

STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE

8x02 - "Avatar, pt 2."

Screenplay by Martyn Dunn

Based on the novel

Star Trek: Deep Space Nine: Avatar, Books 1&2

by SD Perry

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. SPACE - THE BADLANDS

The usual view, plasma storms swirling, lots of turbulence. Slowly, the Sovereign-class *Enterprise-E* drifts into view.

2 INT. ENTERPRISE - CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM

The view again of the storms through the window. Pull back to show ELIAS VAUGHN watching. He is a male human, elderly but still vital, with a close-cropped beard and wearing a Commander's uniform and pips. A hazy reflection in the window resolves into Capt JEAN-LUC PICARD.

PICARD

Done watching?

VAUGHN

Done looking, for the Breen.
They're not here, Jean-Luc. I
don't think they ever were.

PICARD

I've come to agree with you, but
we have to be thorough. We want to
be able to declare a reasonable
certainty, after all our efforts.

VAUGHN

We've been hunting sensor ghosts
out here for three weeks, Jean-
Luc. We can be certain.

Vaughn pauses, seeming thoughtful, not really on the work.

VAUGHN

I'm thinking of retiring.

PICARD

Really? May I ask why?

VAUGHN

You may ask, but I'm not sure I have an answer. I suppose I could just say that I'm getting too old.

PICARD

Nonsense. You can't be much older than I am.

VAUGHN

I'm one-hundred-and-one, actually.

PICARD

You wear it well. But you still have decades ahead of you, Elias.

VAUGHN

Then call it old in spirit. Since the end of the war, I find myself thinking differently. Eighty years of charging into battle...

(sighs)

I've always been a soldier. I was trained for it, I've excelled at it. But now, I'm starting to think of myself as a participant in war, rather than someone working towards peace. And the difference between the two is immeasurable.

PICARD

You have more tactical experience than any officer I've ever known, Elias. But that doesn't mean you have to use it as a soldier would. You could write, or teach.

VAUGHN

I don't know. I just know that I don't want to fight anymore.

VOICE (comm)

Captain, Commander - we may have something.

They weren't expecting that.

3 **EXT SPACE - THE BADLANDS**

The *Enterprise* again, but nearby is an old and decrepit Cardassian freighter, tumbling slowly in the plasma storms.

PICARD (v.o.)

Captain's log, stardate 53113. We failed to detect any further signs of Breen activity in the Badlands, but we did come across what seems to be a Cardassian freighter vessel that, according to our best estimates, has been stuck here for more than thirty years. Commander Vaughn has taken it upon himself to step away from his advisory role for a moment and lead an away team aboard the vessel.

4 **INT. CARDASSIAN FREIGHTER**

Five officers in pressure suits clomp down a corridor, Vaughn at their head. Vapours and haze cover the place, emergency lights flash weakly.

VAUGHN (comm)

I'll head for the aft cargo bays. Perhaps we could each take a direction, and check in every fifteen minutes?

Everyone nods, and off they go. We follow Vaughn as he clambers over the bodies of Cardassian officers and Bajoran prisoners littering the floor, frozen and suffocated.

He is walking through the exact same scene that Kira saw in her dream in 8x01, taking her exact footsteps, right down to the Cardassian and Bajoran hugging each other in death. Finish close on Vaughn's face...

5 **MEMORY MONTAGE**

-- An Asian woman stepping onto a transporter pad, her face full of trepidation.

-- A younger Vaughn pushing aside the wreckage of a toppled building to find a body.

-- Vaughn standing over the smoking, charred corpse of a female Vulcan Starfleet officer on a shuttlecraft floor.

-- Vaughn shooting a Romulan officer dead.

-- Standing among a cave full of dead Jem'Hadar bodies, staring on in horror mixed with exhilaration.

-- All these intercut with quick shots of Vaughn reacting to the memories.

6 BACK TO SCENE

Vaughn is stopped dead by the memories. His face is full of sadness and horror.

VAUGHN

God, I've seen so many dead...

(shakes it off)

No! Just concentrate, Elias. It's just an ordinary freighter. Done it a thousand times.

7 INT. ENTERPRISE - MAIN BRIDGE

DEANNA TROI enters and approaches Picard with urgency.

TROI

Captain, I'm getting some very strange feelings from the away team. They're all either scared, or sad, or angry. I'm worried.

PICARD

Are they in danger?

TROI

Not physically, I don't think. It's like... it's not about anything that's happening right now. They're all experiencing intense flashes of memory.

PICARD
Enterprise to away team. Commander
Vaughn, please report.
(nothing)
Commander Vaughn.

Picard looks to a random LIEUTENANT at tactical.

LIEUTENANT
The comm line's clear, sir.
They're just not responding.

8 INT. CARDASSIAN FREIGHTER

One of the other officers is huddled into a corner CRYING.
Another clings to the wall SHAKING with fear. A gentle
bluish-white light becomes clearer over the cargo bay.

PICARD (comm)
Picard to Vaughn. Commander,
respond please. Picard to Vaughn,
please respond.

Vaughn doesn't respond, but does get moving again. VOICES
and IMAGES fill his mind, including flashes of the Bajorans
and Cardassians around him at the time of their deaths.

Gradually, Vaughn becomes aware of a presence walking with
him, a tall human who is felt rather than seen, not
threatening but soothing. Finally Vaughn locates the source
of the white light. It is a BAJORAN ORB, its box open and
flooding the compartment with light.

As Vaughn reaches out and closes the door, all the voices
and images stop instantly. He looks on in wonder as he
realises what he has found.

FADE OUT:

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

9 INT. DS9 - SECURITY OFFICE

RO LAREN waits at the open door of the Security Office as KIRA NERYS almost-runs up to her, her face full of worry.

KIRA
What have we got?

RO
Ensign ch'Thane found him at Quark's. He's making his statement now. I've got a team working with the internal sensors to see if there are any more.

Ro leads Kira towards the cell area, which is guarded by two armed security guards. As they walk...

RO
He was unarmed, and offered no resistance. He was carrying a pack of ketracel-white cartridges, but nothing else. He says his name is Kitana'klan, and he asked to speak directly to you. He says he's on a peace mission...

Kira's reaction to this unlikely declaration is clear.

10 INT. DS9 - SECURITY CELLS (CONTINUOUS)

As Ro and Kira enter the cell area, still talking.

RO
...and that he was sent by Odo.

This last as Kira comes face to face with the Jem'Hadar KITANA'KLAN, who stands immobile behind a forcefield in one of the cells. Kira's reaction to the mention of Odo's name is mixed with her revulsion and fear at what is in front of her. Kitana'klan notices Kira, and steps closer to the forcefield. His voice is gravelly, menacing - a predator.

KITANA'KLAN

Colonel Kira. I am Third - ... I
am Kitana'klan.

Kira is firm, determined not to let the fear show.

KIRA

Explain your presence on this
station, Kitana'klan.

KITANA'KLAN

I have been sent by the changeling
Odo to serve you, and to learn
about the cultures and lifeforms
that coexist here. I am to study
everything I can about the synergy
among peaceful peoples, so that I
can bring this knowledge to the
Dominion. The Foun- ... Odo
believes this will be a step
towards help the Jem'Hadar evolve
beyond our genetic programming.

KIRA

Go on...

KITANA'KLAN

The attack on your station was not
sanctioned by the Founders. There
were a small number of Jem'Hadar
who sought to redeem themselves
for losing the war against the
Alpha Quadrant. They planned to
re-initiate hostilities.

KIRA

How do you know?

KITANA'KLAN

I was told. I was overtaken by
these rogue soldiers as I
approached the Anomaly, and they
attacked me, disabling my ship.
First Javal'tivon, their leader,
had been my First at the end of

the war. He told me of their plans so that I might understand the reason for my death. It was their mistake to leave me alive. My crew were able to repair my ship enough to follow them, and sacrificed their lives to stop them.

KIRA

Why didn't you announce your presence then? Why stay shrouded all this time?

KITANA'KLAN

Your station had just been attacked by Jem'Hadar. I did not think I would be welcome.

Kira is hopeful, starting to be convinced. Ro is not.

RO

So you thought it would be better to skulk about spying on us? How long were you planning to wait?

KITANA'KLAN

Odo gave me no instructions on what to do in these circumstances. But I understand now my decision was wrong. I have made myself untrustworthy by my actions.

KIRA

You said the Dominion didn't sanction the offensive...

KITANA'KLAN

Yes. When Odo joined the Founders, he brought with him experiences unknown to them. The Great Link is in contemplation of Odo's life. At this time, the Founders wish only to remain in reflection.

Kira and Ro are having trouble, but they'd like to believe.

KIRA

Can you prove any of this?

KITANA'KLAN

I cannot. I carried a recording from Odo, but it was destroyed with my ship.

Kitana'klan abruptly falls to his knees - Kira jumps back, Ro pulls her phaser. But the soldier only pulls back his uniform from his neck and removes the white cartridge, holding it out to Kira.

KITANA'KLAN

I was sent to serve you. I offer you my obedience and my life.

KIRA

(unimpressed)

I'll get back to you.

(to Ro)

Have Doctor Bashir run a scan when he's done with his statement. And keep an eye on him.

Kira walks out, leaving Kitana'klan on his knees.

11 EXT. SPACE - THE BADLANDS

Enterprise is holding position at the edge of the storms.

12 INT. ENTERPRISE - CREW'S LOUNGE

Vaughn sits at a window, looking out at the storms again. After a few seconds, Troi approaches in counselling mode.

TROI

Elias, may I join you?

Vaughn gestures for her to sit. He likes her and is proud of her, in a fatherly way. Troi reads this, and blushes.

VAUGHN

Is it uncomfortable for you, to sense how others perceive you?

TROI

Depends on who it is, and in what context.

VAUGHN

How do you mean, context?

TROI

I mean, if they like me, I try to pay more attention.

(they laugh)

Does this mean I get to ask you a few questions?

VAUGHN

You can if you can tell me what I'm feeling right now.

TROI

Confused. Elated and uncertain. You're out of your emotional comfort zone... but not afraid of it. You're still experiencing flashes of memory, aren't you?

VAUGHN

I assume you know why.

TROI

The Orb experience. It was very different for you than the others.

VAUGHN

Yes, I think so. I had memories too, but when it was over, when I closed the door on the Orb, I felt... It's hard to explain. A comprehension. For just a second, I remembered who I was... who I am. And just like that, all of my fears about the future - gone.

TROI

I believe the Bajorans call it a *pagh'tem'far*. A sacred vision. Are the memories troubling you?

VAUGHN

A little distracting, perhaps.
Nothing I can't handle.

TROI

The Captain also wanted me to keep
you apprised of our situation.

VAUGHN

Which is...?

TROI

We've set course for Deep Space
Nine, but the warp drive is still
a concern after the effects of the
Badlands. So we can't go any
faster than warp four. We're
looking at twenty hours.

VAUGHN

Have you ever been to DS-Nine?

TROI

A few times. The first was just
after the Cardassian withdrawal.
Commander Sisko had just taken
control of the station.

VAUGHN

Captain Sisko of the *Defiant*?

TROI

He ran the station for the last...
seven years. You never met him?

VAUGHN

No. I know the name, of course.
One of the biggest heroes of the
war. Didn't he retire recently?
Or... was he killed?

TROI

Neither, actually. He's officially
listed as "missing." I don't know
the details, just that Starfleet

decided not to pursue an investigation. Something to do with Bajor - they considered him a religious figure or something...

VAUGHN

Interesting. Thank you, Deanna.

Troi leaves. Vaughn picks up a padd from the table.

VAUGHN

Computer, show me the current personnel file for Starfleet Captain Benjamin Sisko.

The file pops on the screen, with a big headshot of Sisko.

13 FLASHBACK - CARDASSIAN FREIGHTER

Vaughn walking through the cargo bay, feeling the presence of that other figure walking with him.

14 BACK TO SCENE

VAUGHN

It's him...

As Vaughn reacts with surprise and fascination...

15 EXT. BAJOR SURFACE - ESTABLISHING

A new matte: A transport centre with numerous shuttles on a pleasant sunny day, surrounded by typical bucolic scenery.

16 INT. BAJORAN SHUTTLE CRAFT

VEDEK YEVIR enters the shuttle, and takes a seat in the Bajoran equivalent of coach class. Most of the other seats are taken up with Militia techs. He smiles at their happy boisterousness, then closes his eyes as if to meditate.

17 FLASHBACK - DS9 PROMENADE

Yevir is in a grey Militia uniform, heading towards the Replimat, the typical office functionary going about his boring day. There's a commotion further down the Promenade.

BENJAMIN SISKO is coming through the crowd, dispensing wisdom to the Bajoran people. Yevir makes his way to the front of the crowd. Suddenly, Sisko is in front of Yevir, reaching out to touch his shoulder. (Intercut new footage with stock from episode 5x10 "Rapture.")

SISKO

You don't belong here. Go home.

As Sisko moves on, Yevir is enraptured - the Emissary has spoken to him.

18 BACK TO SCENE

Yevir smiles as he remembers. As another commotion begins to arise around him on the shuttle, he opens his eyes and catches the attention of a flight attendant.

ATTENDANT

The son of the Emissary has just boarded. He asked the Captain if he could sit with the pilots up front. You know how modest he is, of course. Can you believe it? The Emissary's son, on our flight!

The attendant bounces away in excitement. Yevir's smile grows as he whispers to himself with satisfaction:

YEVIR

It's a blessing.

19 EST. DEEP SPACE NINE - ESTABLISHING

Still plenty of work crews and debris around the station.

20 INT. DS9 - HABITAT RING CORRIDOR

Ro and SHAR walk through the corridor, Ro deep in thought. She's carrying the isoscalar rod Quark gave her in 8x01.

RO

Three, four, twenty-four, one-point-five, twenty-five...

SHAR
Lieutenant?

RO
The numbers on Istani's data rod.
I'm still trying to figure out
what they might represent.

(sigh)
I've been going through security
recordings all day, trying to
figure it out. Except of course
for your little adventure with our
Jem'Hadar guest.

SHAR
Does his presence disturb you?

RO
Doesn't it you? I killed plenty of
them during the war, and I'd never
let my guard down around one, even
if he is behind a forcefield.

SHAR
Have you discovered anything more
about the assailant?

RO
I checked up on his fake name.
There are seventeen Galihie S's
alive on Bajor right now, and
they're all accounted for. I've
sent tissue samples to the Central
Archives, but with their backlog
it'll take another day minimum,
assuming they have him on file.

Shar doesn't really have any suggestions to make, as this
is outside of his area of expertise. He is happy observing
Ro in her element as she works through it to herself.

RO
Istani Reyla was an archaeologist
with a spotless record. Came to
DS-Nine with something valuable,
perhaps stolen. She was chased by

Galihie S. She was also a prylar working at B'Hala, although it's hard to believe a religious person would steal anything from there.

(beat)

But then, why would she deal with somebody like Quark if she was acting entirely above board? And why would Galihie take such pains to hide his identity if he wasn't planning something illegal?

As she walks, she notices the directional signs on the walls. She stops to consider them. An idea occurs to her.

RO

(reading sign)

Level four, section seven. She couldn't have meant... level three, section four. Something in between quarters number twenty-four and twenty-five... It couldn't be that easy, could it?

She jogs towards the nearest turbolift, leaving a bemused Shar to follow in her wake.

21 INT. DS9 - CORRIDOR

As Ro and Shar EXIT a turbolift and jog down the corridor a little, until Ro stops at an ordinary patch of wall.

RO

One-point-five... one-point-five meters, maybe?

She measures that distance up the wall, and pops out the maintenance hatch. Nothing there. She is crestfallen for a moment, until she notices something behind the panel next to it. Thrilled with herself, she pops out the next panel and finds a tightly wrapped package.

SHAR

Well done, Lieutenant.

Ro grins, and very gently unwraps the package. She reveals a very old book, on the verge of falling apart, with thick leathery covers and Ancient Bajoran symbols on the front.

RO

(amazed)

This is from B'Hala. It's too old to have come from anywhere else.

SHAR

What does it say?

RO

I don't know, it's in Ancient Bajoran. I can't read it.

SHAR

A previous science officer did extensive work on a translation matrix. Jadzia Dax, in fact. Perhaps I could scan the book into the program.

RO

Oh Shar, that would be great. But keep it out of the main computer for now. I'll tell Kira when I know more. I don't want anyone else seeing it until I know why someone would kill for it.

Off Ro and Shar's expressions of intrigue...

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

22 EST. DEEP SPACE NINE - ESTABLISHING

Same as before.

23 INT. VIC FONTAINE'S LOUNGE

The lounge is not in business, mostly empty apart from some workers bustling about. VIC FONTAINE and JULIAN BASHIR sit at a table, Vic with coffee, Julian with tea.

VIC

So... what's up, Doc?

BASHIR

Lots of things, I suppose.

VIC

I guess so. A few people who came to the second set told me that one of those Jem'Hadar goons turned up. Bad pennies, you know?

BASHIR

Yes, he did. And he made some fairly amazing claims. Ezri is assessing him right now, to try to see if he's telling the truth.

VIC

Right. It was the first thing I heard about when we came back on, after the power short. That and the *Aldebaran* - poor kids.

Bashir just nods. He obviously has something on his mind but doesn't know how to broach it. Vic to the rescue.

VIC

So, doll-face is running the talking cure with a Jem'Hadar. That's quite a gig. You two still making the music?

BASHIR

I think so. Things are good,
overall. But you could say we've
run into a bit of dissonance.

VIC

Yours or hers?

BASHIR

Both. We were - there was a
problem, and she didn't seem to
care how it affected me, and I got
angry about that.

VIC

Ouch. You make it up to her yet?

BASHIR

We both apologised. But we haven't
really resolved the issue. I tried
to bring it up but she just
changed the subject.

VIC

Sometimes things aren't resolved
till they're ready to be, pallie.
And even then, they don't always
shake out the way you expect.

BASHIR

You think she doesn't want to work
this out yet?

VIC

Hey, you make it sound like a bad
thing! The beauty of the long-term
is that you get some elbow room.
And it doesn't have to mean you're
calling it quits. Crazy thing,
love. A real Coney ride.

DAX (v.o.)

...And considering the subject's
doubtful ability to feel guilt -

24 **INT. DS9 - SECURITY CELLS**

EZRI DAX stands speaking MOS to Kitana'klan, who remains stood at attention inside his cell.

DAX (v.o.)
...the computer's interpretation
of frictive patterns and emphasis
points cannot be relied upon to
detect truthfulness.

25 **INT. DS9 - KIRA'S OFFICE**

KIRA sits reading a padd, the report Dax is narrating.

DAX (v.o.)
In short, I am unable to offer any
information about Kitana'klan that
he has not volunteered, or that is
not widely understood about
Jem'Hadar cultural psychology.

KIRA
Wonderful.

She drops the padd onto the desk and rubs at her eyes.

YEVIR (o.s.)
Nerys?

Kira looks up - Vedek Yevir is standing in the doorway.

KIRA
Yevir -... Vedek Yevir.

YEVIR
Please, Yevir will do just fine.
It's what you always called me.
May I come in? If you're busy...

KIRA
No, not at all. It's so good to
see you!

Yevir comes in, Kira gets up from her desk, embraces him, then leads him over to the lounge area, where they sit.

KIRA

What brings you back to DS-Nine?

YEVIR

Part business, part pleasure. With everything so unsettled on Bajor, politically I mean, with the First Minister on Earth lobbying for our reinstatement for Federation membership, and the loss of both the Kai and the Emissary, and the government all caught up with relief efforts to Cardassia...

(shakes head)

Well, you could say I'm here to see how things are, on behalf of the Assembly.

(pause - a
touchy subject)

We were all shocked and saddened by the attack, of course... and by the death of Istani Reyla. It must be a difficult time for you.

KIRA

It's been hard for all of us. People I knew and cared about were killed. And now Starfleet is coming because they believe the Dominion was behind it.

YEVIR

But you don't?

KIRA

My gut says otherwise. And this morning we turned up a Jem'Hadar hiding on the station, who insists it was a rogue action. But he's not exactly a credible source.

Yevir offers warmth and comfort as a Vedek should. Kira relaxes, opening up about things she has held onto tight.

KIRA

I'm feeling a lot of stress these days. It's not that any one thing I do is that hard... dealing with a difficult crewmember, keeping the relief ships on schedule, making sure repairs are made. But when I think about running the station, I feel... overwhelmed. As if the total is more than the sum of its parts. Does it make sense?

YEVIR

It does. Because this is also your life, Nerys. No matter how vital the station is, you can't make it your entire life. Because what will happen - what is happening - is that even the thought of it will become a terrible burden. That's not how the Prophets meant for their children to live.

(pause)

Everyone I've spoken with in the Assembly agrees that you are managing Bajor's interests here wonderfully. However difficult things may be, I hope that knowing you have our full confidence is a comfort to you.

(pause)

I know it's been a while, but when I heard about Reyla's death, I wanted to come. I wanted to offer my prayers for you, and for those recovering from the attack. I've spoken to Vedek Capril already, and he's agreed to let me lead services this evening. I hope you'll be able to attend.

KIRA

Of course I'll come. It's an honour for the station.

YEVIR

And perhaps afterwards, we could talk some more. I must admit, I was hoping to ask you a few questions about the Emissary. About what his life meant for Bajor, and what it was like to work with him. His son was on the same shuttle, you know. I took it as a positive omen for my -

KIRA

Jake? Jake's here on the station?

YEVIR

You didn't know he was coming?

KIRA

No, but it's wonderful news. We've really missed him around here.

YEVIR

I would imagine. He is the son of the Emissary.

Kira is a little annoyed at that selfish characterisation of Jake, but covers it. Yevir gets up to leave.

YEVIR

Walk with the Prophets, Nerys.

She watches him go, then turns back to her desk.

QUARK (comm)

Colonel Kira? This is Quark, and I have a proposal for you.

KIRA

Get off the comm, Quark. Now.

QUARK (comm)

I wouldn't have dared, except it's come to my attention that Captain Sisko's son has come home to us... and I feel that he deserves a proper welcome. I'd love to throw him a lavish party, but the burden

is really too great for a single
small businessman -

KIRA
Off, Quark. I mean it.

QUARK (comm)
- and of course, it would also be
a chance for everyone to come
together, re-establish a sense of
community in these uncertain
times. And since you've always
been so generous providing for the
emotional needs of the station...

KIRA
(sigh)
Bottom line it.

26 INT. DS9 - SISKO'S QUARTERS

The doorbell rings. KASIDY YATES gets up to answer it with a grunt, her hair all frazzled and slept on. The door opens to reveal JAKE SISKO. Kasidy is delighted to see him.

KASIDY
Jake! Why didn't you tell me you
were coming? Did you just get in?
How long are you staying? Oh it's
so good to see you!

JAKE
Just get up, Kas?

KASIDY
Oh, I must look a mess. Come in,
come in and tell me things!

They settle onto the couch. The quarters are strewn with half-packed boxes as Kasidy prepares to move down to Bajor.

JAKE
Are you going to tell me if that's
my brother or sister in there?

KASIDY

No, it's going to be a surprise for everyone, you know that. And don't go asking Julian either.

They chuckle together - it's nice to have the company.

KASIDY

Now fill me in, kiddo. What's up?

JAKE

I guess I got tired of working in the dirt. I thought I'd go see Grampa Joe. See if I can get tired of working in the kitchen instead.

KASIDY

So you're not staying?

JAKE

I'd like to. But no, I just came to find a ride. Don't worry, though. I'll be back in plenty of time to help you with the baby.

KASIDY

I can't say I'm not disappointed for my sake, but I know Joseph will be thrilled. I'm glad you're going to see him for your sake. So tell me - what's B'Hala like?

JAKE

Oh, it was okay. Kinda dull. Just picking through old pieces of pottery and statuary. Nothing too exciting at all. A nice rest.

27 FLASHBACK - INT. B'HALA CAVE

As Jake reads the translated prophecy on his data padd out loud to himself...

JAKE

"A son enters the Temple alone.
With the Herald, he returns."

JAKE

Really, there's nothing to tell.

KASIDY

Well, it's been all fun and games here. I never thought I'd be happy about having a Jem'Hadar on board, but I was starting to worry about Kira -

JAKE

What? There was a Jem'Hadar here?

KASIDY

No, there is a Jem'Hadar here. His name is Kitana... something. You'd have to get the story from Nog. All I know is that he turned up in Quark's yesterday, and they've got him in a holding cell now.

JAKE

Did he attack anyone?

KASIDY

No, but it gives me the creeps, him wandering around the station. That's why I was worried about Kira, she was acting strange, and I thought after all she's been through, paranoia was setting in. Her friend was actually murdered on the Promenade the same day as the Jem'Hadar ships attacked.

JAKE

Murdered... That's terrible. Who was it?

KASIDY

An old friend who'd just come from Bajor, a prylar. Someone stabbed her in an attempted robbery. You know, she might even have been at

B'Hala - she was an archaeologist,
I think. Istani Reyla?

Jake is thunderstruck as he recognises the name.

29 FLASHBACK - INT. B'HALA CAVE

Istani stands in the doorway of Jake's cave room.

ISTANI
My name is Istani Reyla.

As she holds out the package to him.

ISTANI
It's for you. It was written for
you, the son of the Emissary.

30 BACK TO SCENE

Seeing Jake's reaction, Kasidy moves closer to him.

KASIDY
You knew her.
(no response)
Jake?

JAKE
Yeah. I didn't know her exactly,
but I met her once. She seemed
nice. It's just a shock, you know?

Kasidy continues to comfort him.

31 INT. DS9 - RO'S QUARTERS

Ro opens the door to see Shar holding the book and a padd. Shar smiles proudly, and Ro ushers him in, making sure no-one sees him. She takes the padd instantly and begins to read. Her quarters are quite bare, no personal effects beyond the minimum. She's not planning on settling in.

RO
(absently)
Can I get you anything?

SHAR

(not offended)

If you prefer, I can leave so you can read the text. It seems to be of primary interest to you.

RO

(chagrined)

I'm sorry, Shar. Please, sit down. It's just I wasn't expecting it so fast. You didn't use the main computer, did you?

SHAR

No. I copied the translation program to the terminal in my quarters and scanned the pages manually. Though I'm afraid the translation is only about ninety-four percent accurate, and parts of the book are missing.

RO

That's alright. I appreciate your help - and your discretion.

SHAR

As you said, it's evidence in an investigation. I understand the need for caution.

RO

What's your impression of it?

SHAR

It is a book of prophecies, written in a religious context. I don't know enough of your history to say if they were accurate.

RO

(cynical)

We Bajorans love our prophecies.

SHAR

Laren, I have noted before that you don't share the same religious enthusiasm as other Bajorans. Is there a particular reason?

RO

I had a difficult childhood, but so did just about every Bajoran living today, and it didn't stop them from believing. The thing is, I do believe in the Prophets. I mean, they obviously exist. But just because there are mysterious beings living in the wormhole, and they occasionally interfere with us... I don't think that's enough reason to worship them as gods. And I don't like the prevailing view that I'm somehow less of a person for thinking so. I'd like to think I'm free to make my own choice and not be judged for it.

SHAR

I support your decision, Ro Laren.

RO

That makes one of you. But thanks Shar, that's nice of you to say.

SHAR

I was informed by Lieutenant Dax that there's to be a celebratory gathering at Quark's at twenty-one-thirty hours. I thought I might attend. Would you like to come with me?

RO

Actually, I think I'll stay in tonight, see how much of this I can get through. But thank you for asking, and please, don't talk about this to anyone, alright?

He nods and leaves.

Yevir stands at the head of the congregation, which is jam-packed full. He is just winding up his sermon.

YEVIR

... And singing, taken to Their eternal home.

He closes the book in front of him, and looks out over the crowd. He smiles beatifically at the effect he has on them.

YEVIR

I want to thank you all for this opportunity. It's a particular honour for me to speak to you here. As many of you know, it was just outside this very shrine that I received the touch that led me into the service of the Prophets, only a few years ago.

(pause)

As the Emissary showed us all, one does not have to be a Vedek to serve. I believe with all my heart that we each can do our part. We best honour the Prophets by always seeking their will in everything we do. By choosing love instead of hate. By rejecting all heresy, and turning our backs to the unclean words and thoughts that seek to pull us away from Their wisdom.

The crowd laps it up, but by Kira's face, we see that she wonders exactly what he is getting at here.

YEVIR

This concludes tonight's worship. Thank you for coming. Walk with the Prophets.

A RANJEN softly taps a gong, and the service is over. Yevir steps down off the platform towards the crowd, who surge up to meet him, Kira included.

KIRA

That was beautiful.

YEVIR

Thank you, Nerys. I hope that means you'll buy me dinner. I haven't eaten since I got here.

KIRA

Absolutely. I was just on my way to Quark's, I was going to ask if you wanted to join me.

YEVIR

I'll meet you there.

She melts back into the crowd and leaves - he watches her go with a suspicious expression, then turns back to his adoring masses.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

33 INT. DS9 - QUARK'S BAR

Jam-packed and bustling with the party for Jake's return. The place is decorated with streamers and balloons. Quark gazes over his empire, thrilled with the crowd, and directing his busy staff with an iron hand.

QUARK

It's a beautiful thing. Keep it
coming, keep it coming... Hey!
Watch that tray!

He steps towards the front door, and with a quick glance towards the security office, he warmly welcomes the Bajorans streaming out of the shrine and into his bar.

QUARK

Come in, come in my friends! Eat,
drink, take a chance on the dabo
wheels. Then eat and drink some
more! Everything's free for two
whole hours!

Glowing with pride, he moves back to the bar. Barfly MORN is in his usual place, watching the influx of new patrons. Kira enters, looking happy - she nods and smiles at Quark.

QUARK

(to self)

That must have been some sermon.

Quark continues playing the gracious host as his staff work around him. BASHIR and DAX enter, holding hands, although there is a subtle tension they are trying not to let show.

JAKE and KASIDY enter together - a small cheer goes around the crowd, embarrassing them both. They retire to a hidden table under the stairs. Quark grabs a couple of servers.

QUARK

Broik, take a glass of synthale
over to young Mister Sisko, and a

ginger tea for Captain Yates.
Frool, make sure Doctor Bashir's
whisky glass never runs dry.
(to self)
It's the little things.

Shar enters alone, looking a little nervous and shy. Quark
sidles up to Morn.

QUARK

Morn. There's that new Andorian
Ensign. I bet he knows lots of
tricks for growing hair - look at
all those long white tresses! Why
don't you take over this jug of
Andorian ale and have a chat?

Morn takes the jug and does exactly that. Shar greets him
warmly and they sit down to chat. Dax and Bashir notice,
and exchange a look that says "Oh, poor Shar."

Yevir enters alone, looks around for Kira and heads to her.
Kira takes him over to meet Jake and Kasidy.

Quark watches it all with interest from behind the bar. He
heads back to the front window to check on Security again -
no sign of Ro. Distracted, he doesn't notice Jake approach.

JAKE (o.s.)

Hi Quark.

QUARK

Jake! Welcome home. Enjoying your
party, I hope? You should try the
stick sandwiches. The fruit ones
are especially crisp.

JAKE

Thanks, but I'm not planning on -

QUARK

Where's that nephew of mine?

JAKE

Ensign Chavez said he should be
here any minute. Anyway, like I

was saying, I'm not planning to stay on the station -

QUARK

Oh? Where are you going?

JAKE

Earth. And I'd actually like to travel alone for a change. So I'll need a ship. Do you have one?

Quark looks suspiciously at Jake. Is he trying to catch him out? Then he decides to laugh it off as a joke.

QUARK

Very funny.

JAKE

It's not a joke. I know you had a couple of unregistered shuttles in a cargo bay. Are they still there?

QUARK

Forget it, Jake. There's no way you could afford it. Now if you don't mind, I have glasses to -

JAKE

Wait...

Jake pulls out a small padd, shows it to Quark. Quark reads it not expecting much, but then he gasps.

QUARK

Give me a couple of hours. How did you get that kind of latinum?

JAKE

Remember how Jadzia used to always win at tongo? She lost most of it to Dad, wrestling at the weekend.

34 INT. DS9 - RO'S QUARTERS

Ro sits at a desk, still poring over the Ancient Bajoran book and translation.

35 INT. DS9 - QUARK'S BAR

It is later; the crowd has thinned out, but most senior officers are still there. Shar and Morn chatting with Ezri, Kasidy with Kira, Bashir playing darts with Ensign Tenmei. NOG wanders in, looking a little scruffy. He also looks down towards Security, for a very different reason.

JAKE

Hey! You made it!

NOG

Sorry it took me so long. You wouldn't believe how much stuff there is to do. How's the party going? You wanna sit somewhere?

JAKE

What do you say we go to our spot? For old times' sake?

NOG

That sounds great.

36 INT. DS9 - PROMENADE UPPER LEVEL

Nog and Jake emerge from Quark's and head to their corner, sitting on the deck and dangling their legs over the side. Jake looks out of the window, where the debris of the *Aldebaran* and the *Jem'Hadar* ships floats in the distance.

JAKE

So that's the *Aldebaran*, huh?

NOG

(nodding, pensive)

It's been a problem, too. Some of the bigger pieces have triggered the wormhole, and they're putting out enough radiation to confuse sensors. Starfleet will probably want to examine them when the task force gets here.

Jake hears that, and starts to formulate his plan.

JAKE

When are they due to arrive?

NOG

Not soon enough for me.

JAKE

Why?

NOG

Because they'll probably take that Jem'Hadar monster with them when they leave.

JAKE

I thought - Kira said that Odo may have sent him -

NOG

I'll quit! I'll quit before I work with one of those things. He's just like the rest, a murderer, you can see it in his eyes...

JAKE

(placating)

You don't have to convince me.

NOG

Right, sorry. I've just been thinking about it a lot, you know?

JAKE

Maybe... I probably won't be around, but you could talk to Ezri, or Vic...

NOG

About what? They're all killers, nobody disputes that. I don't need to talk about it. I need for that thing to be gone.

They pause for a while as Nog calms down.

JAKE
I'll probably leave tonight.

NOG
Why? You could stay for a couple of days. If you're here when the Federation ships arrive, I'm sure we could get a dom-jot game going.

JAKE
There are things I need to do, and I'd kinda like to get away without making a big fuss.

NOG
I miss you, Jake.

JAKE
I miss you too.
(pause)
So, you wanna kiss now?

NOG
You should be so lucky, hew-mon!

They laugh and start to wrestle on the Promenade.

37 INT. DS9 - RO'S QUARTERS

Ro is sat where she was, hunched over the padd. She rubs her eyes, massages her neck, troubled by what she's read.

RO
Computer, what time is it?

COMPUTER
The time is twenty-five-twelve.

She gets up, heads to the replicator. Is about to order something, but reconsiders, and looks back to the padd on the desk. She makes up her mind.

38 INT. DS9 - KIRA'S QUARTERS

Kira is dressed for bed, looking happier and more relaxed than she has in days. She touches a framed picture of her

and Odo before heading off to bed. Just as she is settling in, the door chime rings. She sighs.

KIRA

Who is it?

RO (comm)

It's Ro.

Instantly awake, Kira heads to the door and lets Ro in.

RO

I'm sorry it's so late, but I felt I should come to you right away.

Ro holds out the book and padd to Kira. Kira takes them.

RO

The book was Istani's. I believe she took it from B'Hala, and was killed for it.

KIRA

Where did you get this? And why would someone kill over a book?

RO

Because of what's in it. This book, Colonel... the prophecies it contains have all come true. All of them.

KIRA

(dubious)

All of them?

RO

Read it for yourself. But read that passage I've marked there first. The first part of it's missing, but I think it's pretty clear even so.

Kira takes the padd and reads for a while. Her face drops as she reads further, and she falls into a chair.

KIRA

This can't be possible.

RO

Colonel, I'm not prone to leaps of faith, you probably know that. But so far, everything in that book has come true. Whoever wrote it was in touch with something real. They knew about the ancient wars, about B'Hala, the Occupation. They even knew about the Founders and the outcome of the Dominion war.

(re book)

And here it says - absolutely clearly - that ten-thousand people have to die before Kasidy Yates gives birth to her baby.

On Kira's stunned expression, we...

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

39 INT. DS9 - KIRA'S QUARTERS

Ro has left. Kira sits alone, staring at the padd, unable to process. She almost laughs at the ludicrousness of it.

KIRA

In the last three days... Reyla's murder, the attack on the station, the Federation on their way with weapons blazing, a Jem'Hadar who says Odo sent him... and now this. And people have died.

She flips back to the right page on the padd.

KIRA

"The child Avatar will be the second of the Emissary, he to whom the Teacher Prophets sing, and will be born to a gracious and loving world, a world ready to unite. Before the birth, ten-thousand of the land's children will die. It is destined, and should not be looked on with despair. Most choose to die, and are welcomed into the Temple."

She shakes her head in despair, and begins to read again, hoping against hope that she is wrong.

40 INT. DS9 - CARGO BAY

Quark walks away carrying a purse of latinum as Jake heads towards his new shuttle - a small nondescript thing that has seen better days. He steps aboard.

41 INT. SHUTTLE COCKPIT

Jake settles into the pilot's seat, takes a look around. It is spare but serviceable. He fishes into his bag and gently brings out the pages from the book, touches them.

JAKE

If I'm wrong, so what? I'm out a few bars of latinum, maybe a bit of hope. Nobody gets hurt. But if I'm right...

He powers up the shuttle, enters a flight plan. He looks on blankly for a moment, almost in a trance, then comms Ops.

JAKE

Shuttle *Venture* departing from airlock twelve at twenty-five-thirty hours. Course confirmed, bearing oh-one-five-mark-two.

VOICE (comm)

Received. Walk with the Prophets.

Jake starts at the phrase, then gets to work.

42 INT. DS9 - CARGO BAY

As the shuttle gently lifts off and glides through the open airlock, passing through the forcefield and out into space.

43 EXT. DEEP SPACE NINE

The shuttle arcs away from the station.

44 INT. SHUTTLE COCKPIT

Jake carefully watches his screen, which shows the station, the debris field, the Klingon ship standing guard, and the radiation field that still surrounds them all. Just as he passes into the radiation field, he enters new commands...

45 EXT. SPACE

The shuttle turns, moving closer to the debris field, until the tiny shuttle can hide in the shadow of one of the larger chunks of *Aldebaran* debris.

46 **INT. SHUTTLE COCKPIT**

Settling here, Jake takes the pages again, traces his fingers over the characters. He looks out into space.

JAKE

Help me, Dad. Help this happen.

47 **EXT. SPACE ESTABLISHING**

The *Enterprise* at warp.

48 **INT. ENTERPRISE - CARGO BAY**

Vaughn stands over the Bajoran Orb box, fingers tracing the carvings with fascination. Picard ENTERS, but sees Vaughn's odd mood and doesn't speak.

VAUGHN

Strange things happen, Jean-Luc.
Things that can't be explained.
That probably never will be.

PICARD

I agree.

VAUGHN

As long as we're agreeing on
philosophical matters, I have a
hypothetical question for you. A
kind of moral dilemma.

PICARD

How hypothetical?

VAUGHN

Oh, entirely. Say a high-ranking
officer on your ship had received
classified information about
upcoming circumstances. Say that
the information regarded a space
station that your ship might now
be headed for. And say that this
officer believes that, if comms
were working, you would have
received a declassified version of

this report yourself by now. But, since comms won't be operational till after you arrive, the officer doesn't know what he can and can't tell you, beyond the simplest of recommendations.

PICARD

Would these circumstances endanger the safety of my ship or crew?

VAUGHN

Very unlikely. You'd want to be on guard, that's all. We have a busy day ahead of us.

Picard nods his understanding, a little apprehensive.

49 INT. VIC FONTAINE'S LOUNGE

Similar set-up as earlier, but with Nog and Vic in place. Vic is dressed casually, yawning.

NOG

And Ezri recommended he be moved to a cargo bay, so he wouldn't feel like a prisoner. I asked her about it, and she started on about building trust. There are only two guards outside - two. Like there's any chance a Jem'Hadar isn't planning to kill us all the first chance he gets. Like he could ever be trusted. Can you believe it?

VIC

That's rough, kid. Look, I'm going to order up some coffee, maybe an omelette - you want anything?

Nog shudders at the very thought. Vic steps away, chats to a waitress, comes back.

VIC

So, this Kitana'klan. Have you actually talked to him?

NOG

No! Are you kidding? I don't have anything to say to a Jem'Hadar. They're bred to kill, it's all they know how to do. And it seems like everyone suddenly forgot.

VIC

Way I heard it, he had a chance to hurt a lot of people when he was hiding. If he didn't, maybe he is different -

NOG

He's not. He was on one of those attack ships, Vic! Why is everyone so ready to believe him?

VIC

Easy kid. You gotta remember that most folks are ready to put the war behind them. And this guy says the Dominion wants to make nice.

NOG

So what do I do?

VIC

If you think he's bad news, stick to your guns. Talk to a few more people, remember everyone has a right to an opinion... but keep your ears open.

50 INT. DS9 CARGO BAY

Ezri Dax ENTERS, carrying two large fighting staffs. The two guards step inside with her and stay by the door.

Dax approaches Kitana'klan, who stands watching her from the centre of the empty room. He absolutely dwarfs her. She is scared but controlling it.

DAX

I thought you might be restless.
My last host trained with some
Jem'Hadar for a joint mission
before the war. So I'm familiar
with a few of your hand-to-hand
combat drills.

(throws him a staff)
Let's dance.

KITANA'KLAN

Agreed.

Kitana'klan settles into a stance, quite the natural. Dax tries her best to do the same. He slaps her hand with the weapon immediately, just a glancing blow. They circle.

Kitana'klan aims at her gut. She parries, follows through, but he is already gone. He knocks her weapon out of her hand, sweeps her feet out from under her. He stands above her, weapon at her neck. The guards jump to attention.

DAX

It's okay, it's okay!

The Bajorans step back; Kitana'klan helps Dax up.

KITANA'KLAN

You fight well.

DAX

You lie poorly. I respect your
greater skill, and your mercy.
Perhaps we can talk, once I put
away these weapons.

He nods inscrutably as she catches her breath.

51 EXT. SPACE - DEBRIS FIELD

Focusing on the piece of the *Aldebaran* and Jake's shuttle hiding beneath it.

52 INT. SHUTTLE COCKPIT

Jake is watching his display. His fragment of debris is drifting closer to the wormhole opening.

JAKE
Just a little further. Just a
little further.

He urges the fragment to edge closer to the wormhole...

53 **EXT. SPACE**

The *Aldebaran* fragment triggers the wormhole, which bursts open in its usual display of light and energy. Under cover, Jake's shuttle slips out from concealment and inside.

54 **INT. DS9 - MAIN OPS CENTRE**

Shar's panel lights up as it registers the wormhole. Breaths are held as people wait to see if anything emerges.

SHAR
No trails, no increase in
energised particle count, no
displacement in the field. It is
one we were tracking.

BOWERS
Confirmed. Communications, contact
the *Tcha'voth* and see if our
readings match up.

BAJORAN
They say they might have a
reading... Wait, they've lost it.
If it was there, it's gone now.

BOWERS
Just the residuals off the
fragment, then. Step down, people.
We're okay for now.

55 **INT. DS9 - PROMENADE**

Ro approaches the Security doors, where Kira is already waiting for her with the book. They step inside together.

56 **INT. DS9 - SECURITY OFFICE (CONTINUOUS)**

The door closes, Kira turns excitedly, hands her the book.

KIRA

It's not valid. I admit I was a little scared at first. But the Prophets didn't have anything to do with this.

RO

How do you know? Did the lab find something?

KIRA

I know because of the content. The Prophets never touched the person who wrote this book. Who was obviously insane. It's fallacious and heretical.

RO

Did you read the whole thing? Because I know there were some unclear parts -

KIRA

(annoyed)

Yes, I read it all. I know you're not... one of the faithful, Ro. But I've read every accepted prophecy, and there's no mention of anything like this. The Prophets would never ask anyone to die, or condone it as destiny. They convey messages of life, not visions of death.

RO

Are you being deliberately obtuse? Everything in that book happened. Just because it wasn't verified by some religious authority doesn't make it any less true. And excuse me, but don't you think it's a little presumptuous for you to decide what the Prophets would or would not condone?

Too far. Kira shuts down cold.

KIRA

I'm turning it over to Vedek Yevir, to take to the Assembly. If they say it's authentic, we'll move on from there.

Ro holds on tight to the book.

RO

This book is a key piece of evidence in an ongoing murder investigation. Once that's over, you can lay a claim to it. Until then, it stays here. And do you honestly believe the Assembly will even consider keeping it as a historical document, let alone opening it to public debate?

KIRA

I don't expect you to understand. But I do expect a bare minimum of respect as commanding officer of this station. Don't forget that if you want to continue working here.

RO

(submitting
for now)
Yes, Colonel.

KIRA

I'll expect a progress report this afternoon. We can talk about a few other things then too.

RO

Are you going to show it to Captain Yates?

Kira is taken aback - she hadn't even thought of that.

Kasidy and Kira alone in her quarters - definite tension.

KASIDY

Is it about Ben?

KIRA

Kasidy, listen to me. I don't believe that anything in the book is credible -

KASIDY

Nerys, tell me.

KIRA

One of these alleged prophecies says that your baby will be an important figure to the Bajoran faithful. And though I absolutely believe the entire book is fake, I thought you should know.

KASIDY

Okay. Okay, it could be worse. What does it say, exactly?

KIRA

The book says that there will be a sacrifice before the birth.

KASIDY

What? A person?

Kira hesitates. Can she tell her?

58 **INT. DS9 - KIRA'S OFFICE**

Kira stands tensely, staring out of the closed door. Yevir rises up in the turbolift and walks towards her.

KIRA

Turn our backs to unclean words,
he said...

Yevir enters with a smile, and they go to the couches.

YEVIR

I'm sorry I didn't get back to you right away, I was speaking with the Assembly... Nerys? What is it?

KIRA

Vedek Yevir, were you aware that Istani Reyla brought an unverified prophetic artefact with her to this station?

Yevir is surprised to have been caught out so soon, but decides his best bet is to be honest.

YEVIR

Yes. It's one of the reasons I came. Have you found it?

She nods, a little distrustful. He is excited.

YEVIR

Where is it? Has anyone read it?

KIRA

What's all this about? I think I have a right to know.

YEVIR

Of course. I'm sorry. I'd hoped you'd never find out, that I could just find the book and steal away, before anyone else was touched by its poison. The story... is that a man named Ohalu wrote it, a sick man who tried to turn people away from the Prophets. He claimed that the Prophets spoke to him, and while they were benevolent, there was nothing sacred about them.

(pause)

He managed to snare a few lost souls, creating a cult to protect his heretical book. The vedeks of that time put a stop to it, and the cult disappeared with the book. Once B'Hala was discovered,

the Assembly began to watch the
digs for Ohalu's book.

KIRA
To denounce it.

YEVIR
To destroy it, Nerys. Don't you
understand how dangerous it is? It
destroyed Istani's mind when she
brought it to us.

KIRA
My security officer found it in
her investigation. She and I have
both read it, probably my science
officer too. And I showed it to
Kasidy Yates.

Yevir reacts like this is the worst possible outcome.

YEVIR
The Emissary's wife? We must pray,
Nerys, that she's not infected.

59 **INT. DS9 - TURBOLIFT**

Ro is in the lift as it stops at the Promenade and Kasidy
gets on. Ro is carrying the book. The lift continues, and
there is uncomfortable uncertainty about what to say.

KASIDY
Lieutenant Ro...
 (re book)
Is that it?

RO
Captain Yates, I'm sorry. If
there's anything I can do...

KASIDY
You can book me passage to another
system.

Ro is surprised but sympathetic.

60 **INT. DS9 - MAIN OPS CENTRE**

The turbolift pulls into Ops; Ro and Kasidy step off. Walking to the Captain's office, they see Yevir inside.

KASIDY

That's Vedek Yevir, I think.

RO

Popular vote to be the next Kai.

61 **INT. DS9 - KIRA'S OFFICE (CONTINUOUS)**

Kira sees them and stands up, beckoning them in.

KIRA

As for where the book is now, allow me to make introductions. I believe you already know Captain Yates.

YEVIR

Of course. It's so nice to see you again, Captain.

KIRA

This is Lieutenant Ro Laren, our new chief of security.

YEVIR

A pleasure, child.

As Yevir greets Kasidy, he positively flushes as if meeting royalty. With Ro, he glances quickly at her ear, seeing the earring on the wrong side, trying to hide his reaction.

KIRA

Lieutenant, Kas - Vedek Yevir has just confirmed that the book was written by a dangerous heretic from the time before B'Hala. The Assembly wants it destroyed, and I'm inclined to agree with them -

(Ro reacts)

- because the Assembly are the leaders of Bajor's spiritual

community and this artefact falls
under their authority.

YEVIR

Thank you, Nerys.

KIRA

As I said, that's my inclination.
But I want to know what you two
have to say, because it's evidence
in an inquest, and Kas, it
directly involves you. Ro, do you
have anything new to report?

RO

(snide grin)

Oh yes. The bio results from the
Archives just came in. The
murderer's real name was Gamon
Vell. And he was a Vedek.

Off Kira's surprise...

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

62 INT. DS9 - KIRA'S OFFICE

Everyone is looking at Yevir in shock, and perhaps a little smugness from Ro. Yevir knows he has been caught out, but decides to swallow it again and be honest.

YEVIR

When Istani fled the Assembly, we knew she would come here.

(to Kasidy)

She believed the prophecy, and wanted to show you part of the book. We decided we should try to intercept her. Gamon volunteered for the task. There was never any intention to cause her harm, you must believe that. But we had to stop her from showing the prophecies to anyone else.

KIRA

I can't believe this.

YEVIR

Ohalu's book is like a spiritual disease, surely you can see that. It's dangerous, it teaches that the Prophets aren't deserving of Bajor's love, and we must stop it, no matter the cost.

KIRA

Does that cost include Istani's life? And Gamon Vell's?

YEVIR

Don't you see, this only proves how treacherous the book is. If only she hadn't read it -

RO

(enraged)

Are you about to tell us she made
you send somebody to kill her?
Because she had a book?

In all the noise, Kasidy has been forgotten. She speaks up.

KASIDY

Excuse me, but I read it. And
compared to a lot of what you call
legitimate prophecies, it's more
complete and a lot more accurate.
So maybe you're telling yourself
that you're scared for Bajor's
spiritual purity. And maybe you're
just desperate to cover it up
because for thousands of years,
you've persecuted people who had a
justifiable belief system, just
because it contradicted yours.

KIRA

The Bajoran faith is what unified
our planet, it defines us. Kept us
together through the worst times.

RO

Most of us.

YEVIR

Look at how the book has already
affected you all! How do you think
all of Bajor would react?

They fall silent. Yevir thinks he's won, but Kira grabs the
book from Ro, furiously throws it at Yevir and leaves.

63 **EXT. SPACE - DEBRIS FIELD**

Just a moment to establish, then...

64 **EXT. INSIDE THE WORMHOLE**

Jake's shuttle sits surrounded by the various lights and
currents of the wormhole interior.

65 **INT. SHUTTLE COCKPIT**

Jake sits, staring blankly out the window, holding the pages of the book. He's just waiting.

66 **INT. DS9 - KIRA'S QUARTERS**

Kira kneels before her prayer mandala, meditating. Remain on her for a while as she breathes and relaxes. Then...

SHAR (comm)
Ops to Colonel Kira.

KIRA
Go ahead.

SHAR (comm)
The *Enterprise* has just come out of warp. They sent a text message requesting docking clearance and mid-level maintenance.

A text message? That's odd. What's gone wrong now?

KIRA
Give them upper pylon two. Inform Captain Picard that I'll meet him in ten minutes.

67 **INT. DS9 - DOCKING CORRIDOR**

A door cycles open; Capt Picard and Cmdr Vaughn step out. Kira and two security guards welcome them.

KIRA
Captain Picard. Welcome to DS9.

PICARD
Colonel Kira, it's a pleasure to see you again. And may I present Commander Elias Vaughn, on special assignment by Starfleet Tactical. We've just been filled in on your status and the Allied task force, which I'm afraid is all news to us. We came here primarily for maintenance and repairs.

KIRA

I thought you were too early. And you won't know about the Jem'Hadar either. I'm sorry, would you like a drink, or dinner?

VAUGHN

The task force won't get here any faster, so I think we have time. Although how about a walk instead? I've heard much about your station - I'd like to see some of it.

KIRA

Absolutely. Let's start with the Promenade.

They start walking down the corridor.

VAUGHN

So tell me about this Jem'Hadar.

68. INT. DS9 - PROMENADE

Ezri Dax steps out of a turbolift and catches view of the Infirmary door. She stops, indecision all over her face. After a while, the doors open and Bashir emerges. He sees her, approaches politely and cautiously.

BASHIR

Hello, Ezri.

DAX

Hi.

BASHIR

I'm on my way to see Kitana'klan, to replenish his ketracel-white. Didn't you see him today?

DAX

Just finished. He's the same - facts without interpretations. Maintains that Odo sent him to observe, and he'll comply with our

restrictions until we're sure we can trust him. Kira says someone just arrived with the *Enterprise* who may be able to shed some light on him. You should come with me.

BASHIR

Can't. I don't want our guest to be suffering any withdrawal symptoms when I get there, thanks.

(awkward pause)

Well, I'd better get to it.

He walks off, leaving Dax very uncertain. From the other way, Kira, Picard and Vaughn approach.

KIRA

Lieutenant Ezri Dax is our senior counsellor, and has been working with Kitana'klan.

VAUGHN

Dax... It's been a while.

DAX

It certainly has.

KIRA

You two know each other?

VAUGHN

(not entirely happy)

It's a long story.

KIRA

Commander Vaughn was telling me about a new Starfleet Intelligence study on individual personality traits of Jem'Hadar.

VAUGHN

Yes. It's easy to misjudge the Jem'Hadar. Most people assume they're all alike, but in fact, it's coming to light that no two

are the same. Would it be possible for me to speak with him?

DAX

I'm sure it can be arranged.

VAUGHN

An excellent idea. Colonel, I hope we'll be able to talk more later.

Dax and Vaughn head off in one direction. Before Kira and Picard can head off in the other, Kira's combadge signals.

KIRA

This is Kira.

RO (comm)

Colonel, this is Ro. I've got a situation here with Vedek Yevir, and Kasidy Yates. I, ah, request your immediate presence at the security office. Sir.

KIRA

I'm sorry, Captain. There's something I have to deal with.

PICARD

Quite alright. I'm sure you've got enough to do without escorting me around.

Kira leaves for the security office, and Picard remains on the shrine steps, watching her go.

69 **INT. DS9 CARGO BAY**

Bashir enters. The two Bajoran security guards follow, one staying by the door and the other with Bashir. Kitana'klan calmly walks towards them, as unthreatening as he can be.

BASHIR

Kitana'klan, I'm Doctor Bashir. We met yesterday for a few moments. I ran the physical scan.

KITANA'KLAN

You were also at the table with
the Andorian who exposed me.

BASHIR

That's right. I've brought you a
new white cartridge. I'd like to
scan your metabolic fluctuations
as you receive the enzyme, if it's
alright with you.

KITANA'KLAN

I have no objection.

Bashir moves closer. Kitana'khan watches him closely.

70 **INT. DS9 - SECURITY OFFICE**

Ro, Kasidy and Yevir stand stiffly. Yevir is indignant,
Kasidy nauseous. Ro is fuming, barely holding her tongue.
She looks out of the door, and sees Picard. She's blind-
sided by the presence of her old captain, who turns to look
at her briefly before walking away. Finally, Kira ENTERS.

KIRA

Report, Lieutenant.

RO

Colonel, it appears that three-
and-a-half hours ago, someone with
access to the Ohalu translation
uploaded it, in its entirety, to
the Bajoran comnet. Questions are
coming in from every province.

KASIDY

I got a call from the Commerce
Ministry. They wanted to know if
they could release a statement
saying that I believe the book is
fake. They received a thousand
calls in the last hour asking to
speak to me. Nerys, I don't want
to deal with this. Not now.

Kira seems troubled, but not surprised.

KIRA

Everything's going to be okay,
Kas.

YEVIR

I don't see how you can say that.
All moral issues aside, a crisis
has been deliberately unleashed -
(re Ro)
- all because an admitted opponent
of the Vedek Assembly was given
access to sensitive materials. She
used her position to promote her
intolerance, with no thought of
how it would affect anyone else.

RO

Colonel, I absolutely did not.
Vedek Yevir is... mistaken.

YEVIR

The word of a non-believer. That
certainly holds with a lie.

RO

Please don't call me a liar.

YEVIR

I just don't understand why you
won't admit to it, child. You're
the only one with reason.

71 INT. DS9 CARGO BAY

Kitana'klan pulls his collar, revealing the old cartridge.
Bashir steps closer, preparing the new one. When Bashir is
distracted for a split-second, Kitana'klan drops, KICKING
Bashir's legs out from under him, plus the nearer guard.

The guard by the door desperately FIRES his phaser, but it
goes wide. Lightning-fast, Kitana'klan grabs the spare
white cartridges and THROWS them like darts, hitting the
guard in the temple and putting him down and out.

Finally, Kitana'klan reaches down and GRABS Bashir in the usual Jem'Hadar chest grab. Bashir tries to push back, but Kitana'klan PUNCHES him hard in the head.

72 **INT. DS9 SECURITY OFFICE**

Where we were, with Ro, Kira, Yevir and Kasidy arguing.

YEVIR

(to Ro)

That treacherous book validated
your damaged beliefs, and you
couldn't stand to be alone any
more, could you? A non-believer
from a world that embraces
spirituality, how cold your life
must be -

RO

I did not do it!

KIRA

I did it! I uploaded Ohalu's book.

They are all stunned into silence.

73 **INT. DS9 CARGO BAY**

On the ground in a pool of blood, one eye bloodshot, Bashir rolls his head to the side and sees his medkit. He tries to reach for it but can't. As he watches, big black boots kick it away, heading out of the room. Bashir watches him go until he can no longer focus, and the room goes dark.

FADE OUT:

THE END