

Star Trek: Lost Prophets - Part Tree

By

Jon May
(jimi james)

This project is dedicated to the memory of all those we have lost, that were part of the vision, and through their work will never really be gone.

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Many thanks Draft.

BLACK:

FADE IN:

Space

Stars slowly streak by, but increase in speed. A pinpoint of light appears in the distance rapidly growing in size.

As the point of light continues to grow, a pair of lights appear to its flanks.

The point continues to grow, until the familiar form of a Federation starship becomes apparent. The other points of light, a pair of Jem'Hdar fighters follow in close formation.

INT. U.S.S. ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE

Every bridge officer mans their station with a look of noticeable dread and worry. A clear and present vibration courses though the deck.

In the center seat, Picard tries in vain to hold back his own worry and doubt.

PICARD

Time.

LEFLER

Two hours, forty-seven minutes.

Picard lowers his head, squinting his eyes closed as he rubs the bridge of his nose.

He briefly lets go of his fierce grip on this chair to tap his comm badge.

PICARD

Engineering, report.

LAFORGE V.O.

(filtered)

The mains are at twenty-five percent over max.

PICARD

We need more, Commander.

LAFORGE V.O.

(filtered)

If I give her any more, she'll fly apart.

(CONTINUED)

PICARD
Then by all means, fly her apart.

INT. U.S.S ENTERPRISE - MAIN ENGINEERING

LaForge is laid out underneath and exposed console. He doesn't stop working as he speaks with Picard.

LAFORGE
I'll do what I can.

PICARD V.O.
(filtered)
That's all I'm asking, Geordie.
(beat)
Bridge out.

LaForge hits his comm badge to make sure the channel is closed.

LAFORGE
(sarcastic)
Yeah, and why not just ask for some magic technobbale that will take the ship into Transwarp.
(beat)
Bring me that hyper-spanner.

A TECHNICIAN walks over to LaForge with the tool in hand.

TECHNICIAN
He's asking the impossible, sir.

LaForge smiles at the young crewmen as though he has just remembered a personal joke.

LAFORGE
That's the short definition of "Captain."

LaForge slides back under the console to get get back to work.

INT. U.S.S. ENTERPRISE - OBSERVATION LOUNGE

The vibrations continue.

ODO stands at the large windows, watching the stars streak past the ship.

(CONTINUED)

Behind him, Worf sits at the head of the table. He keeps a close eye on the lone Jem'Hdar that stands on the opposite side of the table from Odo.

On either side of the Jem'Hdar, but well out of arms length, two Starfleet security guards hold position. They carry phaser rifles, gripped tightly in their hands.

Across the room, Weyoun is standing by the back of the lounge, examining the gold models that hang on display.

WORF

Do you think you can stop her?

ODO

I did once before, but that time I had quite the bargaining chip.

(beat)

This time, I'm not sure what I'll be able to offer her.

Worf's expression changes to one of slight worry.

WORF

The Federation cannot afford another war, Odo. We must do whatever is necessary to protect...

Worf stops as Odo turns to look at him. A clear look of annoyance on his face.

ODO

To protect what the Federation.

WORF

None of us need another war, Odo.

ODO

I agree, Commander.

(beat)

However, she's the least of your worries.

(beat)

The Dominion is but one threat the Federation should be worried about in the Gamma Quadrant.

WORF

I imagined as much.

ODO

(skeptical)

Really?

(CONTINUED)

WORF

There is far too much territory between the Federation and the Dominion for their to be nothing of consequence in that vast unexplored region.

(beat)

And given everything I have seen in my time as a Starfleet officer, I do not believe the universe to be so poorly designed.

Odo makes a slight noise under his breath.

ODO

Hmm.

He turns back to the window and the stars.

Worf looks over to Weyoun, who is still inspecting the model ships.

WORF

Was it necessary for the Vorta to accompany you?

ODO

I trust him, Commander. That should be enough.

WORF

At the first sign of betrayal I will kill him.

Odo looks to Weyoun.

ODO

You'll have to take a number.

Weyoun suddenly looks very nervous.

INT. DEEP SPACE NINE - PROMENADE

Outside the infirmary, a crowd has formed into two distinct groups.

The first group, kneels in reverence as Sisko approaches. They dare not look up to meet his gaze as he passes by them. Some are two overcome with joy and emotion to say anything. Others chant prayers to the Prophets in thanks for his return.

(CONTINUED)

The second group is being led by a Bajoran MONK. He stands before them, speaking in Bajoran, from a Bajoran holy book. The people before him, not all Bajorans, sit quietly in meditative prayer.

Sisko approaches the Monk to listen to his prayer.

MONK

Give Kira the strength to do your will in all things and to accept the fate you have laid out for her.

He looks up for a moment, taking notice that Sisko is standing next to him. He doesn't seem to care.

MONK

In the Prophets we trust.

Dax approaches Commander Thorne.

DAX

Anything?

THORNE

There's been no change.

DAX

You should try to get some rest, Commander.

Bashir walks out of the Infirmary out onto the Promenade. He instinctively ends up standing beside Dax.

BASHIR

I've done everything I can, but the Prophet is simply finishing what the Female Changeling started.

DAX

Can you say how long?

BASHIR

No. It could be in a few minutes...or a few days. It just depends on how long Kira can hold on.

They all take a moment to let that sink in.

THORNE

(to Bashir)

Is there anyway to remove the Prophet?

BASHIR

We've had success using thoron radiation to force a Prophet to leave it's host.

DAX

Can we even interfere?

BASHIR

Well, Captain?

Sisko looks away in frustration.

When Sisko doesn't immediately answer, Bashir takes it upon himself to make the picture crystal clear for everyone.

BASHIR

The Prophet...the wormhole alien is going to kill her. We have...

SISKO

(Interrupts)

...I have no doubt that Kira knew exactly what she was doing. It was her choice. We have no right to interfere.

BASHIR

And what of our duty to help a fellow Starfleet officer?

DAX

Julian...

BASHIR

(Interrupts)

We almost let Kira die once form this, not to mention Jake...

SISKO

It's not our decision to make.

DAX

If we removed the Prophet, would Kira survive?

BASHIR

I don't know, but at least she would have a fighting chance. Right now the life is being quite literally drained out of her.

(CONTINUED)

SISKO
(frustrated)
Julian, I...

Kai Ungtae comes into the room. She clears her throat to interrupt them.

KAI UNGTAE
Emissary, it is time.

SISKO
That's enough. The decision has been made Julian. It was Kira's to make and you have to accept it.

BASHIR
She's our friend...it's never going to be enough.

Bashir walks away.

SISKO
Go on ahead. I'll be along shortly.

KAI UNGTAE
As you wish.

Sisko and Hastur take a few steps away from the rest of group.

SISKO
The terrorists attack haven't stopped have they?

HASTUR
No. But with Los dead, and the Changeling no longer running the Circle...

SISKO
They're completely random.

HASTUR
The most effective form of terrorism is random violence. Coordinated attacks might drive home the message, but random violence will break the will.

SISKO
Then the Bajorans behind these attacks are in for a rude

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SISKO (cont'd)
awakening, because the Federation
isn't going anywhere.

Sisko leaves his the Admiral to go to the infirmary.

HASTUR
I'm sure the Cardassians thought
the same thing.

INT. DEEP SPACE NINE - OPERATIONS

Free of their environmental suits, Nog and O'Brien are standing on the upper level, looking around at the miracle they were able to accomplish.

There are still obvious signs of damage, but the most critical systems and the console to run them are back online. Every station has an officer or crewman manning the post.

O'BRIEN
I can't believe we got this place
running again.

Nog looks up towards the upper section of Ops, where the broken widows had left the room open to space. Now those open holes are covered with sheets of tritanium plasma welded into place.

NOG
I never doubted it.

O'BRIEN
You're a fine engineer Nog. A
credit to the fleet.

NOG
I had a good teacher.

O'Brien smiles, flattered by the compliment.

Nog and O'Brien shake hands triumphantly.

O'BRIEN
Defiant?

NOG
Right.

Together, they head for the turbolift.

INT. DEEP SPACE NINE - PRIVATE SURGICAL SUITE

Sisko follows Kai Ungtae into the suite. She has set up a small altar where the Orb of the Emissary is now sitting.

KAI UNGTAE
Are you ready, Emissary?

Sisko nods.

KAI UNGTAE
Prophets, hear my prayers.
(beat)
Give the Emissary the wisdom to
hear your words, the guidance to
see his path, and the strength to
do your will in all things.

Sisko is kneeling beside Kira's bed. He's mouthing the words the Kai Ungtae is saying.

KAI UNGTAE
It's time.

Sisko gets up and walks over to the orb. He kneels down before it and slowly opens the chest. As he stares into the orb, a blinding white light envelopes him.

INT. WHITE LIMBO - VISION

Sisko finds himself in the familiar white surroundings of a vision.

SISKO
(looking around)
Sarah?

Suddenly they're all in the infirmary, Ezri, Worf, Miles, Quark, Thorne, Jenda, Julia, Picard, Kasidy...standing around the medical bay and looking down at Kira.

SARAH PROPHET
(to Sisko)
She was willing.

SISKO
This was the sacrifice I had to
accept...not Sahgi's.

SARAH PROPHET
You're upset?

(CONTINUED)

SISKO
You're killing my friend.

SARAH PROPHET
(reluctant)
She would not see it that way.
(beat)
Is it any different then what we
wanted from Sahgi?

SISKO
It's not the same.

SARAH PROPHET
It is the same. You know it to be
true.

SISKO
That doesn't make it right...or any
easier to accept.

Another steps forward.

BASHIR PROPHET
The path of the Emissary is a
difficult one.

SISKO
If you let her die, then I'm
done. You can take care of
yourselves from now on. I won't
return this time. Not anymore.

SARAH
Then we will not intervene.

SISKO
What do you mean?

The scene suddenly changes to a planetary setting, a park on Bajor. Green grass covers the ground where children are plying. Large swaying trees bristle in a slight breeze, that does little to hide the chirping calls of signing birds.

This time, another face steps forward.

RYU PROPHET
The Bajorans are linear.

Sisko looks past him to see Sahgi running and playing. She looks happy.

(CONTINUED)

ANOLA PROPHET

We are not. The interactions
between the two are
confrontational.

(beat)

It is time to end the
confrontation.

SISKO

The Bajorans are strong because of
you. You can't just abandon them.

SARAH PROPHET

The decision is not ours to make.

SISKO

Then who's decision is it.

SARAH PROPHET

Yours.

SISKO

I don't understand.

SARAH PROPHET

You will. Your path is linear...

A Prophet posing as Jake appears.

JAKE PROPHET

You value your ignorance of what is
to come.

SISKO

Will I still be your Emissary?

SARAH PROPHET

The Sisko is of Bajor.

Sarah reaches up to hold his ear.

SARAH PROPHET

Your path is strong, but this part
of his journey is near it's end.

She moves her hand from his ear, down the side of his face.

SARAH PROPHET

Another will begin.

INT. DEEP SPACE NINE - INFIRMARY

Sisko opens his eyes and takes a deep breath.

EXT. SPACE

An establishing shot of the station. The combined fleet extends well beyond the diversity of Starfleet, contains Klingon, Romulan, Cardassian, Vulcan, Andorian, and Feregni starships as well.

INT. DEEP SPACE NINE - INFIRMARY - PRIVATE SURGICAL SUITE

Kira is still on the biobed. Sisko has left, but Kai Ungtae is still kneeling by the alter.

Bashir takes a reading. His face becomes more distressed as he reads the results.

INT. DEEP SPACE NINE - INFIRMARY

Bashir lumbers with each step he takes into the central room.

He falls into a chair, like a dead weight.

OGAWA

Julian.

She offers Bashir a cup of coffee.

BASHIR

Thank you.

OGAWA

She's your friend?

BASHIR

More than a friend. We were...all of us I suppose that served here during the war and the years before and after...we're all more than friends really...family really.

(beat)

I don't know if that explains it well enough.

OGAWA

I think you got it just about right.

Doctor Ogawa turns to leave.

EXT. SPACE - DEEP SPACE NINE

In the space between the station and the wormhole, the fleet is beginning to take shape. Two Gorn heavy cruisers drop out of warp and move into position along the left flank of the fleet.

The Enterprise, Defiant, and Epimethius are in lead. Behind them are ships from various other races, including Ferengi, Cardassian, Andorian, Klingon, Romulan, Vulcan, Coridian, and many others...

The station is another matter. The DC teams have managed some miraculous feats of engineering, but the station is still critically damaged: barely able to support herself let alone hold out in any real fight.

INT. U.S.S. EPIMETHIUS- BRIDGE

...bridge of the Epimethius. Moving around to finally get a good look at the place, it looks almost identical to the bridge of the Prometheus, expect perhaps for the darker tones.

Every station is manned. Two fully armed security guards stand by each turbolift.

Nechayev holds the center seat.

NECHAYEV

That makes thirty-seven ships in system, with another ten on the way.

THORNE

That's not going to be enough.

NECHAYEV

(aggravated)

I realize that Commander. We're mustering every ship across twenty sectors, but we're still spread terribly thin.

On the split screen.

DAX

It doesn't help that half the fleet has been redeployed away from the Bajoran sector.

(CONTINUED)

NECHAYEV

It wasn't logistically possible to keep that much of Starfleet assigned to one sector of the Federation.

THORNE

Perhaps we're over preparing for nothing.

NECHAYEV

I hope your optimism proves correct, Commander. But we have no way of knowing what's going to come out of that wormhole. We need to be ready for anything.

SISKO

I agree.

NECHAYEV

I want you to understand something, Captain.

(beat)

We have to contain this situation here and now. The Federation cannot afford another crisis like the last war.

SISKO

I don't like where this conversation is going.

NECHAYEV

Whatever comes through the wormhole, we have to stop it here. No matter the cost.

DAX

I'm not comfortable with...

NECHAYEV

(aggravated)

Get comfortable with it. I'm authorizing the use of transphasic torpedoes. If need be, we'll destroy the wormhole.

Everyone is stunned by her sudden declaration.

SISKO

Let's hope it doesn't come to that.

INT. DEEP SPACE NINE - QUARKS BAR

Bashir is behind the bar and Quark is nowhere in sight. The bar has managed to survive nearly intact and shows little of the damage that the rest of the station bares.

GARAK

Hello, doctor.

Bashir turns in a haze, not quite drunk, but well on his way.

BASHIR

Garak, what are you doing here?

GARAK

Surprisingly, I ask myself that question everyday.

(beat)

Shouldn't you be working?

BASHIR

What for? They've already decided to let Kira die...decided to let that damned Prophet kill her.

GARAK

I doubt she would see it that way.

BASHIR

No of course not. We're supposed to believe that she asked for this...so we can sleep easier at night.

(beat)

Well let me tell you something, Garak, nothing ever makes it easier.

He stumbles down to a seat.

BASHIR

You can tell yourself, all kinds of lies, but nothing ever makes it easier.

GARAK

Would you want it to?

Bashir stops for a moment.

(CONTINUED)

GARAK

Lets go, doctor, and find someone
in need of saving, before someone
needs to finds you.

INT. DEEP SPACE NINE - PROMENADE

Sisko exits the turbolift and walks around the Promenade to
the infirmary where people have gathered to wait it out.

He stops to talk to a few people but nothing that can be
overheard.

After a moment, he moves next to Ezri, who is standing by
herself.

Sisko places a hand on her shoulder, and without looking,
she knows it's him.

DAX

I should have trusted her.
(beat)
Then maybe all of this wouldn't
have happened.

SISKO

There was no way to see this
coming, Old Man. You were doing
your job and she was doing hers.
(beat)
It's best to leave it at that.

Ezri looks across the Promenade to where the rest of their
friends are gathered.

EZRI

I doubt any of them will.

O'Brien and Nog come out of the Infirmary.

Sisko sees them as well, but stays with a Dax a moment. He
doesn't say anything, but gives her a hug. She lingers for
a moment and Sisko doesn't move until she does.

When Dax finally takes a step back, Sisko leaves her and to
go back to the Infirmary.

INT. DEEP SPACE NINE - INFIRMARY

Walking into the infirmary, Sisko is met by Kai Ungtae. She appears to be deeply troubled.

Sisko notices her worried look, and stops to speak to her.

KAI UNGTAE
Emissary.

SISKO
Eminence, you seem troubled.

KAI UNGTAE
I have learned that several natural disasters have only recently begun ravaging Bajor.
(beat)
With the loss of the First Minister, and the attacks that have wounded our people and yours, I fear Bajor and her people are being pushed to their limits.

Sisko is quick to push back he apparent lack of faith.

SISKO
We're being tested.

KAI UNGTAE
Is that what the Prophets told you?

SISKO
No. But It's what I'm telling you.
(beat)
Everything that happens is a test. How we face it and how we pick ourselves up afterwards, will shape our future; and the person we become.

Kai Ungtae bows slightly.

KAI UNGTAE
The Emissary is wise in all things.

SISKO
Just experienced.

Sisko walks with the Kai into the surgical suite.

She becomes a bit nervous by the silence between them, and fidgets trying to think of something to say.

(CONTINUED)

KAI UNGTAE

Kira is lucky to have you as a
friend...as we all are to have you
as the Emissary.

Sisko smiles politely, before heading to the bed.

The Kai takes the hint and stays behind.

Standing beside the bed, Sisko brushes a strand of her from
her face.

He moves away from the bed for a moment. Kira's arm shoots
towards him, grabbing his arm to hold him in place.

KIRA PROPHET

The Sisko is of Bajor, but he will
not find rest there.

Kira lets go of him. Her arm falls to the side of the bed
and her entire body goes limp.

The swirling mass of energy completely leaves her, pauses
for a moment then shoots off into the ceiling.

INT. DEEP SPACE NINE - PROMENADE - UPPER LEVEL

Dax climbs the stairs to the upper level where Thorne is
standing at one of the windows.

DAX

There's been no change. Julian
thinks it won't be long now.

(beat)

How's the Defiant?

THORNE

Coming along. Another day and
she'll be back in fighting form.

(beat)

It's good to give the crew
something to focus on.

DAX

It could do you some good as well.

THORNE

I don't want to leave...

The station suddenly cuts to yellow alert.

EXT. SPACE - WORMHOLE

The Wormhole opens violently and throws out another series of turbulent shock waves.

INT. DEEP SPACE NINE - PROMENADE - UPPER LEVEL

Dax and Thorne is still standing by the window, watching the scene unfold.

DAX

I really wish the wormhole would
stop doing that.

EXT. SPACE - DEEP SPACE NINE

The glowing blue form of energy passes the starships holding position around the station and makes it's way towards the wormhole.

The wormhole opens and the Prophet returns home.

A darker gray colored stream of energy suddenly shoots out of the wormhole...two streams of blue energy follow it out to try and attack it...the gray stream fights back and flies back into the wormhole. The two blue streams follow it back in.

The wormhole snaps shut.

INT. DEEP SPACE NINE - INFIRMARY

Sisko is still looking up at the place on the ceiling where the Prophet passed through the bulkhead. This interest, distracts him from...

KIRA

(weak)

Emissary.

Sisko turns immediately, seeing that Kira is awake.

Sisko grabs her hand.

SISKO

Bashir!

Bashir rushes into the suite with his tricorder already open.

INT. WORMHOLE - VISION

In the milky white fog of a non-linear plane, multiple masses of pure energy

Another Prophet suddenly appears joins the struggle and throws the darker energy off the others. The dark energy coalesces into a solid form of liquid and shifts into the shape of a humanoid.

The blue masses of energy separate and reform individual prophets, taking the form of people that have had recent contact with the Female Changeling.

The Female Changeling takes a step back.

FEMALE CHANGELING

I see you've returned.

KIRA PROPHET

We have seen the outcome of the game. You will not defeat us.

FEMALE CHANGELING

It isn't you I'm wish to defeat.

She charges forward again, this time forming a field of energy that surrounds the Prophets and slowly closes in on them.

INT. DEEP SPACE NINE - INFIRMARY - PRIVATE SURGICAL SUITE

Sisko is sitting beside Kira's bed, almost as if he were a priest taking her confession. He holds her hand as she weeps silently.

He wipes the tears from her face with the cuff of his sleeve.

SISKO

Are you ever just going to call me Ben?

Kira tries to respond, but her voice is raspy and weak. It takes her a minute to get up enough strength to answer.

KIRA

You'll never be just be Ben.

SISKO

And you'll never be just another Bajoran.

(CONTINUED)

A steady stream of tears fall down her face.

KIRA
Emissary...

SISKO
You don't need to say anything,
Neryes.

He moves a strand of hair out of her face.

KIRA
(barely a whisper)
Odo...

Sisko takes a deep breath and swallows hard.

SISKO
We tired, but...
(beat)
I wish I knew what to tell you.

KIRA
Tell me a story.

SISKO
A story.
(beat)
A friend did tell me a story once
about three brothers and a very
large Kava root.

Kira smiles and her eyes flutter as she strains to stay
conscious and alert.

KIRA
The Prophets...I can hear them...
Odo...

SISKO
Go to them, Neryes.

Sisko simply stays were he is, holding her hand.

Kira's hand goes limp and he gently places it on the bed
beside her.

His expression as cold and emotionless as it has ever
been. The more he tires to hide it, the more the loss shows
through.

Bashir rushed to the bio-bed, pushing past Sisko.

BASHIR
Crash cart!

SISKO
Doctor.

Bashir cuts him off before he can say any more.

BASHIR
There is still neural activity in
her cerebral cortex.
(beat)
If I can get her heart restarted
and get her on bypass...

SISKO
It's over, Julian.

BASHIR
No! It's not over until I
say. This is a medical decision
and that overrides even an
Admiral's authority, so either help
make arrangements to get me what I
need, or get the hell out.

Sisko takes a step back, getting out of his way.

A Bajoran nurse comes to stand beside him.

BASHIR
I need 20cc's of Vasokin.

NURSE
That will cause irreparable damage
to her lungs...

BASHIR
I know what it does. Just get it.

NURSE
(sarcastic)
Should I bring Alkysine to
**counteract the damage you're going
to cause to her brain?**

BASHIR
Yes...

Surprised by his serious response.

BASHIR

Do it.

The Nurse returns with the hypospray in hand. She gives it to Bashir.

Bashir presses the hypo to her neck.

NURSE

There's no change.

BASHIR

I can see that.

The Nurse takes another reading.

NURSE

Her neural activity is gone.

BASHIR

Scalpel.

NURSE

What good...

BASHIR

You're relieved.

The nurse doesn't move.

BASHIR

That means leave!

Bashir picks up the scalpel. Switching it on, a small laser darts out from the business end.

He pulls back the to reveal the bare flesh over her heart.

Bashir is posed over her, holding a laser scalpel inches from her skin. He doesn't move for a long time, but continues looking down at her face.

Sisko takes a step closer.

SISKO

Julian. She accepted this fate. Her life wasn't taken...she gave it to the Prophets willingly.

BASHIR

And for what...so one of them could live.

(CONTINUED)

SISKO

We all owe the Prophets a debt.

Sisko's gaze falls to Kira.

SISKO.

Some of us more than others.

Sisko reaches across his arm, and switches off the scalpel. He takes it from his hand and places it on the table beside the bed.

Sisko reaches down and pulls the sheet back up to her shoulders.

SISKO

Let's go, Julian.

Sisko puts both arms on Julian's shoulders, pulling him away from the table and guiding him out of the room.

INT. DEEP SPACE NINE - PROMENADE - OUTSIDE THE INFIRMARY

The doors to the infirmary open, Sisko and Bashir are standing there. The features of Sisko's face suddenly take on a more realistic nature as the mix of emotions, sadness, rage, and loss wash over him.

Bashir is almost expressionless and is still letting Sisko guide him out of the Infirmary.

As they step out onto the Promenade, everyone knows what has happened, but no one is sure quite what to say or do.

Dax and Miles approach Julian and take him aside from the others.

Sisko walks over to Admiral Hastur and Commander Thorne.

SISKO

Where is she?

Thorne steps forward.

THORNE

The Female Changeling went into the wormhole. Admiral Nechayev tried to take the Epimethius in after her, but the wormhole wouldn't open.

(CONTINUED)

SISKO
I need a runabout.

THORNE
All our runabouts were crippled
during the attack.

Admiral Hastur looks to Sisko.

HASTUR
What are you thinking, Ben?

SISKO
I'm thinking that someone will have
to go in after her...and that I
have a better chance than anyone.

Ezri rejoins them.

DAX
I'll go with you.

Dax turns to leave, but Sisko catches her with a hand on her
shoulder.

SISKO
Not this time, Old Man.

EXT. SPACE - U.S.S EPIMETHIUS

Establishing shot of the Epimethius in orbit of DS9.

INT. U.S.S. EPIMETHIUS - BRIDGE

The familiar sight of the bridge of a Prometheus class
starship has been updated a bit. A different color carpet
covers the floor and a slight change to the graphics
displayed on the consoles, but it's still clearly
recognizable.

Admiral Nechayev sits in the center seat, looking at the
main view screen.

NECHAYEV
I don't like this idea Captain.

SISKO V.O.
(filtered)
I really wish everyone would stop
calling me captain.

(CONTINUED)

NECHAYEV

The truth of it is that we never really got around to taking you off the active duty list. Consider yourself reinstated.

Sisko pauses a minute as if unsure he wants to so quickly resume his old life.

INT. DEEP SPACE NINE - SECURITY OFFICE

Sisko stands before a monitor in the security office. Hastur, Thorne, and Dax stand next to him on either side.

SISKO

(reluctantly)

Thank you.

NECHAYEV V.O.

(filtered)

Don't bother. I wanted you declared dead.

Sisko doesn't know how to respond that.

THRONE

We have no way of knowing what might come through the wormhole. We should be ready for anything.

(beat)

No offense Captain, but there's no guarantee that you'll be able to stop her. And I for one don't like the idea of a Changeling in control of the Wormhole.

SISKO

None taken. And I agree. We should be ready for anything.

NECHAYEV V.O.

In a few more hours, we will be.

(beat)

If there's nothing else.

Nechayev closes the channel.

He looks to Dax for a moment. Feeling the Captain's gaze upon her, Ezri looks away.

(CONTINUED)

SISKO
(to Thorne)
Commander, if you can do without
your first officer, I'd like Dax to
take command of DS9 for the time
being.

THORNE
I think we can manage.

Sisko turns to Dax.

SISKO
Then Commander Dax, the station is
yours. What's left of it that is.

DAX
Aye sir.

Sisko places a reassuring hand on he shoulder.

INT. RUNABOUT

Sisko walks through the hatch of a Danube Class Runabout
towards the forward section. He's now wearing a Starfleet
uniform.

He takes a seat on the right and begins preflight.

SISKO
Sisko to Bridge, preflight checks
are complete. I'm ready to
proceed.

ADMIRAL HASTUR V.O.
(filtered)
Copy that Cumberland. Good luck
Ben.

SISKO
To all of us.

EXT. SPACE - U.S.S. VENTURE

A Runabout leaves the main shuttle bay of the
Venture. Maneuvering around the large ship, the runabout
clears the fleet of Allied ships and heads towards the
wormhole.

The Runabout approaches the wormhole, but nothing happens.

INT. RUNABOUT

Sisko gets up from the pilots seat and walks back to the small area where he placed the Orb.

Sisko turns the orb towards him, so that his back is facing the front of the cabin.

Sisko reaches for the the orb chest and opens it. A blinding white light, more intense then any orb experience fills the cabin, but something is wrong. The light shifts to blue and then shifts to a deep ruby red.

As Sisko is absorbed into the blinding white light, the light starts to become jagged and violent as if it has a rage all its own.

A brilliant flash of light feels the cabin.

EXT. SPACE - RUNABOUT

The light pours out of the runabouts windows.

INT. RUNABOUT

The light recedes. Sisko is gone.

INT. DEEP SPACE NINE - OPERATIONS

The turbolift jolts to a stop and Dax steps into Ops. Walking onto the outer ring, she holds her place for a moment to survey the damage that is still evident.

Several consoles are missing. Most of the windows near the ceiling are covered over with sheets of tritanium welded in place. The walls are still littered with scorch marks from the initial explosion.

Finally, Dax breaks her inspection and heads to the lower level.

O'BRIEN

I see they recruited you too,
Commander.

DAX

(nervous)
Desperate times, Chief.

(CONTINUED)

O'BRIEN
Just like the old days...

Ezri smiles at the reference to their old lives, but it fades quickly as she looks around and realizes the responsibility she has taken on.

DAX
Close, but not quite.

Ezri fidgets a bit with her hands.

O'BRIEN
No one blames you, Commander.

DAX
They don't have to. I blame myself.

O'Brien gives her a look of confidence. It's enough to put Dax back on her feet.

DAX
Status.

O'Brien carries out her orders, working at the console in front of her.

O'BRIEN
Shields and weapons are online, but we only have auxiliary power available.

DAX
Worf used to tell me that a predator is most dangerous when wounded.

O'BRIEN
Let's hope we don't have to prove that.

Everyone takes a moment to enjoy the calm, and to await the coming threat.

A sensor alarm breaks the silence.

O'BRIEN
I'm detecting a very large tachyon surge around the station...ships decloaking.

EXT. SPACE - DEEP SPACE NINE

All around Deep Space Nine, Klingon ships begin to decloak.

INT. DEEPS SPACE NINE

Dax and O'Brien continue to watch the Klingon fleet decloak on the main viewer.

Dax breathes a sigh of relief.

DAX

(coy)

This seems oddly familiar.

O'BRIEN

Tell me about it.

(beat)

We're receiving a general hail from the Klingon command flagship. Chancellor Martok sends his regards.

Dax smiles a bit at that, but it fades as she turns her attention back to the wormhole.

INT. WHITE LIMBO - VISION

Sisko stands within the familiar surrounding of a vision, but is visibly disturbed. Though at first everything appears familiar, he can tell almost instantly that something is different...something is wrong.

SISKO

Hello.

Sisko's voice echoes into the void.

SISKO

Is anyone here?

For a long moment, no one answers, until a voice begins to break through the silence.

SARAH PROPHET

(weakened)

My son.

SISKO

Mother.

(CONTINUED)

Sisko can't see her and takes off running through the fog, towards her voice. He grows increasingly worried, as he struggles to find her in the white fog of the vision. He runs faster and faster.

Then almost by accident he nearly stumbles over her. Kneeling down, Sisko sees her lying on the floor.

SISKO
(saddened)
What's happened?

She appears to be very weak, unable to stand.

SARAH PROPHET
An outsider.

Sisko raises her up embrace her in a hug. Sarah groans as he moves her. Sisko places her gently back down on the ground.

SISKO
I need you to focus on keeping the
wormhole closed.
(beat)
Can you do that?

Sarah is overcome by a dry hacking cough. When she manages to regain her breath:

SARAH PROPHET
I will try.

Another voice, someone FAMILIAR cuts through the fog. Sisko is surprised to hear the uniquely feminine tone and the sharp pronunciation of each syllable that cuts through him to the bone.

A FAMILIAR VOICE
All her effort will be for nothing
in the end. I am your Prophet now.

As Sisko looks to find the source of the voice, the figure of a woman passes through the thicknesses of the fog.

FEMALE SHAPESHIFTER
Welcome home, Captain Sisko.

Sisko turns to see the Female Shape-Shifter standing in front of him.

INT. U.S.S. DEFIANT - BRIDGE

Throne walks onto the bridge. Jenda gets up from the center seat.

THORNE
Status?

JENDA
She's banged up good, sir, but
there's fight left in her yet.

Thorne takes his seat, pleased with the report.

Thorne activates the comm panel.

THORNE
Ops, we're ready for departure.

DAX V.O.
(filtered)
You're clear to disengage
Defiant. Good hunting.

THORNE
Copy that. Same to you.

EXT. DEEP SPACE NINE

The Defiant disengages from the station and moves to join the fleet.

INT. WORMHOLE - VISION

Sisko stands across from the Female Shape Shifter, staying within arm's length of Sarah. The other Prophets, now numbering several dozen, stand around them in a circle.

FEMALE SHAPE SHIFTER
You're not linear. It's unnatural
for you to meddle in the affairs of
our universe.

The Prophets speak in unison.

PROPHETS
We are of Bajor.

FEMALE SHAPE SHIFTER
Then be of Bajor. But stop
interfering. You're changing their
natural evolution.

(CONTINUED)

The Kira Prophet steps forward.

KIRA PROPHETS
Evolution?

FEMALE SHAPE SHIFTER
How they were meant to develop if
you had not sent them the orbs, let
them worship you as gods, or
interfered in the war on behalf of
one man.

KIRA PROPHETS
The conflicts of linear beings, are
of no concern to us.

FEMALE SHAPE SHIFTER
Then prove it. Give me back the
ships you took from us.

SISKO
(to the Prophet)
You can't do that.

PROPHETS
Why?

FEMALE SHAPE SHIFTER
You stole what didn't belong to
you.

SISKO
She'll destroy Bajor.

FEMALE SHAPE SHIFTER
The Dominion does not destroy
worlds.

SISKO
No...you enslave them.

The Female Changeling's expression of hatred towards Sisko suddenly turns to one of complete confidence. She stands a bit taller as though nothing can harm her.

She turns back to Sisko:

FEMALE SHAPE SHIFTER
What you call enslavement, we call
bringing order to chaos.

Sisko is suddenly aware that something has changed.

INT. WORMHOLE INTERIOR

The Dominion fleet appears in the wormhole.

INT. WORMHOLE - VISION

Sisko turns away from the Prophets to face the Female Shape Shifter.

PROPHETS

This should not be possible.

Sisko turns back to the Female Shape Shifter.

SISKO

What have you done?

FEMALE SHAPE SHIFTER

I've simply corrected a mistake.

PROPHET

You have restored the balance. We will do the same.

All the Prophets coalesce into pure energy and fly towards her in a single stream. Sisko ducks to avoid being hit, but the stream separates around him and reforms before the Female Shape Shifter is engulfed by them.

EXT. SPACE

The Allied Fleet is surrounding the wormhole, poised ready to strike.

INT. U.S.S. DEFIANT - BRIDGE

Thorne holds the center seat, and is looking towards the main viewer, where Dax and Nechayev are on a split screen.

NECHAYEV V.O.

(filtered)

I fear Captain Sisko was unsuccessful.

THORNE

That remains to be seen. He hasn't even returned yet.

(CONTINUED)

DAX V.O.
 (filtered)
 We have to give them more time.

NECHAYEV V.O.
 (filtered)
 We may not have it.
 (beat)
 What's your status, Commander Dax?

DAX V.O.
 (filtered)
 Primary systems are back online,
 but only on auxiliary power. We
 won't last long in a fight.

NECHAYEV V.O.
 (filtered)
 If it comes to that, we'll try to
 keep as much heat off you as
 possible.

THORNE
 Then we're in this to fight?

INT. U.S.S. EPIMETHIUS - BRIDGE

Admiral Nechayev returns to her chair.

NECHAYEV
 Make no mistake, Commander. We're
 in this to prevent another war. We
 have to stop them here.
 (beat)
 Which is why I want the Defiant to
 hold at DS9.

THORNE V.O.
 (filtered)
 Admiral, the Defiant will be much
 more valuable on the firing line.

NECHAYEV
 I want the Defiant protecting Deep
 Space Nine. Whatever gets past
 us...

An alarm interrupts her.

XO
 Admiral, neutrino emissions are
 fluctuating; the wormhole is
 opening.

(CONTINUED)

Nechayev rises from her chair to stand in the center of the bridge.

NECHAYEV

Put it on screen.

(beat)

And signal the fleet to stand-by.

EXT. SPACE

Dominion ships begin pouring into the Alpha Quadrant. Mostly fighters at first, but soon Battleships and the more massive Battlecruisers begin exiting the wormhole as well.

INT. U.S.S. EPIMETHIUS - BRIDGE

Admiral Nechayev watches as the first Dominion ships exit the wormhole.

NECHAYEV

(whispers)

Not this time.

NECHAYEV

Thorne, fall back to DS9. That's an order.

THORNE V.O.

Understood.

Nechayev pauses on a second to settle herself.

NECHAYEV

All units, open fire.

EXT. SPACE

A blaze of torpedo, phaser, and disruptor fire cut across the short distance between the Allied ships and the Dominion fleet.

The first few Dominion ships head straight into the fray, without hindrance. The Dominion ships begin exploding one after another as they are overwhelmed by the barrage of weapons fire.

INT. WORMHOLE - VISION

The Prophets stand around Sisko in a circle.

SISKO
What happened?

PROPHET
We have cast out the evil one.

SISKO
It's not enough. If you care
anything about Bajor, you have to
stop those ships.

PROPHET
The threat is leaving the
temple. There is nothing we can
do.

SISKO
She'll burn Bajor to the ground.

PROPHET
We will not interfere.

Sisko turns to look off in the distance, as if he has just become instinctively aware of something.

SISKO
Then I will.

INT. DOMINION COMMAND SHIP - BRIDGE

On the bridge of the Dominion Command Ship, half a dozen Jem'Hdar man various posts. In the center of the room, a VORTA COMMANDER directs their actions.

They are all suddenly startled by the appearance of the FOUNDER at the front of the bridge.

VORTA COMMANDER
Founder.
(beat)
How...where...

FOUNDER
How doesn't matter. What is your
status?

(CONTINUED)

VORTA COMMANDER

We were somewhere else...we entered
the wormhole...then nothing...and
now here...

The Vorta Commander sees that the Founder doesn't entirely
care.

VORTA COMMANDER

The fleet is intact. We're exiting
the wormhole and the Allies are
engaging our ships. What are your
orders?

FOUNDER

The war is not over. Do you
understand?

VORTA COMMANDER

We serve the Founders in all
things.

The Founder turns to the Jem'Hdar present on the bridge.

FOUNDER

Victory is life.

The Jem'Hdar shout back in unison:

CREW

Victory is life!

INT. WORMHOLE

The Enterprise is traveling through the wormhole.

INT. U.S.S. ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE

Picard holds the center seat. Worf is next to him.

The Dominion fleet can be seen on the view screen. Everyone
watches in horror as the leading edge of the fleet exits the
wormhole.

The bridge crew is suddenly startled by the appearance of
Captain Sisko.

WORF

(surprised)

Captain.

Sisko nods an acknowledgment to Worf, then turns to Picard.

(CONTINUED)

SISKO

Excuse the sudden appearance.

Picard wastes no time with small talk.

PICARD

Forgiven.

SISKO

Odo...

He stops, trying to decide whether or not to tell him about Kira. Noticing that Weyoun is standing with him, Sisko finally decides to simply nod an acknowledgment.

PICARD

What's going on, Captain? Where did this fleet come from?

SISKO

It's the Female Changeling. She's merged with an Orb, giving her the ability to bring back the fleet of Dominion ships that the Prophets, stopped during the war.

PICARD

And now they're pouring into the Alpha Quadrant...to continue the fight.

Sisko looks to the view screen to see the Dominion fleet.

LEFLER

Captain, we're approaching the tail end of the Dominion fleet.

PICARD

On screen.

The view screen switches on to show the Dominion fleet.

ODO

Can the Prophets stop them?

Sisko turns back to Odo.

SISKO

They're staying out of it this time.

(CONTINUED)

WORF

They picked a most inconvenient
time to decide not to get involved.

SISKO

We should get used to it.

No one makes any immediate relevance of his statement.

Worf turns to face Picard.

WORF

What are your orders, Captain?

PICARD

Raise shields, and ready weapons.

(beat)

Stand by to engage the enemy.

(beat)

Helm, find us a path into the Alpha
quadrant.

INT. DOMINION COMMAND SHIP - BRIDGE

The Founder and the Vorta Commander watch as ship after ship
of the dominion fleet is destroyed without ever getting the
chance to return fire.

VORTA COMMANDER

Another ten ships have been
destroyed.

FOUNDER

(irritated)

Get us through the blockade.

VORTA COMMANDER

Yes, Founder.

(beat)

Contact squad's three and nine.

EXT. SPACE

The Allied ships have formed a blockade around the wormhole
and are firing blindly into area just in front of the
wormhole. The Dominion ships have nowhere to go once exiting
the wormhole are walking right into a bloodbath.

A group of Jem'Hdar fighters break through the initial
onslaught. They dash across the killing field and collide
into a Negh'Var class warship.

(CONTINUED)

The warship begins to drift out of control and collides into several nearby cruisers.

Taking advantage of the break in the lines, a second squad of fighters break through the wreckage of Dominion ships. they charge the Klingon ships and quickly break off.

The Klingon's turn their attention to follow them. They direct a massive barrage of fire towards the Jem'Hdar fighters and quickly dispatching them.

Taking advantage of this new distraction, a Dominion Battle Cruiser breaks through the wreckage of Dominion ships and charges towards the line.

As the Allies divert their attention to this immediate threat, a flood of Jem'Hdar fighters use the Battlecruiser as cover and escape through the opening.

INT. EPIMETHIUS - BRIDGE

On the bridge, Nechayev is cursing the Klingons under her breath. At the same time, she is trying to direct the fleet and recover from the gap in the line.

NECHAYEV

Reinforce sector nine.

FIRST OFFICER

The Klingons aren't responding to our hails and a good portion of the fleet is refusing to let up off their position on the line.

NECHAYEV

(a whisper)

We're losing it...

FIRST OFFICER

A pack of Jem'Hdar fighters has broken through the Klingon's line. They're circling around behind us.

NECHAYEV

You had better come through, Sisko.

(beat)

Signal all ships...break formation...and head straight in.

One of the side stations explodes. The explosion sends the crewman manning it flying out of his seat and crashing to the deck.

(CONTINUED)

Smoke begins to fill the bridge as DC teams rush to put out the fires.

NECHAYEV
Helm, ahead full.

EXT. SPACE

The Allied fleet begins to break up and disperse as the line is overwhelmed. Losing their position, the Allies can no longer hold back the Dominion ships.

The remaining ships of the Dominion fleet pour through the wormhole unhindered. The allied fleet heads straight into the Dominion fleet.

The wormhole finally closes.

INT. EPIMETHIUS - BRIDGE

Nechayev turns from the view screen to return to her chair.

NECHAYEV
How many made it through?

The LIEUTENANT at Ops, turns to the Admiral.

LIEUTENANT
At least eight hundred.

NECHAYEV
Signal the fleet...

The Lieutenant cuts her off:

LIEUTENANT
Admiral, the wormhole is opening. Another ship is coming through.

The Admiral curses under her breath.

EXT. SPACE

The Wormhole opens and the Enterprise enters the Alpha Quadrant. They immediately come under fire from the Dominion fleet.

INT. U.S.S. ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE

The deck shudders as the first volleys of weapons fire, find their mark. The crew is rocked at their stations, but recover quickly.

PICARD
Evasive maneuvers.

WORF
Lock weapons and return fire.

Odo and Sisko stand to the side of the bridge to let the crew do their work. Weyoun cowers near one of the structural supports, trying not to look scared.

SISKO
This is bad.

ODO
(sarcastically)
You have a gift for understatement,
Captain.

INT. EPIMETHIUS - BRIDGE

Nechayev watches the view screen as the Enterprise comes under fire.

NECHAYEV
Cover the Enterprise.

EXT. SPACE

As the Epimethius leads the fleet back into the fight, the fight quickly disintegrates from a carefully choreographed dance into an all out brawl.

INT. U.S.S. ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE

On the side of the bridge, Sisko and Odo try to ride out the fight, with nothing to do.

Odo steps forward.

ODO
Open a channel to the Dominion
fleet. They'll listen to me.

(CONTINUED)

SISKO

Do you really think it will be that simple?

ODO

We have to at least try.

Sisko looks to Picard. Picard gives in.

PICARD

Open a channel, all frequencies.

ODO

(spoken in an alien language)
This is Odo to all Dominion ships. Cease fire. Authorization, Odo-eight-seven-Founder, three-five-seven-two.

SISKO

What was that?

ODO

(snidely)
English isn't the native language of the Vorta Captain.

EXT SPACE

The Dominion fleet begins to stand down.

INT. DOMINION COMMAND SHIP

The Founder is outraged as she watches the Dominion fleet cease fire.

FOUNDER

Why are they ceasing fire?

VORTA COMMANDER

We've received a cease fire order from Odo.

FOUNDER

(scorn)

Odo.

(beat)

Countermand his order, and signal the fleet to reengage the Allied vessels.

She pauses for a moment.

(CONTINUED)

FOUNDER

And send this message to all our vessels.

(beat)

Odo has been compromised by the solids. He is not to be trusted, ...his orders are to be disregarded.

INT. U.S.S. EPIMETHIUS - BRIDGE

The bridge begins to rumble again as the Dominion gets back into the fight.

FIRST OFFICER

The lead Battlecruiser is turning towards us. The fighters are continuing on course.

NECHAYEV

Let the station and the reserves deal with the fighters. Keep us on point to that Battlecruiser.

FIRST OFFICER

Acknowledged.

NACHAYEV

Stand by to separate the ship on my command.

FIRST OFFICER

Aye.

NACHAYEV

Take us to full impulse.
(to the weapons officer)
Start your run. Stand by for separation sequence in the third turn of the main arc.

EXT. SPACE

The Epimethius pulls hard to the right, ducked down, then came back up and split into three sections. Once separated, the ship lets fly her full arsenal.

(CONTINUED)

Heading straight over the top of a Romulan warbird, the Enterprise and a dozen other ships followed them in. Their phasers and disruptors lanced out from every array as the Epimethius completed a spiral roll over the top of the Dominion Battlecruiser, then banked hard and came around underneath her.

The Dominion ship held her fire, taking every shot without even showing signs of damage.

Then she fires a single concentrated blast from her main disruptor. The beam strikes out with precision and determination, hitting the alpha section of the Epimethius broadside.

INT. U.S.S. EPIMETHIUS - BRIDGE

The bridge is a wreck. Nechayev shouts orders, whether anyone can hear her or not.

NECHAYEV

(desperate)

Reload all torpedo bays except the mains. I want a full load of transphasics in those tubes ten minute ago! Get this ship back in one piece! Have the Enterprise cover.

INT. U.S.S. ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE

The crew watches the view screen as the Epimethius takes more damage.

ODO

I have to get aboard that Dominion Command ship. If I can persuade the Founder to stand down...

PICARD

Is that wise?

SISKO

The alternative is to fight to the last man.

PICARD

Disengage from that Battlecruiser. Refocus on the Command Ship.

(CONTINUED)

RAGER

Aye, sir.

Sisko side steps Odo and begins inputting commands into the station.

EXT. SPACE

The Epimethius is reattaching its sections.

The Enterprise pulls away and heads for the Command Ship.

In the rear, the Defiant is still holding back, waiting to get into the fight.

The ship suddenly charges forward away from the station.

INT. EPIMETHIUS - BRIDGE

The bridge is a bit cleared now, and the crew have regained control.

XO

The Defiant and the Enterprise are breaking formation.

NACHAYEV

I can see that. Find out why.

Before he can hail them, an ALARM begins to sound.

XO

The Dominion fleet is turning towards the station Admiral.

INT. DEEP SPACE NINE - OPERATIONS

Dax and O'Brien watch the main viewer.

O'BRIEN

Here they come.

DAX

Raise shields...ready weapons.

O'BRIEN

Shields are up, but they're not going to last long. Weapons are online.

(beat)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

O'BRIEN (cont'd)

There sure are a lot of them.

DAX

Then let's make every shot count.

(beat)

Weapon stations; ready even
numbered launchers; full spread
then switch to odds; same
sortie. Set phasers to close in
support.

The officers working at the weapons stations answer in unison.

WEAPONS OFFICERS

Ready.

DAX

Don't wait for my order. Open fire
as soon as you have a positive
weapons lock.

EXT. SPACE

The station opens fire from dozens of places. Bursts of torpedoes shoot out of every launcher. Phaser beams criss-cross the space within the docking ring and lance out to pick off targets before they get too close.

Dominions ship are exploding left and right, but more step in to fill in their place.

INT. U.S.S. ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE

Sisko is standing with Odo as he prepares to beam aboard the Dominion Command Ship.

SISKO

Good luck.

(Sisko nods towards Weyoun)

Are you sure you want him to go
with you?

ODO

I may need him.

Odo takes a step back. Weyoun takes a step forward to stand by Odo.

(CONTINUED)

SISKO

Odo...

(beat)

The Female Shapeshifter; she killed Kira.

ODO

(disbelief)

What?

SISKO

Kira is dead.

Odo is visibly crushed. He nearly falls to the floor, unable to control himself.

SISKO

Odo...

Weyoun rushes to his side, helping Odo to stand.

SISKO

Odo...

ODO

Are you sure Captain?

SISKO

I was there.

Odo gets up, not even bothering to compose himself.

ODO

(distraught)

Energize.

Odo and Weyoun beam away.

WORF

Captain, the Admiral's ship is under heavy attack.

EXT. SPACE - EPIMETHIUS

The Admiral's ship fires four transphasic torpedoes. The first one impacts the shields, but the rest hit the hull.

The explosion cascades across the hull and engulfs the entire ship. The final explosion is massive and takes several other ships with it, Dominion and Allied.

As the explosion clears, another Battlecruiser charges forward to take its place.

INT. U.S.S. EPIMETHIUS - BRIDGE

Nechayev is barely hanging on to her seat as the Epimethius continues its attack run.

She looks up to the view screen to see another Battlecruiser bearing down on them.

NECHAYEV

That is certainly unexpected.

XO

The Battlecruiser is returning fire.

NECHAYEV

(desperate)

Evasive maneuvers...

Nechayev is caught in mid sentence as a series of explosions erupt across the bridge. The first few are small enough to ignore, but they're followed by several larger ones that shake the entire ship, eventually engulfing the entire bridge.

EXT. SPACE

The Dominion fleet focuses in on the Admiral's ship in retaliation.

The second Battlecruiser concentrates it's fire on the engineering section of the Epimethius. Taking shot after shot of disruptor and torpedo fire, her shields succumb to the bombardment.

The weapons fire blows chunks of the ship apart, ripping apart her nacelles, slicing through the pylons, and breaching her hull all across the primary and secondary hulls.

As advanced and well armed as the ship is, it quickly succumbs to the pressure and erupts in a violent explosion. The Battlecruiser charges forward through the debris.

INT. DOMINION COMMAND SHIP

Odo and Weyoun materializes on the Dominion Command Ship and are immediately surrounded by Jem'Hdar before they recognize who he is and stand down.

The Female Changeling steps forward to greet Odo.

(CONTINUED)

FEMALE CHANGELING

Odo. I'm pleased to see you again.

ODO

Don't start. This ends now.

FEMALE CHANGELING

I agree. You should convince the solids to surrender.

ODO

That's not what I had in mind.

FEMALE CHANGELING

That's unfortunate.

ODO

You can't win. Your fleet is already a third of its original size and the allies have already sent for reinforcements.

FEMALE CHANGELING

We will not surrender.

(beat)

And you underestimate the capabilities of the Jem'hdar

ODO

Then don't surrender. Fight to the last man and destroy whatever shred of trust the Federation might have had in me.

(pause)

Or we can take this fleet back to Dominion territory.

FEMALE CHANGELING

The Federation will never allow that.

ODO

You'd be surprised what they'll allow to take place in the name of peace.

FEMALE CHANGELING

You would allow me to return home, even after everything I've done?

ODO

Only the Link can make that judgment.

(CONTINUED)

FEMALE CHANGELING

And if they decide to continue the war.

ODO

They won't. They fear the solids as much as you, but the difference is that they know war is not the way to maintain the peace.

The Female Changeling isn't convinced. She turns to Weyoun.

FEMALE CHANGELING

My loyal Weyoun.

Weyoun bows slightly.

WEYOUN

I serve the Founders in all things.

FEMALE CHANGELING

You were the only solid I ever trusted. Even you have betrayed me.

Weyoun turns to look at Odo. He is visibly crushed by her scathing criticism.

The Female Changeling lashes out with her arms, forming a pair of tentacles and that slither around Weyoun's neck. She twists them in one sharp motion.

ODO

No!

Weyoun's lifeless body falls to the floor, his eyes still open.

FEMALE CHANGELING

I cannot surrender this fleet, Odo. I've done nothing wrong.

ODO

You've killed...

The Female Changeling loses her temper.

FEMALE CHANGELING

Solids! They're only Solids. We are so much more than they will ever be.

Odo turns away from her for a moment.

(CONTINUED)

ODO

Then we have few options.

FEMALE CHANGELING

Only one that I can see.

The Female Changeling reverts to a liquid and jumps off the deck. She flies into a metal grating in the ceiling and disappears into an environmental duct.

Odo wastes no time in following her.

EXT. SPACE - DEEP SPACE NINE

The station is firing wildly now, having given up it's careful targeting for a crazed, all out, last ditch effort.

INT. DEEP SPACE NINE - OPERATIONS

An explosion cuts through Ops. A DC team runs across the room to chase it down before it can spread and cause more damage.

O'BRIEN

Admiral Nachayev's ship has been destroyed. The Battlecruiser is turning towards us.

DAX

Concentrate fire on the Battlecruiser.

EXT. SPACE

The station moves the bulk of its weapons fire from the smaller targets to the Dominion Battlecruiser that is bearing down on them.

Farther out, the Defiant is racing to get back to the Station to lend a hand.

INT. DEFIANT - BRIDGE

The Defiant has been worn down and now every veer and sharp turn is felt on the bridge. The crew struggle to hang on as Kirby pilots the Defiant through the chaotic maze of ships.

(CONTINUED)

JENDA

There they are, sir.

THORNE

Angie, bring us to bear.

Engrossed in her work, she doesn't answer.

JENDA

We've got company. About a dozen fighters on our six.

(beat)

They'll overtake us before we come within weapons range.

THORNE

Damn. What about the Enterprise?

JENDA

They've got their own problems.

Jenda looks across her tactical map for a solution.

JENDA

Captain, we've got a pack of Klingon cruisers at eleven o'clock.

THORNE

Good call, Jenda. Angie, lay in a course. Let the Klingons take care of these pests.

EXT. SPACE

The Defiant breaks away and heads towards the Klingons ships.

The Defiant maneuvers past a squad of Romulan Warbirds. A few of the Warbirds shoot glancing blows at the Dominion ships, but to little effect.

The Defiant makes a similar pass by a group of Vulcan and Andorian ships before finally reaching the Klingons.

The large Klingon ships, three Negh'var class warships and six Vor'cha-class battlecruiser see the Defiant coming. When the Defiant is finally in range, they open fire on the Dominion ships. The Defiant peels off to the left and the Dominion ships are fully engulfed in disruptor fire before they can escape.

The Defiant turns to head back towards the front of the fight.

INT. DOMINION COMMAND SHIP - CORRIDOR

A solid form of morphagenic liquid flies out of a grating in the ceiling and slam into the floor.

Odo and the Female Changeling separate and revert to humanoid form.

FEMALE CHANGELING

You've become quite adept at shape shifting, Odo.

ODO

I've had some time to practice.

FEMALE CHANGELING

I'm glad you made good use of your time with the Link. There is still much to learn. When we return home...

ODO

You're not going home. You can't win this fight. Not this time.

(beat)

You're going to answer for your crimes...here and now.

Odo throws out his arms, shifting them into long tentacles that lash out at the Female Changeling.

She counters the attack by shifting her own arms into similar tentacles and intertwining them around Odo's arms.

They struggle back and forth, each trying to gain the upper hand before finally each set of tentacles begin to merge into one.

FEMALE CHANGELING

You won't harm me, Odo, not if it means risking your place in the Link.

The Female Changeling suddenly pulls free and lashes her tentacles back towards Odo. Odo reverts into a liquid, allowing the tentacles to pass through him.

ODO

After all these years you still don't get it.

Odo charges forward towards her. The Female Changeling changes into a glowing form of energy. Before Odo can stop, he impacts the field of energy and is absorbed into it.

EXT. SPACE

The Defiant moves through space with less than her usual agility. Still suffering the effects from her encounter with a Bajoran transport and its Breen energy dampener, she's catching more fire than usual.

Kirby pulls her in a sharp turn to angle around the large lumbering wing of a Romulan warbird, and nearly clips the ship when the helm doesn't respond the way she had intended.

INT. U.S.S. DEFIANT - BRIDGE

The deck pitches hard as Kirby throws the Defiant into a tight turn. Everyone grabs hold of their seats to keep from being tossed to the floor.

KIRBY

Sorry.

The ship rocks violently as they take several more glancing blows.

THORNE

Try not to get us smeared across the hull of one of those cruisers, Angie.

KIRBY

Doing my best, sir.

THORNE

Where is he?

JENDA

I've lost him.

Jenda looks disappointingly towards Kirby.

THORNE

Get us back into the fight.

She doesn't answer, instead setting after her task.

EXT. SPACE

The Defiant blows past several larger ships to in a pack of Jem'hdar fighters bearing down on one of the few Cardassian ships in the fight.

Seeing them off to the side, Kirby turns the Defiant to bear right down on them.

(CONTINUED)

As two of the Jem'hdar fighters pull 180's to bring their main weapons to bear on their pursuer, the Defiant let's fly with her full arsenal.

Unleashing a full barrage of fire from her phaser cannons, the Defiant blows past both ships.

The two Jem'hdar fighters are torn apart. The vacuum of space quickly extinguishes the fire from both ships.

The Defiant tears through the cloud of debris to make her run on the remaining fighter.

However after seeing his friend so easily dispatched, the last fighter has bugged out.

The Defiant begins to move away to find another target, but is caught in her turn by a much larger predator.

A Dominion warship opens fire.

INT. U.S.S. DEFIANT - BRIDGE

The bridge suddenly rocks hard from a direct hit as the Battlecruiser continues to fire. Kirby is doing all she can to avoid the weapons fire.

THORNE

I've had it with these guys.

Thorne gets up and walks over to the helm station to stand behind Kirby.

THORNE

Let's double down.

Kirby smiles, catching his meaning as she inputs a series of command into the helm console.

EXT. SPACE

The Defiant begins a quick series of maneuvers to evade another barrage of weapons fire. In doing so, she's also moved ahead and above the battlecruiser.

During her last turn, the Enterprise move across our frame of reference. Two Jem'hdar fighters are in pursuit.

The Enterprise lashes out with all her aft phasers and fires a spread of torpedoes that break up and independently target each ship.

Both of the fighters catch their fair share and begin to tumble out of control before exploding.

INT. U.S.S. ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE

The bridge of the Enterprise looks much like the Defiant's, heavily damaged and showing signs that they're taking more than they're giving.

PICARD
Move to formation.

RAGER
Aye, sir.

PICARD
Stand by all weapons.

EXT. SPACE

The group of ships, the Enterprise, Defiant, a Romulan Valdore-class Warbird, a Ferengi Marauder, and a Vorcha-class cruiser all join up into formation.

The Enterprise is in the lead.

INT. U.S.S. ENTERPRISE

Picard in his chair.

PICARD
Fire!

INT. U.S.S. DEFIANT - BRIDGE

Thorne in his chair.

THORNE
Fire!

EXT. SPACE

Every ship opens fire with every weapons array that was ever envisioned by the respective ships original designer.

The Dominion battle cruiser does the same, opening fire with every weapon at their disposal.

Both adversaries head towards each other at full impulse.

(CONTINUED)

Phaser and disruptor fire streaks ahead of the allied vessels, followed by massive spreads of torpedoes.

Taking a concentrated blast from the Battle Cruisers main disruptor, the Feregni Marauder's shields begin to buckle under the stress. they collapse within seconds and the ship is violently cut in half.

The formation presses on.

Beginning to maneuver rapidly, the Klingon cruiser is cut across her starboard side. A Jem'hdar fighter darts across the expanse and slams into her hull, ripping the starboard nacelles and pylon clear off the ship.

The Klingon cruiser loses control and dives steeply, and slams into the battle cruiser.

The Defiant maneuvers wildly, barely avoiding a collision with a bug fighter, and pressing on, moves directly into range of the Battle Cruiser's main weapons. Kirby spins the Defiant wildly.

INT. U.S.S. DEFIANT - BRIDGE

On the bridge, which is already smashed with debris covering every open space and fires burning out of control, everyone loses their footing as the Defiant executes a dangerous barrel roll.

EXT. SPACE

Missing most of the weapons fire, Kirby is able to regroup soon enough to pull out of the roll. But the Defiant can't escape, the Battlecruiser cuts through her shields and into the hull.

As the Defiant begins to move away, no longer able to stay in the fight, Jenda gets in a few more shots.

The Enterprise covers her retreat as the Defiant limps away.

Still on the attack run, Admiral Tebok follows the lead of the Klingon allies and sets a collision course with the Battlecruiser.

The Admiral's Warbird cuts into the Battlecruisers hull and explodes violently, causing the ship to finally begin to pull away.

The Battlecruiser turns, now only facing the Enterprise and a pair of Birds of Prey. But Picard isn't about to let up.

Continuing the run he started, and the orders that Admiral Nechayev died for, the Enterprise continues to press on.

INT. U.S.S. ENTERPRISE BRIDGE

Picard settles his conscience as he watches the Battlecruiser destroy one ship after another.

PICARD

Stand by to fire the transphasic torpedoes.

WEAPONS OFFICER

Aye, sir.

EXT. SPACE

The Enterprise fires her torpedoes at the same time the Battlecruiser fires its disruptors.

Already badly damaged, the disruptors beams easily pierce the Enterprise's shields. One of the beams tears through the hull as the Enterprise pulls away. The resulting debris impacts the front of the starboard nacelle.

The bussard collector explodes and sends a massive explosion of burning plasma through the remainder of the nacelle. The warp grill explodes and the once the smoke clears, all that remains is a shell of the nacelle.

As the Enterprise moves away, the spread of transphasics strike the Battlecruiser, effortlessly passing through it's shields.

At the same time, the Defiant unleashes it's own transphasic torpedoes

The new Borg busting weapons strike the ships hull and explode violently taking the ship with it.

In a chain reaction of explosion, each bigger than the last, the Battlecruiser is finally destroyed.

INT. U.S.S. ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE

The bridge is a wreck. Bulkheads have collapsed. Only a handful of the stations remain online.

As we move around the bridge, taking in the damage, Picard is nowhere to be seen.

(CONTINUED)

Picard moves out from behind a fallen bulkhead with a fire extinguisher. Spraying the last of the mixture that doesn't even seem to phase the fire, Picard throws the device to the ground and returns to his chair.

Picard is hurt, but hiding it. Aside from the obvious abrasions and lacerations apparent on his face and head, he's holding his side and walking with a bit of a limp.

PICARD

Report.

LEFLER

The Dominion fleet is pulling back to regroup.

WORF

Damage.

The surviving bridge crew, begin pulling together what's left.

LEFLER

We have multiple hull breaches. The worst of which is from deck ten clear up through the dorsal hull. Emergency force-fields are in place but they're not going to last long.

RAGER

The starboard nacelle has taken critical damage. We're going to be out this fight real soon.

PICARD

It's time to press our run.

RAGER & LEFLER

Aye, sir.

INT. U.S.S. ENTERPRISE - MAIN ENGINEERING

Engineering is pure chaos.

LAFORGE

Increase power to the SIF and EF generators.

Something explodes, sending a crewman flying across the room.

(CONTINUED)

LAFORGE
Get that locked down.

INT. U.S.S. ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE

An alarm begins to sound, and everyone turns to the view screen. A third Dominion Battlecruiser opens fire on the allied fleet.

LEFLER
(motioning to the main screen)
Captain.

RAGER
We barely beat the first two. How
are we..?

LEFLER
They're coming around for another
pass.

PICARD
Load the last of the transphasic
torpedoes into the forward
launchers. We're holding the line.

EXT. SPACE

Before the Allied ships are in weapons range, the Battlecruiser begins striking out at individual targets.

The rest of the Dominion fleet opens fire. Several shots from the second Battlecruiser completely bypass the fleet and impact the station.

INT. DEEP SPACE NINE - OPERATIONS

The crew try to recover as they all look around with signs of obvious defeat hanging over them.

O'BRIEN
Those last shots took out our
shields. We're being boarded.

The intercom blares open.

YNDAR
(filtered)
We have Jem'hdar on the
Promenade. I need more people down
here.

(CONTINUED)

O'BRIEN
I'm losing weapons control.

DAX
We've done all we can here.
(beat)
All hands, evacuate the station.

INT. U.S.S. ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE

Picard is standing by what's left of his command chair.

PICARD
Signal the fleet to increase speed
to full impulse and engage those
ships at point blank range.

LEFLER
Aye, sir.

WORF
Captain. Commander Dax is
signaling the evacuation of DS9.

PICARD
Signal the relief ships to move in
and get them out of there. Galaxy
Wing 9-1, cover the evacuation.

EXT. SPACE

The Defiant unleashes on a Dominion Battlecruiser that's harassing an Intrepid. The Defiant's phasers barely dent the Battlecruisers shields.

INT. U.S.S. DEFIANT BRIDGE

The bridge crew recovers, climbing back to their seats.

JENDA
Captain, the Enterprise.

Thorne turns to the view screen to see the a squad o six Jem'Hdar fighters bearing down on the Enterprise.

THORNE
Let's hope Picard remembers all his
ticks.
(beat)
Helm, rock her,

(CONTINUED)

KIRBY

Aye.

EXT. SPACE

The Defiant and the Intrepid unleashes a full barrage of torpedoes.

Across from them we see the Enterprise.

Mere meters before the bow of the Enterprise, the torpedoes break apart into several different units and individually target multiple ships.

They sail past the Enterprise as she holds her course and moves through them.

The torpedoes impact the ships perusing the Enterprise.

The Defiant and the Intrepid follow them in, closing to point blank range. Both ships follow up their run with non-stop phaser barrages.

The Enterprise lets loose a spray of torpedoes from her aft launchers. The Defiant and the Intrepid use the cover of the torpedo fire to escape.

INT. DEEP SPACE NINE - OPERATIONS

Dax and O'Brien are still manning their posts as the station fall apart around them.

DAX

Report.

O'BRIEN

The boarding parties are contained and the last transports are leaving.

(beat)

We don't have long.

DAX

I'm going to miss this place.

O'BRIEN

Me too.

DAX

Say hello to the Keiko and the kids for me.

(CONTINUED)

Dax taps here comm badge.

DAX
Energize.

Dax takes off her comm badge and throws it across the room. O'Brien is shocked by her move, but before he can say anything he is beamed away.

Dax moves back to the weapons console and gets back to work.

Dax activates a com channel.

DAX
Yndar, it's just you and me. How long can you hold them?

YNDAR
Long enough. Light her up, Commander.

INT. U.S.S. DEFIANT - BRIDGE

The crew begin climbing back to their stations.

KIRBY
Main power's off-line, we've lost shields, and our weapons are gone.

THORNE
I'm not about to let the Dominion take Bajor or the wormhole.
(beat)
Kirby, set a collision course.
Jenda, prime the auxiliary warhead.

Both women turned to their Captain, the look of seriousness on his face being all they needed to go on.

THORNE
Computer, initiate primary launch sequence. Authorization, Thorne, one three six, omega red.

JENDA
Acting first officer, Jenda Rhone, authorization zero-zero-one, enable.

KIRBY
A collision course is set.

(CONTINUED)

JENDA

The Warhead is ready.

THRONE

It's been an honor.

(beat)

Execute.

EXT. SPACE

The Defiant's auxiliary warhead, housed in the nose of the ship detaches from the ship. The independent vehicle, moves away from the ship and heads towards the Dominion Battlecruiser.

The warhead is intercepted by a Jem'hdar fighter. It clears a path for the Defiant though.

The Defiant's hull crumples and explodes against the Dominion Battlecruiser.

The Enterprise flies through the explosion as chunks of debris bounce off the shields.

INT. U.S.S. ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE

Picard makes his way back the center seat.

PICARD

Report.

LEFLER

We've got them.

RAGER

Captain...

INT. DEEP SPACE NINE - PROMENADE - UPPER LEVEL

A pack of Jem'Hdar have taken cover behind a pillar. They pop up sporadically to take shots Yndar who has taken cover across the Promenade.

Yndar is hit by burst of disruptor fire. The impact knocks him back and he falls to the deck. He pulls himself up to get cover behind a wide pillar.

The Jem'hdar run across the Promenade with their weapons ready. They stop as they see there wounded prey holding a photon grenade.

(CONTINUED)

YNDAR
(gasping for air)
Tough break.

The explosion ripples across the promenade.

INT. DEEP SPACE NINE - OPERATIONS

Dax works at the weapons console as Ops continues to fall apart around her. A new alarm sounds.

She looks up at the view screen to see a Jem'Hdar fighter bearing down on Ops.

EZRI
(whispered)
We had a good run, Dax.

Ezri closes her eyes, holding on to the center console, waiting for death to take her.

In a strange surreal moment, a collection of voices can be heard, almost like an inner monologue, as if the DAX SYMBIONT is speaking to her.

DAX SYMBIONT
(filtered)
Do what you have to do, Ezri.

Ezri opens her eyes and gets back to work, making the last moments of her life count for something.

EXT. SPACE

Stray bursts of phaser fire lash out from the station at random targets.

A Jem'hdar fighter fires a burst of weapons fire towards Ops, then breaks off in a new direction. The explosion is overshadowed by a Dominion Warship that opens fire on the station's fusion core.

The fusion core quickly succumbs to the bombardment and implodes in on itself, causing a massive explosion that ripples through the station. A huge chunk to the primary core explodes, slamming into the habitat ring. The explosion knocks the station off kilter.

The station breaks up into several large pieces that begin to drift away.

INT. DOMINION COMMAND SHIP

Odo is badly injured. Pieces of his "skin" are flaking off onto the floor. Other parts of his body are having trouble holding their shape and are dripping onto the deck.

ODO
(weak)
You will not win.

FEMALE CHANGELING
And you cannot kill me...

ODO
Don't be so sure.

Odo focuses all his concentration to try and regain his form. But he falls back to the floor.

ODO
The Link will not forgive you for this.

FEMALE CHANGELING
Perhaps, but they will be better off in the end...without your corruption.

The ship suddenly shudders from the impact of weapons fire.

EXT. SPACE

A pair of transphasic torpedoes cross the space in front of the Dominion Command Ship. Both torpedoes impact a Jem'Hdar fighter cross the Command Ship's path. The fighter is incinerated, and the explosion ripples across the shields of the Command ship.

Across the battlefield, the Allies are beginning to run thin. Every ship has taken damage. Many ships that have tried to get away from the fighting are being picked off by Jem'Hdar fighters.

The Enterprise leads the ships that are left, as they try to make one last stand.

INT. U.S.S. ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE

Picard rises from his seat.

LEFLER

Support ships are responding,
sir. Looks like most of the
station's crew was able to
evacuate...

(she turns to face Worf)
Though some stayed behind.

Worf doesn't respond.

PICARD

(to Worf)

Mr. Worf, take command of the
stardrive and evacuate the saucer
section.

(beat)

We're going to separate the ship.

WORF

Captain, permission to...

PICARD

You may not ask permission to go
down with the ship, Commander.

Picard pauses as he grins at Worf a bit.

PICARD

Captain's prerogative.

Picard extends his hand. Worf takes it, forearm to forearm.

WORF

It is a good day to die.

PICARD

It's also a good day to live. Make
sure they do, Commander.

Worf releases Picard's arm, and begins making preparations
to separate the ship.

Picard moves to the helm station.

PICARD

I'll take the helm, lieutenant.

Rager gets up from her station.

(CONTINUED)

Picard sits down and begins to familiarize himself with the controls.

RAGER

I've rerouted primary impulse control from the stardrive through the mains to compensate for the damaged starboard drive. You're going to run slow once we separate.

PICARD

Understood.

(beat)

Anything else?

RAGER

The bow thrusters are running sluggish after that last hit, so don't push her too much.

PICARD

Noted.

Picard pauses as begins setting up the helm console for everything he is going to need.

PICARD

Now get going.

LEFLER

(hesitant)

Captain...

PICARD

Get one of our transporter chiefs to keep a lock on me and be ready to energize when I give the word...now go.

Lefler leaves the bridge.

For a moment Picard simply sits the helm console looking around at his abandoned bridge.

As the Enterprise rocks from the impact of another barrage of weapons fire, Picard is thrown back into the moment.

EXT. SPACE - THE DOMINION FLEET

The Enterprise turns back towards the Dominion fleet.

INT. U.S.S. ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE

Picard is thrown about as the Enterprise takes another round of hits.

PICARD

Command override. Picard, one four seven, alpha tango.

COMPUTER

Authorization accepted. Command Override initiated.

Picard taps his comm badge.

PICARD

Initiate separation sequence on my mark.

(beat)

Three, two, one...mark!

EXT. SPACE - U.S.S. ENTERPRISE

The Saucer Section separates and pulls away from the Stardrive Section.

A passing Ferengi Marauder is destroyed as it tries to block incoming fire directed at the Enterprise.

The Stardrive, Saucer Section, a pair of Romulan Warbirds, a Vulcan cruiser move into formation to begin their attack run.

INT. U.S.S. ENTERPRISE - STARDRIVE - AUXILIARY CONTROL

Worf is in the center seat. Rager is at the combined helm and ops stations. Lefler is to the right at tactical.

Several unfamiliar faces man the various other stations.

RAGER

Separation sequence complete. We are clear and free to navigate.

(CONTINUED)

WORF

Keep the saucer in transporter
range, and keep us moving.

(beat)

All weapons stations, fire at will.

EXT. SPACE - U.S.S. ENTERPRISE

The Dominion Command Ship opens fire on the incoming group
of ships.

The Stardrive Section takes a direct hit and begins to
falter.

A few stray torpedoes fly from the stardrive towards the
Command ship.

The saucer takes another hit that collapses its shields.

A second hit breaches the hull stardrive section.

The third hit slices the port nacelle pylon and severs the
nacelle from the ship.

The nacelle explodes and the shock wave cripples the
Stardrive Section.

INT. U.S.S. ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE

Picard holds onto the helm console of the ravaged
bridge. The Bridge is falling down around him.

PICARD

Worf, get her out of there.

INT. U.S.S. ENTERPRISE - STARDRIVE - AUXILIARY CONTROL

Worf holds onto the center seat.

WORF

With all do respect sir, you're not
in any position to give orders.

INT. DOMINION COMMAND SHIP

The Female Changeling is standing over Odo. He has all but
reverted to his liquid state, and it running across the deck
as the ship pitches back and forth.

(CONTINUED)

ODO
You've lost.

FEMALE CHANGELING
Stubborn to the very end.

INT. U.S.S. ENTERPRISE - MAIN BRIDGE

Picard is holding onto the helm console for dear life.

On the forward view screen, the Command Ship looms in the distance as the saucer begins to impact the hull.

Picard slaps his comm badge

PICARD
Energize.
(pause)
Energize!
(pause)
You can transport any time now@

Picard tries to brace himself as the force of the impact reverberates through the deck and tosses him to the floor.

As the explosion begins to envelop the bridge, Picard is finally caught in a transporter beam.

EXT. SPACE

The U.S.D. Venture cuts through open space, moving over the debris of the enterprise's saucer section. She strikes out with her weapons as a pair of Defiant's cover her retreat.

The Dominion Command Ship begins to burn in space.

INT. DOMINION COMMAND SHIP - CORRIDOR

A massive explosion rips through the ship near them. Smoldering chunks of debris, covered in white hot burning plasma are pushed through the corridors like blood through an artery.

The explosion is far away, but the burning plasma covered debris quickly reaches their location.

Odo musters all his focus, and in one fluid motion, shape shifts into a large Vulcan razor beast, standing two meters high. He grabs the Female Changeling with his two massively muscular arms and before she can realize what has happened

(CONTINUED)

pulls her apart, throwing both pieces of her towards the approaching fire.

She quickly begins to regain her form in mid air, while Odo shape shifts again, into a pure stream of liquid and shoots into the environmental grating on the ceiling.

Before she can fully recover her form however, the fire overwhelms her. The burning plasma consumes the outer layers of her morphagenic form as she tires to shift into a solid piece of tritanium that can withstand the fire.

Several decks above, Odo can feel the ship begin to drift out of control. On the decks above and below him, the fire suppression systems kick in.

Odo begins moving back down the environmental shaft, checking all along the way for signs of heat and fires that may still be burring.

When he is sure it is clear, he reverts back to his liquid form, slides through the grating and reforms into a humanoid form; standing on the deck.

The corridor is black with smoke. The walls, floor, and ceiling are all scorched, torn, and damaged beyond repair.

In the corner of a bend in the corridor, a pile of ooze struggles to take shape.

Odo walks over, bends down, and extends his arm to link with it.

The Female Changeling briefly regains her form with Odo's help.

FEMALE CHANGELING

(weak)

Odo...

ODO

You forced me to this.

FEMALE CHANGELING

The solids will betray you.

ODO

Perhaps. But not because of a lack of trying on the part of the Dominion.

(CONTINUED)

FEMALE CHANGELING

Don't let me die, Odo.

ODO

I know everything that happened...everything you did that resulted in Kira's death.

(beat)

She might have chosen to give herself to them, but only because you forced the choice on her.

FEMALE CHANGELING

Odo...

ODO

Just as I have to make a choice now.

Odo pulls back his arm, which reverts to it's full humanoid form.

The Female Changeling continues deteriorating and crumbling into dust, that spread out across the deck.

Odo stands up and leaves back through the environmental shaft.

INT. U.S.S. VENTURE - TRANSPORTER ROOM

Picard materializes on the transporter pad.

The transporter chief slaps his comm badge.

CHIEF

We have him.

INT. U.S.S. VENTURE - BRIDGE

Sisko stands next to Admiral Hastur. They are both visibly pleased to hear of Picard's safety.

ADMIRAL HASTUR

Well done, Chief.

(beat)

Venture to the Intrepid, do you have her?

A long pause as Sisko and Admiral Hastur wait for word of the Enterprise.

The comm crackles to life.

(CONTINUED)

INTREPID CO (V.0.)
(filtered)
We have them. We're moving clear
of the field.

EXT. SPACE

The Intrepid has the broken hull of the Enterprise in a tractor beam and is moving away from the battle.

INT. U.S.S. VENTURE - BRIDGE

Sisko and Hastur breathe a sign of relief.

ADMIRAL HASTUR
Copy that. Rendezvous near the
Olympic...we'll regroup and make
our stand there.

INTREPID CO (V.0.)
We're on our way.

INT. DOMINION COMMAND SHIP - BRIDGE

ODO
The Founder was killed in an
explosion.

A wave of sadness overcomes everyone on the bridge, except for Odo.

The Jem'hadar all bow their heads in reverence for their fallen God.

ODO (CONT'D)
Order the fleet to stand down.

The Vorta Commander doesn't respond.

ODO (CONT'D)
Now!

The Vorta Commander finally stands and turns to Odo obediently. The Vorta Commander steps aside to allow him access to her station.

VORTA COMMANDER
As you wish, Founder.

The Vorta Commander pulls the communication relay down over his eye.

(CONTINUED)

VORTA COMMANDER (CONT'D)
All ships, stand down.

A beat, as the Vorta Commander looks at Odo disapprovingly.

VORTA COMMANDER (CON'T)
By order of the Founder.

EXT. SPACE

The Dominion fleet ceases fire.

INT. U.S.S. VENTURE - BRIDGE

OPERATIONS OFFICER
Admiral, the Dominion fleet is
standing down.

Sisko looks at the screen, not wanting to break the silence
for fear of jinxing the moment.

ADMIRAL HASTUR
It's over.

EXT. SPACE

The Venture pulls up along side the Intrepid. The
engineering section of the Enterprise is still in her care.

The fleet, what's left of it, carefully move around the
wreckage of DS9.

The Dominion fleet is farther away, keeping its distance
near the wormhole,

SISKO (V.O.)
(filtered)
Captain's log, Stardate
58779.7. It's over...for now. I
have lost more than I have gained,
and all in the first day of
retuning to my old life...
(beat)
I can't express the pride I feel
towards my friends and colleagues,
old and new, that weathered this
crisis by my side...nor the sadness
that I feel for those that were
lost.
(beat)
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SISKO (V.O.) (cont'd)
 While I know not what's ahead of
 me, I know that we will carry on,
 for those that gave their lives so
 that others could live...we must
 carry on.

In the distance, a runabout is tractoring a large piece of a chunk of the upper core, towards the Venture for inspection.

INT. DEEP SPACE NINE - WRECKAGE - OPERATIONS

Half of Ops is open to space, mainly the part across from Sisko's office where the turbolift would have been.

A team of three engineers are working in environmental suits.

Another pair of Starfleet crew, wearing EVA suits drift into view. As they turn, Sisko's face can be seen.

He floats across the wreckage towards his old office. The engineering teams don't seem to notice him.

He stops as he approaches the door, which is barely wedged open. He crabs them with the bulky gloves of his suits and pries the doors open.

With the familiar sound of the magnetic boots activating, Sisko touches down on the deck and steps into his old office.

INT. DS9 - OFFICE -- FLASHBACK TO 'EMISSARY'

Kira is standing to the left of the desk, speaking to a Bajoran official displayed on the side viewer. With each word, her voice raises a few notches to the point when the conversation ends, she is yelling.

KIRA
 (fuming)
 ... THEN DON'T ASK FOR MY OPINION
 NEXT TIME!

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

KIRA
 Yes?

(CONTINUED)

SISKO
I'm Benjamin Sisko...

KIRA
(without a beat)
I suppose you want the office.

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

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

KIRA
(exaggerated)
Hello.

The flashback ends, fading into...

INT. DS9 - OPERATIONS - OFFICE - PRESENT

Sisko steps further into the office, standing just inside the doorway. The office is a mess, broken pieces of paneling and odd sorts of debris are have been piled in various places as though someone came in to clean, but didn't finish the job.

For a long moment, Sisko stands in place, slowly looking from one side to the other as if lost in memory. He's smiling slightly.

He never hears, or perhaps doesn't take notice of the Bajoran officer that comes into the office to find him.

BAJORAN OFFICER
(filtered)
Captain, sir?

Sisko at the sound of his rank being used, looks down to his gloved hand. He's holding a Starfleet comm badge.

SISKO
(filtered)
It's just "Ben" now.

Sisko walks across the office and places the comm badge on the desk.

(CONTINUED)

BAJORAN OFFICER
(filtered)
My apologies, sir.

He moves away from the desk, looking for something.

Sifting through one pile of debris after another he finally finds what he's looking for. Picking up his baseball, he dusts it off.

SISKO
(vacant)
The more things change, the more
they stay the same.

BAJORAN OFFICER
(filtered)
Sir?

SISKO
(filtered)
Nothing really. Just something I
heard a friend say once.

He seems to study it intently as if it has changed since the last time he held it.

Finally finding nothing has really changed, he moves as if he might toss that ball into the air so he can catch it on its way back down, but then remembers where he is.

Sisko turns, and allows himself a reserved smile.

SISKO
(filtered)
Let's be on our way.

INT. U.S.S. VENTURE - THORNE'S QUARTERS

One small cargo crate is sitting on the table.

Thorne is packing the few personal items in his spartan quarters haven't been knocked to the floor and broken.

THORNE
Come in.

The doors open and Celeste comes in.

Thorne is surprised to see her.

(CONTINUED)

THRONE

I didn't expect to see you again.

CELESTE

Unlike some people I've learned to forgive and forget.

THORNE

It's always been my experience that forgiveness has to be earned.

CELESTE

No wonder you're still alone.

Thorne doesn't respond.

CELESTE (CONT'D)

I take it you're not going to the ceremony.

THORNE

I've never been much for parties. Besides, I didn't want to steal anyones light.

CELESTE

How very big of you.

THORNE

I'm known for that.

Thorne finishes packing the last of his personal belongings and closes the crate. He moves over to the stack of clothes that sit on the bed.

CELESTE

Where did you get...

THORNE

They managed to save some of my stuff from the station.

CELESTE

I hear it's a total loss.

THORNE

Pretty much.

Celeste begins fidgeting slightly.

CELESTE

(trying to care)
What will you do now?

(CONTINUED)

THORNE

I've got my eye on a few prospects.

Celeste begins to chuckle.

CELESTE

You can dress up in a Starfleet uniform, let go of every thing that you once held dear, and even abandon everyone you ever used to know, but you're still that same scared kid you used to be...and you're still running after all this time.

Celeste begins walking towards the door. As the door opens, she stops and turns back to Thorne.

CELESTE (CONT'D)

I guess some things never change.

Thorne doesn't answer, letting her go, but as the doors begin to close he adds...

THORNE

(whispered)

And some things do.

(beat)

I expect I'll see you shortly.

CELESTE

Come again?

THORNE

I'm taking command of the Malinche in the morning. I've asked Admiral Hastur to have you assigned as well.

CELESTE

You can't do this?

THORNE

I can. And I have.

CELESTE

We'll see about that.

THRONE

We leave at 0900 hours. Try to be on time.

Celeste storms out of the room.

(CONTINUED)

Thorne walks over to the computer terminal.

THORNE

Computer, establish a comm link with relay 47, authorization code Thorne, 1-3-7-031; encryption protocol; Krypter-7.

COMPUTER

Working.

(beat)

Link established. No record of this communication will be made.

THRONE

Understood. Prepare to send message. Begin recording.

(beat)

Subject is secure. Operation proceeding. Will advise at next scheduled interval. Out.

(beat)

End communication. Begin communication cache purge, per guidelines.

COMPUTER

Purge initiated.

Thorne switches off the comm panel and walks back to the crates. He places a folded shirt on into the last open crate and closes the lid.

INT. U.S.S. VENTURE - TEN FORWARD

Ten Forward is a mess, showing that the Venture took its own share of damage.

Quark is standing in front of the middle set of large windows, looking out at another runabout tractor in a piece of the station.

He looks back as he hears someone walking across broken glass. He isn't really surprised to see the person who is standing there.

QUARK

So, what brings you to this neck of the swamp?

Odo is standing between the bar and the upper level.

(CONTINUED)

ODO

I heard this was the best place to see what's left of your bar.

QUARK

I'd get you a drink if I thought it would do any good...or if I had a bar to serve it in.

(beat)

Maybe I can get a job here.

ODO

(sarcastically)

I doubt it.

Odo looks around the bar, almost in disbelief. Every table is broken in some fashion or another. The chairs have been thrown about. The stairs leading to the upper level have collapsed and are laying across the far end of the bar, and a large structural support beam has fallen and crushed one of the tables.

Odo walks onto the upper level to stand by Quark.

ODO

What will you do now?

QUARK

I don't know. Go home I suppose. Maybe try and keep my idiot brother from completely ruining our society.

ODO

Why not start over?

QUARK

On that new station they're supposed to be building?

Odo makes a noise, confirming that he has heard as much.

QUARK

How did you...it doesn't matter. It isn't surprising either. After everything that's happened, I'd be keeping an eye on the Alpha Quadrant too.

(beat)

They'll bring in their own vendors, none of which will use latinum of course.

(CONTINUED)

ODO
(dazed)
Of course.

QUARK
There'll be no place for me there.

Odo just makes a brief noise, not really a sigh, but giving the impression that he suspected as much.

QUARK
I am sorry, Odo. Kira was...

Odo looks up at him as if Quark says the wrong thing, Odo will kill him where he stands.

QUARK (CONT'D)
Unique.

Odo gets up and walks to the door. He pauses a moment there and looks back towards the bar.

ODO
Quark.
(beat)
You were a good bartender.

Odo turns back towards the door and walks back onto the Promenade.

Quark looks to the bar, revealing that there is one other person in the room.

Morn opens his mouth to speak, but Quark raises a hand to stop him.

QUARK
I don't want to hear it.

EXT. SPACE

An establishing shot of the Enterprise, still badly damaged. The ship is under the care of the Venture.

INT. U.S.S. ENTERPRISE - WARD ROOM

Sisko enters the room. Captain Jean-Luc Picard is sitting at the end of table, reading a PADD. A small teapot sits on the table, as do two small cups.

(CONTINUED)

Sisko crosses the room to where Picard is standing. Picard looks at Sisko, sizing him up since the last time they first met.

SISKO
It's been a long time, Captain.

Sisko offers Picard his hand.

PICARD
Yes it has.

Picard takes his hand and shakes it firmly.

PICARD
Can I offer you some Earl Grey?

SISKO
I'm more of a Raktajino man.

The two of them take their seats at the table.

SISKO
This is a fine ship you have here,
Captain.

Picard looks around. The ward room is in shambles. The ceiling is half caved in onto the table, and the lights barely work.

But then Picard looks out the window at what's left of Deep Space Nine. The station is scrap metal and the Defiant is gone.

PICARD
I've been extraordinarily blessed.

His look of contentment fades after a moment as he is reminded of everything he has lost as well.

PICARD (CONT'D)
What are your plans now that
you've...?

SISKO
Returned?
(Sisko grins a bit.)
I'm going to spend some time on
Bajor. I have a daughter I've
barely seen, but know completely.
(beat)
It's a strange sensation.

(CONTINUED)

PICARD

I can only imagine. Still, my congratulations to you and your family.

SISKO

Thanks.

Picard pours a bit more tea into his cup.

PICARD

Any thought of returning to the fleet.

SISKO

Perhaps, in time. For now I have other obligations here.

PICARD

It never really ends does it?

SISKO

No it doesn't.

Sisko looks out the window towards DS9. Several Starfleet ships are docked at the station. Several of them are S.C.E. ships, preparing the station for one last mission.

Picard notices Sisko looking out the window at his old command.

PICARD

I hear the Federation Council is already petitioning Bajor for the right to build a new station.

SISKO

As much as I hated that place, and at times I could barely stand it, it was still my home for seven years. I guess in all that time, it sort of grew on me.

(beat)

Whatever they build to replace her, it won't be the same.

PICARD

It never is...but like all good things, the station will become the steward of a new crew with new adventures waiting just beyond the farthest star.

(CONTINUED)

Sisko gives Picard a curious look towards his particular wording of that phrase.

PICARD (CONT'D)

It's been my pleasure to have you
and your crew aboard the
Enterprise, Captain. Even if it was
for such a short time.

Both men stand to face each other and for a moment, just a second there is a bit of that old hesitation between them. It fades almost immediately though when Sisko extends a hand.

SISKO

The pleasure is all mine, Captain.
(beat)
I expect to see you and your crew
this evening.

PICARD

We wouldn't miss it.

EXT. BAJOR - KENDRA VALLEY - SISKO RESIDENCE - NIGHT

An establishing shot of the Sisko residence from high in the sky. Darkness holds everything, but even in the dead of night as the light of life illuminates the house, the night is alive with activity.

INT. SISKO RESIDENCE - KITCHEN

Sisko and Picard are standing near the buffet table talking. Closer to the table, Worf is standing by a large platter of shrimp.

He takes several off the platter, tasting one. His face lights up as if he's just tasted the greatest thing ever. He immediately begins to shovel more shrimp onto his plate, devouring just as many right there at the table as he stacks on his plate for later.

SISKO

The Bajoran militia has detained
over thirty Bajoran nationals in
connection with the attacks. The
Council of Ministers is insisting
that they be tried on Bajor. That
is, after the new First Minister is
sworn in.

(CONTINUED)

PICARD
Do you know him?

A waiter approaches them to refill their glasses.

SISKO
Only by name. Which might be just as well. It's good to bring in new blood from time to time...fresh ideas and a new way of looking at old problems.

Sisko takes a drink.

PICARD
Starfleet isn't going to like having to sit second chair on this.

SISKO
No they're not. But hopefully they can be persuaded to reconsider, or at the very least take a back seat while Bajor leads the proceeding's.

Picard doesn't say anything.

Worf simply continues to eat shrimp.

SISKO (CONT'D)
Bajor is going to have to find its own way in this new frontier, so that the faithful and those that welcome the influx of alien cultures can coexist.

Sisko and Picard notice Worf's appetite.

PICARD
That struggle remains at the very heart of the Federations effort to induct new members. New members often have difficulty realizing that being part of the Federation doesn't mean they have to give up their way of life.

SISKO
This first generation will have the hardest time adjusting to this new Bajor.

PICARD

It sounds as though they might need someone to help them through the rough patches.

Picard takes a drink and looks at Sisko, wryly.

PICARD

(to Worf, chiding)

Besides, I here being an ambassador can have it's own rewards.

Worf stops eating for a moment to speak.

WORF

You should not believe everything you hear.

Picard and Sisko allow themselves a bit of a laugh.

INT. SISKO RESIDENCE - LIVING ROOM

Nog, LaForge, and O'Brien are standing near the fireplace.

NOG

Any idea what they intend to replace her with?

LAFORGE

One of the new standards I would imagine.

O'Brien takes a long drink before adding:

O'BRIEN

You know, I never thought I'd hear myself say this, but it won't be the same without that Cardassian monstrosity.

LaForge takes his drink.

LAFORGE

Alright...

O'BRIEN

Hey.

LAFORGE

No more for you, Chief.

(CONTINUED)

Quark walks over to them, approaching Nog, but not really getting into the conversation that LaForge and O'Brien are having.

QUARK

My bar is in shambles. What am I supposed to do now?

NOG

I'm sure Dad can get you a job.

QUARK

And what would I do there?

Looking across the room, Lefler, Ogawa, and Rager are sequestered in one corner while Jenda and Kirby are help up in another.

Julian is standing alone by a large bay window, watching the starts.

O'Brien walks over to his friend and places an arm around him.

JULIAN

I can't believe they're really gone, Miles.

O'Brien doesn't answer. This one time, he doesn't know how to help his friend.

O'BRIEN

Come on, let me introduce you to a few old friends.

They walk over to the group of officers from the Enterprise.

EXT. SISKO RESIDENCE - FRONT PORCH

Jake is standing on the porch, alone. In the yard, Sarah is running with a jar after lightening bugs. She catches one and traps it in her jar.

The front door opens and Kasidy walks up to Jake. She places a hand on his shoulder and without looking, he knows it is her.

JAKE

It's never going to be over is it?

(CONTINUED)

KASIDY

No it's not.

JAKE

Where do you think they'll send him?

KASIDY

Some place where people need help. Because more than anything else, that's the man your father is.

(beat)

Come inside, Sarah.

Sarah stops chasing her fireflies and runs up to the porch to show her mother her catch. Kasidy smiles and begins to walk back inside. She stops for a moment to look back at Jake.

KASIDY

Take this time for what it is, Jake, a second chance.

Kasidy takes Sarah back into the house.

After a long moment, Jake follows them back into the house.

INT. SISKO RESIDENCE - LIVING ROOM

Sarah runs across the room to Benjamin to show him the fireflies she has caught. He fains excitement and picks her up, with a wide smile on his face.

As Jake is walking through the door, he nearly collides with a young Bajoran woman. She drops the tray she was carrying, but Jake's quick reflexes catch the tray before it crashes to the floor.

BAJORAN WOMAN

Thanks.

Jake looks at her as she looks at him. The immediate spark of attraction catches them both.

JAKE

No problem. I'm Jake.

She smiles at him.

(CONTINUED)

BAJORAN WOMAN

(coy)

Oh, I know all about you, Jake
Sisko.

She turns and walks away. Jake watches her leave.

JAKE

Could you at least tell me your
name?

She turns back to him, smiling.

BAJORAN WOMAN

(sly)

Maybe...

She turns away and heads back to the kitchen. Jake watches
her leave.

BAJORAN MALE

Korena, we need another set of
glasses...

His voice begins to trail off as the focus falls on Jake who
seems mesmerized by her.

JAKE

(whispering)

Korena...

From across the room, Korena turns back to look at him as
though she heard him call her name,

Across the room, O'Brien and Nog are leading the
conversation with the crew of the Enterprise.

LEFLER

Is it always this..?

O'BRIEN

Crazy? No not really.

(beat)

Well sometimes.

Quark comes walking over, to join the conversation. Nog,
O'Brien, and LaForge are trailing behind him.

QUARK

(to O'Brien)

Where have you been? It's always
like this.

(CONTINUED)

As Quark passes Julian, he puts a steady hand on the Doctor's arm. They share a look of mourning.

The various groups begin to merge, pairing off as friends old and new reunite.

O'Brien and Julian shake hands then fall into a friendly hug.

Jake jokingly slaps Nog on the shoulder.

Worf's looks as though he might vomit.

Lefler and Rager stand with LaForge, still feeling as though they not really part of the group.

Picard takes a step forward to the head of the group.

PICARD
To absent friends.

Picard turns to Sisko, who takes a step forward.

SISKO
And new beginnings.

Everyone raises their glass...

INT. SISKO RESIDENCE - KITCHEN

Kasidy joins Sisko. He wrangles his free arm around Kasidy.

KASIDY
She's going to get spoiled. You
carrying her all the time.

Before Sisko can answer, Sarah cuts him off.

SARAH
I'm not spoiled!

She jumps down out of Sisko's arms and hits the floor running into the other room.

Sisko takes the moment to embrace his wife.

Pulling back, she looks up at him to ask:

KASIDY
Where is Odo? I haven't seen him
since he returned to the
Enterprise.

(CONTINUED)

Sisko pauses a moment. His mood instantly becomes a bit more reserved, more so when he looks out into the living room at the guests gathered there.

SISKO

He had some things to take care of.

EXT. BAJOR - CEMETERY

Odo stands before a group of headstones, his arms folded behind him. Several of the headstones carry the KIRA family name. Another one bears the name GHEMOR.

ODO

We never spoke about this sort of thing and you didn't specify any last wishes...but I thought you would like it here, Neryes.

Odo stands looking down at the headstone for some time, saying nothing at all.

After a few minutes have passed, Odo finally turns away and walks towards two Jem'hadar standing guard not far away.

ODO

I've finished. We may go.

EXT. SPACE - BAJOR - ORBIT

A Dominion Battle Cruiser breaks orbit of Bajor. Six ships, Starfleet, Klingon, and Romulan follow in close formation.

Moving closer to the Battle Cruiser, a window is visible.

A lone figure stands at the window, looking down towards the planet.

INT. DOMINION SHIP - ODO'S QUARTERS

Odo is alone in a dark room. He's standing at a large window that looks back towards Bajor.

ODO

(whisper)

Goodbye, Neryes.

Odo continues to stare out the window as the Bajor falls into the distance. A strange eerie blueish white light begins to wrap around the ship.

Odo continues to look out the window as the wormhole closes.

INT. BAJOR - SISKO RESIDENCE

Jake comes walking over to Sisko with Admiral Hastur following close behind him.

JAKE

Dad.

Sisko shakes his friends hand, but Hastur seems less than thrilled to be there.

SISKO

Ambrose, I'm glad you could make it.

HASTUR

Can we talk for a minute?

SISKO

Sure.

HASTUR

Privately.

Sisko and Hastur disappear into a private corner.

Jake stands watching them, trying to read their lips and get some insight about what's going on. He doesn't notice Kasidy walk up beside him and jumps when she touches his arm.

KASIDY

Jake, any idea what that's all about?

JAKE

I'm not sure, but dad's got that look.

They share a worried look for a moment, before turning back to look at Sisko now. He has stopped talking with Hastur and Sisko is heading back towards Jake.

SISKO

Your attention please.

(beat)

Switch on the viewer, Jake.

The view screen switches on.

A Bajoran COMMENTATOR

(CONTINUED)

COMMENTATOR

...we couldn't believe it
either...but the Council of
Ministers believes it's for the
best.

The REPORTER turns away from the Commentator, to look
directly at the camera.

REPORTER

For those just joining us: moments
ago we were informed of the
decision by the Council of
Ministers to suspend Federation
membership.

On Sisko's looks of shock...

EXT. BAJOR - CAPITAL

The Bajoran capital in ruins. Piles of rubble still smolder
where buildings used to stand. Teams of workers move across
the rubble, no longer looking for survivors, but for bodies.

REPORTER

We've been told that the Bajoran
ambassador delivered the
proclamation to the Federation
council only moments ago.

(beat)

And that the Bajoran representative
to the Federation council has been
recalled.

INT. BAJOR - CAPITAL

The Vedek that freed Tahna Los in part one, stands next to
the new First Minister being sworn in.

INT. BAJOR - SISKO RESIDENCE

The camera pans around all the major characters as everyone
is unsure what to make of this news.

The camera settles back on Sisko. Picard is standing next to
him.

PICARD

You were saying something about
finding a purpose.

Picard and Sisko share a look of surprise at the turn of fate.

EXT. BAJOR - SISKO RESIDENCE

A long panning shot of the property, starting from the ground and moving up towards the clear night sky. Stars sparkle in the night sky, as smaller points of light dart across the darkness.

REPORTER V.O.

After everything Bajor has endured
in the past week, one thing is
certain. Bajor will endure.

(beat)

Prophets be with us all.

FADE TO BLACK:

TEXT FADE IN:

THE ADVENTURE CONTINUES...

FADE OUT:

THE END