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STAR TREK

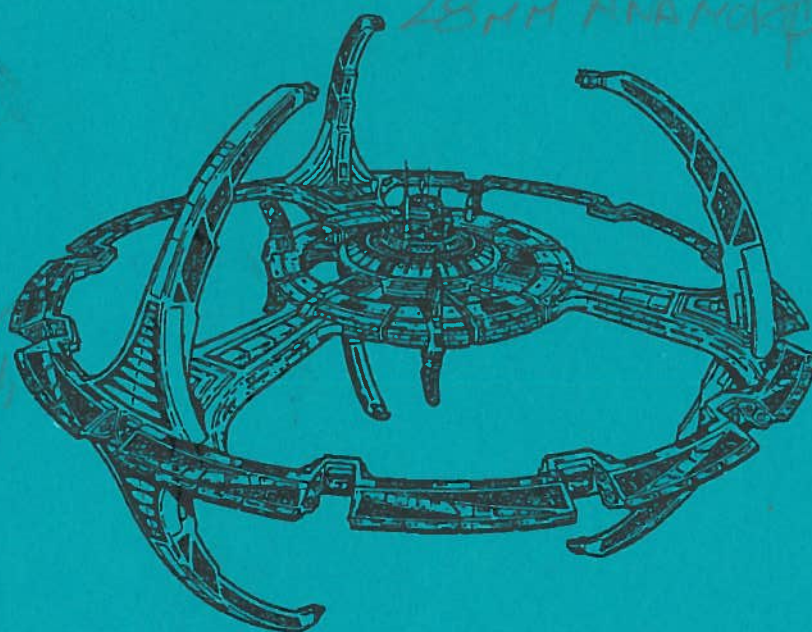
DEEP SPACE NINE

SCENE V2

25° INCLINED

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"Homefront"

FINAL DRAFT

OCTOBER 23, 1995

STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE

REVISED
10/24/95 be
10/25/95 pk
10/26/95 yw
*10/30/95 gn

"Homefront"
(fka "Untitled Sisko on Earth")

#40510-483

Written
by
Ira Steven Behr & Robert Hewitt Wolfe

Directed
by
David Livingston

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FINAL DRAFT

October 23, 1995

STAR TREK: DS9 - "Homefront" - 10/24/95 - PRONUNCIATION

STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE

"Homefront"

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

AUDUBON	ODD-uh-bon
BENTEN	BEN-teen
GRAZERITE	GRAY-zer-ite
JAMBALAYA	JUM-buh-LIE-uh
JARESH-INYO	JAR-esh IN-yoe
JEM'HADAR	JEM-huh DAR
LAKOTA	luh-KOE-tuh
LEYTON	LEY-tuhn
OKINAWA	oh-kuh-NOW-uh
REMOULADE	ROME-a-lod
THOLIAN	THO-lee-an

STAR TREK: DS9 - "Homefront" - 10/23/95 - CAST

STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE

"Homefront"

CAST

SISKO

JOSEPH

KIRA

LEYTON

ODO

BENTEN

BASHIR

JARESH-INYO

DAX

COM VOICE

QUARK

HEAD OFFICER

O'BRIEN

WORF

JAKE

NOG

Non-Speaking

Non-Speaking

MORN

N.D. SUPERNUMERARIES

STAR TREK: DS9 - "Homefront" - 10/23/95 - SETS

STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE

"Homefront"

SETS

INTERIORS

DEEP SPACE NINE
PROMENADE/SECOND LEVEL
QUARK'S
OPS
ODO'S QUARTERS
SISKI'S QUARTERS

STARFLEET HEADQUARTERS
SISKI'S TEMPORARY OFFICE

SISKI'S CREOLE KITCHEN

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

EXTERIORS

DEEP SPACE NINE

STARFLEET HEADQUARTERS

NEWS ORLEANS/FRENCH
QUARTER

EARTH

PLEASE NOTE: PRONUNCIATION GUIDE TO FOLLOW.

STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE"Homefront"TEASER

FADE IN:

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | OMITTED | 1 | * |
| 2 | INT. PROMENADE - SECOND LEVEL (OPTICAL) | 2 | |

SISKO and DAX stand at a viewport on the Second Level along with a crowd of other station residents. They watch as the wormhole opens, stays open for a beat, then closes. No ship enters or exits the wormhole. To the humans and other Federation personnel, this is an interesting scientific anomaly, but to the Bajorans, the wormhole's behavior has deep religious significance and they react accordingly.

*
*
*

DAX

There it goes again. That's the seventh time in the last two hours.

SISKO

Still no idea what's causing it?

DAX

So far it seems to be opening and closing completely at random. No unusual readings... no ships coming through...

They begin to walk away from the viewport. As they walk, Dax occasionally glances over the rail down at the Second Level.

DAX

For all we know, the Bajorans are right. Maybe it is a message from the Prophets.

As Sisko and Dax walk by a Bajoran monk, he bows his head in respect to the Emissary. Sisko nods back uncomfortably.

SISKO

(joking)

If it is, they haven't told me.

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED:

2

DAX
Maybe the Prophets don't recognize
you with the new beard.

Sisko smiles at Dax's jibe.

SISKO
(half to himself)
There has to be a scientific
explanation for this.

*

Dax continues looking over the railing. As she
watches...

3 NEW ANGLE

3

ODO emerges from an airlock and stalks onto the
Promenade, looking a little ticked off.

4 ON SISKO AND DAX

4

Dax reacts to the sight of Odo with a private smile.
Sisko picks up on it.

SISKO
Something funny, old man?

DAX
(playing innocent)
Hmmm? Oh, nothing.

Just then, Sisko's combadge chirps.

WORF'S COM VOICE
Ops to Captain Sisko.

Sisko hits his combadge.

SISKO
Sisko here.

WORF'S COM VOICE
Captain, we're receiving a
priority one message from
Starfleet Security.

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED:

4

SISKO

On our way.

Sisko and Dax EXIT.

5 INT. QUARK'S

5

QUARK is behind the bar, telling MORN a joke.

QUARK

So then, the Andorian says "That's
not my antenna."

Morn stares at Quark blankly. Quark's obviously
disappointed at Morn's lack of response.

QUARK

(dismissing him)
Why do I bother?

Just then, there's an angry growl from off-screen.

ODO (O.C.)

Quark!

Quark turns to the door as Odo ENTERS, looking steamed.

QUARK

What can I do for you, Constable?

ODO

(to the point)
Dax. Where is she?

Quark looks around the bar.

QUARK

She's not here.

(innocently)
Is there anything else I can do
for you?

*

Odo believes that Quark knows more than he's letting
on.

ODO

You think this is all very funny,
don't you? You and Dax probably
planned it together.

QUARK

Planned what?

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED:

5

ODO

Moving my furniture.

Morn knows this is bad news and EXITS.

QUARK

Is that what this is all about?
Someone moved your furniture?

ODO

Not someone. Commander Dax. This is the fourth time she's done it in the past year. She breaks into my quarters while I'm regenerating, and moves all my furniture out of alignment. She shifts one piece three centimeters to the left, and the next four centimeters to the right. Not one object in my quarters is where it's supposed to be.

QUARK

And that's a bad thing?

ODO

Everything I own is carefully and painstakingly arranged. Dax knows that... yet she takes perverse delight in throwing my quarters into chaos.

*

QUARK

I would hardly call three centimeters chaos.

ODO

Maybe you wouldn't... but I would.
(a beat)

You humanoids are all alike... you have no sense of order. And Dax is the most... humanoid person I know.

*

*

SISKO'S COM VOICE

Sisko to Constable Odo.

ODO

(to com)

Odo here.

SISKO'S COM VOICE

Please report to Ops, immediately.

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED: (2)

5

Odo would much rather rant to Quark a little while longer, but duty calls.

ODO
Acknowledged.

Odo starts to leave.

QUARK
(calling after him)
If you see Dax, say hello to her for me.

Odo ignores him and EXITS. And Odo leaves, Quark breaks into a wide grin.

6 INT. OPS

6

Odo ENTERS to find Sisko, KIRA, Worf and O'BRIEN already there.

KIRA
How many people were at the conference?

SISKO
Including the Tholian observer, twenty-seven.

O'BRIEN
(shocked)
Twenty-seven. That's unbelievable.

SISKO
(to Kira and Odo)
The Federation President, Jaresh-Inyo has declared a planet wide day of mourning.

*

Sisko sees Odo enter.

SISKO
Constable, take a seat.

ODO
Of course.

Odo takes a seat at the Ops table. Sisko nods to Worf. Worf stands and activates the monitors behind the Ops table.

Worf
We received this less than ten minutes ago.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED:

6

WORF (Cont'd)

It's a recording of a high level diplomatic conference between the Federation and the Romulan Empire held on Earth a few days ago.

(to com)

Computer, begin replay at time index five nine eleven.

7 NEW ANGLE (OPTICAL)

7

To include the viewscreen, which shows an M.O.S. security recording of a conference room full of Federation and Romulan diplomats. They're milling around, talking in an informal session, when suddenly, the room is irradiated by a high-tech weapon. The viewscreen goes white and fritzes out as the recording ends.

8 CLOSE ON ODO

8

As he reacts to what he's seen.

ODO

A bomb.

WORF

Of unknown composition.

*

SISKO

(to Odo)

There hasn't been a crime like this on Earth in over a hundred years.

KIRA

(to Worf)

Go back. Show him what you showed us.

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED:

8

WORF

Computer, restart at five nine
sixteen at one-tenth normal speed.

9 NEW ANGLE (OPTICAL)

9

Back on the monitor which displays the diplomats,
moving in slow motion, seconds before the explosion.

WORF

(to com)

Freeze picture. Enlarge section
F three and isolate.

A square on the monitor is isolated and enlarged. The
image is now a medium shot of three people, one Romulan
and two humans. They're standing in front of a small
pedestal holding a black Grecian vase.

WORF

(to Odo)

Keep your eye on the piece of
pottery.

(to com)

Resume at one-tenth speed.

The people in the picture start moving again. For a
split second, the Grecian vase can be seen beginning to
MORPH.

ODO

That's a Changeling.

But before we or Odo can get a better look, the room
explodes and the recording ends.

10 CLOSE ON ODO

10

As he reacts to what he's seen.

11 NEW ANGLE

11

To include Sisko and Worf.

WORF

No sign of a Changeling was found
in the aftermath. We must assume
that it escaped unharmed.

*

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

11

SISKO

I was hoping this would never
happen. But it finally has... the
Changelings have reached earth.

*
*
*
*

And as Odo and the rest of the crew digest this grim
news, we...

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

(NOTE: Episode credits fall over opening scenes)

12 INT. ODO'S QUARTERS

12

Dax finishes moving a piece of Odo's jungle-gym furniture while Odo supervises.

DAX

How's that?

Odo studies the placement for a beat, then...

ODO

Another centimeter to the left.

Dax has been at this for a while and is obviously getting tired of it.

DAX

Shouldn't you be on the Lakota? *

ODO

The Lakota won't depart for Earth for another hour. Which gives us plenty of time to repair the damage you've done to my room.

(a beat)

And while I'm gone, I want your solemn word that you'll stay out of my quarters.

DAX

You've got it.

(a beat)

So how long do you think you and Captain Sisko will be on Earth?

ODO

I have no idea. I just hope this trip isn't a waste of time. I'm not sure what Captain Sisko and I can tell Starfleet about my people that hasn't already been in our reports.

DAX

Believe me, Odo, with Changelings on Earth, Starfleet's going to need all the help it can get.

*

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED:

12

She finishes moving the furniture.

DAX

There. How's that?

ODO

A little more to the left.

DAX

(playful)

Whatever you say, Constable.

*

Dax adjusts the furniture.

13 INT. SISKO'S QUARTERS (OPTICAL)

13

*

Sisko is talking on a monitor to his father, JOSEPH SISKO. Despite his advanced years, Joseph is as full of life and energy as anyone you'd want to meet. He's a gourmet cook who runs his own restaurant in New Orleans, and his personality is as zesty and full-bodied as his cooking. He's a big man with a big personality to match.

Several years earlier Joseph fought a debilitating battle against a severe illness, barely surviving. He's never gotten back to full strength, but he's determined to live out the rest of his years with gusto. Unfortunately, the years are starting to run out, a fact he's determined not to reveal to his son.

JOSEPH

(on monitor)

Wait until you see the size of the eggplants I'm getting out of my garden this year. As big as crenshaw melons and twice as heavy.

SISKO

How's Judith? She still helping out at the restaurant?

JOSEPH

(on monitor)

I sent her home to Portland. Your sister's got her own life to worry about. Besides... she never puts enough cayenne pepper in the jambalaya.

*

SISKO

Just like mom.

*

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED:

13

JOSEPH

(on monitor)

Which means she has no business
being in a kitchen.

(smiles)

It'll be good to have you home
again Benjamin. Jake, too.

SISKO

You know, Dad, this isn't exactly
a vacation. I'll be spending most
of my time in San Francisco at
Starfleet Headquarters.

JOSEPH

(on monitor)

Whatever you do during the day is
your business. But at dinner
time, you better get yourself down
to New Orleans. No son of mine is
going to eat that replicated slop
Starfleet calls food. Not if I
have anything to say about it.

*

*

SISKO

You won't get any argument from
me.

Sisko looks at his father with affection for a beat,
then a look of concern crosses his face.

SISKO

So... Dad... You feeling okay?

JOSEPH

(on monitor)

Let's not start that again.

SISKO

It's just a question.

(a beat)

You look a little tired. How's
the new aorta holding up?

*

JOSEPH

(on monitor)

The doctors say I'm a medical
marvel. At the rate things are
going in another year or two I
won't have an original organ left
in my body.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED: (2)

13

SISKO
But you feel okay?

JOSEPH
(on monitor)
Just point me in the direction of
a party or a pretty girl and I'll
show you how good I feel.
(changing the subject)
Make sure to call me as soon as
you and Jake get here. The guest
rooms are always ready and waiting
for you.

*
*
*
*

SISKO
I know that, Dad. We'll be there
before you know it.

*

Joseph nods and terminates the transmission. Sisko
frowns. He doesn't completely believe his father's re-
assurances about his health. After a beat...

14 NEW ANGLE

14

JAKE ENTERS.

SISKO
You just missed Grandpa Joe.

JAKE
Did you tell him we're staying in
San Francisco?

SISKO
I... didn't quite get around to
it.

*

Jake knows that means they're staying with Grandpa.

*

JAKE
Dad... You know if we stay with
Grandpa he's going to put me to
work in the kitchen.

SISKO
Is that so bad?

JAKE
Chopping vegetables for nine hours
a day isn't my idea of a vacation.

SISKO
Jake, you're not a kid anymore.
Grandpa won't expect you to chop
vegetables.

*

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED:

14

SISKO (Cont'd)
(smiles)
He'll want you to wait tables.

Off Jake's resigned expression...

*

14A INT. QUARK'S

14A

It's a normal crowd. People barely take notice as O'Brien and BASHIR walk down the spiral staircase, wearing World War Two era R.A.F. uniforms, complete with leather headgear, and in Bashir's case, a silk pilot's scarf.

O'BRIEN
(to Quark)
Barkeep.

Quark rolls his eyes. He's been through this before with these guys.

QUARK
So what can I get you two flyboys.

BASHIR
A scotch neat, and a pint o'
bitters for me mate.

O'BRIEN
And be quick about it. The
cabbage crates'll be coming back
over the briny any minute now.

Quark puts the glasses down.

QUARK
All right, all right. I'd hate to
let the "Jerries" strafe that
"green and pleasant land" of yours
while you two were taking time out
for a drink.

BASHIR
No choice. Ritual, you know.

He and O'Brien raise their glasses.

(CONTINUED)

14A CONTINUED:

14A

O'BRIEN

To Clive. The best bloke ever to
prang his kite into the Channel.

BASHIR

Stiff upper lip.

O'BRIEN

Hear, hear.

They toast and drink.

QUARK

Now remember what I said about
throwing glasses.

They put the glasses down on the bar.

O'BRIEN

(to Bashir)

So, want to go back up and take
another crack at the Jerries?

BASHIR

(breaking character)

I don't know. To tell you the
truth, my heart's not in it.

QUARK

Aren't you taking Clive's death a
little seriously? After all, he
was just a Holosuite character.

O'BRIEN

It's not Clive. It's Earth. You
probably wouldn't understand this,
Quark, but when you care about a
place, and it's in trouble... you
want to do something about it.
And when you can't, it's pretty
frustrating.

QUARK

I know exactly what you mean.
When the Great Monetary Collapse
hit Ferenginar, I was hundreds of
light-years away, working as a
ship's cook on a long haul
freighter. I can't tell you the
heartbreak I suffered, knowing
that rampant inflation and
currency devaluation were burning
like wildfires through the lush
financial landscapes of my home.

(MORE)

*
*

(CONTINUED)

14A CONTINUED: (2)

14A

QUARK (Cont'd)

(a beat)

It still depresses me even today.
I remember thinking my accounts
needed me, and there was nothing
I could do. I felt so... so
helpless.

(eager to bond)

So you see, I do understand.

O'BRIEN

Somehow, hearing that doesn't make
me feel the least bit better.

*

QUARK

(dismissive)

Humans. All you care about is
yourselves.

Quark moves off-screen, to deal with more amiable
customers. Just then, O'Brien and Bashir notice Odo
walking down the Promenade.

O'BRIEN

(calling out)

Odo, hold on a minute.

O'Brien and Bashir head for the door...

14B INT. PROMENADE

14B

O'Brien and Bashir join Odo.

ODO

(re: the uniforms)

I take it the Battle of Britain
has been won yet again.

BASHIR

There's a Spitfire with your name
on it sitting in the hangar. When
you come back from Earth, you can
take Clive's place in the
squadron.

ODO

Somehow, I doubt it.

O'BRIEN

Look, Odo... Do me a favor? If
you get a chance, drop by and
visit my folks in Killarney.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

14B CONTINUED:

14B

O'BRIEN (Cont'd)

You know, make sure they're doing
okay.

ODO

I'll try to find the time.

O'BRIEN

Good. I'll tell them you might
stop by.

ODO

Anyone you want me to look up,
Doctor?

BASHIR

No, that's all right. I just wish
I was going with you.

ODO

To be perfectly honest, Doctor, I
wish you were both going with me.
I could use the company. I doubt
a Shapeshifter is going to be very
popular on Earth at the moment.

*
*

O'BRIEN

No one can hold you responsible
for what your people are doing.

ODO

(skeptically)

Really.

(a beat)

I better get over to the Lakota.
We'll be leaving shortly.

*
*

BASHIR

Good luck.

O'Brien nods, seconding the motion.

ODO

I don't believe in luck.

(softens)

But I appreciate the sentiment.

Odo EXITS.

BASHIR

(worried)

Changelings on Earth.

(CONTINUED)

14B CONTINUED: (2)

14B

O'BRIEN

It's times like this that home
seems a long way off.

*
*

Bashir nods.

BASHIR

Let's get out of these uniforms.

They EXIT.

CUT TO:

15 OMITTED

15 *

16 INT. OPS

16

O'Brien, Worf and Kira are at their stations.

O'BRIEN

The Lakota has gone to warp.

WORF

(to Kira)

When was the last time the
wormhole opened?

KIRA

Twelve hours ago.

WORF

Perhaps it has returned to normal.

KIRA

I suppose so.

O'BRIEN

You seem disappointed, Major.

KIRA

I guess I am. Part of me was
hoping that the Prophets were
behind it. That they were finally
going to show themselves to the
Bajoran people.

WORF

I prefer Klingon beliefs.

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED:

16

KIRA

I suppose your gods aren't as cryptic as ours.

WORF

Our gods are dead. Ancient Klingon warriors slew them all millennia ago. They were more trouble than they were worth.

Worf turns his attention back to his panels. Kira looks at Worf, puzzled.

KIRA

I don't think I'll ever understand Klingons.

O'BRIEN

Don't worry about it, Major. Nobody does. That's the way they like it.

Worf is privately pleased as he continues to work. Kira and O'Brien exchange an look of amusement.

17 OMITTED

17 *

18 EXT. STARFLEET HEADQUARTERS - DAY (OPTICAL)

18 *

A green expanse of lawns and walkways leading up to a cluster of official looking buildings. The Golden Gate Bridge can be seen in the background.

19 EXT. STARFLEET HEADQUARTERS - GROUNDS - DAY

19

Sisko and Odo are walking toward one of the buildings when ADMIRAL LEYTON, the head of Starfleet Operations calls out to them.

LEYTON (O.C.)

Ben...

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED:

19

Sisko turns and smiles as Leyton approaches. Leyton is in his mid-fifties, tall, healthy and looks younger than he is. He's a veteran of conflicts with the Romulans, Tholians, Cardassians, and Borg.

At Leyton's side is his adjunct, COMMANDER ERIKA BENTEEN, a career officer in her early thirties and of slight build. She carries herself with the confidence of someone who never doubts that she's doing the right thing.

SISKO
Admiral Leyton. It's good to see
you again, sir.

They shake hands.

LEYTON
Captain Sisko, this is my
adjutant, Commander Benteen.
(to Benteen)
Benjamin was my executive officer
aboard the Okinawa. And a damn
fine one too.

SISKO
I did all right.

*

BENTEEN
Don't be modest. Admiral Leyton
has had his share of executive
officers and you're the only one
he ever speaks fondly of.

LEYTON
(re: Benteen)
Present company excluded.

*

SISKO
(to Odo)
Admiral Leyton is the one who
recommended me for the job on Deep
Space Nine.

LEYTON
One of my better ideas.

Leyton looks at Odo.

LEYTON
You must be Odo.

ODO
That's right.

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED: (2)

19

LEYTON

(re: Odo)

Forgive me for staring, but you're
the first Changeling I've ever
met.

BENTEEN

That you know of.

*

Benteen is making a joke, but neither she nor Leyton
are laughing. Sisko picks up on the tension in the
air.

ODO

I sympathize with your problem.
Uncovering Changeling infiltrators
is no easy task.

LEYTON

Well with the help of the two of
you, hopefully it'll be a little
easier.

SISKO

What exactly do you want us to do,
Admiral?

BENTEEN

We'd like to confer with you and
Odo... see if there's anything
about the Founders that you left
out of your official reports.

*

*

ODO

I'll help anyway I can. Though I
think you'll find my reports were
quite thorough.

SISKO

Admiral, somehow I doubt you
brought us all this way just for
a debriefing.

LEYTON

Of course not. Ben, Earth's in
danger. Maybe the greatest danger
it's faced since the last world
war. Something has to be done
about these Shapeshifters.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED: (3)

19

LEYTON (Cont'd)

(a beat)

Which is where you come in. You
know more about the Dominion than
anyone in Starfleet. And that's
why, effective immediately, I'm
making you the new head of
Starfleet Security here on Earth.

*

*

BENTEEN

Congratulations, Captain.

And off Sisko's surprised reaction, we...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

20 OMITTED 20

21 INT. SISKO'S CREOLE KITCHEN - NIGHT 21

Sisko's is an upscale restaurant, but you might not realize that from a first glance. Though there are table clothes and fresh flowers on the tables, the overall mood is homey and comfortable. There are pictures of old-time baseball players on the walls and a stuffed alligator hanging from the ceiling. Patrons, humans with a sprinkling of aliens, are dressed casually and the service is friendly and unpretentious.

Joseph Sisko, who is circulating around the room, stops to chat with one of the customers, who has just been served a large trout in butter-lemon sauce.

JOSEPH

That is one beautiful fish. Seems a shame to eat a trout that pretty. Why, you should thank me for the privilege of simply looking at it.

(a beat)

Well, go on, take a bite. It won't bite back.

(to all)

Now I don't want to see anyone studying the dessert menu. If you order anything but the bread pudding souffle, you'll be making a mistake you'll regret for the rest of your lives.

SISKO (O.C.)

You should listen to him. The man knows his bread pudding.

Joseph turns and sees Sisko and Jake standing by the front door. He smiles in delight.

JOSEPH

Benjamin.

Joseph and his son embrace. Joseph looks over at Jake and gives him a bear hug as well.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED:

21

JOSEPH

Jake-o. When are you going to stop growing? If you keep this up, you'll be bumping your head on that alligator before too long.

JAKE

I remember when you used to tell me that alligator was just in stasis, and you let it down at night to guard the restaurant.

JOSEPH

I had to stop doing that. It got to be too much trouble wrestling it back up to the ceiling every morning.

(winks)

Now take a seat. I'll have Nathan bring you both something to eat and we can catch up.

(to a passing waiter)

Nathan, some gumbo for these fine young men.

22 NEW ANGLE

22

Joseph leads them over to a corner table and they sit down.

JOSEPH

So where's this shapeshifting fellow you were coming with?

SISKO

With things the way they are, Odo thought it would be better if he stayed at Starfleet Headquarters.

JOSEPH

I don't blame him. I haven't seen people so nervous since the Borg scare.

Nathan comes and puts down two bowls of gumbo.

JOSEPH

Now personally, I'd like to meet him, though I have to admit, I'm a little suspicious of anyone who doesn't eat.

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED:

22

Sisko smiles as he starts eating, then notices that Joseph isn't joining them.

SISKO
Aren't you having any?

JOSEPH
I ate before you got here.

Sisko stares at his father as if not totally buying this explanation.

JOSEPH
Son, don't look at me that way.

SISKO
You've lost weight.

JOSEPH
(skeptical)
You think so?

JAKE
The doctors said you have to keep your weight up.

JOSEPH
Don't you start too.
(fair warning)
I've got a vat of crayfish in the back that needs cleaning and it's got your name on it.
(to both of them)
Now I'm going to say this one time and one time only. I'm fine. I'm happy, I'm healthy, and I'm planning on celebrating at least fifty more birthdays. Satisfied?

Sisko's not satisfied, but he's not going to press it.

SISKO
Gumbo's as good as I remember.

Which is Sisko's way of backing off.

JOSEPH
Starfleet must be taking this Shapeshifter thing pretty seriously, to have you come all the way back here.

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED: (2)

22

SISKO
It's serious, Dad.

JOSEPH
Twenty-seven people murdered right
here on Earth.
(shakes his head)
Never thought I'd see the day.
(brightens)
But now that my son's on the case,
I feel a lot better.

*

Before Sisko can respond to Joseph's comments, NOG
calls from off-screen.

NOG (O.C.)
Jake!

Everyone turns to see Nog, dressed in a Starfleet
cadets uniform, approaching from the entrance to the
restaurant.

JAKE
Nog.

Jake gets up. Nog pats Jake on the back and shakes
hands with Sisko.

NOG
Captain Sisko.
(re: his uniform)
What do you think?

SISKO
You look good, cadet.

NOG
(pleased)
You think so?

JAKE
Nog, I thought I was going to see
you tomorrow at Starfleet Academy.

*

NOG
You are. I'm just here for
dinner.

Nog sits down, then calls out to the waiter.

NOG
Nathan, the usual.

Nathan nods his acknowledgement.

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED: (3)

22

SISKO

I didn't know you liked Creole food.

NOG

I don't. I like tube grubs, and your father's the only person on this planet who can get me live ones.

*

JOSEPH

I'm thinking of adding them to the menu. Of course I'll have to cook 'em for my human customers, serve them with a nice remoulade.

NOG

Cook them? What good are tube grubs if they don't wriggle on the way down?

JAKE

So how's everything at the Academy?

Nog tries to shrug the question off. The Academy is clearly something he doesn't want to talk about.

NOG

(trying to avoid the subject)

Jake, they call it the Academy, but what it really is is school.

JAKE

I want to hear about it.

NOG

It's a lot of work. Lots of classes, lots of studying. But I'm doing okay.

(a beat)

Now where are those tube grubs?

*

DISSOLVE TO:

23 INT. SISCO'S CREOLE KITCHEN - NIGHT - LATER

23

It's closing time. Joseph is escorting the last of his customers out the door.

JOSEPH

Good night. You come back soon.

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED:

23

He closes the door behind them. Sisko's standing nearby.

JOSEPH

Come on, Ben. I've got a nice bottle of cognac I've been keeping for a special occasion, and I think this qualifies.

SISKO

I think you're right.

They EXIT into the back.

24 NEW ANGLE

24

On Jake and Nog, still in the booth. Nog is drinking root beer and patting his stomach.

NOG

Ahhh. There's nothing like a full stomach to make life worth living.

*

JAKE

So you going to tell me what's on your mind or not?

NOG

What do you mean?

JAKE

I mean you didn't stay here until closing time just to have one more root beer. Something's up.

NOG

My friend the writer. Always looking for a good story.

JAKE

If you don't want to tell me, fine. Don't tell me.

NOG

It's nothing. It's stupid.

JAKE

All right. Forget about it.

There's a beat, but Nog clearly can't forget about it.

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED:

24

NOG

It's just... the Academy is different than I thought it would be.

JAKE

Different how?

NOG

Some of the cadets. They're kind of standoffish. Especially the upper classmen.

*

JAKE

Because you're a Ferengi?

NOG

That's what I thought at first. But then I heard some of the other freshmen complaining about the same thing.

JAKE

Complaining about what?

NOG

Little things. For instance, there's this group called Red Squad made up of all the top students. They're always going off on trips... getting special training... None of them'll even talk to me.

*

*

JAKE

You've only been at the Academy for a month. You can't expect to fit in right away. Who knows, one of these days you might even be in Red Squad. I'm sure if you let them get to know you, show them that you're a good guy to be around, everything'll work out.

*

*

*

*

*

*

*

NOG

I am a good guy to be around, aren't I?

JAKE

I always thought so.

Nog smiles. He feels a little better.

25 OMITTED

25

26 INT. PRESIDENT'S OFFICE - DAY

26

Sisko and Admiral Leyton ENTER to find PRESIDENT JARESH-INYO sitting at his desk. We can see the Eiffel Tower out the window behind him. Jaresh-Inyo is a Grazerite, a willowy, contemplative, humanoid alien only recently elected to the office of President. Grazerites are evolved from herbivorous herd animals and as such loath violence and confrontation. Sisko's carrying a 24th century briefcase which he places on the ground by his chair.

LEYTON

Mister President, I'd like to introduce Captain Sisko.

JARESH-INYO

Captain. I've seen your record. Most exemplary.

SISKO

Thank you, sir.

LEYTON

Captain Sisko has several suggestions on how to combat Dominion infiltration. I think you'll find them very interesting.

Sisko takes a PADD out of the briefcase and hands it to the President. Jaresh-Inyo takes the PADD and scans the contents.

JARESH-INYO

Hmm. I understand the need for increased security, but...
(referring to the PADD)
Blood screenings and phaser sweeps?

SISKO

They've proven very effective on Deep Space Nine.

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED:

26

JARESH-INYO

I'm sure they have. But I hope you'll keep in mind that this is Earth, not a military installation.

LEYTON

Which means it's a lot more vulnerable. We have to take precautions.

JARESH-INYO

Precautions may be advisable. But I don't want to disrupt the lives of the population.

(a beat)

Despite what happened at Antwerp... I believe the Changeling threat is somewhat less serious than Starfleet does.

LEYTON

Mister President, I assure you the threat is real.

JARESH-INYO

For all we know, there was only one Changeling on Earth, and he may not even be here anymore.

SISKO

But if he is here, we have a problem. There's no telling how much damage one Changeling could do.

JARESH-INYO

Forgive me for saying so, Captain, but you sound a little... paranoid.

SISKO

Do I?

Just then...

27 NEW ANGLE (OPTICAL)

27

Sisko's briefcase MORPHS into Odo. Jaresh-Inyo jumps up from his chair and backs away. Odo leans over the desk toward the President.

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED:

27

ODO

Forgive the intrusion, Mister President, but as you can see, Starfleet has every right to be concerned.

SISKO

Allow me to introduce Odo, my Chief of Security.

The President relaxes slightly.

JARESH-INYO

A very... effective entrance, Mister Odo.

ODO

One that never should've been allowed to take place. Admiral Leyton and Captain Sisko walked in here without being searched, without being blood-tested, and without having their possessions subjected to phaser sweeps.

SISKO

If Odo was a Dominion infiltrator, he could've killed you.

LEYTON

(pointedly)
Or replaced you.

Jaresh-Inyo reacts to Leyton's pronouncement.

LEYTON

With security the way it is now, a Changeling could get anywhere on Earth, replace anyone... even you.

SISKO

Sir, all we want is your permission to increase security at Federation and Starfleet installations here on Earth. Blood tests will be limited to Starfleet officers, and high-ranking Federation officials.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED: (2)

27

SISKO (Cont'd)

The average citizen won't even notice the difference.

(a beat)

I wish these security measures weren't necessary. But the safety of Earth... and the entire Federation... depends on them.

The President considers Sisko's plan. He clearly would rather not implement his suggestions, but he's beginning to see the wisdom in Sisko's point-of-view.

JARESH-INYO

You present a very convincing argument, Captain. It would seem I have no choice but to accept your proposals.

SISKO

Thank you, Mister President.

But Jaresh-Inyo isn't happy with the decision he's been forced to make and he wants to make sure both Leyton and Sisko know it.

JARESH-INYO

Don't thank me. If I could think of another solution, I would use it. It took Earth centuries to evolve into the peaceful haven it is today. I would hate to be remembered as the Federation President who destroyed paradise.

*

SISKO

We're not looking to destroy paradise, Mister President. We're looking to save it.

And off the President's resigned expression, we...

28 OMITTED

28

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

29 INT. SISKO'S TEMPORARY OFFICE - DAY (OPTICAL) 29

Sisko and Benteen stand in the doorway of Sisko's temporary office at Starfleet Headquarters. There's a Starfleet Science Officer standing behind them. *

SISKO
Activate the phaser.

Behind Sisko, the Science Officer taps a command into a PADD and a phaser unit, newly installed in the ceiling, sweeps the room with a wide beam of phaser fire, covering the whole room. As it passes over a plant which suddenly MORPHS into Odo, who grunts in pain and shifts his body as if he's just gotten a bad shock.

SISKO
That's enough.

The Science Officer deactivates the phaser.

30 NEW ANGLE 30

As the phaser fire stops and Odo gets to his feet.

SISKO
How do you feel?

ODO
That time I definitely experienced discomfort.

SISKO
What was the setting?

BENTEEN
Three point one. If we set the phasers at three point four, we should be able to stun any Changeling we hit and force them back into a gelatinous state.

ODO
I would make it three point five just to be on the safe side. But if you want to do more testing, you'll have to find another guinea pig. I've been shot quite enough for one day.

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED:

30

SISKO
(to Science Officer)
Three point five it is.
(to Benteen)
I want these units installed in
every room at Starfleet and
Federation Headquarters, then
start working on the orbital
stations.

*

BENTEEN
We'll have them in place by
tomorrow night.

Benteen smiles.

BENTEEN
I want to thank you, Commander.

SISKO
Thank me? For what?

BENTEEN
For convincing the President to
implement these security measures.
It feels like we're finally on the
right track.

She EXITS, followed by the Science Officer.

ODO
(to Sisko, once they're
alone)
You'd think she'd've thanked me,
too. After all, I'm the one who
got shot thirteen times today.

Sisko smiles at Odo's cynical observation. Just
then...

31 NEW ANGLE

31

Nog ENTERS the room, looking a little overwhelmed by
being at Starfleet Headquarters.

NOG
Captain Sisko?

Sisko turns to Nog.

NOG
I hope I'm not interrupting
anything.

SISKO
We were just about finished.

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED:

31

NOG

Can I speak to you for a minute?

(a beat)

In private.

Sisko considers it for a beat, then looks over at Odo who EXITS.

NOG

(easing into things)

Captain, I just want to say, I appreciate everything you've done for me so far, and --

SISKO

(cuts to the chase)

Jake says you're having trouble at school.

NOG

He told you that?

SISKO

He tells me everything.

NOG

I don't want you to get the wrong idea.

SISKO

Nog, we both knew it would take awhile for you to adjust to the Academy... and for the Academy to adjust to you.

NOG

I know, but it turned out to be even more difficult than I expected.

SISKO

You've just got to stick with it.

NOG

And I intend to. In fact, I think I've come up with something that'll help me make some new friends.

SISKO

Good.

NOG

But I need your help.

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED: (2)

31

Nog musters up his courage, then...

NOG

I want to join Red Squad.

SISKO

(no recognition)

Red Squad?

NOG

What do you think?

SISKO

I don't know what to think. I've never heard of it.

NOG

(explains)

It's an elite squad of cadets at the Academy. You know, the best of the best. They get special classes, simulated missions, off campus training sessions, all kinds of things.

SISKO

(surprised)

An elite group of cadets? They didn't have anything like that when I was at the Academy.

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED: (3)

31

NOG

It's pretty new. It's a way of rewarding excellence among the cadets. I have the grades to qualify, but I need to be sponsored by a high-ranking officer.

*

SISKO

You want me to put your name in for consideration?

NOG

All I'm asking for is a chance to prove myself.

SISKO

I'm kind of busy right now, Nog...
(relenting)
But if I get a chance, I'll see what I can do.

NOG

Thank you, sir. This means a lot to me.

SISKO

I can see that.
(a beat)
Dismissed cadet.

NOG

(with pride)
Yes, sir.

32 OMITTED

32 *

33 INT. SISKO'S CREOLE KITCHEN - DAY

33

Joseph and his staff are setting up the restaurant for dinner when Sisko ENTERS.

JOSEPH

Well look who's here. Come on in, stranger.

SISKO

Sorry. I know I haven't been around much. Things have gotten a little busy.

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED:

33

JOSEPH
You want to tell me about it?

SISKO
I'm afraid I can't.

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED: (2)

33

Joseph's upset that he's not getting much of his son's time, and the fact that Sisko can't tell him what he's been doing only makes things worse.

JOSEPH

You'd think that Admiral could spare you for a few hours a day to visit your father. With you in San Francisco and Jake off visiting that school in New Zealand, it's like the two of you aren't even here.

SISKO

You know, Dad, you could come and visit us on the station once in a while.

JOSEPH

Don't start that again. Earth's my home. It's where I belong. Besides, what would happen to the restaurant if I went gallivanting around the galaxy? You think Nathan could handle this place on his own?

SISKO

Nathan'll be running things sooner than you think if you don't take better care of yourself. I just had a talk with your doctor. He says you haven't been to see him in eight months.

JOSEPH

That man's an idiot. He's lived in New Orleans for twenty years and he can't tell the difference between Creole food and Cajun food.

SISKO

Maybe not, but he can tell the difference between a healthy body and one with progressive atherosclerosis. He says if you don't come in for vascular regeneration therapy, this restaurant's going to be looking for a new owner.

*

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED: (3)

33

JOSEPH

Ben, at my age, staying healthy is
a full time job, and I'm too old
to work two jobs.

(a beat)

Now, how long until you're due
back at Starfleet Headquarters?

SISKO

I've got about an hour.

JOSEPH

Just enough time to take a walk
down to Audubon Park. You up for
a stroll with your old man?

SISKO

Can't think of anything I'd rather
do.

Joseph smiles.

JOSEPH

Nathan, don't forget to stir the
gumbo.

And together father and son EXIT the restaurant.

34 EXT. STARFLEET HEADQUARTERS - DAY

34

A sea gull flies into our view and lands on the lawn.

*

35 NEW ANGLE (OPTICAL)

35

*

The sea gull MORPHS into Odo.

*

BENTEEN (O.C.)

Odo.

Odo looks around, embarrassed that someone has seen
him. He notices Benteen and Leyton, who have just
walked up from around a bend in the path.

BENTEEN

That was really something. I've
never seen you imitate a lifeform
before.

ODO

I was just taking a little aerial
tour of San Francisco.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED:

35

ODO (Cont'd)

It's quite nice. Not as ancient
as the cities on Bajor but almost
as impressive.

BENTEEN

(glancing up at the sky)
It makes me wonder how many other
Changelings might be flying around
up there.

ODO

If all they're doing is flying
around imitating sea gulls, we
don't have much to worry about.

LEYTON

I doubt that other Changelings are
wasting their time imitating
birds. They don't all share Odo's
lack of skill when it comes to
mimicking humans. *

Odo looks at Leyton for a beat, surprised at his lack
of tact.

ODO

That's right, they don't. I'm
glad you're keeping that in mind.

BENTEEN

(trying to break the
tension)
Well if you ask me, that was a
pretty convincing sea gull.

ODO

Thank you, but I don't know if the
other gulls would agree.

LEYTON

Commander, I think we've taken up
enough of Mister Odo's time.

(to Odo)

Keep practicing. You'll have
those birds fooled in no time.

Leyton starts to walk away. Odo looks slightly
troubled, then follows after him.

ODO

Admiral.

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED:

35

ODO (Cont'd)

It's quite nice. Not as ancient
as the cities on Bajor but almost
as impressive.

BENTEEN

(glancing up at the sky)
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enough of Mister Odo's time.
(to Odo)
Keep practicing. You'll have
those birds fooled in no time.

Leyton starts to walk away. Odo looks slightly
troubled, then follows after him.

ODO

Admiral.

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED: (2)

35

The Admiral turns, a half smile on his lips.

LEYTON

Yes.

ODO

I know Starfleet Command has always been a little uneasy about a Changeling working in their midst. I just wanted to say... I appreciate the trust you've shown in me.

*

*

*

(holds out his hand)

Thank you.

Leyton pretends not to notice Odo's hand, which is extended for a handshake.

LEYTON

You're welcome.

Leyton tries to turn away again, but to Leyton and Benteen's surprise, Odo reaches out and grabs Leyton's hand.

36 NEW ANGLE (OPTICAL)

36

For a moment both men stare at each other, eyes widening in intensity. Then Odo's hand MORPHS into goo, as does Leyton's.

LEYTON

(slightly mocking)

Well done, Odo.

*

Leyton concentrates and a wave of Shapeshifter goo pulses down Leyton's arm and washes up Odo, distorting Odo's body and knocking him to the ground.

Leyton MORPHS into a sea gull and flies away.

37 CLOSE ON ODO AND BENTEEN

37

As she goes to see if he's all right.

ODO

(struggling to his feet)

I'm fine.

38 INT. SISKO'S TEMPORARY OFFICE - DAY

38 *

Sisko, Odo, Leyton and Benteen are all present. Leyton's just learned of the incident in the gardens, and he's pretty steamed.

LEYTON

How did you know he wasn't me?

ODO

(thinking aloud)

I'm not sure exactly. It was as if... I could feel the Changeling's hostility toward me.

SISKO

You're the only Changeling who's ever harmed one of your own people. I'm sure that hasn't made you many friends.

*

LEYTON

What I want to know is... why was he imitating me?

*

*

BENTEEN

You have access to all our security procedures and all our protocols. That makes you a logical target.

LEYTON

I suppose so.

BENTEEN

The bottom line is... a Changeling infiltrated the grounds of Starfleet Headquarters, imitated the Admiral, and got away scot-free. Our security measures aren't working.

SISKO

We're doing everything the President will let us do.

*

BENTEEN

Maybe that's not enough.

Sisko knows Benteen and Leyton have a point. He thinks about it for a beat.

(CONTINUED)

38 CONTINUED:

38

ODO

We could talk to the President
again.

*

LEYTON

I'm afraid that would be a waste
of time. Jaresh-Inyo would be a
fine President in peacetime. But
we've got a war on our hands...
and he doesn't seem to understand
that. All he cares about is not
upsetting people. But humans are
tougher than he thinks. We've
created a Paradise here and we're
willing to fight to protect it.

*

*

SISKO

And you think the President isn't
willing to fight?

*

*

LEYTON

I think the President's a long way
from home. This isn't his world.
We can't expect him to care about
it the way we do.

Just then Sisko's combadge chirps.

*

SISKO

(to com)

Sisko here.

*

COM VOICE

Your son is trying to contact you.
He says it's urgent.

SISKO

Put him through.

Sisko moves over to his monitor.

39 NEW ANGLE (OPTICAL)

39

To include the monitor, which displays Jake talking
from the restaurant.

JAKE

(on monitor)

Dad, you'd better get down here
right away.

(CONTINUED)

39 CONTINUED:

39

SISKO
What's wrong?

JAKE
(on monitor)
It's grandpa. He's been arrested.

And as Sisko reacts to this disturbing news, we...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

40 INT. SISKO'S CREOLE KITCHEN - DAY

40

Sisko ENTERS to find two Starfleet Security Officers waiting with Joseph and Jake.

SISKO
(to the officers)
What's going on here?

The HEAD OFFICER looks uncomfortable.

HEAD OFFICER
Captain, we never meant for things
to get out of hand.

JOSEPH
What did you think would happen?
Storming in here and accusing me
and my nephew of being a couple of
Shapeshifters.

HEAD OFFICER
(to Joseph)
We never accused you of being a
Shapeshifter, Mister Sisko.
(to Sisko)
We were just carrying out our
orders.
(to Joseph)
All family-members of Starfleet
personnel are required to submit
to blood screenings. No
exceptions.

JOSEPH
That is the most ridiculous thing
I ever heard.
(to Sisko)
Do you believe that?

SISKO
I should. I signed the orders
myself.

JOSEPH
Now why would you go and do a
stupid thing like that?

SISKO
Dad, it has to be done.

(CONTINUED)

40 CONTINUED:

40

JAKE
(playing peacemaker)
Grandpa, look, I'll take the test
first.
(to the Security
Officer)
Go ahead.

The Security Officer looks to Sisko, who nods. He then
uses a hypospray to take a blood sample from Jake (as
in "The Adversary"). He removes the vial and sets it
on a table. The contents remain red. Sisko steps up
to the officer.

SISKO
Now me.

HEAD OFFICER
Sir, that's not necessary.

SISKO
Do it anyway.

*

Sisko is tested as well. His blood also stays red.

SISKO
(to Joseph)
Your turn.

*

But Joseph's not budging.

JOSEPH
Jake, do you think I'm a
Shapeshifter?

JAKE
Come on, grandpa.

JOSEPH
Answer the question.

JAKE
No, I don't think you're a
Shapeshifter.

JOSEPH
At least someone in my family has
some sense.

SISKO
Dad...

(CONTINUED)

40 CONTINUED: (2)

40

JOSEPH

I don't want to hear it. Now tell these two vampires to either sit down and grab a menu or get out of my restaurant.

Sisko sees that his father's not about to back down any time soon.

SISKO

Jake, get them a menu.

HEAD OFFICER

But sir...

SISKO

(ending the discussion)
I'd try the shrimp Creole.

The Security Officers sit down. Jake goes to get them a menu.

41 NEW ANGLE

41

Joseph Sisko moves over to the open kitchen section of the restaurant. He begins chopping vegetables. Sisko follows him.

SISKO

(trying to be
reasonable)

Look, Dad...

JOSEPH

Save your breath.

*

SISKO

Listen to me. You have to take the test.

*

JOSEPH

Why should I? If I were an enemy spy looking to replace someone, I could think of better choices than an old chef.

*

*

SISKO

Yeah, you're probably right. But this isn't just about you. We have civilian family members living on Starships and Starfleet installations all over the Federation.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

41 CONTINUED:

41

SISKO (Cont'd)

The only way to secure those facilities is to test everyone there whether they wear a uniform or not.

JOSEPH

I'm not living on a Starfleet installation.

SISKO

Dad, we can't play favorites. If we're going to test the family of one Starfleet Officer, we have to test them all.

As he speaks, Joseph continues chopping vegetables. But as he becomes more and more impassioned, Joseph concentrates less and less on his work, trusting years of experience to guide his hand.

JOSEPH

You may want to test everyone, but that doesn't mean we all have to cooperate. I didn't swear any oath to Starfleet, and neither did Jake... or your sister... or anyone else in this family. We have rights, Ben... including the right to be as stubborn and thick headed as we want.

*

Sisko's frustrations and concern about his father's health begin to boil over. And though he does his best to try to control the volume of his voice, there's no keeping the edge out of it.

SISKO

Damn it, Dad. Can't you cooperate just one time? You don't take your medication, you don't go to the doctor, you won't let Judith help you out in the restaurant. Just this once, please do what you're asked.

*

*

Joseph doesn't want to get into a shouting match with his son, but he's clearly not happy either.

JOSEPH

I wish I could. But what you're asking me to do isn't right.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

41 CONTINUED: (2)

41

JOSEPH (Cont'd)
You can't go around constantly
making people prove they are who
they say they are. That's no way
to live and I won't go along with
it.

*
*

(that's his final word)
Now if you want to make yourself
useful, start boiling some water
for the shrimp.

SISKO
(also trying to stay
calm)
Dad, don't be this way. If I have
to, I'll get a warrant and...

JOSEPH
And what? Hold me down and force
me to give you my blood? Because
that's the only way--

Suddenly Joseph flinches.

JOSEPH
Damnit. Now look what I've done.

Joseph has cut his finger. He throws down the knife in
disgust and goes to rinse off the wound with water.
Sisko starts to follow him, then stops and looks over
at...

42 THE KNIFE

42

Which Joseph has left on the counter. There's a small
drop of blood on the knife-edge.

JOSEPH
Jake, I've got a dermal
regenerator under that...

*

Joseph trails off as he realizes that Sisko is looking
at the blood on the knife. Sisko looks up at Joseph,
conscious of the fact that he's letting his paranoia
override his common sense, but unable to overcome it.
He looks back at the knife.

The blood stays red.

43 CLOSE ON JOSEPH

43

If he was angry before, he's furious now.

(CONTINUED)

43 CONTINUED:

43

JOSEPH

Benjamin Lafayette Sisko. What the hell's gotten into your head? You actually thought I was one of them, didn't you?

Sisko's pretty shaken up about facing his own paranoia.

SISKO

I don't know. I wasn't sure.

JOSEPH

This business has gotten you so twisted around that you can't think straight. You're seeing Shapeshifters everywhere.

Sisko can't deny it.

JOSEPH

Maybe you ought to think about something for a minute. If I was a smart Shapeshifter, a really good one, the first thing I'd do would be to grab some poor soul off the street, absorb every ounce of his blood, then let it out on cue whenever someone like you tried to test me.

*
*

Sisko looks up at his father in surprise. That hadn't occurred to him.

JOSEPH

Don't you see? There isn't a test that's been created that a smart man can't find his way around. You aren't going to catch Shapeshifters using some gadget. The only thing you can count on in this life...

*
*

Joseph is suddenly overcome with pain as his own body betrays him. He doubles up in pain, clutching his head.

44 INCLUDE JAKE

44

As he reacts to his grandfather's seizure.

JAKE

Grandpa.

(CONTINUED)

44 CONTINUED:

44

JOSEPH
(fighting the pain)
Ben... I...

Joseph crumples up and collapses to the floor. Sisko rushes to his side.

45 INT. SISKO'S TEMPORARY OFFICE - DAY

45

Sisko is seated at his desk. Odo's across from him. Sisko is in a contemplative mood.

SISKO
The EMT's said he'd be okay. And they were right. Turned out it was just a mild stroke brought on by his atherosclerosis.

*
*

ODO
How's Jake handling it?

SISKO
He was pretty upset. He knows as well as I do, that if my father doesn't take better care of himself...

ODO
I've found that when it comes to doing what's best for you, you humanoids have a distressing habit of doing the exact opposite.

*
*
*

SISKO
I can't argue with that.
(a beat)
But what bothers me is... for a few minutes there, I really believed that my own father was a Changeling.

*
*
*

ODO
It was a reasonable assumption given the circumstances.

SISKO
I don't care if it was reasonable or not. When a son can't trust his own father...

Sisko shakes his head and trails off.

(CONTINUED)

45 CONTINUED:

45

ODO

That's why my people came here.
To undermine the trust and mutual
understanding the Federation is
built on.

*
*
*
*

SISK0

What if my father's right? What
if all our precautions turn out to
be useless?

*

ODO

Maybe they will. But that doesn't
mean you should give up. My
people are here and you have to
fight them with whatever you've
got.

There's a beat as Sisko considers his situation.

SISK0

I hope you won't take this the
wrong way, Constable, but there
are times I wish you'd never found
your people.

Odo thinks about Sisko's statement for a beat.

ODO

Believe me, Captain, sometimes I
feel the same way.

46 INT. SISK0'S CREOLE KITCHEN - NIGHT

46

Joseph is hard at work running the restaurant. It's
just before peak dinner hour, but there are a fair
number of people in the room. Jake is sitting at a
table set for two.

JAKE

Grandpa, would you please sit
down.

Joseph walks by a table of customers.

JOSEPH

(to the customers)
Your food'll be right out.

And then to Jake's surprise, Joseph takes a seat.

(CONTINUED)

46 CONTINUED:

46

JOSEPH
What's that look supposed to mean?

JAKE
(surprised)
You sat down.

JOSEPH
You're damn right I sat down. I
feel terrible.

JAKE
You should be in bed.

JOSEPH
Jake, the only time you should be
in bed is when you're sleeping,
dying, or making love to a
beautiful woman. I'm not tired,
I'm not dying, and the truth is,
I'm too old for beautiful women,
so I might as well be here.

(a beat)
Your father's the one you should
be worried about.

JAKE
Dad? Why?

JOSEPH
I've never seen him so tense.
It's like he's carrying the weight
of the world on his shoulders.

JAKE
(simply)
He is.

JOSEPH
(after a beat)
I suppose he is at that.

Just then...

47 NEW ANGLE

47

The lights in the restaurant dim until they're barely
on at all, then flicker and die.

JOSEPH
What happened?

(CONTINUED)

47 CONTINUED:

47

Jake goes to the window to see what's happening.
Joseph tries to calm the crowd, with is murmuring
discontentedly.

48 CLOSE ON JAKE

48

As he looks out the window.

JAKE

The whole block's dark.

*

49 INT. SISKO'S TEMPORARY OFFICE - NIGHT

49

Sisko's office is also dark. He's working on prying
open his automatic door. Sisko pulls at the door
again, and it opens a little. Hands reach in from the
other side and help him finish the job.

The door opens to reveal Odo and Leyton on the other
side.

ODO

You all right?

SISKO

I'm fine.

(to Leyton)

Admiral, what's going on?

LEYTON

From what we can tell, Earth's
entire power relay system's been
knocked off-line. Even
Starfleet's emergency back-ups
have been affected.

*
*
*
*
*

SISKO

How could that happen?

*

LEYTON

We don't know for certain. But,
if you ask me, there's only one
possible explanation...

*
*
*

ODO

Sabotage.

This is Sisko's worst fears realized.

SISKO

(voicing everyone's
suspensions)

The Changelings.

(CONTINUED)

49 CONTINUED:

49

ODO

Take down the power relays, and
you neutralize sensors,
Transporters, surface based
defense installations.

*
*
*

SISKO

In other words, Earth's
defenseless.

*

LEYTON

(nodding)

If the Dominion attacks now, we
don't stand a chance.

*

And as Sisko, Odo and Leyton react to this grim
situation, we...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

50 INT. PRESIDENT'S OFFICE - MORNING (OPTICAL)

50

Power is out here as well. The President is talking to one of his advisors.

JARESH-INYO

I'm not interested in excuses. We need to get the power relay system functioning again.

Just then, Sisko, Odo, Leyton and two Security Officers MATERIALIZE in the President's office.

LEYTON

Mister President.

JARESH-INYO

How did you gentlemen get here?

SISKO

We contacted the Lakota and used their Transporters.

(getting to business)

Sir, as acting head of Earth Security, I must advise you to declare a State of Emergency.

JARESH-INYO

You're serious?

(sees he is)

With the exception of the Borg incident, there hasn't been a State of Emergency declared on Earth in a century.

*

*

SISKO

I'm aware of that. But I have reason to believe a Dominion warfleet may be in the Alpha Quadrant headed for Earth.

JARESH-INYO

Do you have evidence to back that up?

(CONTINUED)

50 CONTINUED:

50

SISKO

(nods)

Just before we left Deep Space Nine, the wormhole was exhibiting some unusual behavior... opening and closing for no apparent reason.

ODO

We didn't detect any ships coming through at the time. But the Dominion may have been using some kind of cloaking technology.

JARESH-INYO

I wasn't aware the Dominion had cloaking technology.

ODO

The combined Cardassian and Romulan fleet that the Dominion destroyed in the Gamma Quadrant was equipped with cloaking devices. Who knows what my people could've taken from the wreckage?

JARESH-INYO

How long until we get the power relays working again?

LEYTON

From what we can tell, the Changelings infected the system with some kind of self-replicating computer protocol. It jumped from one power relay to the next, disrupting every system it came in contact with.

*

ODO

The only way to correct the problem is to shut down the entire grid, purge all the operating systems, and restart the relays.

*

LEYTON

And that could take days.

*

SISKO

Which is why it's imperative that you declare a State of Emergency.

(CONTINUED)

50 CONTINUED: (2)

50

JARESH-INYO

What good will that do when we
have no way to defend ourselves?

LEYTON

(confident)

Mister President, we can use the
Lakota's Transporters and
Communications system to mobilize
every Starfleet Officer on Earth
in less than twelve hours.

*
*
*
*

(CONTINUED)

50 CONTINUED: (3)

50

This is a surprise to the President, who had no idea Starfleet had such capabilities.

*

LEYTON

We've been preparing for something like this for a long time. We have stockpiles of phaser rifles, personal forcefields, photon grenades, enough to equip an entire army. I can start placing troops in the streets immediately.

JARESH-INYO

What you're asking me to do is declare martial law.

LEYTON

What I'm asking you to do is let us defend this planet. We don't know what the Changelings will do next, but we have to be ready for them.

*
*
*
*

Leyton can see he's not reaching the President. He turns to Sisko.

LEYTON

Tell him, Ben.

Turning Earth into an armed camp doesn't appeal to Sisko but the alternatives don't seem any better.

SISKO

(to the President)

Sir, the thought of filling the streets with armed troops is as disturbing to me as it is to you. But not as disturbing as the thought of a Jem'Hadar army landing on Earth without opposition. The Jem'Hadar are the most brutal and efficient soldiers I've ever encountered. They don't care about conventions of war, or protecting civilians. They won't limit themselves to military targets. They'll be waging the kind of war that Earth hasn't seen since the founding of the Federation.

*

*

*

(CONTINUED)

50 CONTINUED: (4)

50

ODO

At the same time, my people will
continue to undermine Earth's
defenses in any way they can. The
power outage is only the
beginning.

(CONTINUED)

50 CONTINUED: (5)

50

The President sits down in his chair, crushed under the weight of his responsibility.

JARESH-INYO

I never sought this job. I was content to simply represent my people on the Federation Council. When they asked me to submit my name for election, I almost said no. Today I wish I had.

*

Leyton's getting impatient.

LEYTON

We appreciate your feelings, Mister President, but we don't have time for regrets. You accepted the job and now it's yours.

But Odo's also a man who's shouldered responsibilities he didn't ask for. He knows what the President's going through.

ODO

Mister President, there are people all over this planet right now huddled in the dark, terrified about what might happen next. They're waiting for a sign... something to reassure them that everything's going to be all right. But they won't wait long. Fear is a powerful and dangerous thing. And if you don't act, if you don't show them that they're not alone, then fear will surely take over.

*

There's a long beat, then the President looks up at Sisko.

SISKI

Just give us the authority we need, Mister President. We'll take care of the rest.

Jaresh-Inyo looks at Sisko for a beat, then picks up a PADD and taps in his personal authorization code, and hands the PADD to Sisko.

JARESH-INYO

Earth is in your hands, gentlemen. Do what needs to be done.

(CONTINUED)

50 CONTINUED: (6)

50

Sisko hands the PADD to Leyton.

LEYTON

Thank you, sir. You've made the
right decision.

*

*

JARESH-INYO

I hope you're right... for all our
sakes.

51 INT. SISKO'S CREOLE KITCHEN - DAWN

51

Jake has put candles out all over the restaurant for
light. Joseph is asleep in a booth, a table cloth
wrapped around him as an impromptu blanket. Jake hears
a noise coming from outside the restaurant. He goes
and peeks out of the curtained windows. He looks both
surprised and disturbed by what he sees. He goes to
wake his grandfather.

JAKE

Grandpa, wake up.

Joseph opens his eyes.

JOSEPH

I wasn't sleeping. I was just
checking my eyelids for holes.

But Jake's not in a joking mood.

JAKE

You'd better come take a look at
this.

Joseph can tell that whatever Jake has seen, it's
serious. He gets up and goes to the window.

JOSEPH

Take a look at what?

Jake gestures to the window and Joseph looks outside.

52 NEW ANGLE - JOSEPH'S P.O.V. (OPTICAL)

52

Outside the window, in the early light of dawn, a group
of Starfleet Officers take up positions in the street,
looking grim and carrying phaser rifles.

As Joseph and Jake watch, another group of soldiers
beam in in the middle of the street. Earth is
preparing for war.

53 CLOSE ON JAKE AND JOSEPH

53

As they exchange a look, then...

FADE OUT.

SUPER:

TO BE CONTINUED

END OF ACT FIVE

THE END

