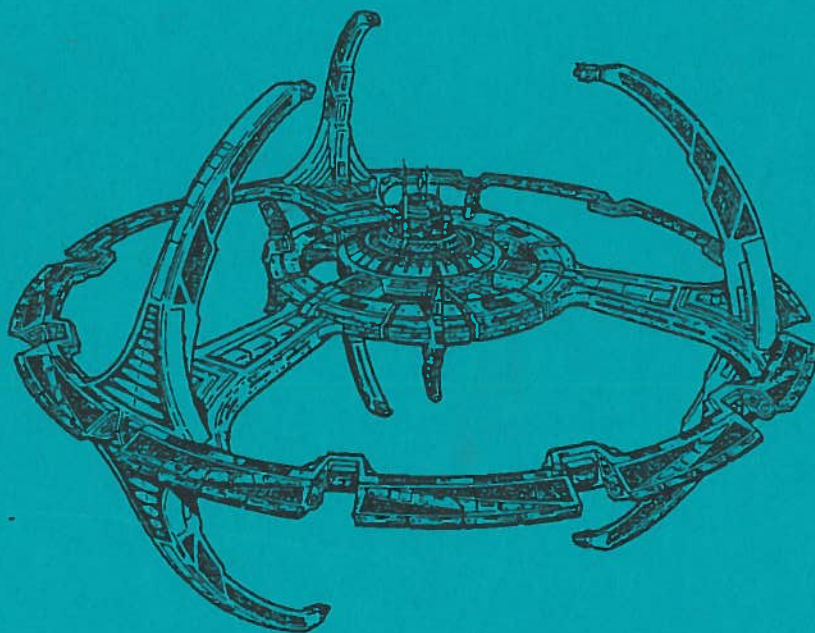


STAR TREK

DEEP SPACE NINE



"The Quickening"

FINAL DRAFT

MARCH 6, 1996

STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE

REVISED

03/07/96 be

03/08/96 pk

*03/11/96 yw

"The Quickening"
(fka "The Healing Touch")

#40510-495

Written
by
Naren Shankar
and
Rene Echevarria

Directed
by
Rene Auberjonois

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FINAL DRAFT

March 6, 1996

STAR TREK: DS9 - "The Quickening" - 03/06/96 - CAST

STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE

"The Quickening"

CAST

SISKO

TREVEAN

KIRA

EKORIA

BASHIR

EPRAN

DAX

NORVA

O'BRIEN

NUKOR

ODO

ATTENDANT

QUARK

PATIENT

WORF

Non-Speaking

Non-Speaking

N.D. SUPERNUMERARIES

STAR TREK: DS9 - "The Quickening" - 03/06/96 - SETS

STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE

"The Quickening"

SETS

INTERIORS

DEEP SPACE NINE
WARDROOM

PLANET
HOSPITAL
TENEMENT HOUSE

RUNABOUT

EXTERIORS

DEEP SPACE NINE

RUNABOUT
PLANET'S SURFACE
RUINED CITY
CITY STREET
TENEMENT DOORWAY

PLEASE NOTE: PRONUNCIATION GUIDE TO FOLLOW.

STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE

"The Quickening"

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. SPACE - DEEP SPACE NINE (OPTICAL) 1

Establishing.

2 INT. WARDROOM (OPTICAL) 2

where KIRA is watching O'BRIEN as he opens a PANEL next to the WALL MONITOR, which is OFF. She's shaking her head as if something has happened that she can't quite believe. O'Brien studies the panel innards for a beat, then reaches to get a TOOL from his TOOLKIT.

O'BRIEN

Looks like he used some sort of encryption program to bypass the access protocols.

KIRA

Unbelievable... the nerve.

The DOOR OPENS and ODO escorts QUARK into the room. He sees the hard look on Kira's face and flashes his most ingratiating smile.

QUARK

You wanted to see me, Major?

ODO

Don't pretend you don't know what this is about.

Quark shrugs that he doesn't.

KIRA

Maybe this'll jog your memory.
(to computer)
Engage Monitor.

The Monitor engages, but instead of the familiar UFP insignia coming up, a MOVING GRAPHIC appears advertising Quark's, much like the one we've seen on monitors behind the bar itself. Quark's VOICE comes over the com-system, singing a JINGLE that might go something like this:

*
*

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED:

2

QUARK'S VOICE

(sing-song)

Come to Quark's, Quark's is fun,
come right now, don't walk, run!

*
*
*

A beat later, the usual UFP insignia APPEARS. Quark, who's been mouthing along with obvious pride in his handiwork, smiles with pleasure.

QUARK

I love the part where my name
rotates around...

*

He trails off when he sees the cold stares from our people...

ODO

Tampering with the station's com-
system is a class-three offense.

QUARK

It's just a little advertisement.
(when this doesn't sway
them)

I didn't put one up in Ops.

*

ODO

I'm sure the Magistrate will take
that into consideration when he
calculates your fine.

The DOOR OPENS and WORF ENTERS, looking particularly annoyed. He's carrying a GLASS MUG at his side.

WORF

(to Quark)

You.

Quark has a bad feeling about what's coming next.

QUARK

As you can see, we're very busy
here. Station business.

WORF

How did you do it?

O'BRIEN

How'd he do what?

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED: (2) 2

WORF

I ordered a glass of juice from a
Replicator in the Defiant's Mess
Hall. This is what it came in.

He holds up the mug for all to see, and it starts to
play the JINGLE from a tiny hidden speaker. *

3 INSERT - THE MUG 3

Etched in its surface is a drawing of Quark's face, and
underneath it, the words: COME TO QUARK'S FOR FREE
REFILLS! Below this, in smaller letters: LIMIT ONE PER
CUSTOMER. *

4 RESUME SCENE 4

Kira is livid. She turns to Quark, keeps her anger in
check.

KIRA

If all your little
"advertisements" aren't purged
from our systems by the time I get
back from the Gamma Quadrant...
(a threat)

I will come to Quark's, and
believe me, I'll enjoy myself. *

And with that, she turns and EXITS. A beat, then Quark
steps toward O'Brien.

QUARK

Let me help you with that,
Chief...

Off this moment...

5 EXT. SPACE - RUNABOUT (OPTICAL/STOCK) 5

as it emerges from the wormhole in the Gamma Quadrant.

6 INT. RUNABOUT 6

Kira and DAX are in the control seats, BASHIR is at a
side console (The SIDE WINDOW PLUGS are in place).
Bashir is excited about their mission and can't keep
from sharing his enthusiasm.

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED:

6

BASHIR

According to Chief O'Brien the
scan resolution on the new sensors
is amazing. We could practically
do the entire bio-survey from
orbit.

*
*
*

KIRA

Suits me. The sooner we get out
of the Gamma Quadrant the better.

BASHIR

(moving to stand between
them)

How can you say that?

7 NEW ANGLE 7

Including the front windows and the starfield in the distance.

BASHIR

Those little points of light out there are the great unknown, beckoning to us. I wish I could visit every one.

KIRA

You might want to skip the ones with Jem'Hadar bases on them. *

Bashir marvels at the starscape outside -- tongue half-in-cheek, he knows how what he's about to say will go over... *

BASHIR

Is it my imagination... or are the stars a little brighter in the Gamma Quadrant?

Kira glances over at Dax with a "is-he-kidding" look.

DAX

(deadpan)

Is it my imagination, or has Julian lost his mind?

Bashir smiles good-naturedly...

KIRA

(smiling)

Setting course for the Gavara system...

8 EXT. SPACE - RUNABOUT (OPTICAL/STOCK) 8

as it shoots into warp.

9 INT. RUNABOUT 9

A few hours later. Kira is at the helm, Dax at a side console. Bashir ENTERS from the rear.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: 9

Suddenly Kira reacts to something on her console.

KIRA

I'm picking up some kind of
emergency signal. It's
fragmented.

(off console)

They say their homeworld's been
attacked... Massive destruction...
heavy casualties...

(beat)

They're asking any passing vessel
for assistance...

*
*
*
*

DAX

(off console)

Looks like the signal's coming
from somewhere in the Teplan
system.

BASHIR

That's just outside Dominion
space.

KIRA

(grim)

Let's hope the Jem'Hadar know
that...

(working)

Setting new course...

10 EXT. SPACE - RUNABOUT (OPTICAL/STOCK) 10

as the Runabout banks off.

11 EXT. PLANET'S SURFACE - DAY (OPTICAL) 11

Bashir and Dax MATERIALIZE on the surface, both have PHASERS and TRICORDERS at their sides and he has his MEDKIT. They find themselves standing near a concrete outcropping. *

KIRA'S COM VOICE

Let's stay in close contact. If the Jem'Hadar come this way, we're going to have to get out of here fast.

BASHIR

Acknowledged.

They move around the outcropping to see... *

12 EXT. RUINED CITY - DAY (OPTICAL/MATTE) 12

What might have once been a bustling modern city street. The few structures still standing are gutted, blackened and scorched by fire. Shanties and other make-shift structures are propped against them.

The inhabitants of the planet, dressed in tattered rags, can be seen milling about. They look human, but they all have BLUE, vein-like WELTS on their faces.

Some sit listlessly, with nothing to do. Others are carrying water in makeshift containers, lugging firewood, tending fires burning in rusted-out cylindrical containers. A few push wheel-barrow like carts in front of them -- produce vendors, willing to barter their paltry merchandise.

There is no sign of power being generated anywhere, and the inhabitants use the now useless artifacts from their once industrial civilization for other purposes -- what might have once been an alien refrigerator, for example, might now serve as part of someone's home.

A MAN passes by pulling a CART with three dead BODIES on it, partially covered by a tarp.

Our people react to the scene of devastation before them... *

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED: (2)

12

She's in obvious pain, is having difficulty walking, but manages to croak out a plea for help.

NORVA

Help me...

She collapses, and Bashir moves to assist her. She struggles to get the words out --

NORVA

(anguished)

Please... don't let me die here...
take me to Trevean...

BASHIR

Trevean?

NORVA

Hospital...

DAX

(to Bashir)

I'll try to find out where it
is...

Dax moves off to try to talk with the inhabitants...

BASHIR

I'm going to give you something
for the pain...

He takes out a HYPO, twists the dial, then injects her. A young man, who we'll come to know as EPRAN, sees this and approaches. He watches Bashir scan Norva with what might almost be disapproval.

EPRAN

You're not from this world.

BASHIR

No...

When Epran talks about the sick woman, he seems to have more disdain for her than sympathy.

EPRAN

The Blight's quickened in her.
There's nothing you can do.

Bashir can't accept this, continues to scan her.

EPRAN

You should leave here. Now. Go
back to where you came from and
forget about this place.

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED: (3)

12

And with that, he turns and moves away. Bashir
continues working, through this unsettling moment...

*

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

(NOTE: Episode credits fall over opening scenes)

13 EXT. RUINED CITY - DAY

13

Norva is still in a great deal of pain; Bashir scans her with his MEDICAL TRICORDER to find out why. In the background, some of the inhabitants watch our people with a mix of curiosity and suspicion.

Dax returns, and oddly her hair is down, no longer pinned by a barrette.

BASHIR

The painkiller I gave her isn't having much effect.

(giving her another hypo)

These people's neurophysiology is so different from ours, I doubt this "Blight" is any danger to us.

Dax nods an acknowledgment.

DAX

(gesturing)

I got us transportation to the hospital.

Bashir looks over and sees a WOMAN approaching them, pushing a CART. She looks older than her forty years, beaten down by circumstance.

BASHIR

(sotto)

How'd you manage that, these aren't the friendliest people I've ever met.

As if in reply, Dax tosses her head to show her hair is unbound. Bashir looks, and the Woman has her scraggly hair partially kept by Dax's barrette. The Woman flashes a craggy grin, pleased with the trade and how she looks. Off this moment...

14 INT. HOSPITAL

14

as Bashir and Dax ENTER holding Norva.

For a moment, our people think they've come to the wrong place -- it looks more like a restaurant than a hospital. There are two groups of people in different parts of the room, each sitting on cushions around low tables.

*

Each group is centered around someone who appears to be the guest of honor. He or she is dressed in nicely kept CLOTHING; not new or flashy, just clean and not tattered. The discerning viewer might notice that the two guests of honor have RED markings on their faces, while everyone else has the more common blue markings.

*

The guest of honor is the only person at each table partaking of a meal; while not opulent by our standards, the food, the drink, the very setting itself, is strikingly luxurious for this bleak world.

*

*

The room is LIT by OIL LAMPS positioned here and there, and in one corner an Attendant is cranking an alien PHONOGRAPH by hand.

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED:

14

It's been modified to work without power, and as the engraved cylinder rotates, the machine plays soft ALIEN MUSIC.

DAX

This is a hospital...?

Before our people can figure out what's happening, an ATTENDANT approaches them. Like his colleagues he's wearing a robe over his street clothes, similar to a doctor's coat, but now tattered and no longer white. He zeroes in on Norva, sees her red markings.

ATTENDANT

She's quickened...

He beckons two colleagues over.

ATTENDANT

Take her to Trevean. *

The two assistants start to carry her toward a door leading to a back room. The Attendant turns back to our people. *

ATTENDANT

You're off-worlders. *

DAX

Yes.

ATTENDANT

Don't worry, we'll take care of her now. *

He moves off. *

DAX

(sotto)

I haven't seen a single person who doesn't have lesions on their face...

Bashir nods, indicates the two "guests of honor" in turn. *

BASHIR

His look inflamed... so do that girl's over there -- *

DAX

Like the woman we brought in... *

A moment as they ponder what it could mean...

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED: (2)

14

A distinguished looking man of about forty ENTERS from the door through which Norva was taken. He wears a "wallet" full of vials at his side, and is just closing it up when he enters. It's TREVEAN, and as soon as the male PATIENT (red welts) at the nearest table sees him he calls out to him.

*
*
*

PATIENT

Trevean...

Our people react as they realize this is the man Norva asked to see.

Trevean turns at the sound of his name -- it's clear from the faces of everyone in the room that he is a respected, almost revered figure. The patient, who is not in any way debilitated by his condition, raises a goblet to toast him.

*

PATIENT

Thank you...
(motioning around him)
For this.

TREVEAN

You deserve nothing less...

He says this with a simple kindness that speaks to a genuine generosity of spirit.

PATIENT

(to all)
Yesterday morning when I awoke, I saw that it had finally happened... I'd quickened. I always thought I'd be afraid...
(smiles)
But I wasn't. Because I knew I could come here.
(with emotion)
Last night I slept in a bed for the first time in my life.
(indicating the phonograph)
I fell asleep listening to music.

There is an almost audible sigh from the gathered group, as if they can scarcely imagine the luxury.

PATIENT

This morning I bathed in hot water... I put on clean clothes.
(to all at his table)
And now I'm here, with my family and friends...

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED: (3)

14

PATIENT (CONT'D)

Thank you, Trevean... for making
this day everything I dreamed it
could be.

The man holds his goblet up, then drinks its contents
down. Everyone smiles as he does this except a young
woman at the table who we'll come to know as EKORIA.
She's trying not to show how upset she is.

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED: (4)

14

When the patient finishes and sits down, the people at his table move to hug him one by one.

Trevean turns away and approaches our people...

TREVEAN

You're the strangers who brought
Norva here...

DAX

(nodding)
How is she?

TREVEAN

It was too late for her.

Our people react to this sad news...

TREVEAN

If only she'd come sooner, I
could've helped her.

BASHIR

Then there is a treatment for the
Blight?

Trevean is almost surprised by the question.

TREVEAN

There is no cure. It's always
fatal.

BASHIR

I don't understand -- you just
said you could've helped her.

Trevean takes a breath, considers for a beat.

TREVEAN

Why are you here?

DAX

We received a distress call, we're
here to help in any way we can.

BASHIR

I'm a Doctor.

Trevean reacts to the word, nods thoughtfully.

BASHIR

I have access to sophisticated
diagnostic equipment.

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED: (5)

14 *

Trevean holds up a hand to stop him, impatient with where this is going.

*
*

TREVEAN

We had sophisticated equipment once. Do you think our world was always like this? Two centuries ago, we were much like you. We too travelled to neighboring worlds...

*
*
*
*
*
*

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED: (5)

14

Trevean holds up a hand to stop him, impatient with where this is going.

TREVEAN

We had sophisticated equipment once. Do you think our world was always like this? Two centuries ago, we were much like you. We built great cities, travelled to neighboring worlds...

(MORE)

*
*

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED: (6)

14

TREVEAN (CONT'D)

We believed nothing was beyond our ability. We even thought we could resist the Dominion.

*
*

Our people react.

TREVEAN

I see you've heard of them.

(beat)

Then take care not to defy them... or your people will pay the same price we did. The Jem'Hadar came... and left our world crushed, as an example to others.

Dax and Bashir exchange an uncomfortable look; the potential parallels to the Federation are ominous. Trevean motions to the Attendant.

TREVEAN

Bring Milani's child to me.

(turning to our people)

More than anything, the Dominion wanted my people to bear the mark of their defiance. And so they gave us the Blight.

*
*

Trevean holds the BABY out for us to see... it has the same blue welts on its face as everyone else. It's a tragic sight, a symbol of hopelessness.

TREVEAN

We're all born with it... and we all die from it. The Blight quickens... the lesions turn red... and death comes soon after... Some die in childhood... most before they can have children of their own... only a few live to be my age.

BASHIR

Trevean... if you're willing to tell us what you know about the Blight, we might be able to help.

*
*

Trevean shakes his head as if to say it's no use.

TREVEAN

You should go.

(a warning)

If the Jem'Hadar find you here...

DAX

We're willing to take that risk.

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED: (7)

14

Suddenly we hear a clattering SOUND. Our people turn and see that the man who toasted Trevean has dropped his goblet onto his plate.

*
*
*

He's propped up against a cushion, his body TREMBLING, as if he's having some kind of mild seizure.

Strangely, no one is moving to help him. Instead, all watch him with almost wistful expressions.

Bashir makes to start toward him, but Trevean tries to grab his arm and stop him.

TREVEAN

Don't --

Bashir breaks away and hurries toward the table.

BASHIR

(to the guests)

Give him some room...

The people at the table react to Bashir's approach with confusion, as if they have no idea why he's interfering.

Trevean motions to the Attendants to deal with Bashir. As Bashir tries to examine the man, the people near him try to push him away.

BASHIR

I'm a doctor.

Ekoria reacts to the word... suddenly the Attendants are on Bashir, pulling him away.

ATTENDANT

(to Bashir)

Leave him alone, you're ruining everything.

BASHIR

Can't you see he's dying?

They pull him back to Trevean, who's moved closer to the table.

TREVEAN

(calmly)

Of course he is. He came here to die.

Trevean sees our people's confused looks.

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED: (8)

14

TREVEAN

People come to me when they quicken. I help them leave this world peacefully, surrounded by their family and friends.

BASHIR

What are you saying?

TREVEAN

The herbs I give them cause death within minutes...

DAX

You poison them?

TREVEAN

The Blight kills slowly. No one wants to suffer needlessly.

(beat)

Like the woman you brought to me.

BASHIR

(in shock)

You... killed her...

TREVEAN

(nods)

I did what she asked of me.

BASHIR

I thought this was a hospital... that you were a healer...

TREVEAN

I am. I take away pain.

Trevean turns, sees the confusion and pain on the faces of the people whose death ritual was interrupted by Bashir.

TREVEAN

You disrupted Tamar's death; it was supposed to be a very special moment for his family. I'm going to have to ask you to leave.

Our people are too shocked by what they've learned to argue... off their faces as they turn to go...

15 EXT. RUINED CITY - DAY

15

Bashir sits on a discarded crate of some kind, alone with his thoughts.

Alien SUPERNUMERARIES move through the street, going about their meager tasks, casting the stranger wary glances. The man we saw earlier carting bodies out of the city is now returning, his cart empty, his grim work done.

*
*
*

Dax approaches...

DAX

I found the distress beacon in an abandoned building not far from here. It has its own power source. My guess is that it's been repeating the same message for the last two hundred years.

BASHIR

(resigned)

There's nothing for us to do here... we should go...

A small voice from off-screen interrupts.

EKORIA (O.C.)

Are you really a doctor?

Our people turn and see that Ekorina, the pregnant girl from the "hospital," has been standing in the shadows watching them.

BASHIR

Yes.

EKORIA

I've never met a doctor before.

DAX

Now you have.

(smiles)

What do you think?

She half-smiles, disarmed by Dax's light manner.

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED:

15

EKORIA

They say there's a woman in Nykalia who makes a potion that numbs the nerves. She gives it to people so they can withstand the pain of quickening and live a little longer. But Nykalia is so far away.

Her hand falls unconsciously to her swollen belly. Bashir realizes she's afraid she won't live long enough to have her baby.

BASHIR

(gently)

When are you due?

EKORIA

Not for another two months.

DAX

(kindly)

That's not so long...

EKORIA

You never know when the quickening will come to you.

BASHIR

I'm Julian. What's your name? *

EKORIA

Ekor... *

DAX

I'm Jadzia.... *

EKORIA

Did you come here to help us? *

BASHIR

No one here seems to want our help.

EKORIA

I do. And I know others who'd welcome it, too.

Suddenly Dax's combadge CHIRPS.

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED: (2)

15

KIRA'S COM VOICE
Kira to Away Team.

INTERCUT WITH:

15A INT. RUNABOUT

15A

Kira at the com.

DAX
Go ahead.

KIRA
Sensors just picked up two
Jem'Hadar ships headed this way...

Bashir and Dax react to this unsettling news and we...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

16 INT. RUNABOUT

16

Dax and Bashir have beamed back up to the Runabout to discuss what to do with Kira.

KIRA

(off console)

The Jem'Hadar are leaving the Kendi system... looks like they're heading for the Obatta cluster.

DAX

Sounds like they're on a patrol route -- which means this system is probably next.

KIRA

We'd better go.

(working console)

Stand by to get underway.

BASHIR

Hold on, Major... we can't just leave these people. They need our help.

KIRA

And they'll get it. As soon as we get back we'll notify Starfleet so they can put together a relief mission.

BASHIR

That could take weeks, maybe even months. We're here now.

Bashir can see Kira considering what he's saying, presses his case.

BASHIR

Do you remember the plague on Boranis Three? People were dying by the thousands and no one there knew why. It took us an hour to identify the pathogen, and three days to dose the watertable and inoculate the entire population.

(beat)

We might be able to do the same thing here.

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED:

16

Kira wants to help as much as Bashir and Dax do, and his argument has swayed her.

KIRA

All right... it's worth a try.
But we can't risk the Jem'Hadar
detecting the Runabout on the
surface.

(glances at console)
I'll take it to the Jenkata
Nebula...

BASHIR

Come back for us in a week. With
any luck, we'll have a cure by
then.

Kira nods, wishing she could be as confident as
Bashir... off this moment...

17 INT. TENEMENT HOUSE - DAY

17

A large room that has been subdivided by flimsy
partitions and hanging curtains. Families live in
areas no bigger than closets, CRATES and other scraps
of wood and metal serve as makeshift tables and chairs.
There's no running water, few windows, and the only
LIGHT comes from oil lamps. Still, despite the
poverty, the place is relatively clean and well-kept.
We HEAR the constant background din of people talking,
children squalling, etc.

Ekorla leads Dax and Bashir through the maze of
partitions; they're carrying cargo containers full of
MEDICAL SUPPLIES. She takes them to her living area,
a small room demarcated by curtains. There's a crude
mattress in one corner, a makeshift table and stools.
There are even attempts at decoration. Ekorla has
collected various ARTIFACTS that have caught her eye --
pieces of now useless technology that she's using for
other purposes.

EKORLA

I'm sorry I don't have more space
to offer you.

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED:

16

Kira wants to help as much as Bashir and Dax do, and his argument has swayed her.

KIRA

All right... it's worth a try.
But we can't risk the Jem'Hadar
detecting the Runabout.
(glances at console)
I'll take it to the Jenkata
Nebula...

*

BASHIR

Come back for us in a week. With
any luck, we'll have a cure by
then.

Kira nods, wishing she could be as confident as
Bashir... off this moment...

16A EXT. RUINED CITY - DAY (MATTE/OPTICAL)

16A *

Establishing...

*

17 INT. TENEMENT HOUSE - DAY

17

A large room that has been subdivided by flimsy
partitions and hanging curtains. Families live in
areas no bigger than closets, CRATES and other scraps
of wood and metal serve as makeshift tables and chairs.
There's no running water, few windows, and the only
LIGHT comes from oil lamps. Still, despite the
poverty, the place is relatively clean and well-kept.
There are even a few flowers here and there. We HEAR
the constant background din of people talking, children
squalling, etc.

*

Ekoria leads Dax and Bashir through the maze of
partitions; they're carrying cargo containers full of
MEDICAL SUPPLIES. They stack them with other supplies
they've carried in and put in Ekoria's living area, a
small room demarcated by curtains. There's a crude
mattress in one corner, a makeshift table and stools.
There are even attempts at decoration. Ekoria has
collected various ARTIFACTS that have caught her eye --
pieces of now useless technology that she's using for
other purposes.

*

*

EKORIA

I'm sorry I don't have more space
to offer you.

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED:

17

BASHIR

Don't be. This is fine.

(gesturing)

Can I use this table for my
equipment?*
*

EKORIA

Whatever you need.

*

Dax begins to clear a workspace as Bashir starts unpacking his equipment and setting it up. Ekoria helps Dax, who comes across a small PAINTING on a scrap of wood. It looks like it was done with homemade paint; the colors are a little faded and inconsistent, but even so, it's quite nice. It depicts what the city we've seen might have looked like before the destruction -- the buildings are graceful, trees line the streets, and the people are well dressed.

DAX

Did you do this?

EKORIA

My husband did. He died last
winter.

A flicker of grief flashes across her features, but she pushes past it, keeps helping Bashir and Dax set up.

EKORIA

It's what he imagined our world
used to be like. He painted a
mural similar to it on the side of
a building near here.(shaking her head and
smiling)He traded a good pair of boots for
the paint he needed.

(with pride in him)

He wanted to show people how
things were, he thought it might
give them something to work
toward...

DAX

(smiles)

Maybe later you could take us to
see it...

EKORIA

(pleased)

All right.

They continue working for a beat... once the equipment is set up, Dax glances around with satisfaction.

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED: (2)

17

DAX
Well... looks like we have
ourselves a clinic.

Bashir turns to Ekorla...

BASHIR
The first thing I need to do is
run a complete bio-spectral
analysis on an asymptomatic
individual.

Dax smiles at his Doctorese, translates for Ekorla.

DAX
Loosely translated, that means he
needs a volunteer. *

Ekorla smiles and nods she's willing.

DAX
Great.
(wry)
If you'll just have a seat, the
Doctor will be with you in a
moment.

Ekorla doesn't get it, looks confused.

DAX
(conspiratorial)
They love to keep you waiting, it
makes them feel important. *

Ekorla smiles, and Bashir beckons her over to the
table.

BASHIR
(picking up his
Tricorder)
How'd you like to see a picture of
your baby?

She is stunned by the possibility... off the hopeful
image of Bashir beginning to scan we...

DISSOLVE TO:

18 INT. TENEMENT HOUSE - LATER

18

where Bashir is hunched over some table-top instrument
studying a readout. Dax is preparing tissue samples
for him, using a high-tech dropper to add small
quantities of chemicals to a rack of tubes.

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED:

18

They're engrossed in their work, and don't notice Ekoría rummaging through her shelves looking for something to offer her guests. We see her poke through some empty containers, and that it pains her not to have anything for them.

She considers for a moment, then takes a special box off the shelf. She looks inside, and we see she's saved a few cans of food, some jars with alien looking vegetables pickled in them, and two wine-like bottles. These are items she's been hoarding for her death ritual, the meal she one day plans to have in Trevean's hospital. She hesitates, as if unsure she wants to share these very precious items.

Suddenly --

BASHIR

There it is.

DAX

(moving to look)

Are you sure?

BASHIR

It has to be.

Ekoría can hear the excitement in their voices --

EKORIA

What's happened?

DAX

(looking into scanner)

We've isolated the virus.

EKORIA

Is that a good thing?

BASHIR

It means we can start analyzing its molecular structure, look for binding sites so we can tailor an antigen.

*

DAX

(translating for Ekoría
with a smile)

It's a very good thing.

Ekoría smiles --

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED: (2)

18

BASHIR

(to Dax)

I'm going to start mapping the
nucleotides. Do you know how to
run a protein sequencer?

*
*
*

DAX

I think so.

Ekorja sees the enthusiasm with which they set to work,
makes her decision -- she reaches and starts taking her
hoarded items out of the box. With genuine enthusiasm:

EKORIA

I hope you two are hungry.

BASHIR

(without looking up)

Starving.

EKORIA

Good.

Dax looks up and sees her laying out her hoard.

DAX

Looks like a feast.

EKORIA

It was supposed to be.

Dax tweaks to something --

DAX

What do you mean?

Ekorja is reluctant to answer, she doesn't want to look
like a bad host.

EKORIA

Nothing. Do you like Takana root
tea?

DAX

(moving to her)

Ekorja, where did you get all this
food?

EKORIA

(admitting it)

I've been saving it for the
hospital... for my death.

Our people react to this admission --

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED: (3)

18

EKORIA
(smiling)
Something tells me I'm not going
to need it anymore...

The hopefulness embodied in her gesture makes it impossible for our people to refuse to accept what she's offering them. Off this moment...

19 EXT. CITY STREET - DAY (OPTICAL)

19 *

Alien SUPERNUMERARIES as needed. Ekoría watches as Bashir, in the background, talks to a woman sitting in front of her shanty. She has RED welts on her face, and Bashir is asking her if she's willing to let him study her. She shakes her head No, and Bashir moves to join the others.

BASHIR
She's not interested either.

EKORIA
I don't understand why you need
people who've quickened to make
your cure.

*
*

BASHIR
(as they continue on)
I need to study the progression of
the--

*
*

Bashir bumps into someone heading the other direction, turns to apologize...

BASHIR
Sorry...

He realizes it's Epran, the young man from the Teaser, except he's quickened -- his welts have gone RED. Epran recognizes our people, studies them appraisingly for a beat. He's a man tempered by hardship, with a bitter wit.

EPRAN
You're still here.

BASHIR
Yes.

EPRAN
I see the Blight has spared you.
Maybe it doesn't like the taste of
your blood.

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED:

19

BASHIR

It seems to like yours.

Epran reacts to the fact Bashir has noticed his red welts.

EPRAN

(sardonic)

I'd invite you to my death, but we don't know each other that well.

He turns to move off...

BASHIR

What if I told you there was a chance you didn't have to die?

Epran stops, hesitates, then turns to face Bashir again. A few other passersby heard what Bashir said, and look on out of curiosity.

BASHIR

I'm a Doctor.

The crowd reacts to this claim.

EPRAN

(mocking)

Don't tell me... you have a cure.

BASHIR

I'm working on one.

EPRAN

What will it cost me? A good coat? A tilo of oil?

A small knot of people are starting to gather.

BASHIR

It won't cost you anything.

The crowd responds skeptically, and Ekorla rises to Bashir's defense.

EKORIA

(hard)

He can help us. Listen to him.

Bashir raises his voice, makes his case for all to hear.

BASHIR

I need volunteers, people who've quickened.

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED: (2)

19

EPRAN

What will you do? See how loud we
scream as the Blight burns through
us?

This brings appreciative laughs from the gathering
crowd.

BASHIR

I have medicines that dull pain;
I have equipment unlike anything
on your world.

He surveys the crowd, spots a young boy with his arm in
a sling.

BASHIR

How'd you like me to fix that arm
so you can go play with your
friends?

The boy hesitates... Bashir moves to him, gently
removes his sling.

BASHIR

I'm not going to hurt you...

He takes out his tricorder, scans the bone.

BASHIR

You've got a fracture right here.
I'll bet it hurts.

The boy nods... Bashir passes a DEVICE over his arm,
bathing it in a warm GLOW...

BASHIR

How's it feel now?

The boy flexes his arm... a look of utter astonishment
crosses his features -- he's fine. He scampers off,
happy as can be. A hush of awe comes over the crowd...

EPRAN

(amazed)

It isn't possible...

EKORIA

It is. You saw it. He can find
a cure for us. But he needs our
help.

Epran seems ready to consider it, but then Trevean
steps out of the crowd...

TREVEAN

Fixing a broken bone and curing
the Blight are two different
things.

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED: (3)

19

BASHIR

I know that.

*

Trevean pitches his voice for all to hear...

TREVEAN

Others have come to our city with promises of a cure. They stirred up hope... took food and clothes in exchange for their elixirs, then moved on.

(beat)

But their promises were always lies.

Murmurs of assent from the crowd...

TREVEAN

And the poor wretches who believed in them always came to me in the end, begging for release...

BASHIR

I just want to do what I can to help. I'm not making any promises.

TREVEAN

Take care that you don't. Because we've dealt with those who give false hope before. Wherever they'd moved on to, we found them...

(with an edge)

And believe me, their deaths made the Blight look like a blessing...

*

With the crowd swayed to his side, their mood ugly, Trevean turns and moves away... Off Bashir's face as he takes in his words...

*

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

20 INT. TENEMENT HOUSE

20

where a somewhat dispirited Bashir is hunched over a scanner, continuing to work despite the fact that no one volunteered to take part in his study. Ekorcia is standing at the counter that serves as her kitchen, engaged in some domestic chore.

After a moment, Bashir smacks the table with his hand.

EKORIA
(concerned)
What's wrong?

BASHIR
I'm trying to chart the lifecycle
of the virus.
(frustrated)
It would be a lot easier if I'd
gotten more tissue samples...

Ekorcia realizes what he's saying, and feels ashamed for her people. Bashir lets out a tired breath, gets back to work. Ekorcia studies him for a beat, amazed that he's still plugging away...

EKORIA
Maybe you should go home. My
people don't deserve your help.

BASHIR
(disagreeing)
No... they've just been suffering
so long they've lost hope things
can be better.

EKORIA
It's more than that. We...
worship death.

She turns to him, explains what she means.

EKORIA
I used to wake up --
(pointing to it)
-- look at myself in that mirror,
and be disappointed that I hadn't
quickenened in my sleep.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED:

20 *

EKORIA (CONT'D)

Going to Trevean seemed so much
easier than going on living.

*
*
*

BASHIR

But you don't feel that way
anymore...

EKORIA

Not since the baby...

She touches her swollen belly, smiles...

EKORIA

My little boy... I wonder, can
your machines tell me what he's
going to look like when he grows
up?

*
*

BASHIR

Not really...

EKORIA

Maybe he'll look like his
father...

*

Her eyes go wet with emotion...

EKORIA

I want to be here for him... to
hold his hand when he takes his
first step... kiss his knee when
he scrapes it in a fall...

*

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED: (2)

20

BASHIR

With any luck, you'll see him have
children of his own... *

A moment between them, then the SOUND of approaching
footsteps. A beat later the curtains part and Dax
appears.

DAX

There are some people here who
want to see you...

She pulls back the curtain and reveals Epran standing
there with two other symptomatic (red welted) people.
He studies Bashir and his equipment with his typically
skeptical manner.

EPRAN

I suppose you're going to want to
bleed me?

Bashir smiles slightly when he realizes Epran has come
to volunteer.

BASHIR

Just a little.

Epran sits heavily, offers his arm.

EPRAN

(glum)
I cancelled my death for you... I
was really looking forward to it.

Off this moment we...

DISSOLVE TO:

21 INT. TENEMENT HOUSE - DAYS LATER - DUSK

21

Most of the curtains and partitions that once divided
the room have been pulled aside -- the former
inhabitants have sacrificed their rooms to make space
for Bashir's expanding clinic. *

24th century medical scanners, diagnostic readouts, and
other equipment stand alongside primitive makeshift
beds. There should be plenty of BLINKIES and LIT
PANELS to indicate power is in use.

In addition to Epran and the other two people we saw in
the previous scene, there are about ten other patients
in various stages of the Blight (all with red welts).

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED: 21

The atmosphere is busy, upbeat... and hopeful.

22 ON BASHIR 22

as he hands Ekorla a HYPO, takes one for himself.

BASHIR

All right, everyone gets three milligrams, including you.

She nods, and with endearing concentration, twists the unit to parcel out a dose, then carefully administers the hypo to herself.

BASHIR

Perfect.

She smiles and nods, and they part ways...

23 ON DAX 23

as she tends to Epran, whose welts have gone to a deep red. He seems to be in some pain. She puts a NEURAL PAD on Epran's forehead and activates it. Once it starts to BLINK he visibly relaxes.

DAX

There... this'll dull the pain. *

He nods, regards her for a beat.

EPRAN

I like your spots.

DAX

You told me that yesterday. *

EPRAN

(shrugs)

I still like them.

She moves off with a smile... meets up with Bashir.

DAX

Epran has stopped responding to the cordrazine... I had to put him in an inhibitor field. *

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED:

23

BASHIR

(nodding)

He's farther along than anyone
here. But I'm hoping he'll be the
first to respond to the antigen.

*
*
*

They watch as Ekorla chats with a patient, bringing a
smile to his face before injecting them...

BASHIR

(sotto)

Think of it... she might very well
be holding the cure in her hand.
Do you think we should tell her
what she's giving them?

*

DAX

She's nervous enough about using
that hypo. It's better to wait
till we're positive.

*
*

The truth is, Bashir is sure... but doesn't want to say
it.

BASHIR

I suppose.

He arches his back, stretches his tired muscles.

DAX

Why don't you take a break?
You've been working non-stop for
days.

*

He nods, moves away... off Dax's face as she watches
him go...

24 EXT. TENEMENT DOORWAY - NIGHT

24

(NOTE: IDEALLY THIS COULD BE CHEATED ON STAGE)

where Bashir is sitting on a crate, taking in the night
air. After a beat, Ekorla comes out from inside the
clinic.

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED:

24

EKORIA

Dax wanted me to tell you that
Epran's white blood cell count has
gone up another twelve percent.

*

Bashir is deeply pleased at this news...

BASHIR

That's great news.

EKORIA

It is?

BASHIR

Trust me.

EKORIA

(simply)

I do.

He turns and sees the admiring look on her face...

EKORIA

I did from the start. I don't
really know why.

BASHIR

(making light of it)

I'd like to think it's my bedside
manner...

(off her look)

Doctors and Nurses are supposed to
project an air of caring
competence.

*

*

(gesturing inside)

You were doing it in there.

EKORIA

(surprised)

Me?

BASHIR

I've been watching you. You're
very good with the patients.

EKORIA

I'm just trying to be kind.

BASHIR

A lot of people don't want to be
around the sick. It reminds them
of their own mortality.

*

*

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED: (2)

24

EKORIA

It doesn't bother you?

BASHIR

Sometimes... but I think I'd rather confront mortality than hide from it. When you make someone well, it's like you're chasing Death off, making him wait for another day.

EKORIA

But Death comes to everyone in the end.

BASHIR

Not to Kukalaka.

EKORIA

Kuka-who?

BASHIR

My first patient. A teddy bear.

EKORIA

What's that?

BASHIR

Sort of a soft puppet, stuffed with wadded cotton. When I was a boy, I took him everywhere I went. After a few years, he started to get a little threadbare, until one day his leg tore open and his insides spilled out and made a mess. My mother was all set to throw him out, but I wouldn't have it. At the tender age of five, I performed my first surgery. I re-stuffed him, and stitched his leg closed. From then on, I did whatever it took to keep Kukalaka together. I must've sewn, stitched or patched every square inch of him.

*
*
*
*
*

EKORIA

Why were you so determined to keep him in one piece?

*
*

He looks at her, wants her to know something about him:

BASHIR

I wouldn't be much of a Doctor if I gave up on a patient, would I?

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED: (3)

24

She hears the unspoken promise in his statement, made to her and her people. A moment, then...

EKORIA
Where's Kukalaka now?

BASHIR
(tossing it off)
Some closet somewhere...

Ekoría gives him a probing look...

BASHIR
(admitting it)
On a shelf in my room...

They share a smile... Suddenly --

DAX (O.S.)
Julian.

Dax emerges from inside, a panicked look on her face.

*

DAX
Get in here, now.

*

CUT TO:

25 INT. TENEMENT HOUSE - NIGHT

25

as Dax leads Bashir and Ekoría to Epran's bed. The diagnostic console beside him is BEEPING URGENTLY and Epran is wracked with terrible pain.

26 CLOSE ON EPRAN (OPTICAL)

26

as Bashir holds his head so he can examine his face. A large red WELT has formed underneath the Neural Pad on his forehead, and as we watch, red tendrils SNAKE OUT from it and crawl across his face... off this terrible moment we...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

27 INT. TENEMENT HOUSE - CONTINUOUS - NIGHT 27

Epran continues to writhe in pain as Bashir scans him with a TRICORDER, desperate to find out what's gone wrong.

Dax administers a HYPO, but it has no effect on the pain.

BASHIR
(off Tricorder)
Something's causing the virus to mutate...

DAX
Could it be a reaction to the antigen?

BASHIR
(urgent)
I don't see how -- I need a micro-cellular scanner. *

Dax hurries to get one...

EPRAN
(through the pain)
Bashir... *

The word is as much an accusation as a plea for help... Ekoria does her best to comfort him. *

EKORIA
He'll take care of you... you're going to be all right... *

She looks at Bashir, hoping that this is true... Dax hands Bashir the scanner and he activates it, passes it over Epran... *

28 CLOSE ON EPRAN (OPTICAL) 28

as the scanning beam passes over his face, several NEW WELTS surface on his skin, red and inflamed... *

29 RESUME SCENE 29

as Bashir reacts, realizing what this means...

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED:

29

BASHIR
My god... it's the EM fields from
our instruments.

*
*

Suddenly ANOTHER PATIENT, LATIA, lets out a moan of pain... a beat later, the diagnostic scanner next to her starts to BEEP URGENTLY...

Bashir snatches the Neural Pad off Epran's forehead.

BASHIR
(to Dax and Ekorla)
Shut everything down -- now!

Another patient gasps in pain and his scanner goes off. A WOMAN who was visiting a sick friend runs out of the room, terrified...

Bashir, Dax and Ekorla hurry around the room frantically shutting off equipment... the patients moan in pain, reach imploringly for help as our people pass...

DAX
(calling across the
room)
All right, everything's off.

Bashir bends to examine Latia...

BASHIR
The mutation rate hasn't slowed...
the effect must be cumulative...

LATIA
(anguished)
Help me...

BASHIR
(giving him a hypo)
Give everyone four milligrams of
cordrazine...

Ekorla and Dax set to work around the room with HYPOS. As Ekorla approaches Epran, he let's out a strangled cry... she sees his body go limp, puts a hand to his chest.

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED: (2)

29

EKORIA

His heart's stopped!

Bashir hurries over and immediately begins to administer CPR to Epran's still form... he massages his chest, gives him a few breaths, repeats the process...

BASHIR

Come on... breathe...

He continues giving CPR well past the point of no return...

BASHIR

Breathe.

Finally, Dax tries to stop him...

DAX

Julian...

But he keeps at it...

DAX

Julian.

She pulls him back... Bashir looks down at Epran's still form, devastated by what's happened.

Suddenly Trevean and two of his Attendants burst in, summoned by the woman who ran out. Trevean looks around, aghast at the suffering he sees. His features go hard, his voice cold.

TREVEAN

(to Bashir)

What have you done?

Bashir doesn't answer him, his attention is on Latia, who's reaching a hand out to him... *

LATIA *

Help me...

Bashir gives her another HYPO, but it's no use -- the virus is burning through the poor woman's body. When she sees Trevean -- *

LATIA *

Trevean, please...

Trevean moves toward her, reaching into his "wallet" for a VIAL of liquid. *

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED: (3)

29

Bashir sees what he's going to do, moves to intervene.

TREVEAN
Get out of my way!

LATIA
(imploring)
Trevean...

TREVEAN
She's asking for me! You have no
right to interfere! *

A terrible moment as Bashir struggles with what to do... until finally, he let's Trevean push past him...

He watches as Trevean pours the contents of the vial into the dying woman's eager mouth...

LATIA
(through her pain)
Thank you...

A moment, then she dies... other patients spot Trevean and his Assistants in their midst, start calling out to them...

Dax looks to Bashir for guidance, sees that he's decided not to interfere... she watches as they go about their grim business... off Bashir's devastated features...

DISSOLVE TO:

30 INT. TENEMENT HOUSE - MORNING

30

The room is now completely silent. In the span of one night, the once-thriving clinic has become a morgue. Every one of the Patients is now dead, every body on every bed covered with a dingy sheet.

Trevean and his men have gone, their work done. Bashir sits in a corner, shattered. Dax approaches him... after a quiet moment, he speaks, his voice far away...

BASHIR
I remember running a hematology
scan on Epran the other day...
there were changes in the viral
base-pair sequence, and I didn't
know why... *

DAX
There's no way you could've known
it was because of our instruments. *

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED:

30

BASHIR

I should've put it together... I should've run more tests. But I was so bent on finding a cure I ignored the warning signs.

DAX

That's not fair and you know it.

BASHIR

(hard)

Isn't it?

(beat)

I'm going to let you in on a little secret, Jadzia. I was looking forward to tomorrow: to seeing Kira again and casually asking, "how was the Nebula?" By the way, I cured that Blight thing those people were having.

DAX

It's not a crime to believe in yourself, Julian.

BASHIR

(gesturing all around)

They believed in me. Look what it got them.

He stands, moves away...

BASHIR

Trevean was right... there is no cure... the Dominion made sure of that.

(bitterly)

But I was so arrogant, I thought I could find one in a week...

Dax studies him for a beat before replying...

DAX

Maybe it was arrogant to think that. But it's even more arrogant to think there isn't a cure just because you couldn't find it.

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED: (2) 30

And with that, she turns and EXITS... leaving Bashir with a great deal to think about...

31 EXT. RUINED CITY - DAY 31

as Bashir wanders through the street, lost in thought... As he passes, people point him out to each other -- there's the Doctor who caused so many to die painfully.

A MAN passes in front of him, spits on the ground... Bashir can't even look him in the eye... continues on...

32 EXT. ANOTHER PART OF THE CITY - DAY 32

as Bashir makes his way through the ruined street, something off-screen catches Bashir's eye...

33 NEW ANGLE 33

revealing that Bashir's standing in front of the MURAL Ekorja's husband painted. Even though it's weathered and damaged in places, from this angle, it looks like he's standing in the long-gone street itself -- magically transported to a better time and place.

He stands there, struck by the hopefulness embodied in the act of painting such a thing amidst all the destruction... until --

EKORIA (O.S.)

I'm glad you got a chance to see it before you left.

He turns at the sound of her voice... and reacts to the sight of her.

34 INCLUDE EKORIA 34

We see that the welts on her face have gone RED -- she's quickened.

BASHIR
(stricken)
Ekoria...

*
*
*

She smiles sadly... her hand falls to her belly...

*

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED:

34

EKORIA

I thought I was going to make
it... I really did...

BASHIR

I'm sorry...

EKORIA

Don't be... you gave me hope. I
hadn't felt that since my husband
died...

She looks at the Mural, smiles as she remembers him.

EKORIA

I'm going to see Trevean
tomorrow... I wish you could be
there...

BASHIR

I have to go...

EKORIA

I understand...

She moves to him, kisses him tenderly on the cheek...

EKORIA

Goodbye...

A moment between them, then she turns and moves away...
Bashir hesitates, then calls after her...

BASHIR

Ekorcia, wait...

We see a look of determination on his features, then
cut to --

35 EXT. SPACE - RUNABOUT (OPTICAL)

35

in orbit.

35A INT. RUNABOUT

35A

Bashir and Dax have beamed up to the Runabout to talk with Kira. The mood between them is somber... Bashir is saying goodbye.

KIRA

Are you sure about this?

BASHIR

I can't leave these people... not now.

Kira can see the depth of feeling in him, doesn't argue...

KIRA

Whenever you're ready, contact the station and we'll have a Runabout here within days.

Dax moves to him...

DAX

You know what really worries me, Julian...?

(off his look)

That without me, you won't have anyone to translate for you...

They share a smile... he moves toward the transporter pad, where some supplies are stacked in CONTAINERS.

DAX

(heartfelt)

Good luck...

35B EXT. RUINED CITY - DAY (OPTICAL)

35B *

as Bashir MATERIALIZES in the street, the supplies at his feet...

Passersby see him, give wide berth to the Doctor who brought so much suffering... off his resolve to do what he can for these people we...

36 OMITTED

36

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

37 INT. TENEMENT HOUSE - NIGHT

37

Ekorja is resting quietly in bed... Bashir is working at a table arrayed with test tubes, beakers, Bunsen burners, and other low-tech medical equipment. His 24th century equipment has been packed away in crates and stacked in one corner.

Bashir adds a drop of liquid to a tube, twirls it around, and the liquid changes color -- he lets out a frustrated breath. Ekorja comes out of her reverie at the sound...

EKORJA

What is it?

BASHIR

(disappointed)

There's not a trace of the antigen
I gave you in your bloodstream...

(unable to figure out
why)

Your immune system must've
rejected it...

Ekorja winces and stiffens as she's hit with a spasm of pain. Bashir moves to her side...

BASHIR

Is it bad?

She nods, we can see her fighting the pain.

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED:

37

BASHIR

I can give you another hypo, but
you've got a lot of cordrazine in
your system already. It might be
hard on the baby's metabolism.

*
*

She nods that she understands...

EKORIA

I'll wait...

He smiles at her bravery in turning down the
painkiller... off this moment we...

CUT TO:

38 INT. TENEMENT HOUSE - CLOSE ON A BEAKER - DAY

38

suspended on a wire frame over a Bunsen burner, a
viscous yellow liquid bubbling inside.

*

EKORIA (O.S.)

What is that smell?

39 WIDEN

39

to include Ekorla in bed, Bashir at his worktable. The
progress of the disease can be seen on her face --
there are a few more welts, and they're redder and more
inflamed.

*

BASHIR

I'm making a salve for your
lesions...

EKORIA

(wry)

As long as I don't have to drink
it...

*

He moves to her side...

BASHIR

How do you feel?

(CONTINUED)

39 CONTINUED: (2)

39

BASHIR

(gently)

I can induce labor in another two weeks... the baby will be old enough then.

*

Ekorja nods, sets this as her goal in her mind...

EKORIA

Two weeks...

Off her determination...

DISSOLVE TO:

*

40 INT. TENEMENT HOUSE - NIGHT

40

Ekorja's resting fitfully, her disease having progressed still further. She moans in her sleep, shifts uncomfortably. A HAND reaches into FRAME, dips a brush into a beaker... then dabs the yellow salve onto Ekorja's inflamed welts. After a moment, her eyes flutter open, she focuses...

*
*
*
*
*

41 WIDEN

41

to include Trevean, sitting at her side with the brush in his hand, looking down at her with kindness. Bashir is not in the room, having gone to fetch supplies.

She reacts to Trevean's presence in the dim light cast by the oil lamps --

EKORIA

Trevean...

(softly)

Am I... dead?

TREVEAN

(gently)

Is that what you want?

Part of her wants it, but another part of her wants to hang on...

TREVEAN

I can end your suffering...

*

He touches her belly gently...

(CONTINUED)

41 CONTINUED:

41

TREVEAN

Your child will die having known
nothing but peace...

*

A moment as pain and hope fight it out within her...

EKORIA

No... he deserves a chance to
live...

TREVEAN

The Blight will take him in the
end.

*

Trevean says this from a deep weariness, a well of
suffering. Suddenly --

BASHIR (O.C.)

I thought you let people come to
you...

Trevean turns to see Bashir in the doorway, carrying
two containers of water hung from a stick across his
back.

BASHIR

I didn't realize you made house
calls.

Trevean stands, moves to face him.

TREVEAN

I was concerned that she might be
too weak to come.

Bashir studies Trevean for a beat...

*

BASHIR

I don't understand why you're so
obsessed with death, Trevean.
From what I've seen, you've lived
with the Blight longer than anyone
else.

TREVEAN

Yes... and I've seen more
suffering than anyone else.

Trevean lets his words hang in the air... long enough
to let Bashir realize that his question contained its
own answer...

(CONTINUED)

41 CONTINUED: (2)

41

TREVEAN

Good bye, Ekorina... I hope you
live to see your baby...

She smiles, accepting the sincerity of his wish... *

With a final look, Trevean walks past Bashir and out
the door, having given him a glimpse of what drives
him. A quiet moment, then... *

EKORIA

Trevean means well... he's a kind
man, in his own way... *

Off Bashir as he considers her words...

CUT TO:

42 INT. TENEMENT HOUSE - DAYBREAK

42

as Ekorina arches her back and cries out in pain...

43 WIDEN

43

to include Bashir, poised between her legs... she's in
labor...

BASHIR

That's it... push.

Ekorina tries to gather her breath for another push...

BASHIR

Good... now breathe...

She pants, tries to swallow back the pain... after a
beat, Bashir breaks into a grin...

BASHIR

I can see his head. One more push
and we're there...

She steals herself, draws in a breath... and pushes --
a moment, then she hears the SOUND she's been hanging
on to life for: her baby's CRY...

She smiles through her pain... falls back on her bed.
The effort of giving birth has brought her to the brink
of death...

(CONTINUED)

43 CONTINUED:

43

Bashir sees that Ekorla is barely hanging on, brings the bloodied baby near her face so she can see...

BASHIR

Ekorla...

Her eyes open part way, she's too weak to lift her head, but she smiles at the sight of her son...

EKORIA

He's beautiful...

Bashir gives him to her, starts to wipe away the blood and placental tissue... then a look of utter astonishment crosses his features...

BASHIR

My god...

He wipes away more blood to be sure...

BASHIR

He doesn't have any lesions...

(with awe)

The antigen must've been absorbed through the placenta... he doesn't have the Blight...

EKORIA

It's a miracle...

She dies, a smile on her lips... Bashir looks down at her still form, then picks up the baby, Ekorla's last gift to her people...

The emotion of it all overwhelms him... he doesn't know whether to collapse in tears or cry out for joy... off this bittersweet moment...

44 OMITTED

44

45 INT. HOSPITAL - DAWN

45

where Trevean is looking at the baby in Bashir's arms, awed by what it represents... Trevean's Attendants stand nearby, staring at the tiny bundle in his hands in stunned silence...

TREVEAN

I see that I misjudged you...

(CONTINUED)

45 CONTINUED: 45 *

Earlier, Bashir might've been tempted to throw what's happened in Trevean's face, but not anymore -- he's come to understand that Trevean is a compassionate man living in a terrible time.

BASHIR
Every pregnant woman should be inoculated as soon as possible... the antigen will protect their babies...

The two men regard each other, the rancor between them has evaporated in the face of what's happened. Finally... *

TREVEAN
I'll see that it's done... *

Bashir acknowledges with a nod... *

BASHIR
Ekorla had no family left... *

A moment, then... *

TREVEAN
I'd be happy to raise her son as my own... *

BASHIR
(smiling)
I think she'd have liked that... *

Bashir hands him the child... off the moment between the two men... *

46 OMITTED 46 *

CUT TO:

47 EXT. CITY STREET - DAY 47

where Trevean is holding the baby up for all to see... a crowd is gathering around him, people are running to join and see the miracle for themselves...

48 PULL BACK TO REVEAL 48 *

Bashir, standing at a distance... watching this scene of new found hope... off this moment...

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

Re-establishing.

50 INT. WARDROOM

50

where SISKO is talking with Bashir. They're in the seating area off to one side of the room, and Sisko is holding a PADD in his hand.

SISKO

When Dax and Kira showed up here without my Chief Medical Officer, I almost sent them back to get you.

(re: PADD)

Now that I've read your report, I'm glad I didn't.

Bashir brushes right past Sisko's implied compliment.

BASHIR

Thank you, sir. With your permission, I'd like to go to Starfleet Medical and consult with a doctor there who's an expert in immunology.

SISKO

All right.

Sisko sees that something is weighing on Bashir's mind, waits a moment to see if he's going to say anything more... when he doesn't:

SISKO

I'd better get to Ops...

Bashir nods, and Sisko stands to go... Bashir moves to the window, lost in his own thoughts, and Sisko heads for the door. He stops before leaving, turns back to him.

SISKO

Doctor... you made a difference back there. You should be proud of yourself.

BASHIR

I may have made a difference, sir, but I didn't cure the Blight. People are still dying of it, even if their children won't. That's why I want to go to Starfleet Medical.

SISKO

So you think there is a cure...

(CONTINUED)

50 CONTINUED:

50

BASHIR

Just because I couldn't find it,
that doesn't mean there isn't one.

Sisko's never heard this kind of humility from Bashir
before... he nods, EXITS.

Off Bashir's face as he looks out into the stars...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FIVE

THE END

