

# "The Other Emissary"

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SECOND DRAFT

DECEMBER 18, 1995

STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE

PRELIMINARY  
12/20/95 be  
12/21/95 pk  
12/21/95 yw  
01/02/96 gn  
01/03/96 gd  
\*01/03/96 gt

"The Other Emissary"

#40510-489

Story  
by  
Jane Espenson

Teleplay  
by  
Jane Espenson  
and  
Rene Echevarria

Directed  
by  
Les Landau

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TEASER

FADE IN:

1 INT. O'BRIEN'S QUARTERS

1

as O'BRIEN and BASHIR ENTER in their World War II FLYER COSTUMES. They're both agitated, as if they're running late, and Bashir reacts with aggravation when he sees the piles of EQUIPMENT strewn all around the room; pieces of 24th Century technology, some broken and burned out, tangles of optical cabling, etc.

BASHIR

(annoyed)

I thought you said you'd already started straightening up.

O'BRIEN

You should've seen the place before.

BASHIR

(exasperated)

Keiko's shuttle is going to be here before we know it. We should've left the Holosuite hours ago.

O'BRIEN

And let the Jerries get across the channel, never.

They peel off their JACKETS and set about to start piling the junk into open packing CRATES. They work for a few beats, and then a thought occurs to Bashir...

BASHIR

It's sort of a shame to pack all this stuff away...

O'BRIEN

Wish I didn't have to.

BASHIR

It's almost like... sculpture. A monument to your year as a bachelor.

O'BRIEN

(smiles)

I suppose it is.

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED:

1

BASHIR

Who are we to dismantle this...  
piece of art?

O'BRIEN

I don't know. But if we don't,  
Keiko'll dismantle me.

As they continue working...

2 EXT. SPACE - DEEP SPACE NINE (OPTICAL) (STOCK)

2

as a Bajoran transport approaches.

3 INT. DOCKING RING CORRIDOR

3

O'Brien, now in uniform, is waiting outside the  
airlock, craning to see past the mostly Bajoran  
SUPERNUMERARIES exiting the transport. MOLLY runs out  
of the airlock ahead of KEIKO, who is carrying a  
SHOULDER BAG.

MOLLY

Daddy!

O'BRIEN

Hi, Sweetie!

O'Brien sweeps Molly up into his arms as Keiko  
approaches. They hug and kiss, then he sets her down  
and pulls Keiko into a big kiss. Lots of heat. It  
finally breaks.

KEIKO

Mmm. One good thing about going  
away. Coming home.

O'BRIEN

You look great.

KEIKO

So do you.

With all the attention off her, Molly has gotten  
impatient. She tugs on O'Brien's pant leg.

MOLLY

Daddy! Daddy! I have a little  
brother!

O'BRIEN

(chuckling)  
Really?

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED:

3

O'Brien crouches down to her, sees the Bajoran-styled DOLL in her hand.

O'BRIEN

Is that him?

MOLLY

No.

(pointing to Keiko's  
tummy)

He's there.

O'Brien sees where she's pointing, looks up at Keiko... and her face says it all... She smiles, hoping that O'Brien is going to be happy at the news.

KEIKO

Surprise.

Off his stunned features...

4 INT. OPS

4

where KIRA is manning a console. SUPERNUMERARIES as needed. The TURBOLIFT ascends into view, ferrying three passengers: an older Bajoran Monk, VEDEK PORTA, a young Bajoran Woman in Bajoran Military Uniform, ENSIGN LATARA, and a Bajoran man in civilian clothes.

Kira breaks into a smile when she sees the old monk.

KIRA

Vedek Porta...

PORTA

(smiling and waving)

Nerys...

She approaches, waves the group in off the Turbolift. The couple look a bit nervous, as if they're unsure about being here.

PORTA

(teasing)

So this is where you are when  
you're not at the Temple...

KIRA

(smiles)

Here and a few other places.

PORTA

(looking around)

Very impressive.

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED:

4

KIRA  
Haven't you ever been to Ops?

PORTA  
What business would an old monk  
have here...  
(smiles)  
-- except maybe helping a young  
couple see the Emissary.  
(unsure)  
Are you sure this is a good time?

KIRA  
I think he'll be able to squeeze  
you in.

LATARA  
Thank you so much for doing this,  
Major.

KIRA  
I'm glad to.

She indicates that they should wait here, then crosses  
towards Sisko's office.

5 INT. CAPTAIN'S OFFICE

5

SISKO sits at his desk and DAX sits across from him.

DAX  
-- I want to send a science team  
to run further scans.

SISKO  
(nods)  
They can take the Rubicon.

The door CHIMES and Sisko looks up to see Kira through  
the glass.

SISKO  
Come in.

The door OPENS and Kira steps in. She knows Sisko  
isn't going to be thrilled about what she has to ask  
him, but she's hopeful anyway.

KIRA  
Vedek Porta's here with a young  
couple that just got married.  
They're hoping to get the  
Emissary's blessing.

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED:

5

Sisko looks uncomfortable, but knows he can't refuse.

SISKO  
Bring them in.

Kira turns to wave the couple in from Ops.

DAX  
(to Sisko)  
You remember the words?

SISKO  
The marriage blessing...?  
(thinks)  
I think so.

Latara and her husband ENTER, Vedek Porta and Kira hang back by the door, fairly beaming with happiness for the young couple.

LATARA  
(nervous)  
Emissary. We're very grateful to you for seeing us.

SISKO  
Not at all. Now if you'll just hold hands.  
(in Bajoran)  
Zhia'kala, tar'eh anu suur...  
te'von, aka'lu rez... ka'vor,  
mat'ana kel...

LATARA  
Thank you, thank you so much.

Sisko nods, and they turn to go. Porta catches Sisko's eye from the doorway and smiles.

PORTA  
You're accent is getting much better, Emissary.

Sisko musters a polite smile.

SISKO  
I'm glad to hear it.

PORTA  
Practice makes perfect. Feel free to drop by the Temple and join us for our nightly readings.

Sisko wants to be polite without committing himself.

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED: (2)

5

SISKO  
Thank you for the invitation.

Once the door has shut on Kira, Vedek Porta, and the young couple, Sisko settles heavily into his chair. Dax sees his discomfort.

DAX  
It's not that bad, is it... being the Emissary? A few ceremonies to attend, an occasional blessing.

SISKO  
I never said it was that bad. It's just hard to get used to being a religious icon.

DAX  
Really?  
(kidding)  
I think I'd like it.

KIRA'S COM VOICE  
Kira to Sisko.

SISKO  
Go ahead.

KIRA'S COM VOICE  
You'd better get out here...  
there's something coming through  
the wormhole.

Sisko and Dax react to her urgent tone and start out... <sup>YES</sup>

6 EXT. SPACE (OPTICAL)

WORMHOLE ALREADY OPEN  
6

as the wormhole OPENS and a BAJORAN LIGHTSHIP emerges, like the one seen in "Explorers". It's drifting, its sails tattered and bent, making it look like a crumpled butterfly. As it drifts toward the station we cut to --

7 INT. OPS (OPTICAL)

7

where Sisko is now at Kira's side; Dax has moved to her console. All are looking at the Viewscreen in amazement.

SISKO  
A Lightship...

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED:

7

KIRA

I don't know where it came from...  
according to remote sensors,  
nothing's entered the wormhole  
from the Gamma Quadrant since  
yesterday...

They're all momentarily stunned by the strangeness of  
it.

DAX

(off console)

From these readings... I'd say  
that ship's about three hundred  
years old.

This is even stranger still.

SISKO

Lifesigns?

DAX

(off console)

There's someone aboard... a  
Bajoran...

SISKO

Try hailing them...

KIRA

(beat)

No response.

Sisko studies the Viewscreen intently.

DAX

(off console)

Lifesigns are weakening...  
whoever's in there might be  
injured.

With a "come with me" nod to Kira, Sisko heads for the  
Turbolift.

SISKO

(on the move)

Tractor that ship into Transporter  
range and beam the passenger  
directly to Sickbay.

As they EXIT...

8 INT. INFIRMARY

8

Sisko and Kira ENTER to find Bashir examining the unconscious occupant of the Lightship, who we'll come to know as AKOREM LAAN. He's a Bajoran male, older than Sisko. Bashir is using a DERMAL REGENERATOR to close a GASH on his forehead.

BASHIR

He's just starting to come around;  
looks like he was knocked  
unconscious by a blow to the head.

After a beat Akorem stirs... his eyes open... he takes in his surroundings with an uncertain look...

SISKO

(gently)  
I'm Captain Benjamin Sisko...  
you're aboard a Federation Station  
in Bajoran space.

(gesturing)  
This is Kira Nerys, my First  
Officer.

Kira moves closer so he can see her... she gives him a reassuring smile...

KIRA

Who are you...?

He looks up at her, tries to focus... an almost beatific smile crosses his features...

AKOREM

I... I've been with the  
Prophets... I'm the Emissary...

Kira turns, looks up at Sisko... off their reactions to his pronouncement we...

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

(NOTE: Episode credits fall over opening scenes)

9 INT. INFIRMARY - MOMENTS LATER

9

Where Sisko, Kira and Bashir are talking with Akorem, who's a little more focused now.

AKOREM

I was heading back to Bajor when my Lightship was caught in an ionic storm... it was nearly torn apart... a girder came loose from the bulkhead and impaled me through the shoulder...

He reaches to indicate where, and we see that the fabric of his clothes is torn and bloodied, but there's no wound.

(Note: the Teaser will be changed so that Akorem is not injured when he arrives.)

AKOREM

I started to lose consciousness... I remember thinking I was going to die, alone in space, when a strange, shimmering opening appeared in the sky...

He looks at Kira, half suspecting she won't believe what he's about to claim.

AKOREM

At first I was terrified, but then I realized what was happening... the Prophets were opening the gates of the Celestial Temple and drawing me to them.

SISKO

What happened then?

AKOREM

It's difficult to describe... I saw people that I knew, my grandfather, my brother... but I understood that they weren't who they appeared to be. The Prophets had taken their form so that I'd be able to look upon them.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED:

9

SISKO

Did you speak to them?

AKOREM

I didn't dare... but, somehow, it  
wasn't necessary.

His face shines with emotion as he describes what it  
was like.

AKOREM

I could sense their understanding,  
their grace. I've never felt such  
bliss. And then...

(smiling)

-- they healed me. A light washed  
over me and my wound was gone.  
They gave me back my life... and  
I felt as if I'd been reborn.

Sisko is starting to put something together.

SISKO

How long were you with them?

AKOREM

I'm not sure... it felt timeless,  
somehow; it could've been five  
minutes or five hundred years.

He smiles when he says this, as if this is more a  
metaphor for what it was like than a real assessment of  
how long he was there.

SISKO

What was the date when you left  
Bajor?

AKOREM

Twenty forty two.

Our people react -- this was a long time ago.

KIRA

(gently)

That was over two hundred years  
ago...

Akorem reacts... shocked.

AKOREM

Two hundred years... my parents...  
my wife...

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (2)

9

Kira gives his arm a gentle squeeze of sympathy. Our people give him a long moment to digest the truth.

BASHIR

If you tell us your name we can contact your descendants, let them know you're alive.

Akorem answers distractedly, lost in thought.

AKOREM

Akorem... Akorem Laan.

Kira reacts -- she recognizes the name.

AKOREM

But I have no descendants... my brother died last year... my wife and I... we never... we were only married...

He trails off, caught in the emotion of having lost her. After a moment, Kira asks something she seems half sure can't possibly be true...

KIRA

Are you Akorem Laan... the poet?

AKOREM

(uncertain)  
I'm a poet, yes...

Kira reacts as if she's meeting Shakespeare.

KIRA

You wrote "Kitara's Song"... and "The Call of the Prophets..."

AKOREM

(surprised)  
You know my work?

KIRA

You're considered one of Bajor's greatest poets... any schoolchild could recite Gaudaal's Lament from memory...

Akorem is clearly moved at hearing that his work has survived time... but he's a little overwhelmed by it all...

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (3)

9

AKOREM

People still read my work, after  
all this time... perhaps that's  
somehow part of the Prophet's plan  
for me.

Kira glances at Sisko, realizing she should let him  
deal with this.

SISKO

Their plan?

AKOREM

It's not clear to me yet what the  
Prophets want of their Emissary...  
(with conviction)  
But I know that they gave me back  
my life for a reason...

Sisko considers how best to handle the situation.

SISKO

Akorem... a great deal has  
happened while you've been gone.  
Maybe Major Kira could spend some  
time filling you in.

AKOREM

Major Kira?

KIRA

That's right.

AKOREM

(confused)  
But Kira is an artist's name.  
Your family would be part of the  
artisan D'jarra.

BASHIR

D'jarra?

KIRA

Bajor used to have a strict caste  
system... a person's career was  
dictated by the family they were  
born into.

AKOREM

(with concern)  
You no longer follow the D'jarra?

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (4)

9

KIRA

When the Cardassians occupied Bajor we gave up our D'jarra so we could fight them. We all became soldiers.

Akorem is saddened to hear what befell his people.

AKOREM

How long was Bajor occupied...?

KIRA

Over fifty years.

Akorem is a bit disturbed by some of what he's heard.

AKOREM

It seems you're right, Captain... a great deal has happened since I've been gone.

Off Akorem's thoughtful features...

10 EXT. SPACE - DEEP SPACE NINE (OPTICAL)

10

Re-establishing. Ships coming and going.

11 INT. CAPTAIN'S OFFICE

11

where Sisko is talking with Dax about the situation; he has a PADD in his hand.

SISKO

If you look at the Prophecies about the Emissary, a lot of them make more sense with Akorem in the picture.

DAX

(intrigued)

Really?

SISKO

Every text I've seen says that the Prophets would name their Emissary by "calling him to them"... that he would "find the Celestial temple"... and that there, the Prophets would "give him back his life."

DAX

Go on.

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

11

SISKO

I wasn't the first to find the wormhole, I wasn't the first to meet the Prophets. Akorem was.

DAX

(objecting)

Benjamin...

SISKO

And the Prophets didn't "give me back my life" like they did his.

DAX

Benjamin.

He stops, looks up at her...

DAX

I thought you didn't believe in the Prophecies.

SISKO

I don't...

DAX

Then why are you using them to justify giving up your position?

Sisko suddenly realizes the contradiction in what he's been doing and smiles.

SISKO

I guess I was just looking for something to convince me I was making the right decision.

DAX

So you're planning to step aside.

SISKO

Akorem will make a better Emissary than I ever was. He's Bajoran, he's a revered poet, and he wants the job.

(beat)

Besides, Starfleet will be thrilled. They never liked the fact that the Bajorans saw me as a religious figure any more than I did.

Dax considers for a beat...

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED: (2)

11

DAX

Do you think the Bajorans will accept Akorem as their new Emissary just like that?

SISKO

I talked to Vedek Porta about it. He seemed to think that as long as I made it clear I was stepping aside, they would.

DAX

So you're off the hook. How does it feel?

SISKO

Terrific. No more ceremonies to attend, no more Prophecies to fulfill. I'm just a Starfleet Captain again. All I have to worry about are the Klingons, the Cardassians and the Jem'Hadar.

(wry)

I feel like I'm on vacation.

Off Dax's appreciative smile...

12 INT. O'BRIEN'S BEDROOM

12

O'Brien is sitting on the bed as Keiko unpacks, putting away clothes, personal items. He still looks a little stunned, like he's only hearing half of what she's saying.

KEIKO

According to the tests he's going to be tall and left-handed. And they said he's going to have curly hair like yours.

O'BRIEN

Curly. Great.

Keiko sees the look on his face, moves to sit down next to him.

KEIKO

You know, we did talk about this. We decided we'd start trying for another baby.

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED:

12

MILES

I know. But your last visit... you weren't here but the one night. And we had so much trouble getting pregnant with Molly, I thought it would take a couple more nights. To be honest, a lot more nights.

KEIKO

I guess we just got lucky this time.

(beat)

I'm sorry if you weren't prepared for this. I know it means a lot of changes. We'll have to put in a request for larger quarters... coordinate our work schedules...

O'BRIEN

We'll have less time to spend with Molly.

KEIKO

She's a big girl. She'll understand.

O'BRIEN

And our friends. Julian.

KEIKO

He's big too.

(beat)

Miles? You really do want this, don't you? You really are happy?

O'Brien's wife is looking at him hopefully. What else can he do but be happy?

O'BRIEN

Oh, Keiko. Of course I am. I have my wife and daughter back, and I'm going to have a tall, left-handed, curly-haired son. I'm thrilled.

He smiles and hugs her. Off this moment...

13 INT. PROMENADE

13

where Kira is at the rail that looks down onto the first level. A CROWD of mostly Bajoran SUPERNUMERARIES is gathering to hear Akorem make his first public appearance.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED:

13

A PODIUM has been set up in front of the Temple. Vedek Porta and a few other Monks are making final preparations.

The buzz of excitement in the air is palpable... Bajor has a new Emissary. ODO approaches Kira.

ODO

Major.

(off her nod)

Come to see Akorem speak?

KIRA

The Emissary's first public appearance? I wouldn't miss it.

Odo is struck by her use of the word "Emissary"... considers for a beat.

ODO

I'm surprised to hear you call him that.

KIRA

Why? Akorem Laan was -- is -- a great man... he's been with the Prophets for over two hundred years, and now they've sent him back to us...

ODO

Yes, but... two days ago, you believed Captain Sisko was the Emissary.

From her reply, we can tell Kira hasn't sorted it all out yet herself.

KIRA

He's made it clear that he wants to step aside.

Odo considers, rolls it over in his analytical mind.

ODO

Does that mean he never really was the Emissary?

Kira is unwilling to say this about Sisko.

KIRA

No.

Odo is trying to sniff out the contradiction.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED: (2)

13

ODO  
But... they can't both be.

KIRA  
(frustrated)  
I don't know, Odo. What do you  
want from me?

ODO  
Forgive me, Major, I don't mean to  
be difficult, but your faith seems  
to have led you to something of a  
contradiction.

KIRA  
(simply)  
I don't see it as a contradiction.

ODO  
I... don't understand.

KIRA  
That's the thing about faith... if  
you don't have it, you can't  
understand it. If you do, no  
explanation is necessary.

Odo takes this in... suddenly the Crowd erupts into  
Bajoran-style APPLAUSE. Kira looks down to see --

14 AKOREM

14

coming out onto the Podium, dressed in the traditional  
clothes of the Emissary, something like what Winn  
wears. We hear sporadic SHOUTS of "Emissary" from the  
crowd. He waits for the applause to die down.

AKOREM  
Ever since the Prophets returned  
me to my people, I've asked myself  
the same question, over and over  
again. Why did they keep me with  
them for so long? Why did they  
return me to my people now?  
(beat)  
I now know the answer.

15 INT. CAPTAIN'S OFFICE (OPTICAL)

15

where Sisko is watching Akorem's address to the people  
on a MONITOR.

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED:

15

AKOREM

(on monitor)

I come from another time. A time when Bajor's farmers tilled land that was green and fertile... our artists created works of such beauty, that people came from all over the Quadrant to see them. It was a time of stability... and peace.

16 INT. PROMENADE

16

as Akorem continues.

AKOREM

(continuing)

But Bajor suffered a great wound while I was with the Prophets: the Cardassian occupation. It is a wound that bleeds still. The Bajor I have returned to has lost its way...

In the crowd, we see people exchanging looks of agreement...

AKOREM

People no longer follow the path the Prophets laid out for them. They no longer follow their D'jarra. Artists have become soldiers...

17 ON KIRA

17

as she reacts... he could be talking about her...

AKOREM (O.C.)

(continuing)

Priests have become merchants... farmers, politicians.

And doesn't that describe Shakaar?

18 ON AKOREM

18

AKOREM

I say to you that we must return to our D'jarra...

He lets this sink in for a beat...

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED: 18

AKOREM  
We must reclaim who we are...

19 INT. CAPTAIN'S OFFICE 19

as Sisko reacts with uncertainty to what Akorem is proposing...

AKOREM  
(on monitor)  
And follow the path the Prophets  
have laid out for us... it is  
their will that farmers return to  
their land, artists to their  
canvasses, soldiers to their  
weapons...

20 INT. PROMENADE 20

AKOREM  
If we do this, if we follow our  
D'jarra, then Bajor will flourish  
once more... and become the green  
and peaceful land I remember. And  
then my friends, the occupation  
will be for you as it is for me:  
something that never happened.

21 ON AN OLDER BAJORAN WOMAN 21

whose face is etched with suffering.

AKOREM (O.C.)  
By returning to our D'jarra, we  
will have erased it... forever.

She is moved nearly to tears by this thought.

22 RESUME SCENE 22

Akorem stands looking out at the people. After a moment, the crowd erupts with the sound of whispered exchanges. The crowd reaction is clearly divided.

Some people are clearly thrown by what Akorem has proposed, shocked and ready to take issue with it... others agree wholeheartedly, and we hear them applauding appreciatively.

23 ON KIRA 23 \*  
as she reacts with uncertainty to what she's heard... \*

24 INT. CAPTAIN'S OFFICE 24 \*  
as he listens to the divided reactions and wonders what \*  
will come of all this... \*

FADE OUT. \*

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

25 INT. WARDROOM

25

where Sisko is meeting with Akorem to air his concerns about his proposals. He's trying to be very diplomatic, since it's not his place to pass judgement on Bajoran affairs. Vedek Porta is present, acting as Akorem's assistant.

SISKO

I wanted to talk to you before you left for Bajor.

AKOREM

Of course.

SISKO

I had no idea that your first act as Emissary was going to be advocating social change on such a massive scale.

Akorem nods; he figured this is why Sisko called him here, and he tries to reassure him.

AKOREM

It's what the Prophets want for Bajor. It's why they sent me.

SISKO

You're sure of that?

AKOREM

Absolutely.

(beat)

I know you care about what happens to Bajor, Captain. So do I. I would never do anything that would harm my people.

PORTA

The Emissary knows that what he's proposing will be difficult for some people to accept; he doesn't expect things to change overnight.

SISKO

(to Akorem)

So you're not planning to ask First Minister Shakaar to step down and go back to farming?

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED:

25

AKOREM

Of course not.

PORTA

But it's our hope that the people will come to embrace the D'jarra in such numbers that the First Minister will see it's in his best interest to step down voluntarily.

SISKO

And if he doesn't?

AKOREM

By the time of the next election, I don't think there'll be many people left on Bajor who would return a farmer to political office.

PORTA

It's our hope that eventually, popular sentiment will support the enforcement of the D'jarra by legal sanction.

SISKO

So if someone defies their caste...

AKOREM

Society will have appropriate remedies at it's disposal. Such as deportation.

Sisko considers how best to put what he wants to say.

SISKO

You realize that caste-based discrimination is in direct contravention of the Federation charter. If Bajor returns to the D'jarra system, I have no doubt its petition to join the Federation will be rejected.

AKOREM

Kai Winn and I have already discussed that. We're in agreement. If following the will of the Prophets means we'll be denied membership, then so be it.

Sisko is not surprised to hear this.

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED: (2)

25

SISKO

I had a feeling Winn would see it  
that way.

Sisko is deeply troubled by the thought that something  
he's worked for for three years could go down the drain  
in one swoop, but it's not his place to say so.

PORTA

Well... the Emissary's transport  
leaves soon.

Akorem and Porta stand, ready to go. Sisko joins them  
near the door... decides he has to say something.

SISKO

As a Starfleet Officer, I'm bound  
by oath not to interfere in  
Bajoran affairs. But...

(how to put it)

-- as a friend to Bajor, I have to  
say that I think giving up  
Federation membership would be a  
mistake.

Akorem hears the emotion in Sisko's voice, acknowledges  
his words with a nod. He reaches up and cups one side  
of Sisko's face to read his pagh. After a moment...

AKOREM

Your pagh is strong...

Akorem moves his hand to a slightly different  
position...

AKOREM

I see now why Kai Opaka believed  
you were the Emissary...

(smiles)

-- and why Winn fears you...

A moment between them, then Akorem removes his hand.

AKOREM

Good bye... Captain.

SISKO

Good bye... Emissary.

This is the first time Sisko has called someone else  
that, and he's surprised how it makes him feel. Akorem  
and Porta EXIT... off Sisko's face as he watches them  
go...

26 INT. PROMENADE

26

as O'Brien hurries along carrying a TOOLKIT.  
SUPERNUMERARIES as needed.

BASHIR (O.C.)  
Chief!

O'Brien turns and sees Bashir in the door to Quark's.  
He grins and approaches.

BASHIR  
Congratulations, Dad.

O'BRIEN  
(smiles)  
You heard.

BASHIR  
Yes. Great news. Come on, let's  
have a drink and celebrate.

O'Brien would like nothing more, but --

O'BRIEN  
I should be getting home.

BASHIR  
One drink.

Bashir pulls him inside.

27 INT. QUARK'S

27

QUARK is behind the bar as Bashir and O'Brien approach.

BASHIR  
Quark, did you hear? Chief  
O'Brien is going to have a baby.

QUARK  
(confused)  
I thought your females carried  
your young.

O'BRIEN  
(impatient)  
My wife. My wife is having the  
baby.

QUARK  
Congratulations...

Quark looks almost wistful as he starts to get Bashir  
and O'Brien their "usuals."

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED:

27

QUARK

I remember when my nephew Nog was a baby. Cutest thing you ever saw. You know babies... every little thing they pick up goes straight into their ears.

O'Brien doesn't want to hear about it. He grunts the barest of acknowledgments.

QUARK

I used to love reading to him. You know, "See the boy acquire. Acquire, boy, acquire."

Overcome with nostalgia, Quark moves off to serve other customers.

BASHIR

Just think... soon there'll be two little O'Briens scampering around underfoot...

O'Brien tries to muster a smile.

O'BRIEN

Hard to believe, isn't it.

BASHIR

They say the second one is easier. Since you've already been through the diapers, the crying, the late nights --

O'BRIEN

Yeah.

BASHIR

Something wrong, Chief?

O'BRIEN

No. Not at all. Couldn't be happier.

Bashir is about to ask why he sounds so unenthused when Quark calls out to WORF, who has just approached the bar.

QUARK

Did you hear? Keiko's going to have another baby.

There is a flash of panic in Worf's eyes.

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED: (2)

27

WORF

Now?

O'BRIEN

No, about seven months.

Worf relaxes a bit.

WORF

I see.

Worf signals Quark for a glass of his usual.

O'BRIEN

(to Bashir)

Worf delivered Molly, you know.

BASHIR

(surprised)

Really?

O'BRIEN

The Enterprise was damaged, and Keiko and he were trapped together when her time came.

Worf nods, swallows, looks a little ill.

BASHIR

(teasing)

Well, I'll be sure and call you when she's ready to deliver so you can lend a hand.

WORF

Did you say seven months?

(off Bashir's nod)

Unfortunately, I will be away from the station at that time.

(making it up)

Far away. Visiting my parents. On Earth.

(beat)

Excuse me.

Worf EXITS, just as Quark was about to serve him...

BASHIR

I don't know who's more anxious about this baby... you or Worf.

O'Brien decides to come out with what's bothering him.

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED: (3)

27

O'BRIEN

The thing is, Julian... now that Molly's a little older, I was kind of looking forward to being able to spend time with Keiko again. I thought maybe we'd, I don't know, travel... go out at night.

Bashir nods that he understands.

O'BRIEN

Don't get me wrong, I know that once I'm holding my little son in my arms, I'll be the happiest man in the world... it's just, I wasn't expecting it to happen so soon.

Bashir nods that he understands. A quiet moment, then O'Brien tries to shake it off...

O'BRIEN

How about a game of darts?

BASHIR

Don't you have to get home?

O'BRIEN

Right.

Bashir nods, and O'Brien EXITS. Off Bashir's face as he watches him go...

28 EXT. SPACE - DEEP SPACE NINE (OPTICAL)

28

Re-establishing.

29 INT. KIRA'S QUARTERS

29

Kira has set up a makeshift studio area in her quarters: a workbench littered with pottery and sculpting supplies. She's showing something she made to Dax; a clay figure intended to be a bird. It's rough, barely recognizable.

KIRA

What do you think?

DAX

(encouraging)  
Not bad.

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED:

29

KIRA

It's a bird.

DAX

I know. It's good. Very promising for a first try.

KIRA

It's my ninth try.

Dax tries to recover but Kira turns and mashes the bird onto her workbench.

KIRA

I'm starting over...

She starts working the clay... Dax watches for a beat...

DAX

Nerys... why are you putting yourself through this?

KIRA

Because if I'm going to follow my D'jarra, I'm going to have to develop my artistic abilities.

DAX

Somehow I didn't think you'd fall in line with this D'jarra business so easily.

Kira isn't sure she wants to either, but that's not the point. She's trying to be a faithful Bajoran.

KIRA

It's what the Emissary wants. He's asking something very difficult of us. But we have to try, he speaks for the Prophets...

DAX

It seems so divisive. Some people are going to have things handed to them, others are going to lose everything they've ever worked for.

KIRA

I know.

(troubled)

It makes me wonder how I'd feel if my family had been streetsweepers instead of artists.

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED: (2)

29

DAX

I guess you're one of the lucky ones.

KIRA

How come I don't feel lucky?

She squeezes the clay in her hands... voices a thought that's been haunting her since she started trying to sculpt...

KIRA

The thing is... if this is really what the Prophets want of me... shouldn't I at least be good at it?

Dax has no answer for her... off Kira's face as she looks down at the shapeless clay in her hands...

30 INT. SISKO'S BEDROOM

30

Sisko is asleep... but we can see it's a restless slumber, as if he's having a bad dream. Suddenly he bolts upright in bed, sweating, breathing hard.

He gets up, clears his head, and walks out into --

31 INT. SISKO'S QUARTERS

31

as Sisko ENTERS and is surprised to find JAKE on the couch, writing on a PADD.

SISKO

Jake...

JAKE

I know, I know. It's late. I just want to finish this thought.

Jake sees the look on Sisko's face.

JAKE

Something wrong?

SISKO

Just a bad dream. I was working in Grandpa's restaurant, cooking. Starfleet had recalled my commission.

JAKE

Why?

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED:

31

SISKO  
That's the thing... they didn't  
really have a reason.

JAKE  
(considering what it  
means)  
Huh...

SISKO  
There I was, cooking like I used  
to when I was your age. I didn't  
have any other options. I felt so  
trapped.  
(beat)  
Pretty weird, huh?

JAKE  
Not really. When you think about  
it, cooking is sort of like the  
"Sisko D'jarra"... and you have  
been pretty worried about what's  
going on.

Sisko reacts, struck by what Jake's saying.

SISKO  
I hadn't thought of it that way.  
(beat)  
When did you get to be such an  
expert on dreams, anyway?

JAKE  
(sly)  
While you were sleeping...

They share a grin...

SISKO  
I think I'll take a little walk,  
maybe get to work early.

32 INT. PROMENADE

32

Sisko, now in his uniform, takes his walk through the  
station. It's the middle of the night cycle, around 4  
AM, and the Promenade is still and quiet. Even Quark's  
is closed.

Sisko walks on, looking a little ragged, lost in his  
own thoughts. He is startled by a strange RUSTLING  
SOUND nearby, as if of robes. He turns to look.  
Nothing.

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED: 32

Sisko keeps walking. The lights of the Promenade seem DIMMER now. The background hum of the station has dropped away. The feel is ominous... strange... he hears the RUSTLING again, whips around toward the source.

No one.

Disturbed, he turns to continue walking -- and finds himself face-to-face with...

33 KAI OPAKA 33

Sisko couldn't be more surprised.

KAI OPAKA  
Who are you?

There's an urgency in her voice that says she's not asking him to identify himself, but asking who he is.

SISKO  
Kai Opaka...

She stares at him for a moment.

SISKO  
What are you doing here? How did you --

34 NEW ANGLE 34

Suddenly Opaka is standing behind Sisko.

KAI OPAKA  
(urgent)  
Who are you?

SISKO  
(turning to face her)  
Don't you know me?

35 NEW ANGLE 35

Opaka is now somewhere to Sisko's left.

OPAKA  
How can I know someone who doesn't know himself?

Sisko doesn't know what to make of her words.

36 NEW ANGLE

36 \*

Opaka is gone. Sisko whips around, trying to catch  
sight of her, but she's no where to be found. He's  
alone, and the Promenade around him is back to normal.  
Off his disturbed features we...

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

FADE OUT.

\*

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

37 INT. REPLIMAT

37

where Sisko is sitting at a table having a MUG of coffee. It's the morning rush and the place is full of SUPERNUMERARIES; Kira is in line for one of the Replicators and there's not an extra chair in sight. When she finally gets her Raktajino she crosses to Sisko.

KIRA

You must've been up early.

The truth is he's been up all night.

SISKO

Been here all morning. Couldn't sleep.

She looks around, sees there's no place to sit.

KIRA

Well... I guess I'll have my Raktajino on the run.

Before Kira can move off, a Bajoran WOMAN in civilian clothes gets up from the table next to Sisko's and offers Kira her chair.

WOMAN

Please.

Kira is a bit confused -- the food on the woman's tray is only half-finished.

KIRA

You're not finished.

WOMAN

I'll find someplace else to sit.

The woman slides the chair to Sisko's table, avoids Kira's eye.

KIRA

You don't have to move for me.

WOMAN

You're Ih'valla...  
(indicating her own  
earring)  
I'm te'nari.

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED:

37

And before Kira can even digest this, the woman moves away, EXITS to the Promenade. Sisko sees that Kira is decidedly uncomfortable with what just happened.

SISKO

It's been going on all morning --  
whenever someone from a high  
ranking D'jarra comes in.

Not knowing what else to do, Kira sits heavily into the chair the woman vacated.

KIRA

She didn't have to do that. It  
was so... awkward.

SISKO

(agreeing)  
I don't think I could ever get  
used to being treated like that.

KIRA

That's the thing. How long will  
it be before I walk in here and  
expect someone to give up their  
chair for me. What happens when  
I've gotten so used to it, I don't  
even notice anymore?

Neither of them quite know what else to say about the subject. Sisko feels it's not his place to judge the situation and Kira is doing her best to follow Akorem's wishes. A quiet moment passes.

SISKO

I think I'll get another cup of  
coffee.

KIRA

(lightly)  
No wonder you're having trouble  
sleeping.

SISKO

It's not that...

Sisko considers whether to confide in Kira, decides to forego the coffee.

SISKO

Have you ever heard of something  
called an "Orb Shadow"?

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED: (2)

37

KIRA

Sure. Sometimes people who've been exposed to the Orbs experience visions... weeks, even months after the encounter.

SISKO

Doctor Bashir told me it has to do with residual synaptic (TECH).

KIRA

That's one way of looking at it.  
(off Sisko's look)  
A lot of people think you only have a Shadow experience if you ignore the path the Prophets tried to show you during your Orb encounter.

Sisko considers how one might interpret what happened to him in this light.

SISKO

Interesting.

KIRA

Did you have one?

SISKO

Either that, or Kai Opaka was on the station last night.

Kira reacts, curious.

SISKO

It was strange... she didn't know me... she said I don't know myself.

KIRA

(thoughtful)  
I wonder what she was trying to tell you?

Sisko doesn't want to get into a religious discussion with her, tries to deflect it.

SISKO

(lightly)  
Probably that I have too much (TECH) rolling around in my head.

With a smile, he stands to go.

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED: (3)

37

SISKO  
See you later.

Off Kira's thoughtful features as she watches him move off...

38 EXT. SPACE (OPTICAL)

38

Re-establishing. Ships coming and going.

39 INT. PROMENADE

39

where Kira is talking to Vedek Porta, who's standing outside the Temple calling people inside for services with a ritual INSTRUMENT. This might be something that makes a rattling or shaking SOUND, rather than a bell.

KIRA  
The thing is, Kai Opaka was the person who first named Captain Sisko the Emissary --

Porta seems to be only half listening as he smiles and beckons to passersby.

PORTA  
Come in, come in -- services are about to begin.

KIRA  
Maybe the reason she didn't "know" him is because he's given up the role.

Porta sees someone he knows and gently chides them:

PORTA  
Don't try to sneak by, Nari, I see you.

Kira keeps at him, hoping to convince herself by getting him to agree with what she's thinking.

KIRA  
Maybe Opaka was trying to tell him that he shouldn't have stepped aside, that he's ignoring the path the Prophets laid out for him.

PORTA  
Really, Nerys. You're reading far too much into this.

(CONTINUED)

39 CONTINUED:

39

KIRA  
(disappointed)  
Am I?

PORTA  
You're looking for reasons to  
ignore what the Emissary is asking  
of us. It's only natural, because  
what he's asking isn't easy.

Kira respects Porta and his opinion too much to hang on  
to her theory.

KIRA  
I know. You're right.

PORTA  
You're an important person on this  
station, people look up to you.  
You have to try and set the proper  
example.

Kira hopes he's not asking her to do what she thinks he  
is.

KIRA  
What are you saying...?

PORTA  
(gently)  
I think you know...

And with that, he turns and EXITS to the temple... Off  
Kira's features...

40 INT. O'BRIEN'S QUARTERS - CLOSE ON A DART BOARD 40

as a DART hits it... but instead of a point, this dart  
has a MAGNETIC TIP (or the 24th century equivalent).

41 REVEAL 41

that the players are Miles and Molly O'Brien. O'Brien  
has mounted the board at Molly's height on a wall in  
their quarters and he kneels next to her as he  
instructs.

O'BRIEN  
Good shot, Molly!

MOLLY  
Did I win?

(CONTINUED)

41 CONTINUED:

41

O'BRIEN

We're just practicing. We'll play later.

Molly looks unsure about his whole darts thing, but hasn't lost interest yet.

O'BRIEN

Try another one.

Molly takes it and throws, and just then Keiko sticks her head in from the other room, holding O'Brien's KILT from "The Bar Association."

KEIKO

Anyone I know?

O'BRIEN

It's mine.

Keiko looks as if she's trying to picture him in it.

O'BRIEN

Don't worry. I only wear it in the Holosuites.

KEIKO

I suppose Julian has one, too.

She puts the Kilt on a chair, moves to him. Molly uses the fact of O'Brien's distraction to go back to what she really wants to be doing, COLORING on paper.

KEIKO

You two certainly spent a lot of time in the Holosuites.

O'BRIEN

(pulling her close)  
You should be glad. Kept me out of trouble.

KEIKO

Remind me to thank Julian next time I see him.

Keiko smiles, strokes his hair... and they kiss. When they part, O'Brien casts a glance at Molly, then inclines his head toward the bedroom in a "do-you-think-she'd-notice?" gesture.

O'BRIEN

(quiet)  
What do you say we try for twins...?

(CONTINUED)

41 CONTINUED: (2)

41

KEIKO  
(smiling)  
I don't think that's the way it  
works. You'd better brush up on  
your biology.

O'BRIEN  
Teach me.

Suddenly Molly is at their side with a drawing.

MOLLY  
I drew a pony.

O'BRIEN  
Let me see, sweetie...  
(off PADD)  
Does pony have a name?

MOLLY  
I don't know.

She sprawls on the floor to keep drawing.

KEIKO  
(to O'Brien)  
Listen, I've still got a lot of  
specimens to catalog from the  
survey.

O'BRIEN  
Go ahead. I'll play with Molly.

A warm look between them...

KEIKO  
It's good to be home, Miles...

He smiles, and Keiko moves off to collect the things  
she needs for her work. O'Brien moves to get the  
darts.

O'BRIEN  
Come on, Molly. Let's play darts.

MOLLY  
I don't wanna.

O'Brien is a bit disappointed, but decides to roll with  
it.

O'BRIEN  
Can daddy color, too?

(CONTINUED)

41 CONTINUED: (3)

41

MOLLY  
(absorbed in her work)  
I don't know.

Keiko glances up from her work and sees O'Brien's face... he knows that Molly is just being a kid, doing exactly what strikes her fancy, but he's left with nothing to do...

Keiko watches as a O'Brien sits there on the floor for a beat, trying to convince himself that he's not bored. After a beat, he turns and looks at the Kilt on the chair... his features almost wistful...

Off Keiko as she takes this in...

42 INT. SISKO'S OFFICE

42

where Sisko and Kira are going over PADDs, talking station business.

KIRA  
-- the four shift rotation also seems to be improving performance. Fewer mistakes due to fatigue.

SISKO  
Great, let's make the change permanent.  
(beat)  
Anything else?

Kira is a bit reluctant, almost says no.

KIRA  
Do you know Major Jatarn?

SISKO  
He's with the Bajoran Defense Ministry...?  
(off her nod)  
Not personally.

KIRA  
He's coming to the station day after tomorrow. I was wondering if you might have time to meet with him.

SISKO  
(nods)  
What about?

(CONTINUED)

42 CONTINUED:

42

She swallows back her emotion. She doesn't want to do this, but feels she must.

KIRA

I think he'd make an excellent First Officer. As soon as you find someone to take my post, I'm going to resign my commission.

Sisko realizes what's going on...

SISKO

So you can follow your D'jarra...

KIRA

(trying to make the best of it)

I'm planning to move back to Dakkur province... a lot of artists live in the capitol. I have a friend there who's willing to apprentice me.

Sisko is dismayed at the thought of losing her, but tries to keep the emotion from his voice because he doesn't feel it's his place to dissuade her.

SISKO

Sounds like a good opportunity for you.

They look at each other, both wanting to say more... she: I don't want to do this... he: please don't... but they hold back...

KIRA

If you don't hit it off with Major Jatarn, I can think of a few other people. It shouldn't be that hard to find someone to replace me.

SISKO

I don't doubt I can find someone to fill your post... but replace you...?

He shakes his head... no way. The tears well up in her eyes... she musters a smile of thanks... then turns and EXITS, as if not wanting to lose it in front of him... off Sisko's face as he watches her go...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

43 INT. PROMENADE 43

as O'Brien makes his way down it, carrying his TOOLKIT, heading home after work like he was in Act Two. SUPERNUMERARIES as needed. As he passes Quark's, O'Brien stops, considers whether to go in.

O'BRIEN  
(hits combadge)  
Computer, time.

COMPUTER VOICE  
Nineteen twenty one hours.

O'BRIEN  
Where is Doctor Bashir?

COMPUTER VOICE  
Doctor Bashir is in Quark's bar.

O'Brien decides to pop in...

44 INT. QUARK'S 44

where Bashir is playing darts with Morn as TWO DABO GIRLS look on. SUPERNUMERARIES as needed.

O'Brien ENTERS from the Promenade, craning his head around to look for Bashir. When he spots him, O'Brien's features falter, as if he wasn't expecting to see Bashir having such a good time without him. Just then, Bashir glances his way.

BASHIR  
Chief!

O'BRIEN  
Julian...

Bashir says goodbye to his friends and moves to join O'Brien at the bar.

BASHIR  
How've you been?

O'BRIEN  
Not bad. You?

BASHIR  
All right.

(CONTINUED)

44 CONTINUED:

44

O'BRIEN  
I was just headed home, thought  
I'd drop by for a pint.

A Ferengi WAITER appears behind the bar and Bashir  
signals for two pints.

BASHIR  
Been a while, eh?

O'BRIEN  
Seems like weeks.

They regard each other for a moment... both are  
thinking how much they've missed each other, but  
neither is about to come out and say it.

O'BRIEN  
(indicating Morn)  
I see you've found someone to play  
darts with, too.  
(off Bashir's look)  
I set up a board in my quarters so  
Molly and I could play.

BASHIR  
(charitably)  
Morn's pretty good.

O'BRIEN  
So's Molly.

A beat, then both at the same time...

BASHIR/O'BRIEN  
It's not the same.

They mean "without you," but neither of them wants to  
just come out and say it.

O'BRIEN  
I mean, Molly's just a kid.

BASHIR  
Morn couldn't hit a Yridian Yak  
from five paces.

O'BRIEN  
You and I were evenly matched.

BASHIR  
We had a good rivalry going.

O'BRIEN  
It kept us sharp.

(CONTINUED)

44 CONTINUED: (2)

44

BASHIR

Exactly.

They both understand what the other is saying, and as far as they're concerned they've just been as demonstrative as if they'd hugged and wept.

They regard each other for another long moment... Quark approaches from the other side of the bar.

QUARK

(to both)

You're late.

O'BRIEN

What are you talking about?

QUARK

It's Thursday. I've got your usual Holosuite reserved.

O'BRIEN

(to Bashir)

Didn't you cancel?

BASHIR

No... I was hoping maybe...  
(you'd show)

O'BRIEN

Can't do it. I've got to get home.

QUARK

What about you, Doctor? The Battle of Britain awaits, and you know my policy on cancellations. No refunds.

O'BRIEN

Go ahead... maybe Morn is better in the cockpit of a Spitfire than he is at darts.

A beat, then Bashir shakes his head...

BASHIR

Wouldn't be the same...

O'Brien looks at him, grateful to hear him say it... and happy to provide a non touchy-feely reason why it wouldn't be...

(CONTINUED)

44 CONTINUED: (3) 44

O'BRIEN  
Yeah... Morn's probably never even  
heard of England...

O'Brien drains his glass, and with a last look at  
Bashir, EXITS. Bashir heads back for the dart board,  
leaving Quark shaking his head and wondering what makes  
these humans tick...

45 INT. CAPTAIN'S OFFICE 45

where Sisko is working on a PADD. After a beat, Odo's  
COM VOICE interrupts.

ODO'S COM VOICE  
Odo to Sisko.

SISKO  
Go ahead.

ODO'S COM VOICE  
You'd better get down here.  
Someone's been killed on the  
Promenade.

Off Sisko's reaction...

46 INT. PROMENADE 46

Sisko meets up with Kira, also heading for the scene of  
the crime.

SISKO  
What happened?

KIRA  
I don't know yet.

They approach a small crowd of SUPERNUMERARIES who are  
being kept away from the crime scene by Odo and several  
of his DEPUTIES.

Sisko and Kira push their way through to find a Bajoran  
MONK lying dead on the floor. Vedek Porta stands  
nearby, his features grave.

ODO  
(to Sisko)  
He fell from the second level. He  
was killed on impact.

SISKO  
Do anyone see how it happened?

(CONTINUED)

46 CONTINUED:

46

PORTA

I did.

Sisko, Odo and Kira turn to him.

ODO

Was it an accident?

PORTA

I pushed him.

Our people are stunned by this admission. Porta is extremely reasonable, calm.

PORTA

His family name is Imutta. Their D'jarra is unclean.

Sisko doesn't know what he means, so a stunned Kira explains...

KIRA

They prepare the dead for burial...

PORTA

I asked him to set the right example and resign from our Order. He refused.

Our people can hardly believe what they're hearing.

SISKO

You killed him... because of his D'jarra?

PORTA

If a Vedek can't do what the Emissary has asked of us, how can we expect anyone else to?

Porta gestures as if to say "what else could I do"? Kira is crushed, a man she respects and admires has committed a terrible crime.

SISKO

(grim)

Get him out of here.

Odo and his Deputies move to comply... Off Sisko's steely features...

47 EXT. SPACE - DEEP SPACE NINE (OPTICAL) 47

Re-Establishing.

48 INT. WARDROOM 48

as Akorem and an Attendant MONK ENTER to join Sisko.  
The Monk hangs back by the door as Sisko rises and  
motions Akorem to a chair.

SISKO

Thank you for coming.

AKOREM

I would've come even if you hadn't  
asked to meet with me.

(off Sisko's questioning  
look)

I intend to ask the Magistrate to  
be lenient with Vedek Porta.  
After all, he was only trying to  
do what the Prophets have asked of  
us...

(with regret)

-- even if he did go too far.

SISKO

Too far... What should he have  
done, just roughed Imutta up a  
little?

Akorem is a bit taken aback by Sisko's tone; he's  
gotten used to being treated with deference.

AKOREM

Of course not. I abhor violence.  
I regret what happened here today  
as much as you do. But change is  
never easy. The road the Prophets  
have asked us to walk won't always  
be a smooth one.

SISKO

And forcing people to follow their  
D'jarra won't make it any  
smoother. What happened on the  
Promenade was just the beginning.

AKOREM

Must I remind you, Captain, I am  
merely fulfilling the will of the  
Prophets.

SISKO

Are you sure of that?

(CONTINUED)

48 CONTINUED:

48

AKOREM  
(simply)  
I'm the Emissary.

SISKO  
(emphatic)  
And what you've done with the  
position has made me wish I'd  
never given it up.

AKOREM  
But you did. And it was the right  
decision. After all, you never  
truly accepted the role in the  
first place.

Sisko knows how Akorem is going to react to what he has  
to say next.

SISKO  
I'm willing to accept it now.

There's a moment of stunned silence, and then Akorem  
begins to realize why Sisko called him here.

AKOREM  
You're... challenging my claim...

SISKO  
You've left me no choice.

AKOREM  
My claim to being Emissary rests  
on what was foretold in the  
ancient texts. I was the first to  
be with the Prophets, they gave me  
back my life. What do you base  
your claim on?

Sisko shakes his head; he's not going to argue  
Prophecy, he has a better idea.

SISKO  
There's only one way to be sure  
which one of us is the Emissary...  
by going to the wormhole and  
asking the Prophets ourselves.

Akorem is taken aback by the audacity of what Sisko is  
proposing. But he sees this is the only way, and after  
a beat, nods his agreement... off this moment...

DEEP SPACE NINE: "The Other Emissary"-REV.1/3/96-ACT FOUR 50.

49 EXT. SPACE - DEEP SPACE NINE (OPTICAL) 49 \*

as a Runabout leaves the station... \*

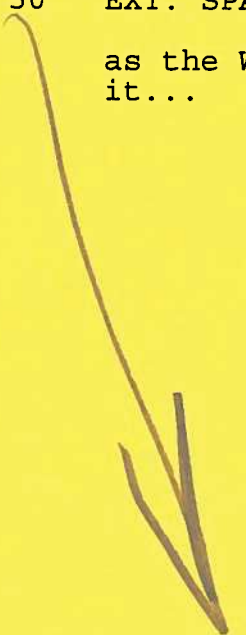
50 EXT. SPACE (OPTICAL) 50 \*

as the WORMHOLE OPENS and the Runabout disappears into it... \*

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

*AMIT  
LOSE THIS ?*



*TOP OF NEXT*

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

51 INT. WORMHOLE (OPTICAL) 51

as the Runabout navigates through the brilliant tunnel (STOCK).

52 INT. RUNABOUT 52

where Sisko is piloting; Akorem sits nearby. INTERACTIVE LIGHT plays on their features. Sisko works the controls and we hear the SOUND of the ship slowing down.

AKOREM

What are you doing?

SISKO

Bringing us to a stop...

Akorem is a bit more apprehensive than Sisko since he's about to see his gods again.

AKOREM

Now what...?

SISKO

We wait.

Akorem closes his eyes to meditate, and Sisko crosses his arms across his chest and looks at the light show out the window.

53 INT. WORMHOLE (OPTICAL) 53

the Runabout at a stop (STOCK).

54 INT. RUNABOUT (OPTICAL) 54

Sisko and Akorem in slightly different positions to indicate the passage of time. The INTERACTIVE LIGHT plays on their features for a moment... then suddenly INTENSIFIES so that the screen...

55 WHITES OUT (OPTICAL) 55

and we begin the WORMHOLE SEQUENCE. We hear the SOUND of heartbeats, breathing... and suddenly find ourselves in:

56 INT. INFIRMARY (OPTICAL)

56

where Akorem is on the examining table like he was in Act One. Sisko stands nearby, as do KIRA ALIEN and BASHIR ALIEN. The scene has that OVEREXPOSED quality we've seen in other wormhole experiences, with a fuzziness around the edges of the screen.

KIRA ALIEN  
You are the Sisko.

Bashir Alien looks at Akorem.

BASHIR ALIEN  
(to Kira)  
This is the one that was injured.

Akorem averts his gaze, humbled in the Prophet's presence.

KIRA ALIEN  
Why are you here?

Suddenly the scene shifts to:

57 INT. WARDROOM (OPTICAL)

57

where Sisko and Akorem find themselves with PORTA ALIEN, standing near the door in the same configuration as they were toward the end of Scene 25.

SISKO  
We need to talk to you. The people of Bajor believe that you have chosen someone to guide them... that you have a plan for their future.

PORTA ALIEN  
There is no future. There is only now.

Sisko wants answers and isn't going to let the wormhole aliens get away with speaking obliquely.

SISKO  
That's not an answer.

Akorem looks at him, taken aback by the way he's speaking to the Prophets.

SISKO  
We need to know if one of us has been chosen by you to be Emissary.

(CONTINUED)

57 CONTINUED: 57

PORTA ALIEN  
What is this... Emissary?

Suddenly we shift back to --

58 INT. INFIRMARY (OPTICAL) 58

Sisko, Akorem, Kira Alien and Bashir Alien as before.

SISKO  
Ancient Bajoran texts predicted  
that you would call someone to you  
and name them your Emissary.

AKOREM  
Yes. And aren't I that person?

Akorem drops to his knees in front of them.

AKOREM  
Didn't I find the Celestial  
temple? Wasn't I the first to  
meet with you?  
(indicating Sisko)  
He came to you later.

BASHIR ALIEN  
First... later... they have no  
meaning to us.

Akorem's features falter... this seems to repudiate  
what he's claiming.

59 INT. PROMENADE (OPTICAL) 59

where Akorem finds himself on the Podium from which he  
spoke to the people. The same SUPERNUMERARIES are  
there, but now they're Wormhole Aliens, and they stand  
there in eerie silence, staring at Sisko and Akorem.

Kira Alien, Odo Alien and Porta Alien stand nearby.

AKOREM  
But... you gave me back my life,  
just as was foretold.

ODO ALIEN  
(simply)  
You were injured.

PORTA ALIEN  
We kept you with us.

(CONTINUED)

59 CONTINUED:

59

Akorem moves off the podium to approach them, desperate to get some validation from the Prophets.

AKOREM

That's right. You spared me the occupation so that I could bring the D'jarra back to Bajor.

The Aliens just look at him blankly; they have no idea what he's talking about.

AKOREM

Surely you know of the D'jarra.

Again, they just stare at him.

AKOREM

I don't understand... how can you know so little about your people?

KIRA ALIEN

(simply)  
We exist here.

With these three words, the Aliens have said it all. Akorem looks to Sisko... fear and confusion in his eyes...

AKOREM

(devastated)  
I was wrong... about everything... they never chose me... they don't care about the D'jarra...

Sisko looks at this shattered man with sympathy; he feels no victory in the moment. Porta Alien turns to address the other Aliens.

PORTA ALIEN

We should have returned him to his own time.

ODO ALIEN

We still can.

Akorem looks at them, realizing what this means...

AKOREM

My wife... my family... are you saying I could be with them again...?

KIRA ALIEN

They still exist. We can return you to them.

(CONTINUED)

59 CONTINUED: (2)

59

ODO ALIEN  
For you, it will be as if you were  
never gone.

Akorem turns to Sisko, his face imploring, as if all he  
needs is someone to tell him it's all right. After a  
beat, Sisko nods... Akorem smiles, turns to the  
Aliens... he's going home...

AKOREM  
I'm ready.

With a FLASH, Akorem is gone... Sisko reacts to his  
disappearance, looks around...

60 INT. PROMENADE (OPTICAL)

60

where Sisko finds himself face to face with Opaka  
Alien.

SISKO  
Tell me something... I need to  
know. Do you care what happens to  
Bajor? Does it even matter to you  
that the Bajorans think of you as  
gods?

Opaka Alien looks at him blankly, and for a moment we  
think she's not going to answer.

OPAKA ALIEN  
We... are of Bajor.

She says this as if this were the closest she can come  
to explaining it to a humanoid.

SISKO  
What does that mean?

OPAKA ALIEN  
(it means what it means)  
We are of Bajor.

A moment... then there's a FLASH of light and we cut to --

61 INT. RUNABOUT

61

where Sisko finds himself alone in the pilot's seat...  
the wormhole experience is over. INTERACTIVE LIGHT  
plays on his features as he takes a moment to collect  
himself, pondering the meaning of what happened... then  
he reaches and works the controls...

62 EXT. SPACE - DEEP SPACE NINE (OPTICAL) 62

Re-Establishing.

63 INT. O'BRIEN'S QUARTERS 63

A quiet night at the O'Briens. Keiko is working at the table with some PADDs as O'Brien ENTERS from Molly's room.

O'BRIEN

Molly loves that book Jake gave her. She made me read it three times before she fell asleep.

Keiko smiles distractedly, keeps working. O'Brien flops down on the couch, looks around for something to do... but can't think of anything and lets out an unconscious sigh. Keiko looks up.

KEIKO

I'm going to be working for another few hours.

O'BRIEN

That's okay... I'll...

He picks a PADD off the coffee table, tries to sound enthusiastic.

O'BRIEN

Read...

KEIKO

If you want to go do something...

O'BRIEN

I'm fine.

She shrugs a smile, gets back to work. A quiet moment... then O'Brien lets out another unconscious sigh as he reads.

KEIKO

Miles... I promised I wouldn't say anything... but...

(coming out with it)

It's Julian.

O'BRIEN

What about him?

KEIKO

I ran into him the other day and... he seemed depressed.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

63 CONTINUED:

63

KEIKO (Cont'd)  
He'd never admit it, but he really misses you.

O'BRIEN  
Poor guy... no family to come home to every night.

KEIKO  
Why don't you go find him? You know... cheer him up.

O'Brien tries to contain his excitement.

O'BRIEN  
Depressed is he?

KEIKO  
Very.

O'BRIEN  
Maybe I should spend an hour with him.

KEIKO  
Maybe two.

He's up in a flash, grabs his Bomber Jacket, and heads for the door. Before he ducks out, O'Brien regards Keiko for a moment.

O'BRIEN  
I'm a lucky man.

She smiles, and O'Brien EXITS... Keiko lets out a relieved sigh, then activates a DESKTOP COMPUTER.

KEIKO  
Keiko to Doctor Bashir.

INTERCUT WITH:

64 INT. INFIRMARY

64

as Bashir responds. He's working alone at his desk.

BASHIR  
Go ahead.

KEIKO  
Julian, it's about Miles. I promised I wouldn't tell anyone, but he's been really depressed lately.

(CONTINUED)

64 CONTINUED: 64

BASHIR

Oh?

Off Keiko's smile as she continues putting her plan into motion...

65 INT. QUARK'S 65

where Sisko is at a table reading a PADD. SUPERNUMERARIES as needed. Kira approaches him from behind and sets a CLAY BIRD similar to the one she made in Scene 29 down in front of him.

KIRA

I want you to have this.

(taking a seat)

It's an original Kira Nerys creation...

(wry)

-- could be very valuable some day.

SISKO

(playing along)

I know. She didn't make that many before she gave up being a sculptor.

They share a smile...

KIRA

I never got the chance to tell you what I thought of your speech.

(off his look)

It was the right thing to do.

SISKO

I wanted everyone to know what happened to Akorem... and that the Prophets never said anything about people having to follow their D'jarra.

KIRA

I think most everyone was relieved to hear it...

A moment as they reflect on the events of the past few days...

SISKO

(re: PADD)

I was just reading one of Akorem's poems: The Song of the Prophets.

(CONTINUED)

65 CONTINUED:

65

KIRA  
Did he finish it?

Sisko nods and hands the PADD to her.

SISKO  
He went back to his wife and  
family and kept writing.

She studies the PADD for a beat. Just then, O'Brien  
and Bashir pass by, in full "Battle of Britain"  
regalia.

O'BRIEN  
Why didn't you cover my tail?

BASHIR  
How was I supposed to know you  
were going to go after three  
Stuka's at once?

They pass out of hearing range and belly up to the bar.  
Sisko shakes his head and smiles. Kira hands the PADD  
back to him.

KIRA  
It's beautiful.

SISKO  
Isn't it?

A beat, then...

KIRA  
You know, there's something I  
haven't been able to figure out.  
According to every record I found,  
Akorem Laan was never missing.  
His lightship was damaged in a  
storm, but he managed to repair it  
and get back to Bajor within a few  
days.

Sisko knows what she's about to say, he's been puzzling  
over it too.

SISKO  
And if he was never missing, then  
how could he have ended up here...

KIRA  
Exactly.

Sisko shrugs a smile.

(CONTINUED)

65 CONTINUED: (2)

65

SISKO  
The Prophets work in mysterious  
ways.

Kira can't argue with that. Just then, Ensign Latara,  
the young woman from the Teaser, approaches, her  
husband at her side.

LATARA  
Excuse me, sir.

SISKO  
What is it, Ensign?

LATARA  
I'm sorry to bother you, but... we  
just found out that we're going to  
have a baby...

She casts a glance to her husband, who grins happily.

KIRA  
(beaming)  
Congratulations.

LATARA  
(to Sisko)  
We were wondering if...  
(sheepish)  
-- you might have time to give us  
your blessing.

Kira looks to Sisko, expecting to see him wince, but to  
her surprise he breaks into an utterly sincere grin.

SISKO  
I'd be happy to. Come by my  
office tomorrow morning.

LATARA  
Thank you, Emissary.

Sisko smiles at the word, realizing for the first time  
that he kind of likes being called that.

SISKO  
You're welcome.

The young couple move off and Sisko returns to reading  
Akorem's poem... off Kira's smile as she studies  
Sisko's face. He's the Emissary, just like she's  
always believed...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FIVE

THE END

