beginning to make itself more
apparent. Dax moves back to the helm console.

DAX

Let's try running the transtater
diagnostic again.

LENARA

Okay.

They work silently for a moment, then Dax stops...
struggles with herself for a moment, talks quietly
without turning around.

DAX

(quiet)

Nilani wasn't panicking the day
before Torias died.

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED: (3)

15

Lenara freezes, the words cutting right through her, but she's just as afraid to turn and look at Dax as Dax is to look at her.

LENARA

No?

DAX

No. Torias should've listened to her. The shuttle wasn't ready for a full impulse test... but Torias had to do it anyway... and he was wrong.

(beat)

And whatever part of me is still Torias... is very sorry... and wishes he'd listened to you.

Lenara turns back and they look at each other for a long beat. There are jagged feelings on both sides that are bubbling dangerously close to the surface and they both know it. Lenara finally nods her thanks, not trusting her voice and Dax manages a small smile in response. Dax finally breaks the moment.

DAX

Well... we still have a lot of work to do.

LENARA

Right.

They both resume work. Dax tries to focus, but her mind is not on the work.... She finally decides to take some action.

DAX

Would you be interested in dinner?
(quickly)

I mean I'm having dinner with some friends and I thought... maybe you'd like to... join us?

It's a delicate dance they're doing... the minuet of two people trying not to risk rejection by the other, but both wanting to be together.

LENARA

I wouldn't want to intrude on your friends...

DAX

It's actually... not that big a group... it's really just me and... Julian.

*

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED: (4)

15

LENARA
Doctor Bashir?
(beat)
Sure. That sounds great.

DAX
Great.

LENARA
Okay. Dinner. Tonight.

DAX
At Quark's.

LENARA
Great.

They both go back to work, each of them wondering exactly what they've just begun with this small invitation.

CUT TO:

16 INT. PROMENADE - SECOND LEVEL

16

Bashir and Dax walking along.

BASHIR
Tonight? I can't, I have plans.

DAX
Cancel them.
(off her look)
I mean, if you can cancel them it would be... nice.

BASHIR
It'll be nice because...?

DAX
Because... I've invited Lenara out to dinner and...

BASHIR
And it would be less awkward if you had a... chaperone.

DAX
Exactly.
(earnest)
Will you do it?

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED:

16

Bashir hesitates for a moment.

BASHIR

Something tells me I should say
no... but I won't. What time?

DAX

Twenty-two hundred at Quark's.
Thanks. I owe you one.

Dax heads off, clearly very happy. Bashir watches with
a smile, pleased that he can help out his friend.

CUT TO:

17
thru 19 OMITTED

17
thru 19 *

20 EXT. SPACE - DEEP SPACE NINE (OPTICAL)

20

Re-establishing the station.

21 INT. QUARK'S - SECOND LEVEL

21

Bashir, Dax, and Lenara are at a table having dinner.
Actually, Bashir is the only one eating, since Dax and
Lenara are doing nothing but talking. We get the
feeling that Bashir hasn't gotten a word in edgewise
all night, but Dax and Lenara are definitely having a
good time. Lenara is wearing a pair of EARRINGS that
she toys with from time to time throughout the scene.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED:

21

DAX

...No, it didn't have a red awning. It had a... big ratana tree or something out front.

LENARA

You don't mean the "Barros Inn?"

DAX

Yes! That's it.

LENARA

Curzon got thrown out of the Barros Inn? That's one of the wildest bars in the Rigel system. What did he do?

DAX

Well, he sort of set fire to it...

LENARA

Sort of?

DAX

All right, he did set fire to it. But it wasn't deliberate.

(beat)

It was part of a bet. But that's another story.

Lenara smiles and shakes her head, amused by the story, but not charmed by it. Lenara is a little more conservative than Dax and there's just the faintest hint of disapproval in her attitude toward Curzon's behavior.

LENARA

Curzon was certainly... different from most joined Trills.

DAX

He liked to do things his own way. He used to say that there was an exception to every rule... and he usually went out of his way to find it.

LENARA

In a way I'm glad I never met him.
(with embarrassed smile)
We probably wouldn't have liked each other very much.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED: (2)

21

DAX

Oh, he wasn't that bad. I tend to exaggerate his rebellious qualities.

(beat)

But you may have a point... Curzon never did have much use for scientists.

Lenara looks up at her sharply... then sees the mischievous smile on Dax's face and realizes the inside joke.

LENARA

Well, that's interesting considering what you do now.

DAX

(laughs)

Curzon would be horrified to know that I'm a scientist. The very idea of doing research made him ill.

LENARA

Torias was not much different. I can remember talking to him about my wanting to study theoretical quantum physics and his eyes glazed over.

DAX

The irony is that you and I have more in common than Torias and Nilani ever did.

*

LENARA

That's right...

They both smile, but at the same time, this has touched on a topic that is once again edging toward some tricky territory. Fortunately for both of them, a com voice breaks in.

NURSE'S COM VOICE

Infirmary to Doctor Bashir.

BASHIR

(to com)

Bashir here, go ahead.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED: (3)

21

NURSE'S COM VOICE

I'm sorry to disturb you, Doctor.
But Ensign Tyler's broken his leg
and I think you should --

BASHIR

(quickly)
I'm on my way.
(to Dax & Lenara)
Sorry. But duty calls.

DAX

It's all right. Thanks for
coming.

LENARA

Nice to see you again.

Bashir makes a hasty EXIT, actually grateful for the
chance to escape.

LENARA

(re: Bashir)
Now that is a good friend. He sat
here and listened to us trade
stories about our former hosts all
night and never once complained.

DAX

I think he really enjoyed himself.

They exchange a look and then Dax laughs.

DAX

(continuing)
Okay, maybe not. But I'll make it
up to him.

A quiet beat as they reflect on the evening and on
their feelings. Lenara toys with one of her earrings
again and Dax notices.

DAX

(re: earrings)
Those are Klingon aren't they?

LENARA

How'd you know?

Dax gives her a wry look and Lenara suddenly realizes.

LENARA

Curzon?

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED: (4)

21

Dax nods with a smile. Lenara takes the earrings off and hands them to Dax.

LENARA

They were a gift from a Klingon scientist. He wanted to give me one of those knives they're always carrying, but I refused.

DAX

They're beautiful.

Dax moves to hand them back.

LENARA

Keep them.

(off her look)

Really. I'm... not very Klingon.

DAX

Thank you.

Dax puts the earrings on.

DAX

Well?

LENARA

They suit you.

(beat)

It's good to see you again, Dax.

That sounds strange, doesn't it?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED: (4)

21

LENARA (Cont'd)

I mean, I'm looking at a different face, hearing a different voice... but somehow, it's still you.

DAX

I know. Every time I start to think of you as just Lenara, you'll smile or laugh... and suddenly... it's you.

They look at each other for a long moment. Their hands are already on the table, so it doesn't take much effort for Dax to reach out and hold Lenara's hand. It's a small, easy gesture.

DAX

(continuing)

I'm really glad you're here.

LENARA

Me too.

Lenara squeezes her hand in return and they share a moment together.

22 ANGLE ON PREN

22

Who has just reached the top of the spiral staircase. He is surprised and a little shocked by the sight of Lenara and Dax alone at the table holding hands. He hesitates, glances around in embarrassment... then heads back down the stairs.

Off the image of Dax and Lenara alone at the table...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

23 EXT. SPACE - THE DEFIANT (OPTICAL) 23

The ship is hanging in space.

WORF (V.O.)

Defiant Log: Stardate 49195.5.
We have arrived at the coordinates
to begin preliminary tests for the
artificial wormhole project. *

24 INT. DEFIANT - BRIDGE 24

Worf is in command, Dax at the helm, Pren, Lenara, and
Bejal manning side consoles, N.D. Starfleet officers as
needed.

BEJAL

(off console)

The target drone is in position,
Commander.

WORF

(to helm)

Full scan.

DAX

(works)

No ships within sensor range.

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED:

24

WORF
(to com)
Bridge to Engine room. Are you
ready, Mister Eddington?

*

EDDINGTON'S COM VOICE
We're ready, Commander.

WORF
Doctor Kahn, you may proceed.

LENARA
(to Bejal)
Energize the focal array and stand-
by to initiate the subspace tensor
matrix.

*

Dax leaves the helm for a station next to Lenara.
Bejal and Pren move to one of the aft stations.

25
thru 26
OMITTED

25
thru 26

27 ON DAX AND LENARA

27

as they work their consoles. It's clear from their
body language that the two women are no longer so
awkward around each other. They're being very low-key,
doing nothing to call attention to themselves, but the
signs of a growing attraction between the two of them
are clearly there to be seen.

DAX
(annoyed)
This AQF sequencer is always
giving me problems.

*
*
*

LENARA
Maybe it doesn't like you.

DAX
How could it not like me? I'm
adorable.

LENARA
That is a matter of opinion.

DAX
I'll have you know that the word
adorable is used three times in my
Starfleet personnel file.

Lenara rolls her eyes.

28 ON BEJAL AND PREN

28

who are still working at the aft station. Pren is watching the interaction between Dax and Lenara with a slightly disturbed look. From this position, he can't hear any of their conversation, but he can see that they are definitely on friendly terms.

BEJAL

The plasma coil interlocks are in place... deflector grid is charged and standing by...

PREN

(sotto)

They're very friendly today.

Bejal glances over at the two women.

BEJAL

Mmm.

PREN

They had dinner last night... alone.

BEJAL

What're you trying to say?

PREN

I shouldn't have to say anything.

BEJAL

(firm)

Then don't.

Bejal glares at Pren, who seems to back down. Bejal stabs at a control on the console.

BEJAL

(to all)

We're ready to generate the tensor matrix.

Lenara looks to Dax.

DAX

The drone is standing by.

LENARA

(to Bejal)

Initialize the focal array.

Bejal and Pren work their consoles.

29 EXT. SPACE - THE DEFIANT (OPTICAL) 29

From out of the forward deflector dish, a CONE OF ENERGY suddenly leaps out toward space.

30 INT. DEFIANT - BRIDGE (OPTICAL) 30

As before. On the Viewscreen, we see the energy beam from the Defiant go out to a certain point in space, where it terminates in a ROILING RED EFFECT.

LENARA
(to Dax)
Activate the drone. *

DAX
(off console)
The drone is sending out the
magneton pulse...
(beat)
It's reached the matrix...

PREN
I'm picking up a subspace
distortion...

BEJAL
(excited)
The distortion is becoming
coherent... it's working!

DAX
(calm) *

The magneton pulse is causing a
feedback loop... it'll destroy the
drone in a few seconds.

LENARA
A few seconds is all we need...

31 EXT. SPACE - THE SUBSPACE DISTORTION (OPTICAL) 31

The effect changes from a randomly fluctuating sea of energy into a NEW WORMHOLE ENTRANCE (which should look very different from our standard wormhole effect).

32 INT. DEFIANT - BRIDGE (OPTICAL) 32

as before.

BEJAL
There it is.

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED:

32

Suddenly, the wormhole CLOSES and VANISHES on the viewer.

DAX
The drone's been destroyed.
(to Lenara)
But you did it!

*

Pren and Bejal shake hands and there's a real sense of accomplishment on the Bridge.

WORF
(to Lenara)
Congratulations, Doctor.

*

LENARA
Thank you. That was only the
first step. But what a step!

Dax hugs Lenara in a moment of pure joy.

DAX
I'm so proud of you.

33 ON PREN AND BEJAL

33

Who both notice the now extended hug between the two women. Pren gives Bejal a pointed look, but says nothing. The two men go back to their consoles and try to concentrate on their work, but Bejal is clearly becoming disturbed as well.

CUT TO:

34 EXT. SPACE - DEEP SPACE NINE (OPTICAL)

34

Re-establishing the station.

35 INT. REPLIMAT

35

Lenara and Bejal sitting at a table, having lunch. Lenara is happy, upbeat as they talk about the project.

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED:

35

Bejal is just as positive about their work, but there's something on his mind and he's not sure how to bring it up.

LENARA

All the telemetry checks out... the wormhole was open for twenty-three point four seconds, and during that time it was completely coherent.

BEJAL

You couldn't ask for a better beginning. But it all comes down to the next test. We have to be able to send an object through the wormhole to prove that it's stable enough for space travel.

*

LENARA

That reminds me... Dax thinks we should use a Class-Four probe to make the actual run. She says the Class-Four shielding will give us a better idea of how the wormhole will affect a real ship.

*

*

BEJAL

Oh... I didn't know you talked to Dax since we got back.

LENARA

I saw her last night.

BEJAL

Where?

LENARA

She stopped by my quarters...

BEJAL

And how long did she stay?

Lenara starts to realize what Bejal is getting at.

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED: (2)

35

LENARA

Is there something you want to ask me?

BEJAL

I don't want to ask you anything... but I'm starting to wonder if I should.

Lenara sits back, a little stung by this.

LENARA

I don't believe this.

BEJAL

Believe it. People are starting to notice.

LENARA

People?

BEJAL

(drops his voice)

Doctor Pren saw you holding hands at dinner the other night. I thought he was overreacting, but then I saw the way the two of you were acting on the Defiant...

*

Lenara gets up from the table and walks off, offended. Bejal jumps up, goes after her...

36 INT. PROMENADE - CONTINUOUS

36

Bejal going after Lenara.

BEJAL

(loud whisper)

Lenara... Lenara!

He finally catches up to her and corners her in a secluded alcove.

BEJAL

I'm sorry... I'm sorry.

Lenara folds her arms, gives him a cold look.

BEJAL

Look... I'm your brother. You tell me nothing's going on... then nothing's going on. I just want to hear you say it.

(CONTINUED)

36 CONTINUED:

36

LENARA

There is nothing going on. All right?

BEJAL

All right.

Lenara walks away. Bejal watches her go, feeling a little guilty about accusing his sister of something that wasn't true...

CUT TO:

37 INT. DAX'S QUARTERS

37

Dax is sitting on a couch reading a PADD. She's in her civilian clothes. The door CHIMES.

DAX

Come in.

Lenara comes in. She's clearly a little upset about something.

DAX

What's wrong?

Lenara takes a deep breath, paces a bit... tries to sort out her feelings.

LENARA

I just had an unpleasant conversation with my brother.

(beat)

He thinks there's something going on between us.

DAX

Oh.

(beat)

What'd you tell him?

LENARA

I told him that was ridiculous... that you and I are just friends and of course there's nothing going on.

DAX

Well, then that should settle it.

But Lenara still looks troubled, moves to the window and looks out. Dax puts aside her feelings for the moment, stays on the couch.

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED:

37

DAX
(continuing)
Maybe we shouldn't spend time
together... it'll just give
people the wrong idea. *

A long beat of silence.

LENARA
(quiet)
Or give them the right idea.

Lenara turns and they look at each other. It's a scary
moment for both of them -- they both realize they're
about to admit something they've both been carefully
avoiding.

DAX
Maybe we shouldn't have this
conversation.

LENARA
Would that do any good... would it
change how either of us feels? *

DAX
No... but it would be easier.

LENARA
You've never been one for the easy
way out.

DAX
That's true. But in this case,
I'm not the only one involved. I
don't want to do anything that
would hurt you. *

(beat)
I did that once before... I
climbed into a Shuttlecraft and
made you a widow. *

LENARA
I knew you were a pilot when I
married you. I knew the risks.
I went in with my eyes wide open.

A silent moment as Dax gets off the couch and moves
closer to her.

DAX
And what about now... are your
eyes open... do you know what the
risks are?

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED: (2)

37

Lenara looks into Dax's eyes. The sexual tension builds in the room.

LENARA

I thought I'd gotten over you...
it's been so long... so much has
happened. But now I know I
haven't...

*
*

DAX

I've missed you so much.

*

A long, intense moment. Dax reaches out with her hand and brushes aside a lock of hair off her forehead back behind her ear... lets her finger run along Lenara's jawline. Lenara brushes her lips across Dax's fingertips. They hold each other's eyes... and then slowly come together until their lips touch and they finally kiss. A passionate, loving kiss that they've waited a hundred years for.

*

Finally, they pull away... look at each other with shock, love, and charged emotions.

LENARA

(choked)

I'd better go.

DAX

Yeah.

But it's not easy to break away. Lenara forces herself to let go of Dax... then heads for the door... hesitates on the step and looks back. They share a final look, and then Lenara EXITS. Dax sits down heavily in a nearby chair, excited, exhausted, frightened, confused and happy all at once.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

38 INT. CAPTAIN'S OFFICE

38

Dax and Sisko are sitting on the couch. Dax is in the middle of sharing her concerns and feelings with Sisko.

DAX

I don't know what to do, Benjamin.

SISKO

What do you want to do?

Dax smiles as she recalls Lenara's joking words at the party.

DAX

Throw myself at her... profess my undying love and my complete disregard for Trill society.

(off his look)

A joke Lenara made at the reception. Doesn't sound so funny anymore, does it?

SISKO

Not really.

Dax looks at him, sees his troubled expression.

DAX

You don't think I should pursue this.

Sisko thinks about it for a moment, decides to be brutally honest.

SISKO

No.

Dax takes a deep breath, tries to put her feelings aside for the moment and listen to her old friend.

DAX

Okay. Why?

SISKO

Because I remember what Curzon used to say about "reassociation." That it didn't matter whether he agreed with the taboo or not.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

38 CONTINUED:

38

SISKO (Cont'd)
Because the price for violating it
was too high.

*
*

(beat)
Exile.

DAX
(quickly)
I know what Curzon used to say,
Benjamin. But I'm not Curzon.

SISKO
You're not Torias, either. You're
Jadzia Dax and you have a
responsibility as a joined Trill
to --

DAX
(sharp)
I didn't come here for a lecture
on my responsibilities.

*

SISKO
(right back at her)
What you came here for was to get
advice from a friend. And that's
what you're getting.

There's a beat, and then the tension drops.

DAX
You're right. Sorry.

SISKO
I know this is difficult for you.
And I know how you feel about
Lenara... but I want you to think
about what'll happen if you pursue
this.

Dax stands and takes a few steps around the room.

SISKO
If you're exiled from Trill...
there'll be no further hosts for
your symbiont. When Jadzia
dies... Dax dies.

This affects her. She is clearly torn, struggling with
her feelings.

(CONTINUED)

38 CONTINUED: (2)

38

SISKO

(continuing)

It goes against everything you were taught during initiate training. You've told me again and again that each host is only a link in a chain... and that no matter what happens, the life of the symbiont must go on.

*

DAX

I know that... and I believe in it.

(beat)

But I also know that I love her, Benjamin.

*

She turns and looks at him and he can see the heartache and pain on her face. He goes to her.

SISKO

I know you do. And if I were in your position... I'd probably be just as ready to throw everything away for the woman I love.

*

(beat)

But I'd want to be sure that I was ready to pay the price.

*

A long beat.

DAX

You're right. I have to be sure.

SISKO

(gentler)

But if you are sure... if this is what you really want... I'll back you up... all the way.

*

She looks at him and they both share a smile. The friendship between them transcends the difficulties of the moment.

DAX

I've lived seven lifetimes... and I've never had a friend quite like you.

Sisko smiles and she hugs him. OFF the moment...

CUT TO:

39 EXT. SPACE - THE DEFIANT (OPTICAL) 39
hangs in space.

39A INT. DEFIANT - ENGINE ROOM 39A
Eddington and Lenara are working the consoles. An N.D.
Engineer is in the b.g.

EDDINGTON
(to com)
Eddington to Bridge. We're ready
to generate the tensor matrix.

INTERCUT AS NEEDED:

40 INT. DEFIANT - BRIDGE 40
Worf in command, Pren, Bejal, Dax, N.D.s at their
stations.

WORF
Understood. Stand-by.
(to Dax)
Commander Dax?

*

DAX
Subspace field stress is within
normal parameters.

*

PREN
The probe's ready for launch.

BEJAL
The target drone is in position.

WORF
(to com)
Bridge to Engine Room. Initialize
the subspace matrix, Mister
Eddington.

*

*

EDDINGTON
Acknowledged.

Eddington and Lenara go to work. Eddington climbs the
ladder up to the upper level of the Engine Room.

END INTERCUT.

41
thru
43

OMITTED

41
thru
43

44 INT. DEFIANT - BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

44

On the VIEWSCREEN, the CONE of ENERGY goes out in space, as seen before.

PREN
(to Bejal)
Activate the drone.

A WORMHOLE OPENS up as before.

BEJAL
(off console)
Wormhole neutrino readings... are
stable. *

DAX
(off console)
Subspace field stress is up by
fifteen percent... but still
within safety margins.

WORF
Launch the probe.

45 EXT. SPACE - THE DEFIANT & WORMHOLE (OPTICAL)

45

The Defiant LAUNCHES A PROBE, which flies out and ENTERS the wormhole. As soon as the probe goes inside, the wormhole suddenly COLLAPSES and sends out a huge blast of ENERGY which slams into the Defiant.

46 INT. DEFIANT - BRIDGE

46

The ship is ROCKED violently and a few consoles explode in the aft area. POWER GOES OUT.

WORF
Report.

DAX
No helm control... there's a hull
breach on Deck Five, emergency
forcefields are in place. *

(CONTINUED)

46 CONTINUED:

46

BEJAL
(urgent)
I'm reading a massive plasma leak
in the Engine Room.

Dax reacts in shock.

WORF
(to com)
Bridge to Engine Room.
(beat)
Mister Eddington.
(beat)
Doctor Kahn can you hear me?

*
*

Dax is up and heading for the door.

DAX
Have a damage control team meet me
down there.

Worf nods as an anxious Dax heads out the door.

CUT TO:

47
thru
48 OMITTED

47
thru
48

49 INT. DEFIANT - CORRIDOR

49

Dax and two Engineering N.D.s arrive at the closed door
to the Engine Room. The Engineers have hi-tech fire
extinguishers.

DAX
Stand back.

They take positions on each side of the door. Dax hits
a wall panel and the doors OPEN. They carefully peer
inside.

50 INT. DEFIANT - ENGINE ROOM - UPPER LEVEL (OPTICAL) 50

A PLASMA CONDUIT has broken loose from the floor and is spewing a violent continuous blast of PLASMA EXHAUST up into the room -- a torrent of green energy crackling with deadly power. On the upper level, Eddington has been wounded, but he's trying to drag the unconscious N.D. Engineer seen earlier to safety. One of the damage control officers takes the unconscious man from Eddington and pulls him out into the corridor.

Dax looks around and sees Lenara lying unconscious on the far side of the room. The plasma fire separates Dax from Lenara -- there doesn't seem to be any way to get to her. Eddington has to shout over the roar of the exhaust.

EDDINGTON

(yells)

It's out of control.

(re: extinguisher)

We can't put it out with those.

We'll have to vent the entire compartment out into space.

DAX

(yells)

No. Lenara might still be alive.

EDDINGTON

There's no way to get to her.

Dax thinks furiously.

DAX

How long will a level eight forcefield last in here?

EDDINGTON

Not long with that plasma fire.

Four, five seconds at the most.

*

She moves to a wall panel.

DAX

I think I can get to her.

EDDINGTON

Dax, if we don't contain this thing now, it's going to set off the warp core.

Dax finishes working at the panel.

DAX

I know. Just give me ten seconds and then vent the compartment.

51 NEW ANGLE (OPTICAL)

51

Dax hits a control and a FORCEFIELD FLASHES ON. The forcefield cuts across the room diagonally, from the upper level down to the floor, cutting off and containing the plasma leak like putting a plate glass window over a fire burning on the floor. For the moment, the fire is safely contained below.

52 DAX (OPTICAL)

52

scrambles down the ladder and STEPS OUT ONTO THE FORCEFIELD, which FLASHES ON beneath her feet. She runs down the forcefield, plasma fire roiling beneath her feet. She gets about halfway down when suddenly the field begins to FRITZ dangerously. Dax JUMPS off the field onto the deck just before the field FRITZES OFF, releasing the plasma fire again. She moves to Lenara, who is wounded but alive. Dax OPENS a nearby hatch, grabs Lenara and pulls her through the hatch and into the JEFFERIES TUBE. She reaches back to close the hatch...

*
*
*
*
*
*

53 INT. DEFIANT - JEFFERIES TUBE - CONTINUOUS

53

As Dax closes the hatch behind her and Lenara. They're safe. A beat as they catch their breath. Lenara looks up at Dax with a slightly dazed expression. They look at each other.

LENARA

Dax...

They hold each other tight... trembling slightly after the brush with death. They don't want to let go.

DAX

I thought I lost you...

LENARA

So did I... I don't want to lose you... not again...

*
*
*

DAX

Not again... never again...

Off the moment as the two woman just hold on tight...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

54 EXT. SPACE - DEEP SPACE NINE (OPTICAL) 54

Re-establishing the station.

55 OMITTED 55

56 INT. LENARA'S QUARTERS 56

Lenara is lying on the couch, looking a little worn out, but with her wounds healed. Bejal is sitting nearby and pouring her some tea. He's taking care of his sister and his attitude is compassionate. The door CHIMES.

LENARA

Come in.

Dax ENTERS.

DAX

How're you feeling?

BEJAL

Much better. She's almost fully recovered.

Lenara smiles up at him.

LENARA

My brother the nurse.

Bejal smiles down at her, then looks up at Dax and thinks for a beat.

BEJAL

(to Dax)

I want to thank you... for what you did. Lenara... means a lot to me.

DAX

To both of us.

There's an awkward moment. Bejal hasn't changed his attitude about "reassociation" but this isn't the time or place to start a fight.

(CONTINUED)

56 CONTINUED:

56

BEJAL

Yes.

(to Lenara)

I'll leave you two alone.

He gives Dax a polite nod on the way out.

LENARA

Do they know what happened to the wormhole yet?

DAX

Our best guess at this point is that the tetrion field reacted to the probe's shielding and produced a massive graviton wave.

*

*

Lenara nods somberly. Dax tries to get her to look at the positive.

DAX

(continuing)

The important thing is that no one was killed and we brought the ship back in one piece.

LENARA

(groans)

The ship. How bad was the damage?

DAX

Chief O'Brien says he'll have it good as new in two weeks. Now stop torturing yourself. It wasn't your fault.

LENARA

It was my project... my theories...

DAX

And you shouldn't forget that your project and your theories still produced the first artificially created wormhole in history. It's a huge achievement.

Lenara finally manages to smile.

LENARA

You're right. I am being a little self-indulgent aren't I?

(CONTINUED)

56 CONTINUED: (2)

56

DAX
Yes. You are.

Lenara's pushes aside her depression and tries to be as upbeat as Dax.

LENARA
Well. I guess I'll have a lot of work to do when I get back to Trill. Analyzing the telemetry from the probe alone will probably take months.

DAX
Probably.

There's a quiet beat as Dax gets to something that's on her mind.

DAX
(quiet)
Why not do the work here... with me.

The implication and the subtext are clear. Lenara sits up and faces Dax directly.

LENARA
With you. The two of us... together.
(Dax nods)
You know what that would mean...

DAX
I know exactly what it would mean.
But I think it's worth the price.

*

Lenara looks away and smiles ruefully for a beat.

LENARA
That's funny... Bejal just spent the last half hour telling me that it wouldn't be worth it. He thinks I should go back to Trill with him tomorrow and try to forget about you.

*
*
*
*

DAX
Well, at least he's consistent.

LENARA
Don't be too hard on him. He's only trying to look out for his big sister.

(CONTINUED)

56 CONTINUED: (3)

56

DAX

Everyone's trying to... look out for us. Protect us from ourselves. But in the end, all that matters is how we feel... and what we do about it. Because either way, we're the ones who have to live with the consequences.

Lenara gets up, moves around the room for a moment, struggling with her conflicting feelings.

LENARA

That's the tricky part though, isn't it? Living with the consequences.

There's a long tense beat as Lenara struggles... she's approaching the precipice and the view from here is frightening.

LENARA

When you're not around, it's like part of me is missing. I want to be with you more than anything...
(difficult)
But I don't think I can do this...

Dax closes her eyes... tries to rein in the crushing feeling that fills her.

LENARA

I'm not like you, Dax... I don't have a little Curzon inside me telling me to be impulsive... to ignore the rules... give up everything I've worked for...

DAX

(choked up)
Can you really walk away from me... from us? After all this time we're back together. Don't throw that away.

Lenara desperately hunts for something to grasp onto, some half-way measure that will keep her from making this choice.

(CONTINUED)

56 CONTINUED: (4)

56

LENARA

I don't want to...

(beat)

Maybe I need more time... maybe if
I go back to Trill for a while...
think it over... I could always
come back later...

Dax stands up and moves to her... takes Lenara's face
in her hands and looks into her eyes.

DAX

(emotional)

I wish I could believe that. But
ultimately, it comes down to
this... if you feel about me the
way I feel about you... you won't
get on that transport tomorrow.
And if you do leave... I think we
both know you're never coming
back.

There's a moment as they look into each others eyes...
the emotion of the moment almost too much for either of
them to bear... then Dax turns and EXITS. OFF Lenara's
face...

CUT TO:

57 EXT. SPACE - DEEP SPACE NINE (OPTICAL)

57

The Trill transport ship is docked at the station
again.

58 INT. PROMENADE - SECOND LEVEL

58

Dax is standing by the railing, looking down at the
airlock on the first level, with a tense look on her
face. She's holding one of the EARRINGS Lenara gave
her earlier. She toys with it as she waits. After a
few beats, Worf, Bejal and Pren walk down the Promenade
heading toward the airlock. The two scientists are
carrying their bags. Worf OPENS the airlock doors and
says goodbye to the scientists.

Dax looks around the Promenade, hoping that Lenara
won't show up... and for a brief time it looks like she
won't. But then Lenara comes down the Promenade
carrying her bag and Dax's heart sinks. Lenara goes to
the Airlock just as Bejal and Pren EXIT. Lenara
exchanges goodbyes with Worf... then hesitates just
before leaving.

(CONTINUED)

58 CONTINUED:

58

She glances around the Promenade as if having second thoughts, then she looks up at the second level and she sees Dax standing there.

Their eyes meet and in that moment, Dax knows that Lenara is truly leaving. Lenara breaks the moment and then steps into the Airlock. Worf CLOSES the door behind her.

Dax stares after her for a long moment... She looks at the earring in her hand... and makes it disappear. Then she clasps her hands behind her back, and slowly walks away.

*
*
*

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FIVETHE END