

ANOTHER ALTERNATIVE

Written by

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Based on the television series  
Star Trek: Deep Space Nine  
by Rick Berman & Michael Piller

And the television series  
Star Trek  
by Gene Roddenberry

A sequel to the episode  
"The Alternative Factor"  
Written by Don Ingalls

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**TEASER**

FADE IN:

1

**INT. UNKNOWN ROOM**

1

CLOSEUP on O'BRIEN'S face. O'Brien is lying down on a bed, head on pillow, looking up to someone as he talks.

O'BRIEN  
(embarrassed)  
Nothing like this has ever happened  
before. The O'Brien family line  
has a long history of virility...  
masculinity.

O'Brien lifts his head from the pillow as if starting to sit up. The CAMERA SLOWLY begins to PULL BACK to reveal BASHIR'S face, looking down at O'Brien with a quirky smile. The FRAMING of the shot is suggestive that something more intimate is happening than in realty.

O'BRIEN (CONT'D)  
Frankly, it's a little  
embarrassing.

BASHIR  
(smiling, reassuring)  
Now, now, Chief, it's perfectly  
\*natural\*. Especially for a man  
your age. It happens to all of us,  
sooner or later.

Bashir reaches down to tenderly cup O'Brien's face with one hand, before suddenly becoming more forceful, pushing and guiding O'Brien's head back down to the pillow.

BASHIR (CONT'D)  
Now hold still. The \*doctor\* will  
make it all better.

Bashir bends down over Miles, blocking our view, until...

SMASH CUT TO:



BASHIR  
There's nothing \*wrong\* with  
growing bald. In fact, several  
exemplary Starfleet officers have  
been bald. Captain Picard...  
Captain Sisko...

O'BRIEN  
(interrupting)  
\*By choice!\*

Bashir leans in closer.

BASHIR  
(lowly, almost whispering)  
They even say Admiral Kirk was  
going bald before he was 35, and  
took Premilax for the rest of his  
life lest anyone find out.

O'Brien looks up, his face a mixture of surprise, hope, and  
skepticism.

O'BRIEN  
Is that true?

BASHIR  
(smiling knowingly)  
A doctor never reveals a patient's  
secrets.

O'Brien's expression turns sour.

O'BRIEN  
So what do I do?

Bashir taps something on the PADD and hands it to O'Brien.

BASHIR  
Take this supplement once daily  
with a meal. The replicator should  
be able to handle it without any  
trouble. It should prevent any  
further hair loss, at least for the  
short ter...

The room (and the entire station) ROCKS. The sound of  
rumbling fills the room, overlaid with the groaning of metal  
straining against metal. Another JOLT, and Bashir and  
O'Brien are thrown to the floor, the room spinning.

5        **INT. INFIRMARY (OPTICAL)**

5

As Bashir and O'Brien roll back and forth on the floor with each CRASH, the station around them appears to fade in and out, showing the blackness of space and the distant stars about them.

FADE OUT.

**END OF TEASER**



DAX  
 (looking at her console)  
 Well, that makes sense. During the anomaly all gravitational and magnetic fields simply... blinked.

SISKO  
 (puzzled)  
 Blinked?

Dax looks up from her console as the other three look at her. Her expression is very serious.

DAX  
 (serious)  
 It's as if, for a brief instant, we didn't even exist.

Sisko studies Dax's face for a moment before realizing she isn't joking. The group is silent for a moment as the words slowly sink in.

KIRA  
 (breaking the silence)  
 Captain, I'm reading a vessel coming in on an collision course, bearing two-seven-five mark zero-three-one... it wasn't there before.

8            **EXT. SPACE - DEEP SPACE NINE (OPTICAL)**            8

A small, saucer-shaped VESSEL with no visible engines rotates end over end, heading straight towards DS9.

9            **INT. OPS**            9

Kira taps on her console, trying to raise the ship, but without success.

KIRA  
 She appears to be drifting, Captain. No response to our hails.

SISKO  
 (turning to O'Brien)  
 Chief, can we get a visual?

O'BRIEN  
 Negative, sir. Primary visual is still down.

KIRA

The ship could have been damaged in the subspace anomaly. I'm getting reports in from the other ships on docking approach of similar disruptions to their systems. Luckily, no reported injuries.

DAX

My sensor readings of the ship's configuration don't match those of any known ship in the computer. It's not very big, though. Could be some sort of shuttlecraft or short-range interplanetary scout. I'm reading two... no, wait, make that *\*one\** life sign. Humanoid.

Dax's console chirps as it registers a new problem. She looks up at Sisko.

DAX (CONT'D)

Life signs are failing, Benjamin.

SISKO

(turning to O'Brien)  
Can we beam them aboard, Chief?

O'Brien taps at his console but to no avail.

O'BRIEN

I can't get a lock. There's some kind of residual subspace field inside the ship interfering with the transporter beam. Whatever it is, I'd say we've just found the source of our anomaly.

KIRA

Well, we had better do something soon or that ship is going to be crashing into upper pylon three in about five minutes.

SISKO

(turning to Kira)  
Tractor beam?

KIRA

(looking back down to her console)  
Engaging tractor beam... now. I've got it. I should be able to bring it in to landing pad five.



BASHIR  
 (to Odo)  
 He's unconscious, but stable.  
 Let's get him to the infirmary.

13 INT. CAPTAIN'S OFFICE - LATER (OPTICAL)

13

Sisko is seated at his desk. The image of Starfleet ADMIRAL NECHAYEV is on screen.

NECHAYEV  
 You're aware, Captain, of the anomaly that occurred an hour ago?

SISKO  
 Yes, Admiral. Most of our systems were temporarily knocked offline, but we're back up and running now.

NECHAYEV  
 You may not be aware of its scope. We have reports of disturbances throughout the Federation, as well as from the Klingons, the Romulans, and the Cardassians. Many report a complete disruption of normal magnetic and gravimetric fields. Long range sensor sweeps in your sector show time warp distortions and unexplained radiation variations. And the effect appears to be centered on Deep Space Nine.

SISKO  
 I may have an explanation. Immediately after the anomaly we rescued an alien vessel on a collision course with the station. One occupant, currently being treated in our infirmary. The ship appears to be emitting a residual subspace field.

NECHAYEV  
 Has the survivor provided any information on the event?

SISKO  
 He was unconscious when he arrived. I was just about to check in with Doctor Bashir for an update on his condition.

NECHAYEV

(sternly)

I expect a complete report as soon as you do, Captain. And find a way to shut down that subspace field. Until we can be sure your sector is safe, I am evacuating all other Starfleet ships and personnel within a hundred parsecs of D.S. Nine.

(softer)

I'm sorry, Ben. You're on your own.

SISKO

(resigned, nodding)

Understood.

NECHAYEV

Good luck, Captain.

The transmission ends, and the monitor screen goes black. Sisko sits back in his chair, contemplating his options.

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**INT. INFIRMARY - LATER**

14

Lazarus is in the background, resting comfortably on a medical bed. Bashir is walking away from him towards Sisko and Odo who await his report.

SISKO

How's our patient, Doctor?

BASHIR

Better. He's conscious right now, but he's been in and out. He should be back on his feet in a few days, but right now what he needs most is rest.

SISKO

(surprised)

No injuries?

BASHIR

None that are *\*recent\**, but scans show an *\*extensive\** history of bruising, scarring, and broken bones. Currently, he's malnourished, dehydrated, and suffering from exhaustion. He's obviously been through a great ordeal... but he should recover.

ODO  
Have your scans given you any idea  
where he's from, Doctor?

BASHIR  
(fascinated)  
His physiology is very unusual...  
humanoid, yes, but his vital  
statistics don't match any species  
on record. That \*isn't\* what  
concerns me, though.

ODO  
(intrigued)  
Oh? And what \*does\* concern you?

BASHIR  
(incredulous)  
His whole body appears to be in a  
state of quantum flux. There are  
oscillations all the way down to  
the subatomic level. Frankly, I  
can't explain it.

SISKO  
(concerned)  
Is that dangerous?

BASHIR  
Well, it doesn't appear to be a  
threat to his health... but I  
suppose it \*could\* pose a threat to  
the station. I'll need to run some  
more tests.

ODO  
Is he able to answer a few  
questions?

BASHIR  
(nodding)  
He should be strong enough. But  
not too many. He needs rest.

The trio walk back across the infirmary to Lazarus' bedside.

SISKO  
(to Lazarus)  
My name is Captain Sisko of the  
United Federation of Planets.  
You're on board the space station  
Deep Space Nine. This is Constable  
Odo and I believe you're already  
acquainted with Doctor Bashir.

(MORE)

SISKO (CONT'D)

We have a few questions for you if you don't mind.

LAZARUS

(nodding)

Of course, Captain. You may call me Lazarus. I am happy to give any answers that I can provide.

SISKO

Can you tell me how you arrived here? What happened to your ship?

LAZARUS

(serious)

I was in pursuit of a criminal, Captain, from my home world far away from here. I managed to follow the murderous monster halfway across the quadrant before he sabotaged my vessel and rendered me unconscious. The next thing I remember was waking up here in your infirmary.

SISKO

Your arrival corresponded with an unusual subspace disturbance throughout this quadrant and beyond. Do you know anything about what caused it?

LAZARUS

(angrily)

\*Sabotage\*, Captain, as I've already told you. The beast I pursue is cleverer and more evil than you could possibly imagine. Do you understand?

SISKO

(confused)

Is this criminal a man or a beast?

LAZARUS

(increasingly agitated)

Oh, he is a man like I am! But make no mistake, Captain. He is evil incarnate. He lives to destroy! He destroyed my entire civilization and he'll destroy yours, too, if you don't help me!

Lazarus grabs at Sisko's arms as he tries to get up, a crazed look in his eyes. Odo and Sisko restrain him briefly before Lazarus collapses back onto the bed, looking exhausted again. Sisko exchanges looks with Odo and Bashir before leaning back over Lazarus to attempt another question.

SISKO

Your ship. We're reading a residual subspace field emanating from the inside. Could it be the cause of the disturbances? Can it be shut off?

LAZARUS

(wearily, eyes closed)

I... I \*tire\*, sir. I will need to examine my ship before I can answer more of your questions.

(opens his eyes and looks pointedly at Sisko)

But I warn you, Captain. My ship is equipped with defensive measures against any intruders. Do not attempt to enter it under any circumstances until I can accompany you. But first... I must \*rest\*.

Lazarus' voice trails off rapidly and he falls unconscious. Bashir checks his vitals on the monitor and then nods to Sisko and Odo.

BASHIR

He'll be all right. He's just going to need a lot more time to fully recover. In the meantime, I need to start those tests.

SISKO

(to Bashir)

Let me know as soon as you learn anything, Doctor.

(to Odo)

Constable, I want guards posted outside the airlock to Lazarus' ship. Make sure no one goes near that ship without my prior authorization.

ODO

(nodding)

Understood. Do you \*believe\* his story, Captain?

SISKO  
Right now? I'm not sure of  
anything.

Zoom in on Sisko and on that ominous note, we...

FADE OUT.

**END OF ACT ONE**