

STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE

"Convergence"

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Teleplay © by:

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STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE

"Convergence"

CAST

SISKO

GUL DUKAT

KIRA

ODO

BASHIR

DAX

O'BRIEN

QUARK

KERANA

WORF

JAKE

EDDINGTON

GARAK

HUDSON

KAI WINN

HERIDORN

CHANULA

BAJORAN MAQUI

Non-Speaking

N.D. SUPERNUMERARIES

Non-Speaking

DEEP SPACE NINE: "Convergence" - 1/29/96 - SETS

STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE

"Convergence"

SETS

INTERIORS

DEEP SPACE NINE  
REPLIMAT

GARAK'S TAILOR SHOP  
OPS

DEFIANT  
BRIDGE  
TRANSPORTER ROOM  
MESS HALL

MINISTER'S BUILDING  
CONFERENCE ROOM

BAJORIAN MAIN TEMPLE

CHANULA'S COTTAGE

EXTERIORS

DEEP SPACE NINE  
BAJOR CAPITOL CITY

DEFIANT  
TEMPLE GARDENS  
MINISTRY BUILDING  
CHANULA'S COTTAGE

STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE

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PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

ANTHWARA	an-THWAR-uh
BAJORAN	bah-JOR-an
CARDASSIA	car-DASS-ee-uh
CARDASSIAN	car-DASS-ee-en
CHANULA	chuh-NOOL-ah
DRUSIK	DROO-sick
KERANA	kuh-RAH-nuh
NECHAYEV	nuh-CHEE-uhv
QUINDOS HERIDORN	QUIN-dohs HAIR-uh-dorn
RAKTAJINO	rock-ta-GEE-no
SHAKAAR	shuh-KAR
TAL SHIAR	TAL shee-AR
TEROK NOR	TAIR-awk nor
TORA NUPRIN	TOR-uh NEW-prin
TORA ZIYAL	TOR-uh ZEE-al

STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE

## "Convergence"

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. BAJOR CAPITOL CITY. MATTE (OPTICAL) 1

It is morning on BAJOR. The weather is warm and pleasant. KIRA is heard over the panning shot.

KIRA (V.O.)

Personal Log Stardate 50136.7.  
Since the Cardassian occupation ended, the Bajoran people have prospered beyond my expectations, but it's been a struggle all the way.

(Pause) We are trying to join the Federation, and to improve our chances, the Provisional Government has decided to host a Conference for Religious Understanding.

2 EXT. CHAMBER OF MINISTERS GARDENS 2

Large receiving area for the conference. Many N.D. RELIGIOUS LEADERS of the Federation races wander about the gardens. Some are just arriving with porters. Others are in groups debating and/or arguing with each other. There are Federation and Bajoran N.D. SECURITY FORCES walking about. CMD. EDDINGTON is giving orders and directing traffic.

KIRA (V.O.)

(continuing)

But trying to organize this thing has been like going into a firefight with a broken phaser.

(beat) The extra security measures we've had to take because of the Dominion threat have made everyone nervous. And with the Klingons just a few sectors away...

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED: 2

KIRA (V.O.) (Cont'd)  
 ...Well, the timing of this  
 leaves a lot to be desired.

3 EXT. CHAMBER OF MINISTERS GARDENS, NEW ANGLE 3

On KIRA. She looks FLUSTERED and seems to be handling ten things at once, all of them annoying. She pauses and looks around thoughtfully.

KIRA (V.O.)  
 (continuing)  
 Kai Winn and First Minister  
 Shakaar both asked me to take  
 this assignment. With Gul Dukat  
 leading the Cardassian  
 delegation, they wanted the  
 benefit of my special insight on  
 his motivations.

An URGENT Eddington hurries to Kira. He POINTS toward the CAMERA. Both look at each other and RUSH forward.

KIRA (V.O.)  
 (continuing)  
 With Shakaar away negotiating a  
 farming dispute, I agreed mostly  
 because I wanted to keep an eye  
 on our beloved Kai....

4 EXT. NEW ANGLE. 4

KAI WINN and an ANDORIAN priest, DRUSIK, are facing each other in a heated DEBATE. Eddington and Kira are seen coming towards them. We come in the middle of...

WINN  
 Your information on our  
 spirituality seems to be narrow  
 and misguided...

DRUSIK  
 (talking over her)  
 That's an absurd notion, my dear  
 Kai. Your whole religious dogma  
 is based in a history of  
 ignorance starting with the  
 discovery of the probes you ...

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED: 4

WINN

The Orbs are the gifts of the  
Prophets ....

DRUSIK

(condescendingly)  
These Prophets are nothing more  
than non-temporal aliens who  
....

Winn looks like she's ready to kill him.

WINN

Do not... (beat)  
(hissing) presume to speak  
blasphemy in my presence ....

Kira bursts in between them.

KIRA

Your Reverences, please.  
(pauses with a strained smile)  
Can we postpone the debate for  
tomorrow's open forum? Let's  
not get ahead of ourselves.

Kai Winn and Drusik compose themselves, suddenly  
noticing the CROWD that has gathered around them.  
Winn takes a deep breath and smiles sweetly.

WINN

Of course, Major.

Other FIGURES are seen coming into the background,  
unnoticed by the rest. They are CARDASSIANS.

DRUSIK

Indeed. Forgive my outburst.  
(to Winn)  
It appears that we have a great  
deal to discuss.

Kira relaxes as the two bow to each other, but tenses  
at the sound of GUL DUKAT'S voice.

GUL DUKAT

Please do forgive the rather odd  
timing ...

Off Kira's reaction ....

CUT TO:

5 NEW ANGLE focuses on the Cardassian ENTOURAGE. 5

On GUL DUKAT, who is blocking full view of his group.

GUL DUKAT

(continuing)

... but my party and I are  
rather anxious to greet you.

Dukat steps aside, gesturing to the nine Cardassians behind him. Two females lead seven others in a formal procession. Their attire is simple and modest.

The seven bearers carry BOXES draped with cloth. The LEADER of the group moves forward in response to Dukat's prompting.

GUL DUKAT

(voice dripping with  
mendacity)

May I present Quindos Heridorn,  
First Matron of Cardassia. Our  
Spiritual leader, recently come  
out of exile.

HERIDORN glances at Dukat in momentary IRRITATION, then ADDRESSES the crowd, but specifically Kai Winn and Kira.

HERIDORN

Bajor, I greet you with a voice  
that has been silenced for five  
generations. In the name of a  
free Cardassia, we return to you  
that which was wrongfully  
stolen.

She gives a sweeping GESTURE and the seven bearers come forward. They uncover and open their boxes, revealing the seven ORBS OF THE PROPHETS the Cardassians took from Bajor.

HERIDORN

We return to you your heart.

ON Kira and Winn standing in STUNNED AWE as the ORBS' glow fills the garden with their LIGHT.

CLOSE ON KIRA.

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

(NOTE: Episode credits fall over opening scenes.)

6 EXT. SPACE - DEEP SPACE NINE. (OPTICAL) STOCK 6

Establishing shot.

SISKO's voice over opening shot.

SISKO (V.O.)

Station Log, supplemental. For the first time since I set foot on this station, I'm pleased to report that nothing is going on.

7 INT. PROMENADE. REPLIMAT. 7

ODO and GARAK are finishing breakfast. The station is unusually QUIET. Only a handful of N.D. CUSTOMERS are in the replimat.

GARAK

That had to be the most ... interesting repast I have ever taken.

ODO

Experimentation is a gamble.

GARAK

(nods)

Dr. Bashir suggested I sample more of Earth's cuisine. My interest in human culture must be better tempered in the future not to include these ... pancakes.

Garak GRIMACES and pushes his plate away.

ODO

The good doctor's tastes are rather dubious at times.

Garak stares at Odo for a beat.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED:

7

GARAK

Constable, if I may venture, you don't seem your usual ... chipper self today.

Odo nods, looking RESTLESS.

ODO

It's too quiet.

GARAK

Yes. With most of the Bajorans attending the Conference, local commerce has noticeably diminished. My shop has no need of tending...(sighs)...besides a cleaning of the wool bins.

Odo leans in, stressing the point.

ODO

...and Quark is off-station, too...  
...leaving Rom and Morn to watch the bar. I can't count on them to do anything interesting.

GARAK

Then you can relax for a change. Enjoy the quiet.

ODO

I'm not sure if I know how to do that.

GARAK

What about your habit of keeping an eye on off-station matters?

ODO

(harumphs)  
The Cardassians haven't been much of a threat since their civilians took over. (beat) The Klingons are predictable and hold no surprises for me. (beat)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED:

7

ODO (Cont'd)

Both the Tal Shiar and Obsidian Order are gone, and even the Dominion has been quiet ... well, there hasn't been anyone to observe "off-station".

Garak leans forward slightly, lowering his voice.

GARAK

You have heard of the 'True Way'? The Cardassians who've resisted the new civilian government?

Odo grunts, rolling his eyes.

ODO

Except for bombing one of our Runabouts last year, they've been quiet, too ....

He squints at Garak.

ODO

(continuing)

Why? Have you heard something?

GARAK

Far be it for me to spread rumors about the more ... fanatical idealists of my people. But I have heard that our newly appointed leaders are very nervous about them.

ODO

My sources don't think they're a threat to anyone outside Cardassian space.

Garak takes on a more SERIOUS tone.

GARAK

I believe that some of my former colleagues in the Obsidian Order may be supporting, if not leading, the True Way. (Beat)

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED:

7

GARAK (Cont'd)

We Cardassians are a patient race and those of the Order even more so. They like to lull their enemies into a false sense of security.

Odo squints at Garak suspiciously.

ODO

Are you trying to tell me anything, Garak? Or are you just fond of the sound of your own voice?

GARAK

A little of both. (beat)

Garak stands and gestures GRANDLY.

GARAK

(continuing)

But, as you say. It's too quiet.

Garak smiles and bows.

GARAK

(continuing)

Good day, Constable. The joys of my cloth bins await. But ... I believe a stroll about the Promenade is in order to help reduce the effects of my ... breakfast.

ODO

(reserved)

May I join you?

GARAK

Honored, sir.

Odo stands. CAMERA follows them off and pans up and behind as they walk off. Panning up to the CATWALK, the back of a lone FIGURE is seen looking down on the pair as they walk on.

CUT TO:

8 EXT. BAJOR CAPITOL CITY. MIDDAY. MATTE SHOT. (Optical)  
8

9 INT. MINISTER'S BUILDING. CONFERENCE ROOM. 9

Kira, Winn and Heridorn are seated at the head of the table. Dukat is pacing back and forth looking IMPATIENT.

WINN

The gift you bring heralds a new relationship between our peoples. (beat) But you ask too much of us. Even during the occupation, Cardassians never partook in the sacred rites of the Prophets.

GUL DUKAT

Yes. They were deemed unimportant and were discouraged among the populace, but...

KIRA

(interrupting)  
You call concentration camps discouragement?

He glares at her, but ignores the comment.

GUL DUKAT

... but now. Should not those returning your sacred Orbs be honored? Or at least recognized?

WINN

I recognize a great deal of presumption on your part.  
(beat)

Heridorn STUDIES Winn closely.  
Winn STANDS and moves opposite the table from Dukat.

WINN

(continuing)  
I admit that I never thought I would live to see the day when Cardassia and Bajor would be working as allies, but that day is near. (beat)

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED:

9

WINN (Cont'd)

(angrily)

But I cannot allow Cardassian involvement in our most sacred of rituals. It is out of the question.

GUL DUKAT

(to Heridorn)

I told you this would be futile.

Heridorn has been staring at Kira during this exchange.

HERIDORN

Yes. I can see that we are at an impasse.

KIRA

Perhaps a recess will give us the time to consider your request.

GUL DUKAT

It is not a request.  
(insistently to Winn)

We must be included in your ceremony.

WINN

Never. (Beat) Why should we? Your very touch has defiled the Orbs! How can you ....

Dukat moves FORWARD as if to start a face-to-face shouting match with Winn. Heridorn quickly STANDS and motions him to stop. Surprisingly, he BACKS DOWN.

Kira notices the interchange with SURPRISE. Obviously, Dukat recognizes Heridorn as his superior. The Matron is still focusing on Kira.

HERIDORN

Dukat. Let's take the Major's advice and retire for a while. The ceremony is not until tomorrow.

(to Winn)

May we meet with you this evening after dinner to continue our discussion?

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED:

9

Winn is FUMING and barely controlling herself, but Heridorn's voice soothes her. Winn nods curtly and EXITS the room without a word. Heridorn bows to Kira and looks at Dukat with DISDAIN. She EXITS, flanked by N.D. BAJORAN GUARDS.

Kira TURNS to leave as Dukat moves to the WINDOW over looking the BAJORAN SKYLINE.

GUL DUKAT

Major? A moment, if you please.

Kira turns at the doorway. Dukat continues to talk with his back to her.

GUL DUKAT

When the military ruled Cardassia, it silenced our spiritual orders. So we would be spared the burden of religious beliefs.

He turns with a wry smile.

GUL DUKAT

(continuing)

All those intangible, uncontrollable ideals. They distract you from your job.

Kira looks at him with DISINTEREST.

GUL DUKAT

You don't want us in your ceremony. (beat)  
Do you think this is blasphemy?

KIRA

That is not my decision, or my concern.

GUL DUKAT

Ah, that's where you're wrong. There is more to our "request" than you think. It is not a matter of pride, but of destiny. Like it or not, our people's futures are linked.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED:

9

Kira moves in closer.

KIRA

I don't like this. (beat)  
I spent my whole life fighting  
you, and now it's my "destiny"  
to be your ally? (beat)  
Your motives are always suspect.

GUL DUKAT

(smiling)  
Thank you.

Dukat turns back to the VIEW.

Kira moves to the opposite side of the window.

10 NEW ANGLE. SKYLINE IN FRONT

10

Kira peers out across the skyline.  
She changes the subject.

KIRA

How is Ziyal? How is your  
family adjusting?

Dukat SQUIRMS, not wanting to discuss his half-breed  
daughter.

GUL DUKAT

As best we can. (beat)  
(again changing the subject)  
When I commanded your DS9 as  
Terok Nor, and Tora Nuprin was  
with me, she spoke of the beauty  
of Bajor's cities.

Kira turns to study Dukat, knowing that he does not  
speak of his dead mistress easily.

GUL DUKAT

(continuing)  
I see them through her eyes now.

Dukat pauses and lowers his head. He comes to a  
decision.

GUL DUKAT

(continuing)  
Ziyal and my family ...

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED:

10

GUL DUKAT (Cont'd)  
 ...have a lot to learn about  
 changing years of hate into  
 understanding. But someone has  
 to start the process.

Kira nods, PERPLEXED.

11 EXT. SPACE - DEEP SPACE NINE. (OPTICAL) STOCK 11  
 12 INT. DS9. GARAK'S TAILOR SHOP 12

The lights are DIMMED. Garak returns alone and enters his shop. He moves to his counter and begins piddling. He seems to begin to talk to himself.

GARAK  
 I must look into a new lock for  
 my door. The present one is so  
 flexible. First Klingons ...  
 and now you.

The FIGURE comes out of the shadows behind Garak cautiously. He is a N.D. Male BAJORAN.

BAJORAN  
 The mechanism is good. Don't  
 give up on your locksmith just  
 yet.

Garak turns to face his guest. The Bajoran does not hide his appearance and is studying Garak.

GARAK  
 You seem rather anxious for a  
 tailor's services, friend.  
 Judging from your attire, you  
 could use a new wardrobe.

The Bajoran ignores the attempt at conversation. He speaks directly to the point.

BAJORAN  
 You are Elam Garak. Prominent  
 agent of the Obsidian Order,  
 protegee of Enabrin Tain and  
 now...exile.

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED: 12

BAJORAN (Cont'd)

You are a remarkably, and surprisingly, talented tailor. Your current alliances are dubious and undefined...even to the best of sources.

Garak nods, taken aback.

GARAK

My compliments. A very astute summary. (beat) I make it a personal, although unpleasant, task of knowing every Bajoran face on the station. Even those of frequent visitors. You are unknown to me but move about with an ease that defies my locks. (beat) So I have only one conclusion. (beat)

Garak smiles and faces the Bajoran.

GARAK

How may I, a mere tailor, serve the Maquis?

13 EXT. BAJOR CAPITAL CITY. LATE AFTERNOON. (Optical) 13

14  
INT. MINISTER'S BUILDING. CONFERENCE ROOM. 14

Dukat, Heridorn, Winn and Kira have resumed their discussions. Dukat is sitting apart from the group. He is FIDGETING and looks very uncomfortable. Winn has regained a calm demeanor.

WINN

My position is unchanged on this matter, but I have agreed to hear you out. The question remains. (beat) Why should you be allowed to attend our most sacred of ceremonies?

Heridorn leans in to speak to Kira and Winn.

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED: 14

HERIDORN

Dukat will not speak of it, but  
has agreed to let me be his  
voice...

(beat)

...Four years ago, when he left  
his command, he had one of your  
Orbs. Upon his return to  
Cardassia ...

She reaches into her robe and takes out a CARDASSIAN  
PADD.

HERIDORN

(continuing)

... he received a vision from  
your Prophets. His vision  
accurately forecast certain  
recent events.

She slides the PADD to Kira.

HERIDORN

(continuing)

This is a copy of his personal  
journal, detailing these events.  
They include the aggression of  
the Dominion, the Klingons  
and...

(to Winn)

...your election as Kai. (beat)  
The vision ends with all of us  
in the Temple, at the main  
altar, in a bright cascade of  
lights. (beat) We must be in  
attendance tomorrow.

OFF Winn and Kira.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

15 EXT. SPACE - DEEP SPACE NINE. (OPTICAL) STOCK 15  
 16 INT. OPERATIONS 16

Activity is rather SUBDUED. O'BRIEN and DAX are at their stations. Worf is going over readings on his console when the LIFT arrives carrying Garak, unannounced. Garak heads for Sisko's Office. O'Brien and Dax take little notice, but Worf JUMPS up and blocks his way.

Worf

What are you doing here?

Garak pauses. O'Brien and Dax share an amused look.

Garak

I'm here to see Captain Sisko.

Worf

Why?

Garak

I must have missed a staff meeting. I was under the impression that Odo was still in charge of Security...(smiling)  
 ...old habits do die hard.

Worf

(frowning)  
 You are not authorized for this area.

Garak

True, I have shown bad manners in not calling for an appointment. (beat) Obviously, you are all very busy.

Worf realizes he has overreacted as O'Brien and Dax smile. O'Brien intervenes.

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED:

16

O'BRIEN

(to com)  
Captain Sisko? Mr. Garak is here  
to see you.

SISKO (V.O.)

Send him in.

Garak ENTERS Sisko's Office, leaving Worf embarrassed.

17 INT. SISKO'S OFFICE

17

Sisko is looking out of his window. His desk is  
covered with diagrams and charts. He turns to Garak.

GARAK

Forgive my intrusion, Captain.  
I hope I am not distracting you  
from anything pressing?

Sisko returns his gaze to the window showing the  
STARSCAPE.

SISKO

Just working through some  
contingency plans in case the  
Dominion situation heats up ...  
Frankly, I'm considering asking  
the Wormhole aliens to close  
both entrances.

Sisko turns to Garak and gestures for him to sit.

GARAK

That's a rather drastic course  
of action. I'm surprised it  
took you this long to consider  
it.

SISKO

Starfleet won't endorse the  
idea. If I approach  
the...Prophets... it will be on  
my own.

GARAK

You are being very open with  
your thoughts, Captain.

Sisko sits and gives Garak a stare.

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED:

17

SISKO

Your call cannot be a social one. You want something. I'm simply starting the bidding in the information exchange. Your turn.

GARAK

An admirable approach. But today I am not acting merely for enlightened self-interest. I am a messenger. (beat) The irony of this situation will not be lost to you, I'm sure.

Garak leans into speak.

GARAK

(continuing)

This morning, I was given a message for you. Your presence is requested in the demilitarized zone...by the Maquis.

SISKO

The Maquis? How did you...?

GARAK

A rather resourceful gentleman visited my shop this morning.

Sisko STANDS to alert station security. Garak RAISES a hand in a stopping gesture.

GARAK

He's already off the station and has changed his mode of transport at least twice by now. Very resourceful, as I said...  
... At his request, I gave him time to depart before I came here.

SISKO

You helped a member of the Maquis get off my station?

GARAK

Given the nature of his request, I deemed it appropriate.

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED: 17

Sisko pauses as he begins to see the possible implications.

GARAK

(continuing)

The Maquis wish to meet with you  
to offer the terms for a  
complete cease fire.

OFF Sisko's reaction.

18 EXT. BAJOR CITY. MORNING. MATTE SHOT. (Optical) 18

19  
INT. MAIN TEMPLE OF THE PROPHETS 19

The Orbs are placed in the temple in an elaborate CEREMONY. Heridorn delivers a MOVING SPEECH about the return of the stolen Orbs. At the end of the ceremony, the doors to the Orb Cabinets are OPENED.

The beautiful LIGHT of the Orbs fill the temple, entrancing everyone. Winn has a GLEAM in her eye that is a mixture of joy and lust. On a solitary Kira, TEARS in her eyes. Off Dukat, who is watching her.

20 EXT. ENTRANCE TO TEMPLE GARDENS. 20

The N.D. VEDEKS and other BAJORANS are milling about. People show genuine gratitude to Heridorn and Dukat. In the background, N.D. BAJORANS are celebrating. Kai Winn exits the temple with Kira by her side. Heridorn moves to INTERCEPT them in mid-conversation.

WINN

(nodding)...this is a wondrous  
day and only begun. But yes,  
you are right, my child. What  
preparations are left for the  
conference banquet this evening?

KIRA

We need to inspect banquet hall,  
and you told me you wanted to  
approve the performances of the  
musicians tonight...

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED:

20

Winn notices Heridorn approaching. She cuts the conversation short, wanting to move on.

WINN

Yes. Contact me this afternoon when all is ready.

Heridorn MOVES IN.

HERIDORN

Forgive my intrusion, but I need to speak with both of you...

Winn and Kira stare at her uneasily.

HERIDORN

(continuing)

Your belief is not as necessary as is your trust and patience in accepting me here...

Winn FROWNS in distaste but does not interrupt.

HERIDORN

(continuing)

We were prisoners on Cardassia 4, just as many of your people were. ...Our military's position on religion has been plainly stated to you by Dukat. They had no need of us but dared not destroy us. So my order was kept locked away in a solitary mountain settlement for over 100 years.

...I have lived my whole life a captive of my own people. A prisoner just like any of your own people.

Kira seems moved by this knowledge but Winn remains stoic.

WINN

Well, it seems much has changed for both our people. Thank you for telling us.

Winn EXITS.

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED: 20

Heridorn flashes Kira a smile and a quick wink before PURSUING Winn. Kira smiles to herself realizing Winn is outmatched. She EXITS down a garden path.

21 EXT. TEMPLE GARDENS. SOLITARY PATH. 21

Kira walks slowly down the path. Sunshine warms her and her smile is reflective. She comes across the ROCK DAM she constructed during her time with Vedek Berial. Smiling, she works her way out to the middle to adjust a rock on the dam, making it fit better. She gives a satisfied nod.

On Kira as we hear Dukat speak.

GUL DUKAT

I always suspected that you had a practical side, Major.

Dukat is sitting on a tree limb behind her. Kira turns. Dukat was obviously here before she wandered by.

GUL DUKAT

(continuing)

Does your list of skills include gardening as well?

Kira looks around.

KIRA

Where is your escort, Dukat?

Dukat shrugs innocently.

GUL DUKAT

You mean the Bajoran guards? They must have gotten caught up in the festivities. I honestly did not even notice their absence.

Dukat climbs down.

GUL DUKAT(continued)

I must say, this is a wonderful spot, but if you'd rather be alone....

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED:

21

KIRA

I'll have to escort you back to your quarters. You know you're not supposed to be here.

Kira moves off the dam toward Dukat.

GUL DUKAT

Ah, yes. Sacred lands. Even during my time on Bajor, I never visited the gardens...  
...Nuprin spoke of them often. She was raised here during the occupation, having no surviving family.

He pauses, obviously uncomfortable.

KIRA

(hesitantly)  
Was she a Vedek?

GUL DUKAT

No. Though she grew up around them. I always believed her gentleness of spirit and passion for life came from her time here. (beat) Now, standing on the very grounds she walked, I am sure of it.

Kira pauses and chooses her next words with care.

KIRA

Dukat. I only read the parts of your journals the Matron gave us. How did you get an Orb? Why haven't you talked about it before?

GUL DUKAT

One does not speak of such revelations easily...  
...Face it, Major. If I had told you this six months ago, you would have written it off as another ploy of mine to manipulate you.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED:

21

Kira nods.

KIRA

But the Orb...

GUL DUKAT

Yes, I had one in my possession during my time on Terak Nor. Nuprin even used it in her religious practices when I was not around...

(beat, with a puzzled expression)

...The look on her face. Oh, she thought I didn't know, but my surveillance devices...

Dukat pauses, a little ashamed to admit he'd been spying on someone he loved.

GUL DUKAT

(continuing)

When I left the station, Nuprin was gone. Vanished. I took the Orb with me. It was all I had left of her.

Choking back emotion, Dukat moves along the path

GUL DUKAT

(continuing)

Soon after I returned to Cardassia, the military scientists ordered me to hand over the Orb. When I looked at it, all the anger and pain of losing my command, of losing Nuprin and Ziyal, came back to me. In that moment I hated the Orb, and when I reached for it, intending to destroy it ....

Dukat pauses again, not knowing how to continue.

KIRA

Your emotion activated it. The Prophets showed you the future. Your future...

(CONTINUED)

Kira fidgets.

KIRA

(continuing)

The very idea that a Cardassian could be worthy ... Dukat, this is unbelievable.

Dukat nods.

GUL DUKAT

I know. But nevertheless, it is true.

KIRA

...But what the Matron told us wasn't the whole story, was it?

GUL DUKAT

Heridorn says that my interpretation of the vision is clouded by my military training. (beat) The vision ended with all of us surrounded by a cascade of lights, as she said.

Dukat pauses and meets her gaze.

But we were not in the Temple. You and I were defending Kai Winn and the Matron... ..and we were fighting for our lives.

OFF Kira's reaction.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

22 EXT. SPACE. DEFIANT AT WARP. 22

SISKO (V.O.)

Captain's log, supplemental.  
The Defiant has nearly arrived  
at Dorvan 5 in the Demilitarized  
zone so I can make contact with  
the Maquis. Mr. Garak has  
graciously agreed to accompany  
us to serve as a diplomatic  
liaison.

23 INT. DEFIANT BRIDGE. 23

Sisko, Worf, O'Brien and Garak are on the bridge with  
N.D. OFFICERS manning all other posts. Worf is SCANNING  
readings on his CONSOLE.

WORF

Captain, we are within range of  
Dorvan 5.

SISKO

Standard Orbit, Mr Worf.  
Mr. Garak, what can we expect  
from the Cardassians?

GARAK

My communication with Gul Evek  
was rather short and unpleasant.  
But he has assured me that the  
local authorities won't  
interfere with our mission. The  
humans here get along very well  
with their Cardassian neighbors.

SISKO

The resettled Native Americans?  
Mr. Worf, wasn't the Enterprise  
here during the finalization of  
the treaty three years ago?

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED:

23

WORF

Yes, Captain Picard was very reluctant to force the evacuation of the settlement. The incident nearly caused a war.

SISKO

Wasn't their leader named Anthwara?  
(to Garak)  
Is that who I'm supposed to meet?

GARAK

Ah, he is on Bajor at the conference. You are to go, alone, to the southern edge of the settlement and talk to a woman named Chanula.

O'BRIEN

We should give you a homing beacon, just in case. This could be a trick to kidnap a high-ranking officer as a hostage.

SISKO

If it were anyone else, I would share your concern, Chief. But from what I know of the Native American people, they wouldn't deceive us like that.

WORF

Indeed. Their sense of honor and respect is deeper than any I have ever seen. Treachery is not their way, despite all they have endured.

Sisko moves EXIT the Bridge.

SISKO

I'll keep my communicator open as long as possible, so you can monitor my progress.

CUT TO:

24 EXT. PAINTED DESERT LANDSCAPE. ALIEN BUT FAMILIAR. 24

Sisko walks toward a LONE COTTAGE nestled in the rock face. The dwelling is rustic but comfortable.

An OLDER WOMAN sits on a rocking chair, apparently NAPPING. Sisko approaches quietly, looking around as if expecting a trap. He reacts in surprise when she speaks.

CHANULA

Shame on you, Benjamin. Please.  
Relax. You are quite safe.

Chanula opens her eyes and smiles at him. She pats the seat beside her. She studies him as he sits down. A platter of OYSTERS AND SAUCE sits on the table between them.

SISKO

I'm sorry if I seem edgy, but  
the last time I met with the  
Maquis, it ended badly.

He looks at the platter.

SISKO

(continuing)  
Are those for me?

CHANULA

Your favorite. Please, enjoy  
them and pour yourself an iced  
Raktajino from the pitcher.

Sisko indulges himself and is taken with the woman's charm.

SISKO

You seem to know an awful lot  
about me. Is this some sort of  
demonstration of the Maquis  
intelligence network?

CHANULA

No. It's because you are the  
Emissary. (beat)

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED:

24

CHANULA (Cont'd)

The winds of change are filling  
your sails. Be assured that you  
are here for a reason.

She takes a sip of her tea.

SISKO

And that is?

CHANULA

The Maquis are here. They want  
transportation for their leaders  
to Bajor to meet with you and  
the Cardassians to stop the  
fighting.

SISKO

But why contact me? Why this  
elaborate runaround?

CHANULA

You've been in the conflict  
yourself. And you have personal  
connections to the Maquis. As  
do I...  
...Many of my people have left  
to fight the Cardassians. I  
have lost friends and family.  
(beat)  
The path is set for you  
Benjamin, do not stray from  
it...  
...Go with trust in your heart.

Sisko takes the oysters and ENTERS the cabin. Chanula  
starts humming softly to herself.

25 INT. CHANULA'S CABIN.

25

Sisko cautiously steps into the DIMLY-LIT room. Native  
American trappings hang on the wall. A FIGURE is  
seated in the shadows in the back of the room. Sisko  
sets the oysters on the central table, then notices the  
figure.

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED:

25

SISKO

Ok. I'm here.

The figure motions for Sisko to sit.

SISKO

Your message seemed urgent.

(beat) Can you at least talk to  
me?

The figure stands and steps into the light. We hear  
the voice of CAL HUDSON.

HUDSON

You've lost weight, Ben. Too  
much work and not enough fun?

HUDSON smiles, his face showing the SCARS of many  
battles.

OFF Sisko.

FADE OUT.

END ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

26 INT. CHANULA'S CABIN.

26

Sisko and Cal stand for a moment staring at each other. Sisko speaks slowly, in disbelief.

SISKO

Cal...

HUDSON

You seem disappointed, Ben. But who else knows oysters are your favorite snack?

Sisko is GUARDED; he doesn't yet know how to react to his old friend's presence.

SISKO

No. Not surprised. But its been so long that I couldn't even think that you might still be alive. It's good to know that I was wrong.

Hudson reads the emotional wall as anger and indifference. He gets right to the point.

HUDSON

It's good to see you too, Ben.  
(beat) All right then. What you were told is true. The Maquis are offering a complete end to all hostilities. (beat) Are you aware that with the fall of the military government, all Cardassian activity in the Demilitarized Zone has ceased?...  
We have no one to fight anymore.

SISKO

I have heard reports of co-operation between Cardassian and Federation colonists...especially here.

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED:

26

HUDSON

The Native Americans have set an excellent example for the other colonies in the Demilitarized Zone. They've gone out of their way to help the other settlements and negotiate disputes...  
...Anthwara's people have become teachers to the Cardassians...  
...and to us.

Hudson moves to the window and looks out to the front porch.

HUDSON

(continuing)  
You've met our host. She sure is something...  
...Her grandson was one of my best officers. Another Starfleet grad, like myself. He came back to defend his home when all this started. We lost him and his ship in the Badlands. Just about the time you lost one of yours.

Hudson move back to the table.

HUDSON

(continuing)  
She took it well. Almost serenely. Her spirituality helps her deal with death far better than I can.  
(beat) Too many good men and women have died out here. We may be renegades, but we're not fanatics. We know when to stop.

Sisko seats himself.

SISKO

I'm glad to hear that...  
...Cal. What exactly are you proposing?

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED:

26

HUDSON

The Cardassian civilian government has already made offers of peace and autonomy. In return, we've stopped all raids.

SISKO

Do you speak for all the Maquis? Will everyone agree to stand down and surrender their ships to the authorities?

HUDSON

Not all of us are willing to give up the fight. (beat) It has taken a lot of convincing to get them to this point.

Hudson looks worried.

HUDSON

(continuing)

And last month, we discovered that one of my commanders was a Changeling. (beat) We know what's happening out there, Ben.

SISKO

All right. Admiral Nechayev has given me her complete assurances that Starfleet will follow any deal I set...  
...With the Dominion threat, your skirmishes are the least of our worries.

HUDSON

The Dominion threatens us all...  
...But our real problem is the Klingons.  
(beat)  
With no one patrolling the Demilitarized Zone, they do as they please.

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED:

26

HUDSON (Cont'd)

The're moving aggressively into our territory, and have already driven us out of three systems.

He pauses, frowning in deep thought.

HUDSON

(continuing)

We can't hold them off by ourselves. We need to end the hostilities now.

CUT TO:

27 EXT. DEFIANT IN ORBIT.

27

28 INT. DEFIANT TRANSPORTER ROOM.

28

Worf is awaiting transport with a N.D. OFFICER at the transporter controls. There are two N.D. SECURITY OFFICERS flanking Worf. Sisko and Hudson BEAM IN.

SISKO

Calvin Hudson, this is my Strategic Operations Officer, Lt. Commander Worf. He will need to be briefed on any possible threat from Maquis hard-liners.

HUDSON

Commander. (pause)  
I'll tell you anything you need to know.

Seeing the Security guards, he gives Sisko a strained look.

HUDSON

(continuing)  
Are the guards really necessary?

WORF

You are Maquis. Did you expect any less?

(CONTINUED)

28 CONTINUED:

28

SISKO  
This isn't personal, Cal.

HUDSON  
Yeah. Guess I wasn't prepared  
for this...  
...Lead on, Mr. Worf. Time is  
precious.

Hudson EXITS with the Officers and Worf.

SISKO  
Sisko to Bridge.

O'BRIEN (V.O.)  
O'Brien here.

SISKO  
(to com)  
Set course for Bajor, Mr  
O'Brien. We're going to drop in  
with a surprise guest for the  
conference.

Sisko EXITS.

29 EXT. BAJOR CITY. EARLY EVENING.

29

30 INT. BANQUET HALL.

30

Final preparations for the opening banquet are being  
finished as Kira and Winn discuss last-minute details.  
Kira hands Winn a list.

KIRA  
Here's the roster of performers  
you requested...  
...we've put extra security in  
places where they won't be too  
obvious.

WINN  
Fine. Thank you, Major.

Winn looks distracted and confused.

KIRA  
Are you all right?

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED:

30

WINN

I'm ... just a little unsettled.

Winn pauses and looks at Kira.

WINN

(continuing)

Your reason for being here is even more apparent to me now, my child. I need you to remind me that the Cardassians were only recently our enemies.

KIRA

Why do you need me to remind you of that?

WINN

Matron Heridorn. She is a very...likable person. I actually enjoy my time with her...I find myself trusting her.

KIRA

...and she is a Cardassian.

WINN

Yes. I just never thought I would feel genuine trust...even friendship... for a Cardassian...especially one of their spiritual order.

Kira watches Winn closely, not trusting her motives at all. But she is not unsympathetic to the Kai's dilemma.

KIRA

...Do you see this as a test from the Prophets?

WINN

Being the spiritual nexus for our people, I am constantly being tested...

Winn looks at Kira thoughtfully. Her face grows a bit stern but her voice is soft and uncertain.

(CONTINUED)

WINN

(continuing)

You of all people know that.  
The Prophets use you to test  
and...  
...curtail me when I seem to...  
...stray from my path.

Winn looks over the rooms and smiles.

WINN

(continuing)

But for now and perhaps the  
future, we will be working  
together for the good of Bajor.

KIRA

If that is the will of the  
Prophets.

Winn smiles and EXITS, saying...

WINN

You best get dressed, my child.  
We have a busy night ahead of  
us.

Off Kira, who is making a face as she follows Winn.  
She passes a lone female WAITER and the CAMERA follows  
the waiter.  
Alone, she plants a small box under one of the buffet  
tables. The seam between the lid and box shows  
something glowing inside.

CUT TO:

31	EXT. DEFIANT AT WARP.	31
32	INT. DEFIANT MESS HALL	32

Sisko ENTERS. N.D. SECURITY GUARDS are posted outside  
the door. Sisko is SURPRISED to see Hudson sitting and  
talking with Garak.

GARAK

Ah, Captain. Please join us.  
Mr. Hudson and I were just  
talking about you.  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

32	CONTINUED:	32
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GARAK (Cont'd)

You really should catch him up  
on what you have been doing.  
My interpretations are rather  
...biased?

SISKO

Really? I hope you haven't been  
spinning any tall tales about  
me.

HUDSON

Actually, we've been talking  
about Jake. I'm glad to hear  
the boy's doing well. And tall  
... ..whew.

Sisko smiles at the mention of his son. But returns to  
business quickly, wondering what the two were really  
talking about.

SISKO

Mr. Garak, would you excuse us?  
Security will escort you to the  
bridge. Mr. Worf may need you  
as we cross the border.

GARAK

Of course. Although I doubt Gul  
Evek will have any desire to  
speak to me again. He is rather  
set in his ways, but a man of  
his word.

(beat)

Mr. Hudson, a pleasure.

Hudson tips his head in acknowledgement and Garak  
EXITS.

SISKO

Cal, you know you're running the  
risk of being tried for treason  
by coming back to Federation  
territory.

HUDSON

Right now, my concern is ending  
the killing. I knew the risks  
when I contacted you. And I  
know that our truce ends after  
the talks are finalized...

(CONTINUED)

HUDSON (Cont'd)  
...but we'll cross that bridge  
later, Ben.

SISKO  
I understand the sacrifice  
you're making...  
...Recently, I had to make a  
very difficult decision about my  
own loyalties.

HUDSON  
The attempted coup by Admiral  
Leyton? (beat) I heard about  
that.

Genuinely surprised, Sisko stares at Hudson.

HUDSON  
Ben, the Maquis may be a ragtag  
operation to Starfleet, but we  
still have friends there...  
...I know how much Leyton meant  
to you ... and I know how hard  
it was for you to turn him in.

SISKO  
Our ideals were the same, but  
how we handled them was not.  
Reminds me of someone else I  
know.

HUDSON  
(who doesn't realize Sisko  
was referring to him)  
How is your father? Still  
running the restaurant like the  
world depended on it?

SISKO  
He's taking care of himself,  
finally. The shrimp creole is  
still as wonderful as you  
remember.  
(Beat) But I was talking about  
you.

(CONTINUED)

Hudson LISTENS intently and with a hint of emotion.

SISKO

(continuing)

I told you I didn't understand how you could turn your back on Starfleet and become a renegade, that you were throwing your career away...

...But you did it, because you believed in what you were doing.

(beat) You were protecting your home. Leyton acted for the same reason. I might not agree with your actions, but I understand them better now.

Sisko steps toward Hudson.

SISKO

(continuing)

Cal, we've been friends for a long time. We've both lost so much...

(beat)

I've missed you and I'm glad you're alive.

Sisko and Hudson give each other a great big bear hug. They stand apart awkwardly.

SISKO

It's not going to be easy for you. I'll do what I can.

HUDSON

Nothing in the last few years has been easy. But, thanks. I'll need some friends after this is over.

The COMM BEEPS an incoming message.

WORF(V.O.)

Worf to Captain Sisko.

SISKO

(to com)

Sisko here.

(CONTINUED)

Captain, we have intercepted a  
coded message from the Maquis.  
It is for Mr. Hudson.

Sisko looks at Hudson, who looks suddenly very WORRIED.

HUDSON

I told my people not to contact  
me unless there was an  
emergency.

They both EXIT, followed by security.

33 INT. DEFIANT BRIDGE

33

Worf, O'Brien and N.D. officers are at their posts.  
Garak sits off to the side.

Sisko and Hudson ENTER and move to Worf's station.  
Hudson looks at the message and moves to work the  
controls.

Worf gives Sisko a LOOK. Sisko nods that it is all  
right. Hudson studies the CONSOLE for a moment. Fear  
clouds his face.

HUDSON

Ben, we need to get to Bajor  
right now. One of the Maquis is  
planning to assassinate all the  
members of the conference.

As Hudson's words sink in...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

34 EXT. BAJOR CAPITOL CITY. NIGHTTIME. 34

35 INT. BANQUET HALL 35

The FORMAL BANQUET is quite a success. Very festive and colorful. Performers from different cultures are ENTERTAINING the Federation guests.

Dukat moves through the crowd, talking with Drusik. Kai Winn is SITTING and CHATTING with Matron Heridorn; the rest of the guests NOTE this political development with interest.

Kira is in FORMAL DRESS and armed. Eddington approaches casually. Both maintain a nonchalant attitude while speaking.

KIRA

Commander. How's it going?

EDDINGTON

Nothing out of the ordinary. A few deals here, a bribe there. (beat) Working with Odo has taught me a thing or two about observation.

KIRA

He's a good teacher.

EDDINGTON

We're having trouble receiving outside communications.

Kira looks slightly concerned.

EDDINGTON

(continuing)  
The problem's sporadic ... it looks like interference from broad-band personal listening devices.

Eddington smiles at Kira.

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED:

35

EDDINGTON

(continuing)

Religious or not, this is still about politics. And it wouldn't be politics if there wasn't some spying going on.

Eddington walks away. Dukat excuses himself from Drusik and APPROACHES Kira. She waits for him.

GUL DUKAT

Major, may I say that you look...  
...Extraordinarily out of character in that outfit.

KIRA

Thanks.

Kira tugs at her collar uncomfortably.

KIRA

(continuing)

I'll be glad when this is over.

Kira glances at Winn with a look of disdain. Dukat notices.

GUL DUKAT

We seem to share a dislike for our spiritual leaders. Although, I think, for different reasons.

Kira catches herself and looks at Dukat.

KIRA

The Kai and I have had our differences.

GUL DUKAT

You blame her for the good Vedek Berial's death.

(pauses and smiles at her startled expression)

Oh, don't look so surprised, Major. We stay well-informed on matters here... (pause)

...Berial was a good man. I met him during the initial talks with our government. I liked him.

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED:

35

KIRA

I didn't know you knew him.

GUL DUKAT

Oh, it was a brief meeting, but I was taken with his serenity. Much of the peace of spirit I saw in Nuprin, I saw in him as well.

KIRA

Seems we've both lost something sacred in our lives....

A waiter passes close. Dukat stops him and takes two drinks from the tray. He hands one to Kira.

GUL DUKAT

I'm not asking for your forgiveness or understanding,...  
...but would you join me in a toast to their memory?

Kira considers for a second, then nods. Dukat RAISES his glass.

GUL DUKAT

To absent friends.

KIRA

Absent friends.

They CLINK glasses and drink. They move off, passing the same female Waiter seen earlier. CAMERA follows her carrying a tray out a side door. She quickly EXITS outside.

35 EXT. BANQUET HALL. OUTSIDE GARDENS. 35

The waiter puts the tray down and glances around to make sure no one is watching her.

She pulls a small CONTROL DEVICE out of her apron, POINTS it down the hall and PRESSES a button.

CUT TO:

36 INT. BANQUET HALL. UNDER THE BUFFET TABLE. 36

The small box's lid POPS open and three glowing SNAKE-LIKE CREATURES emerge.

As they slither out of the darkness under the table, they rapidly GROW larger, feeding off light energy.

37 INT. BANQUET HALL.

The three snakes float a few inches off the floor and cruise out in different directions, sniffing the air.

One finds Drusik and latches onto his ankle. He screams in pain and beats at the yard-long creature, to no avail. The crowd PANICS and everyone RUSHES for the exits.

Eddington SHOUTS for security and RUNS to Drusik's aid, phaser drawn. He FIRES and hits the creature. It lets go long enough for Drusik to get away, but the snake doesn't seem to have been really injured by the phaser strike. The three snakes fly higher into the air, DIVING in and out of the frightened crowd, leaving glowing trails behind them in the air.

More security guards ENTER and start FIRING at the snakes. The phaser fire seems to cause the snakes pain but doesn't truly injure them; if anything, it seems to speed their growth and make them more violent.

Dukat and Kira are near the head table with Winn and Heridorn. The snakes catch the scent of the Cardassians and let out a SCREECH. All three HURTLE through the

air at Dukat and Heridorn. Kira and Dukat FIRE at the creatures while Winn GRABS Heridorn and DUCKS for cover.

38. EXT. BANQUET HALL. OUTSIDE GARDENS. 38

Hearing the screams, the waiter smiles grimly. She turns and runs up the garden path towards the exit. She passes a tree. Hudson JUMPS out and FLATTENS her. She DROPS her CONTROL and her phaser CLATTERS free.

Hudson, Sisko, Worf, O'Brien and Garak come into view, followed by N.D. Security.

(CONTINUED)

38 CONTINUED: 38

SISKO  
(pointing at the Hall)  
Mr. Worf!

Worf and all but one of the guards RUN ahead to the Banquet Hall.  
Garak moves to the CONTROL. He picks it up and looks SURPRISED ... and then looks over at the woman with fear in his eyes.  
Sisko kneels beside the woman. She OPENS her eyes as he shakes her shoulder. Hudson leans down.

HUDSON  
Kerana? Wake up.

GARAK  
(shouting)  
Get away from her!

She regains her focus and SNARLS at Sisko. She HITS him hard, throwing him aside. She is up fast and KICKS the N.D. guard hard. Hudson moves in, phaser drawn.

HUDSON  
Kerana, stop! It's over!

She clearly does not recognize him and she SWEARS at him in Cardassian. Garak moves in, her phaser in his hand. She is surprised, and PLEASED, to see him. She is equally surprised when he DECKS her. She falls unconscious. Sisko and the guard are slow to get up. Garak RUNS toward the hall, ADJUSTING his phaser and shouting back at Hudson as he moves...

GARAK

HURRY!

Leaving Sisko and the guard behind, Hudson runs after Garak.

39 INT. BANQUET HALL.

39

Garak and Hudson enter the CHAOS of the banquet hall. Phaser hits have increased the size of the creatures to ten feet. All three are attacking Kira, Dukat, Winn and Heridorn. Worf and his team have flanked the creatures, but their attacks are having less and less effect.

CUT TO:

40 CLOSE ON GARAK 40

Garak FIRES a broad beam of green energy at one of the snakes. It WRITHES in agony and begins to falter.

GARAK  
(yelling to Hudson)  
Set your phaser to a sonic  
frequency of 44 megahertz and  
combine it with a full plasma  
burst!

41 INT. BANQUET HALL. 41

Garak's snake shrinks and falls to the floor. The other two turn and CHARGE him.

Hudson finishes re-setting his phaser and both men FIRE at the snakes. Caught in the crossfire, both snakes DIE, falling at Garak and Hudson's feet. Kira and Dukat are staring at the two of them.

42 CLOSE ON GARAK AND HUDSON 42

The men look at each other and breathe a SIGH of relief.

CUT TO:

43 EXT. BAJOR CITY. LATE MORNING. 43

44 INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE FIRST MINISTER'S OFFICE 44

Kira and Garak are sitting and look as if they've been there a while. Kira is FIDGETING.

GARAK  
Major, you can return to your  
duties. They'll be in there  
with the First Minister for some  
time...  
...I'm sure the conference  
guests are in need of your  
services.

KIRA  
Hm. The Kai can do without me  
for a few hours. She has your  
Matron to keep her company...

(CONTINUED)

44 CONTINUED:

44

KIRA (Cont'd)

...I am not leaving until I know what's happening in there...

Kira gets UP and begins to pace back and forth. Garak watches her with mild amusement.

KIRA

I can't believe Shakaar shut me out of these discussions.

GARAK

I share your distaste. After all we've done, you'd think we would be shown some consideration.

KIRA

You were responsible for last night, Garak.

GARAK

Now, Major. You know that's not entirely true. But, my knowledge was useful, don't you agree?

(Beat)

I hope all the information that I gave your doctors will help the unfortunate girl ... where is she now?

KIRA

She's sedated and under guard until we can figure out how to undo what you've done.

Garak looks at her as she starts to pace with even more vigor. His amused look fades.

GARAK

I am hurt that you blame me for all the evils of the Obsidian Order.

KIRA

You're the only one left. That makes you an easy target.

(CONTINUED)

44 CONTINUED:

44

GARAK

Not true, Major. One of my  
colleagues has obviously joined  
the fanatics of the 'True Way'.

Kira looks at him with doubt.

GARAK

There is no other explanation.  
(beat)

The plan to use specially  
conditioned Rigellian Plasma  
Snakes to kill Cardassians was  
conceived by the Order for the  
more...

...troublesome leaders of the  
Central Command. Like Dukat.  
(beat)

But the plan was never used.

KIRA

I'm surprised to hear myself say  
this ...

...but I'm glad it wasn't.

GARAK

Yes, I must concur.  
(Beat)

But you have to admit the plan  
was brilliant. Only a trained  
agent of the Order could have  
access to the snakes and be able  
to combine it with our...  
...um, the Order's 'mole'  
program....

KIRA

(sighs) Yes, it was a pretty sly  
plan. Activating Kerana, who'd  
been brainwashed to want to kill  
the Bajoran leaders for  
Cardassia, while giving her the  
snakes, which were trained to  
kill Cardassians ...  
... ugh, whoever did this sure  
liked complicated situations.

(CONTINUED)

44 CONTINUED:

44

GARAK

Yes, we pride ourselves on being able to handle complexity.  
(prompting her:)  
And since Kerana was Bajoran and Maquis...?

KIRA

It would look like the Maquis did it. And with Dukat and Heridorn gone, it would give the True Way added political leverage to take over the civilian government.

GARAK

But my colleague in the True Way didn't count on me being here.  
(Beat)  
Despite what you may think of me, I hope that the process will prove reversible for Kerana. I honestly never approved of the project. Planting 'sleepers' seems so...  
...Dishonest.

KIRA

Dishonest?

GARAK

Yes. You know enough about me to know that I prefer a more direct approach with...  
...political matters. This style of operation often backfires.

KIRA

How many more 'sleepers' are in your 'program'? Can you provide names? Can we stop your 'colleague' from using them again?

(CONTINUED)

44 CONTINUED:

44

GARAK

To obtain that kind of information, I would need to go to Cardassia Prime. My knowledge of the Obsidian Order's projects are based in memory only.

(beat)

You would have to get permission from Gul Dukat before I could return there. I'm not sure you would be able to convince him.

KIRA

If it means the safety of the Bajoran people, I'll take you there myself...

...Besides, Dukat and I have come to a kind of understanding about certain issues.

GARAK

That's surprising to hear.

(Pause)

You trust him? Dukat?

(Begins laughing)

Oh my. A Bajoran showing trust to a Cardassian. I believe now I have seen everything.

KIRA

I suppose I do trust Dukat.

(mostly to herself:)

...Even more than I trust some of my own people.

45 INT. NEW ANGLE. DOORS TO FIRST MINISTER'S OFFICE.

45

The doors open and Sisko, Dukat and Hudson EXIT, followed by N.D. BAJORAN Guards. Kira and Garak move to meet them.

KIRA

Well, what's happened?

Sisko looks very tired. He glances at Hudson and Dukat.

He closes his eyes and sighs in resignation.

(CONTINUED)

45 CONTINUED:

45

SISKO

The plan still needs work, but we've hammered out an initial agreement for an immediate cease fire. We also have the beginnings of a mutual defense pact between Bajor and Cardassia.

Sisko looks at Hudson and Dukat.

SISKO

(continuing)

This is completely a non-Federation matter. But in agreement with all three governments, I am acting as mediator.

Sisko LOOKS directly at Hudson, with a look of mixed relief and anger.

SISKO

Mr. Hudson, representing the Maquis, has been granted sanctuary on Bajor for the duration of the talks...  
...And after they are concluded.

Dukat moves forward to make a point.

GUL DUKAT

And with the end of the Maquis aggressions in our territory, I thought it best to present the idea of both our governments working more closely together.

Kira and Garak both look at each other, then at Dukat.

GARAK

Does the civilian government approve of this course of action?

Dukat looks at Garak.

GUL DUKAT

They fully endorse the idea except for some minor provisions, which are under...

(CONTINUED)

45 CONTINUED: 45

He looks at Sisko.

GUL DUKAT  
(continuing)  
...negotiation. But those do  
not concern you...tailor.

Garak gives him a wry smile.

GARAK  
Things change, my dear Dukat...  
...And sometimes, change is your  
friend.

Garak gives Kira a pointed look. Knowing that she wants to talk to Dukat, he excuses himself with a bow.

Kira and Dukat walk off to one side, leaving Hudson and Sisko alone.

46 CLOSE ON HUDSON AND SSKO 46

HUDSON  
Thanks, Ben. This couldn't have  
come together without you.  
Shakaar is a hard man...  
...But he does understand what  
it means to be hunted and  
outnumbered.

SISKO  
I'm surprised he negotiated so  
openly with Dukat.  
(beat)  
They were bitter enemies for a  
long time.  
(pauses and shrugs  
bemusedly)  
Looks like they've come to  
admire each other.

47 NEW ANGLE 47

Hudson begins walking along the passage. Outside, the celebrations of the Bajorans in the Conference can be heard.

(CONTINUED)

47 CONTINUED:

47

HUDSON

Ben.

Hudson is searching for the right words.

HUDSON

(continuing)

Many of my people are Bajoran.  
Over the years I've learned a  
great deal about their  
spirituality.

Hudson pauses, seeing Sisko is uncomfortable.

HUDSON

(continuing)

You're very important to them.  
Personally, I don't put much  
stock religious dogma...but they  
do. And they almost make me  
believe.

Sisko stops and looks at Hudson.

SISKO

I don't really like being seen  
as their 'Emissary'. But I know  
that I care about these  
people... ..And Bajor has  
become...  
...Home...  
for me.

Sisko smiles.

SISKO

Jake's getting ready to take off  
to New Zealand and he wants to  
make sure that his old man is  
going to be all right without  
him. He's even....

His smile grows even wider as he looks at Hudson.

SISKO

Ah, you don't know about Kasidy.  
(pause)  
Cal, when was the last time you  
went to a baseball game?

Off Hudson's bewildered expression.

(CONTINUED)

48. INT. HALLWAY IN MINISTER'S BUILDING

48

Dukat and Kira walk alone in silence.  
The FESTIVITIES outside are very lively and MUSIC can  
be heard in the background.

Kira looks at Dukat, making conversation.

KIRA

Do you want to be escorted back  
to the celebration?

GUL DUKAT

No. Thank you. I would rather  
rest. (beat)  
It's been a long morning. And  
I'm sure that the Matron will  
survive without my presence.

KIRA

So...  
Your...  
(pause)  
vision...  
...came true after all.

GUL DUKAT

You sound surprised.

KIRA

Actually, it's strangely  
reaffirming. The Prophets  
brought you here for a reason.  
You have helped to strengthen  
Bajor.  
(pause)  
...and Cardassia.

GUL DUKAT

Yes. Strange, that.

49 NEW ANGLE. BAJORAN CAPITOL CITY FROM WINDOW. (OPTICAL)  
49

Dukat pauses in deep thought, staring out over the  
BAJORAN SKYLINE.

(CONTINUED)

49 CONTINUED:

49

GUL DUKAT

Every time a part of the vision  
concludes, the more my heart is  
opened.

(pausing)

But, I fear for the future....

Kira is about to question him further when her COMM  
BADGE BEEPS.

EDDINGTON (V.O.)

Major, you better get down here.

KIRA

(sighing)

Winn?

EDDINGTON

Not exactly.

The Andorian delegation is ready  
to declare holy war on the  
Tholians.

Dukat smiles.

GUL DUKAT

Don't worry about me, Major, I  
can find my way back to my  
chambers.

Kira HURRIES off. Two N.D. Bajoran guards come into  
view to escort Dukat.

He turns away from them, to look over the CITY.

GUL DUKAT (to himself)

We are all going to have plenty  
to worry about soon.

Dukat looks over the Bajoran skyline again.

50 CLOSE ON DUKAT

50

Dukat's eye sheds a TEAR.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FIVE

THE END