Note: This show periodically replaces their ad breaks with new promotional clips. Because of this, both the transcription for the clips and the timestamps after them may be inaccurate at the time of viewing this transcript.

00:00:00 Sound Effect Transition
[Computer beeps.]

00:00:01 Music Music
Energetic electronic background music.

00:00:02 Ben Harrison Promo
Friends of DeSoto, you may have thought Greatest Gen Khan II—

00:00:04 Sound Effect Sound Effect
[Airhorns.]

00:00:05 Ben Promo
—Star Trek III was over, but it was not! We are coming to SF Sketch Fest in 2020 with this show, and we're playing at Cobb's Comedy Club on January 17th!

00:00:15 Adam Pranica Promo
It's one of our favorite venues at one of our favorite festivals, and tickets go on sale Sunday, November 24th at ten AM. Tickets are $30, and $40 for reserved premium seating, Ben. That's in the splash zone.

00:00:30 Ben Promo
[Laughs.] We put painter's tarps out at every show because of how many fluids fly from the stage during our patented form of comedy.

00:00:39 Adam Promo
So go to SFSketchFest.com—

00:00:41 Ben Promo
Or GreatestGenTour.com, if that's easier for you to remember.

00:00:45 Sound Effect Sound Effect
[Airhorns.]

00:00:46 Ben Host
—Star Trek III is coming to San Francisco!

00:00:48 Sound Effect Transition
[Computer beeps.]

00:00:49 Music Transition
Dark Materia’s “The Picard Song,” record-scratching into a Sisko-centric remix by Adam Ragusea.

Picard: Here’s to the finest crew in Starfleet! Engage.

[Music begins. A fast-paced techno beat.]

Picard: Captain Jean-Luc Picard, the USS Enterprise!

[Music slows, record scratch, and then music speeds back up.]

Sisko: Commander Benjamin Sisko, the Federation starbase... Deep Space 9.

00:01:04 Music Music
Record scratch back into "The Picard Song," which plays quietly in the background.

00:01:05 Ben Host
Welcome to The Greatest Generation: Deep Space Nine. It's a Star Trek: Deep Space Nine podcast from a couple of guys who are a little bit embarrassed to have a Deep Space Nine podcast. I'm Ben Harrison.

00:01:16 Adam Host
I'm Adam Pranica.

00:01:18 Ben Host
Well, Adam, the Coco Nono episode is upon us.

[Music fades out.]

00:01:24 Adam Host
Yeah! Big time!

00:01:26 Ben Host
It's a very strange feeling because we haven't recorded this show in
many weeks, because we pre-recorded a lot to do the bulk of our tour.

00:01:38 Adam Host Right.

00:01:39 Ben Host Which is now—all of that is behind us. And now I'm trying to remember what the last thing that happened on the show was. [Laughs.] And I was very, uh—I was very grateful that this episode didn't really draw on my knowledge of any previous episodes in any big way.

00:01:57 Adam Host Yeah, it was nice to come back to the show with a great big drink.

00:02:02 Ben Host Yeah. What are you sipping on tonight?

00:02:04 Music Music Fun, funky music begins playing in the background.

00:02:05 Adam Host I am on my second pint glass of piña colada.

00:02:10 Ben Host [Laughing] Mm!

00:02:11 Adam Host And there's I think two more of those in the blender—

00:02:14 Ben Host No kidding!

00:02:15 Adam Host —that I will be going up for at intervals I deem necessary once I—

[Ben laughs.]

—once I finish this, I'll go back up and get another. Piña colada's a beverage that you helped me appreciate anew, because I feel like when you're a college kid your experience with piña colada is the plastic bottle and rum.

00:02:37 Ben Host Right.

00:02:38 Adam Host And a blender. And that—if that is all you know of a piña colada, and you haven't actually made one with coconut milk and pineapple juice...

00:02:45 Ben Host Yeah.

00:02:46 Adam Host You're really missing out. It's a great cocktail.

00:02:49 Ben Host It's famous for a reason.

[Music fades out.]

00:02:50 Adam Host Yeah.

00:02:51 Ben Host I'm surprised to hear you're going pint glass, because you recently went on a rant in my presence about how you don't want a Bloody Mary in a pint glass.

00:03:01 Adam Host Look, I love a spicy cocktail. I love a spicy meal. But that is one cocktail that I want... a short glass of.

[Ben laughs.]

I feel like a pint glass of Bloody Mary's just too much!

00:03:12 Ben Host It's kinda the standard these days.

00:03:14 Adam Host I know! But it is just a pint glass of acid, in a way that, uh—

00:03:18 Ben Host Yeah.

00:03:20 Adam Host —that does not agree with me.
Adam: It's just a personal problem.

Ben: What did you think of those Bloody Caesars we had in Toronto?

Adam: Well, the thing about that cocktail that we had in Toronto was that the lower quarter of the glass was basically a sludge made out of horseradish and ice.

Ben: And clam juice. [Laughs.]

Adam: And cilantro.

So it wasn't even like, drinkable in a conventional sense. It was just...

Right.

It—it filled the glass.

It was sort of a semi-liquified salad.

[Ben laughs.]

Yeah, it was delicious!

Ben: Yeah, it was good.

Adam: Had great hangs there with friend of the show Chris Bowman.

Ben: Yeah!

Adam: It was fun to catch up with him again.

Ben: Our good buddy.

Adam: Your ex.

Ben: He's not my ex!

Adam: He and I talk quite a bit about what it's like to be friends with you post-podcast. And, uh...

[Ben laughs.]

He had a lot of instructive thoughts for me.

Ben: Wow.

Adam: Thoughts that are gonna help me transition into a post-podcast-with-Ben lifestyle.

Ben: Is that a—is that something that's been on your mind a lot lately? [Laughs.]

Adam: Well, we keep doing those LinkedIn ads, Ben.

[Coins drop on a hard surface.]

Ben: Yeah. Oh, yeah.

Adam: I mean, I can't help but think about it.

Ben: I could be replaced at any time, once you find the right candidate.
[Adam laughs.]

00:04:27 Music Music Fun, funky music.
00:04:28 Ben Host I was inspired by our last conversation about the Coco Nono episode to find a way to work crème de banane into my beverage.
00:04:36 Adam Host Yeah!
00:04:37 Ben Host And I found a recipe on the Reddit cocktail sub for something called the Banana Hammock.

[Adam laughs.]

Which is a—essentially a banana Mai Tai.

00:04:48 Adam Host Oh!
00:04:49 Ben Host And I sort of mashed that up with my frozen daiquiri drink that I occasionally make on the show, and replaced the water that I include with that drink with coconut juice. Like—
00:05:03 Adam Host Get that water outta there!
00:05:04 Ben Host Not coconut milk, but like the kind of coconut juice you get in the juice aisle in a... juice jar.
00:05:09 Adam Host Yeah! The stuff that people drink after a workout. For hydration.
00:05:13 Ben Host Yeah. It's—no, no! Not even that.
00:05:16 Adam Host No?
00:05:17 Ben Host You're think—you're talking coconut water.
00:05:18 Adam Host Oh, yeah!
00:05:19 Ben Host I'm talking about—this is like, adjacent to cranberry...
00:05:22 Adam Host Oh!
00:05:23 Ben Host [Laughs.] You know, cranberry juice and pineapple juice. And I think the main ingredient is actually white grape juice, but it tastes like coconut, so.
00:05:31 Adam Host How about that!
00:05:32 Ben Host Yeah.
00:05:33 Crosstalk Crosstalk Adam: That sounds pretty nice!

Ben: It's yummy!

[Music fades out.]

00:05:35 Adam Host You know, I didn't go out and get the crème de banane that I promised I would, because, uh...

[Ben laughs.]

I am under strict rules not to purchase any more bottles of anything before we move down to LA, so...

00:05:47 Ben Host Oh, yeah! Especially one like that, which is... fun and funny to have, but you're never gonna finish it before you move.
00:05:56 Adam Host Yeah. Yeah! So I went into the cupboard and the liquor cabinet.
Ben Host: Yeah.

Adam Host: To make this cocktail, and I'm happy I did! We had all the stuff already.

Ben Host: That was the right move! Hey, speaking of objects showing up in your life, we still have a PO box in Seattle, and I think the conch needs to be passed. I think I need to take over PO box duty.

Adam Host: Yeah!

Ben Host: For a while, because you have—you've been doing yeoman's duty, the custodian of our physical inbox, but you're not gonna be in Seattle anymore. And as long as we're changing what the PO box address is, I think it would be fair for me to be the person that is custodian of it going forward for at least a little while.

Adam Host: Well, yeomans are for fucking—

[Sound Effect: [Ding!]]

Adam Host: —and yeomans get fucked on Star Trek, and...

[Ben laughs.]

...now my long nightmare of PO box checking is coming to an end, but—

[Ben laughs harder.]

—not before I go through some of the packages we've received recently, Ben! Why don't we get to those?

Ben Host: Let's do it.

[Computer chiming.]

Riker: Captain, I'm sorry to disturb you.

Data: I'm receiving a code 47.

Riker: Verify?

Data: It is code 47, sir. Starfleet emergency frequency.

Troi: Captain's eyes only.

Music: Soft, cheerful background music with some quiet dialogue at intervals that sounds like Picard.

Adam Host: Ben, right on top we've got a postcard from one of our Best Friends of DeSoto. It's from Ann Kilzer!

Ben Host: Heyyy! Didn't Ann move to Japan?

Adam Host: She did! Ann writes: "Adam and Ben, once again I am in Shimoda." And by that...

[Ben laughs.]

...she means Shimoda, Japan.

Ben Host: Cool!
She continues, "Though I've fallen behind on DS9, I very much enjoy *Friendly Fire!*"

"Thanks for making me laugh." See, that's a little hidden plug for our hit podcast *Friendly Fire.*

That's great.

From Friend of DeSoto Ann Kilzer. That's great! She's—it sounds like she's still doing great out there.

That is a terrific country. I really enjoyed visiting it the one time I got to go.

Our second postcard is from Union Bank! And it reads—

"Open a new business checking account and receive a $350 bonus!"

"Offer expires November 30th." So, uh...

That'll make up some of the shortfall from our most recent tour!

You know, you can only have a PO box so long before you start getting junk mail. And, uh...

[Stifling laughter] Mm-hm.

There's our first piece of junk mail.

[Stifling laughter] Wow! A $350 bonus?!

[Stifling laughter] Mm-hm.

Wow!

Fuck you, Union Bank!

[Cheerfully] Eat a bag of shit.

Ben, we've got a third piece of mail here. It is from Zoey, from Somerville, Massachusetts.

I do that thing—I don't know if you do this, but I open letters by tearing the side of them open.

Oh, yeah.

Instead of going in over the top. And what I've done is I've torn the letter. Uh—


Adam: But not the part that I need to read. It's fine.

There's a letter, and what we have here are a number of—ooh, these are great! These are the FanSets pins that we saw at Star Trek Las Vegas! There's a bunch of these.
Oh, that's—these are very cool. I'm gonna Jackie & Laurie you these in just a moment. But I'm gonna read you the letter, and the letter goes like this:

"Hi, Ben and Adam. Thank you for all the laughs and the wonderful and often genuinely thoughtful commentary. It has been a delight re-watching this wonderful show with you, and watching new Star Trek for the first time. Which brings me to the small gifts enclosed. Some fun pins!"

"Enclosed you'll find Lursa and B'Etor, Admiral Bob, and Captain Killy."

"May you carry these strong women and their boob windows."

"Long live Admiral Bob! Again, thanks for the laughs, Zoey."

"Admiral Bob's a hero!"

"Yeah, she really is. I'm gonna—"

"She gave herself to save the ship. She really pulled a Spock."

"She really did."

"She just didn't get to download her katra into anybody."

"Thanks, Zoey! That's super cool. I like the pins because they're super tiny, and moveable."

"Oh, man, these are great!"

"Whoa! There is another postcard in here that I did not see. Because it's a postcard."

This postcard appears to be unsigned, so... I'll just read it.

"Dear Ben and Adam, love the shows. Long-time Greatest Gen viewer as well as Greatest Discovery and Friendly Fire. Your podcasts really help brighten a dull day at work."

[Emphatically] "Just please stop with the 'Bashir is a piss freak' bit!"

"It's up there with PiCosby." Oh, I can see now why this person didn't sign their postcard. It's because they have a very unpopular opinion.
be—this may be where the person who wrote this postcard gets off board.

00:10:54 Adam Host Yeah.
00:10:55 Ben Host [Laughing] on Greatest Gen.
00:10:57 Adam Host Huh. Yeah, well, we lost this person. But, uh...
00:11:00 Ben Host Yeah. Thank you for the listening for the time that you did.
00:11:03 Adam Host RSVP that listener.

[Ben laughs.]

Our next piece of mail—this is the penultimate piece of mail. Wow! This is from Jesse Thorn!

00:11:14 Clip Clip Jesse Thorn: Hey, it's Jesse Thorn.
00:11:15 Adam Host Did you get this?
00:11:17 Ben Host What?!
00:11:16 Clip Clip Jesse: Hey—
00:11:18 Adam Host It's from Jesse Thorn!
00:11:19 Clip Clip Jesse: It's Jesse Thorn.
00:11:20 Adam Host I believe it's the same Jesse Thorn.
00:11:22 Clip Clip Jesse: Jesse Thorn.
00:11:23 Adam Host The instructions say "Do not bend." And I have not. Inside what we have is a magazine. It is the official magazine Star Trek: The Next Generation Makeup FX Journal.

00:11:35 Ben Host Whoa!
00:11:36 Adam Host A post-it note on the cover says "Hey, guys."
00:11:38 Clip Clip Jesse: Hey—
00:11:39 Adam Host "Hope you enjoy this TNG Makeup FX Journal. I found it in a thrift store in Chicago while I was listening to Greatest Gen. Weird, huh? Love the show, and Friendly Fire."

[Ben laughs.]

There is no fucking way Jesse Thorn listens to Greatest Gen. I mean, we would have been kicked off the network a long time ago.

00:11:55 Ben Host He does! He listens—he told me recently about an episode he listened to and enjoyed.
00:12:01 Adam Host That's insane. Wow! Well, thanks for thinking of us, Jesse, while you were out—I'm gonna guess, like, out doing the Judge John Hodgman live tour.
00:12:11 Ben Host Yeah.
00:12:12 Adam Host That would explain why you were in Chicago.
00:12:13 Ben Host And the idea that he went into a thrift store while on tour tracks perfectly with what we know about Jesse.
00:12:20 Clip Clip Jesse: It's Jesse Thorn.
00:12:21 Ben Host So I believe it's him!
He’s a famous thriftsman. And you can check out all of his great finds at the Put This On Shop! Which you should definitely do.

That's true!

It's a shop that I've even purchased things from, and I am not even stylish. So...

I got some cufflinks off of that shop recently that I wore to a wedding!

Well there you go!

Thank you, Jesse!

Final box, Ben. It's the end box.

Adam: [Stifling laughter] Is what I'll call it.

Ben: [Stifling laughter] Oh, man!

[Ben laughs.]

[It doesn't.] The music changes.

The lights change.

Yeah.

Final box time. This is coming to us inside a Shutterfly triangular tube box. You know what I mean?

Ooh!

Adam: Like something—something sent for posters.

Ben: Yeah, yeah. Something's rolled up in there. Yeah.

Adam: Yeah! And sure as shit, there's a rolled-up thing in here. This is... a picture of Morn. Wearing a pair of thong underwear.

[Hammer clang.]

[Whistles.]

Uh, it's a diptych. And if you're not familiar with that term, a diptych is a photograph that has two halves of it. On the left is the front of Morn, wearing the golden thong underwear, revealing very little to the imagination. On the other side there is the back of Morn. Which appears to show a—uh, what is colloquially known as a "tramp stamp" of Deep Space 9.

[Ben laughs.]

And, uh—

Is—is Morn otherwise nude?

Yeah! Like, there's the gold—the gold underwear is the only thing he's wearing. And Morn is jacked. So.

Wow!
I'm gonna go ahead and Jackie & Laurie you a picture of that. Because I do not want these eyes to be the only ones scorched by this.

[Ben laughs.]

Oh, hey! We know who this is from! "Ordered for you by Sam Tregar."

[Ben laughs harder.]

I don't know—you know what? I thought up until now Sam Tregar was a Friend of DeSoto, who liked what we did, and we also like him very much...

Sam had been aggressively moving up through the power rankings. Kind of going toe-to-toe with some of the heaviest purchasers of P1 Messages, especially on the tour. Now... this?

Really sends a message. It is quite a thing.

Oh, man. Wow.

Is it as I described, Ben?

Jesus.

[Adam laughs.]

I mean, I think that the thing... that I wasn't envisioning about the, uh, banana hammock in question... is that it looks very spaceship-like?

[Laughing] You know?

Right.

It's got like—it's got like, knobs and dials on it.

And also like, from what we have posited about Morn, much, much smaller than I was expecting.

Is this the guy from Guardians of the Galaxy?

Drax (Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2): [Laughs uproariously.] I have famously huge turds!

That Morn's head has been Photoshopped upon?

Looks like there's a lot of stretch marks on Morn, also. Or scarification?

Boy. Daddy thicc.

Morn is most definitely a thicc king.

Yeah. Depending on the wiring of the viewer, the stuff of fantasy and/or nightmares.

Jesse Thorn: Hey—

I am taking a super long pull from my piña colada after that.

[Laughs.] Oh, man.

And also expressing gratitude for everyone who sends even semi-
nude posters of Morn—

[Stifling laughter] Mm-hm.

—to our Greatest Gen PO box. Even you, Sam Tregar.

Thank you to everybody that sent something in!

As you tumble down the ranks of Friends of DeSoto.

[Ben laughs.]

Hope it was worth it.

[Music fades out.]

[Laughs.] Well, Adam, we got a great big episode to get into.

Yeah!

And I think—I feel—I fear we have tarried too long! Do you wanna get into season 5, episode 16, “Doctor Bashir, I Presume?”

Do you have enough drink to continue?

I made myself a—like a big mixer tin, and I brought out a, um... an ice bucket full of pebble ice—

God.

—from my new pebble ice machine.

That's so convenient. I'm—

[Ice rustling.]

I'm like an idiot going up and down the stairs, refilling my cocktail. Like I'm in olden times!

Huh. Do you need to go refill? Go refill!

Yeah, I'm gonna go refill. I'm gonna go refill and then never again. I'm gonna bring down a giant—I'm gonna like—

Ben & Adam: Bring the pitcher!

Adam: That's what I'm saying.

Ben & Adam: Yeah.

A techno song mixed with clips and soundbites from DS9.

Sisko:
Ow!
Do you realize how incredible this is?
Ow!
Ha ha!
Ow!
Ha ha ha!
Hoo!
No... Of course you don't!
One thing that everyone on Deep Space 9 knows is that Rom likes Leeta. And Leeta likes Rom. And when are they gonna get together?

Leeta broke up with Bashir to get with Rom.

Right. And this opening scene begins in Quark's, where Rom is creeping on Leeta but is powerless—

Boy, I wrote the word "creep" several times in my notes about this scene.

Yeah.

And I'm glad that you said it.

I mean, what could just be a couple of brothers talking about a girl that one of the brothers likes... really spirals into what—

—in modern times—like, here's the thing that we run into a lot, I think, on our hit war movie podcast Friendly Fire. Is that the time that a thing was made, was made to be judged in the time that it was made.

Right.

And so often the judgment of a modern time can be withering. And this is one of those scenes of Deep Space 9 that I don't think holds up particularly well.

Well, this is something we've talked about all through Greatest Gen, too, is that like, the TV depiction of the way relationships work—

Yeah.

—is so weird in the eighties and nineties. Like, "I love you" being like the first expression of two people getting into a relationship with each other feels very alien to me here in 2019.

Right! But at the time, like—when I put myself back into an awkward high school and freshman, sophomore in college? Like...

Fuck!

I recognize a lot of what Rom is going through in—in myself—

Yeah! It me! [Laughs.]

—uh, from those days. So... I mean, hopefully, ideally, we've all grown up since then. But the ask-out does not go well, Enterprise.

[Stifling laughter] Yeah.

Because Rom is sort of like, psyching himself up at the bar for the moment that he needs to do this. And Quark is there to encourage him, and also be the audience for this thing.

Quark: Rom! You're a regular poet.

Yeah.

And it's hard to tell whether or not the audience is the thing that
kneecaps Rom, or Rom's lack of confidence or ability to do the thing. But he is unable to ask Leeta out.

00:19:23 Ben Host Yeah.
00:19:24 Adam Host And it sure looks like this is something that's happened many times before.
00:19:27 Ben Host Quark very much Heisenbergs the ask-out. Where we don't know if it had happened in a vacuum, whether it would have gone one way or the other. But by observing the ask-out, Quark collapses the quantum state of—[laughs] of Rom and Leeta's relationship into ambiguity.

00:19:46 Clip Clip Quark: I don't know, Leeta. [Sighs.] Maybe he's just not interested in you.

00:20:05 Ben Host What makes the scene hard to tolerate now, and maybe even then, is that Leeta is breathing hard enough to make you think that there is something like, sexually activated in her.

00:21:05 Adam Host [Stifling laughter] Uh-huh.
00:21:06 Ben Host Like, there is nothing about her reception to Rom here that should make Rom feel like he shouldn't actually ask her out. Like, there is no deterrent!

00:21:13 Adam Host [Stifling laughter] Yeah!

00:21:20 Ben Host Yeah! And as a man who was asked out by the woman to whom he is now married for the first time...

00:21:25 Adam Host God, that just explains so fucking much.

[Ben laughs.] Jesus.

00:21:49 Ben Host I had a lot of these same nerves.
00:21:51 Adam Host Uh-huh.
00:21:52 Ben Host And it was my wife that broke the ice, as it were. On a night, I must say, that I intended to break the ice myself. I just hadn't—I hadn't like, gotten the gumption up yet.

00:22:05 Adam Host Right.
00:22:06 Ben Host Like the idea that like, this episode never even considers that as an option is...

00:22:13 Adam Host [Stifling laughter] Yeah!

00:22:20 Ben Host Leeta is ready to move away instead of ask a guy out that she likes. That's nuts.

00:22:25 Adam Host Right! Yeah. Maybe there is something going on in the writers' room that they are trying to write this for a younger audience. Because it does feel very... middle school, high school in that way. But maybe
it's just because it's, you know, 25 years old or something!

Adam: I mean, is this an all-male writers' room?

Ben: I don't know.

Adam: One could make that assumption.

Ben: I don't know! I wish I knew the answer to that question. It wouldn't be surprising.

Adam: Quark is a loathsome character who should be in prison. You and I have agreed about this—throughout our run of Deep Space 9. But... [laughs] his retrograde treatment of Leeta here made me laugh and laugh.

Leeta: I have brains!

Particularly his line read of—

Quark: Sure you do, honey. That's why I hired you.

Just like, leaning into the shitbag that he is in a way that like, of course it's wrong! Of course he's being a shit!

Right.

But that's what makes it funny.

Yeah.

He's the worst.

Definitely peak Quark in this scene.

Leeta sits down to a break to three big slices of borsen cheese.

[Ben laughs, Adam stifles laughter.]

And, uh—

Isn't that hasperat?

I mean it looked like either cake or cheese to me that she was eating. They didn't look like hasperat wraps in the way that we've seen them before.

Oh, yeah. 'Cause they're usually—the cylinder is usually on its side, not facing up.

What's the worst thing you ever ate on break from a job?

Probably sandwiches.

I used to make a bagel sandwich filled with potato salad.

[Ben laughs.]

From the grocery store that I worked in.

Oh, because you were on the Atkins diet? [Laughs quietly.]

It made me feel bad. Very bad!

[Ben laughs.]
But I'll tell you one thing. I wasn't hungry for the rest of the day.

Was this a—like a mayonnaise-y potato salad? Or like a vinegar-y potato salad?

I mean, it's what you would get from a grocery store deli.

Oh.

So—

Oh, boy.

So, not good. [Laughs quietly.]

Somebody brought bagels to our Toronto show from Montreal. And I ate one of those bagels the next morning. And I was very suspicious of them, because they were given to us in plastic sleeves, like—

Yeah.

—like store-bought bagels.

Yeah.

My assumption is that good bagels come in paper bags, and bad bagels come in plastic sleeves.

[Adam laughs quietly.]

But boy, that was a fucking great bagel! And I didn't have anything on it. I didn't get—I didn't toast it or anything. I just ate it raw.

Ben: I really enjoyed it.

Adam: I was gonna say the same thing.

You and I both raw-dogged those bagels, and I think that's how you can tell a bagel's really good.

So if you'd like to kill us, just come through the merch line with a baked good at the next Greatest Gen live show.

We're doing a fine job killing ourselves as it is, without any help from our viewers.

[Laughs.] That is true.

On the side of the scene is a darts scene between O'Brien—

Intense electric guitar and bagpipes.

O'Brien: I am Chief Miles Edward O'Brien!

Colm Meaney in Con Air: This is fucking spectacular!

[MUSIC INTENSIFIES AND THEN QUICKLY FADES OUT.]

—and Bashir. This is like the first scene of them together since Bashir's imprisonment on the Jem'Hadar asteroid, and they have so much more in common now than ever before.

Right!

Like, both of them have served very long prison sentences.

Indeed!
How can this never be a topic of conversation for them?

[Laughs.] There should be a My Dinner with Andre episode where it is just Bashir and O'Brien talking about their prison experiences with each other.

Honestly, like, Star Trek is very self-aware about its greatest episodes, I feel like.

Mm-hm.

And when you get those, they feel like so much thought clearly was put into them. This is right there to do!

Yeah.

And it's strange that it's left on the table.

[Sarcastically] But you know, we only have 26 episodes every season and we gotta move through this stuff.

[Stifling laughter] I know.

[Ben laughs quietly.]

Enter Dr. Lewis Zimmerman, who interrupts the darts game with an exciting offer of immortality. Dr. Zimmerman of course played by Robert Picardo.

One of the greats. And gets to say the title of the episode as his first line. [Laughs.]

That's fun.

Dr. Zimmerman: Dr. Bashir, I presume?

And we Bashir-eyes to commercial!

Yeah! After the theme song we come back and we get the explanation for his being on the station. He is the Christopher Columbus of the Emergency Medical Hologram.

[Laughs.] You mean he killed tens of millions of Emergency Medical Holograms?

That is exactly what I mean.

[Ben laughs.]

He's sort of there in—as a salesman, in a strange way! He's taking this meeting with Sisko, and he's like, "Look! There are a lot of benefits to these things. You know, like, we're using them right now in stations and ships, but like, consider the idea of like the long-term medical hologram! The ones that would be stationed on isolated outposts and long-range exploratory vessels."

Or... ships that have been sent into the Delta Quadrant and are on a 75-year mission to get home?

Guess what doesn't have to hotbunk? An Emergency Medical Hologram.

[Ben laughs.]

You just turn that fucker off!
Yeah. There's only the briefest lip service paid to the idea of like, a "they're takin' our jerbs" reaction.

Right.

In this scene. And I really liked that! That like, these people that live in this post-money future spend a moment considering the ramifications of that in terms of like, people's careers, but it's actually not really that big of a threat in terms of like, people's livelihoods, so... There are practical use cases for this technology, and the idea is Bashir's going to be the model for the long-term version of the EMH.

Which I think by this point there have been a couple of seasons of Voyager, so it's also sort of meta-commentary on Voyager, where like a big running storyline is that they're finding out that the EMH is able to like, grow and evolve as a full member of the crew on a long-term basis. But here in the Alpha Quadrant, nobody knows about that phenomenon.

If anyone's job is gonna be taken by a hologram of any kind, it's gonna be O'Brien's, right? Just the—

The janitor of the station—

[Ben laughs quietly.]

—will one day be a hologram, and you know this, and so does O'Brien, but he never gives that voice.

[Laughs.] "We'll program a cantankerous hologram that has a bit of a weird relationship with his wife any day now." [Laughs.]

This is a long-term project. Zimmerman wants to stay on the station for three weeks because he needs to make some modifications to the station that would allow him to begin the process of turning Bashir into this LMH, as he's proposed. And it's a process that starts with a questionnaire of Dr. Bashir.

O'Brien: You mean this program is going to include all his personal likes and dislikes?

And it feels a lot like applying for a job in the government! Like, that's what it made me think of right away. Like, it's a deep dive into a person personally, but they also do a background check that involves your friends and family.

Right, it's like simultaneously a great honor and a very large-scale invasion of privacy.

Yeah.

And that's something that, you know, Bashir didn't gamble on. Like, he's very enthusiastic to be showered with the honor that this connotes on him and the—you know, the idea of being granted a form of immortality in the form of the LMH is very exciting to him. But the—you know, the other shoe drops as the Zimmerman character starts to explain like, all of the prying that it is going to entail.

I don't feel like he's celebrating this at any point.
He's just sort of like "Oh, yeah, obviously."

This episode bounces back and forth between this A and B story fairly often, and that bounce is fairly rugged because when we cut here to Quark's, we are at a very high angle shooting down onto Leeta as she's sort of pit-bossing a Dabo game. And... I mean, you can see her bellybutton through the top of her dress.

Like, that's how severe the angle is. And as we pull back, we reveal that Bashir and Zimmerman are watching her from above, and Zimmerman is regarding the—the delights that an angle like that can give to a person up in the balcony.

— an un-consensual kiss and embrace here? I thought for sure Leeta was gonna slap that guy.

Yeah. I don't know!

Here's the thing, though, in defense of Morn. Like, when you win a lot of money gambling—

—you wanna reach for someone and embrace them. That's what I did to you in Vegas.

Yeah.

Before we left Star Trek Las Vegas.

Right! You Morned me.

I did.

I was the Leeta in that scenario.

I didn't ask, I just went on in.

I felt weird about it. [Laughs quietly.]

It was exciting! [Laughs quietly.] So I get it.
This is the scene where Zimmerman kind of falls for Leeta, and who wouldn't at this angle? He asks Bashir, maybe the worst person he could possibly ask, what her deal is. And Bashir's like—

**Bashir:** [Somewhat gloomily] Her name's Leeta. My ex-girlfriend.

And Zimmerman's like, "Cool!"

Was the end of their relationship the actual last thing Bashir experienced before being imprisoned?

That's a great question.

I feel like we debated this a bit on—

Yeah.

—on one of the last couple episodes. [Laughs.] But that has got to have been a rough time in prison. [Laughing] Like—

That's a real bag over the head, punch in the face, and then another punch in the face.

Yeah! [Laughs.] "First Leeta dumps me, now this?" And then you get outta prison. Like, you think you're being showered with some super honorific thing, and the guy that's doing it is like "Hey, uh, what's up with her?" [Laughs.]

Odo steps in to interrupt the proceedings with a—


[Anything in "quotes" from either host is said in a gruff Odo impression until noted otherwise.]

"Ohhh!"

[Ben laughs.]

"I see what you're looking at."

"Anyways, I'm a character on this show, too! Bye-bye." [Laughs.]

"Hey! Guess what I can do!" And he just like, blows into his thumb—

[Something inflating.]

—makes Leeta tits.

[Boing! Boing!]

[Laughs.]

"Check these out!"

"This do anything for ya?" [Laughs quietly.]

"Those aren't special!"

[Ben laughs.]

"How would you like to see three of 'em?"

[Boing!]

[End of Odo impressions.]
Odo drops an Antidean reference here, which is great! Going back to season one TNG, Ben!

Worf: What a handsome race.

Adam: Back on the scene.

Ben: Wow.

I thought it was just amazing that they found a way to work the word "titty" into the proceedings. [Laughs.]

[Audience laughs.]

Laaame.

[Ben laughs harder.]

Anyway, the scene ends with Zimmerman getting the idea to interview Bashir's parents, because Bashir says—

Bashir: I would consider it a personal favor if you would, uh, sort of leave my parents out of it.

And Zimmerman's like—

Zimmerman: Well, I certainly understand.

And then Bashir leaves and he's like, "Note to self."

"Interview Dr. Bashir's parents."

It's a very Dirty Work moment, right?

It is. Yeah.

Mitch (Dirty Work): Note to self. Making love to blow-up doll not as good as advertised!

What did you make of that? Like, I wondered if the episode was implying that if Bashir had not protested so much, maybe his parents wouldn’t have even come into play? It's like—it comes up, and then Odo interrupts, and then Bashir circles back, and that's I feel like what sets the hook in Zimmerman to—

Yeah, I mean, love him or hate him, Zimmerman's a professional and he wants to make a fully formed LMH Dr. Bashir. So of course he's going to chase this down. That much was obvious. And it didn't make me hate Zimmerman. There are other reasons to hate him, but that wasn't it to me.

I'm not saying that it's something to hate him. I'm just wondering if the episode is implying that it—it was... a bit on Bashir for making such a big deal out of it in the first place.

Yeah, and that's weird. Like, if what you're doing is seeking to cover up a secret—the way to cover up a secret is not mentioning it at all.

Right.

Like, that's "Tell-Tale Heart" shit right there.

Yeah. I mean, you can either "Tell-Tale Heart" it or you can "Purloined Letter" it, you know?
00:34:09 Adam Host [Laughs.] You’re either a "Tell-Tale Heart"er or a "Purloined Letter"er. That’s—

[Ben laughs.]

Like, choose your side.

00:34:17 Ben Host Pick a lane, asshole.

00:34:19 Adam Host We get a couple of scenes of just like, funny LMH vs. real Dr. Bashir scenes and like, there’s a scene where the holo-Bashir is like, running into a wall.

00:34:31 Ben Host Yeah.

00:34:32 Adam Host And the LMH and the Emergency Medical Hologram that we know up until now, like the one that looks like Robert Picardo, like they have an interaction and they’re super catty to each other. Like, there’s some comedy in this that’s pretty fun.

00:34:45 Ben Host Yeah! And the idea is that they’re showing the LMH in early stages, where there are a lot of rough edges to sand off still.

00:34:53 Adam Host You know what I like? Is I like this for Alexander Siddig! I like that there is a scene here where his body is filled with the Robert Picardo version of the Emergency Medical Hologram.

00:35:06 Ben Host Yeah.

00:35:07 Adam Host And he’s sort of being a cat to the other one.

00:35:09 Clip Clip Holo-Bashir with Zimmerman personality: I hope you’re more interesting than you seem.

00:35:12 Adam Host That’s neat to see him act against his character a little bit.

00:35:15 Ben Host And then like, there is a whole section of the episode that’s just like, singles on various main cast and recurring characters dragging Bashir as a character.

00:35:29 Adam Host Yeah.

00:35:30 Ben Host Like, kind of doing all of the things that we have said about Bashir as their characters.

[Adam laughs quietly.]

Like, reacting to what he is like to be around as a guy. And it’s fun!

00:35:43 Adam Host David Livingston is the most prolific director of Star Trek television programming.

00:35:48 Ben Host Yeah.

00:35:49 Adam Host And I think it’s fun that we get all of these interviews filmed straight to camera. I really like how it busts up this episode visually.

00:35:59 Ben Host Yeah.

00:36:00 Adam Host I think he does a good job, and I think David Livingston is a director that gets that kind of latitude to get weird in an ep.

00:36:06 Ben Host Yeah, you can do an interotron—

00:36:08 Adam Host Right.

00:36:09 Ben Host —Errol Morris set piece in there. And it’s an episode that like
basically doesn't have, you know, Jake or Worf and—you know. Most of the main cast has almost nothing to do in this episode.

00:36:23 Adam Host Yeah.
00:36:24 Ben Host But they all get their moments in this scene, and it's a lot of fun!
00:36:29 Adam Host There's a real superpower to Chase Masterson that I want to call attention to here, which is... not her brains. Or her other brains. [Ben laughs.]

But she has just a resting friendliness when she plays Leeta that is so warm and inviting that even during this interview scene, where she's playing straight to camera—Zimmerman is being a creep in using a workplace situation to ask out what is a coworker, basically.

00:37:00 Clip Clip Zimmerman: Would you have dinner with me this evening?
00:37:02 Adam Host But she is so warm in her reception of it that it kind of gets him off the hook. And this is a thing that she does constantly in this episode. Like, this is the difference between looking at an episode like this through a modern lens and what it would be to see it in 1997. Like, I—and I think it is Chase Masterson that saves him a little bit, if you were to watch this now. Like, she is so accepting and fun and open and cool that—

00:37:31 Ben Host Right.
00:37:32 Adam Host If she were just a—even a little bit cold, oh man. Like, it would be super withering.
00:37:38 Crosstalk Crosstalk Adam: And would have aged even worse.

00:38:01 Ben Host Right, it would be a bucket of ice water.
00:38:02 Adam Host Yeah. Yeah.
00:38:08 Adam Host Yeah! I mean it's a very, like, classic conundrum. Like, people that work in the service industry, and specifically women that work for tips, have an effect that invites a lot of... attention that is sometimes welcome but is—you know, just as often unwelcome.

00:38:11 Ben Host Right. Shout-out to the barista that Ben's in love with.

00:38:26 Adam Host [Laughs.] It's a very commonplace scenario. And the fact that her character is receptive to it... You're right. Totally excuses the advance that he makes in this moment.

00:38:42 Ben Host Yeah.
00:38:43 Adam Host And she nails it. Whether or not she's had that experience, she's really got that.

00:38:47 Music Transition A techno song mixed with clips and soundbites from DS9 and TNG.
**Sisko, little girl, and Bashir:**
Allamaraine! Count to four!
Allamaraine! Then three more!
[Continues]

**Picard:**
What are you doing?
What—what—what are you doing?

Commander, what are you doing now?

**Sisko:**
Ow!
Ow!
Ha ha!
Ow!
Ow!
Hoo!

I’m not Picard
I’m not Picard
I’m not Picard
I’m not Picard

**Picard:**
Exactly.

00:39:03 Ben Host
Boy, Adam, I'm down to the bottom of my second coconut here. And I believe Ann Kilzer is the one that sent us these coconuts!

00:39:11 Adam Host
Oh, nice! I've just put my straw right into the blender jar.

[Ben laughs.]

00:39:18 Ben Host
So that's what I'm drinking out of now.

00:39:20 Adam Host
Wow. I need to refill!

00:39:21 Ben Host
You gonna do it?

00:39:22 Adam Host
I'm refilling as we speak.

00:39:23 Ben Host
Alright.

00:39:28 Adam Host
Don't you worry about me. You say—you say the thing about Star Trek you meant—you were about to say.

00:39:28 Adam Host
Well, Zimmerman asks Leeta to dinner and she accepts. And it's a situation that Rom is able to eavesdrop on.

[Ice clattering from presumably Ben's side of the call.]

By... twisting the sides of his ears to get reception?

00:39:39 Ben Host
Did we know that Ferengis could tweak their ears into parabolic microphones before this scene?

00:39:46 Adam Host
I feel like this is the first time.

00:39:48 Ben Host
We knew that they had a good sense of hearing.
Relative to other humanoids. But this like, zeroing in on—you know, like the big clear, uh, you know, half-dome microphone that you see on the sidelines of football games?

Like, that is basically what he's doing. And he's getting a sense of what's going on on this date. Which, circling back to the word "creep," is super creepy. [Laughs.]

It emboldens him to interrupt their dinner.

Roman: I need to talk to you!

And then fail once again at asking her out.

Roman: Tomorrow morning would be a good time for me to fix your replicator.

Leeta: ...Oh.

Rom is second only to me in the self-cockblock.

Yeah, but here's the thing! I don't feel like we would step up to the plate when it's time to ask a person out, and then just eat shit. Like—

[Ben laughs.]

When it's time to ask, the ask is made!

Yeah.

And Rom just cannot do it. Rom steps to the plate and then steps in front of the pitch.

Speaker 1 (child): Hey Mister, you gotta wear a helmet!

Speaker 2 (adult): Don't worry about it.

He is eating shit here.

Yeah.

And it's embarrassing.

Later in Sisko's office, Dr. Bashir and Sisko are there talking about the situation when Bashir's parents drop in on them.

Meet the Bashirs!

What we got is a Brian George as Richard Bashir, who is a familiar with those who enjoy the show Seinfeld.

Babu Bhatt (Brian George, Seinfeld, "The Cafe"): You wish to eat?

Jerry Seinfeld: Let me tell you something, Babu. You go back in that kitchen, tell your chef I want the works!

Yeah!

But playing Amsha Bashir is a non–professional actor named Fadwa El Guindi. And she was hired for this role—like, part of the show notes for this episode are amazing. Because everyone agrees that it is very difficult to, at this moment in time—this is '97—
To cast and hire an Arab-American actress. And it was very—it was a very specific choice. They wanted to hire an ethnically Arab actor to play Dr. Bashir's mom, and they couldn't find one.

And so they hired a professor instead, and that is this actor. This is her only credit.

She's great! I didn't know that!

She's really great in this, and it's not like they gave her throwaway stuff to do. Like, they didn't just give her a couple of lines. Later on in the episode they actually give her a scene.

She's really good.

I mean even when she's not speaking—like, I think that like the—like, one of the big things that separates a pro from a non-pro is the moments when you don't have a line. And she is his mom. Like, she inhabits...

That character. Like, even—like, when he is talking to his dad, she is going through what a mom goes through when a son and a dad have a dispute.

A Shohreh Aghdashloo does not exist in 1997.

And so that is like a—that's like a way of saying we've come a long way, I think, and I hope. Because she's a great actor, and I think it's probably someone like Fadwa here who blazed that trail, in a strange way.

Shohreh Aghdashloo has been an actor for a long time, but was... maybe a lot working outside the US?

But—yeah, that's what I mean. Yeah.

She has credits as early as 1976. And she has one in 1993. And then a gap until the year 2000. And she's been working very steadily ever since then. But yeah. This was... not a time in Hollywood where—you know, and I think that this may be a casting director problem?

Right.

Like, I think casting directors, to their credit in the last few years, have really started to change the way they think about the world. And I think are starting to encourage producers and directors to consider underrepresented people for more roles. And obviously there's still, like, a ton of progress yet to be made. But you know, we're starting to see some movement in the right direction.

And I've heard David Simon, the guy that created The Wire, talking about when they started to cast The Wire, that being a big problem.
Like, people were saying "Oh, like, there won't be enough, like, talented actors of color to fill all the roles."

It's just fucking insane.

And him just like, railing against that. That is fucking bullshit. [laughs.]

Yeah. Yeah.

And I think that like, Ava DuVernay is doing things like having every single episode of an entire season of TV be directed by a woman and stuff like—like, people are really starting to rip down those... really barriers that were erected by people's, you know, just failure to think past the thing right in front of them.

Yeah. Like, some of the terminology used for casting this character was... [laughs] like, it really blew me away. Like, "Where do you find someone? Like, a lady of Arab descent to play this role? Is there one, even?"

[Stifling laughter] Mm-hm.

Like, it's insane to read about how they cast this role and how difficult they found it at the time.

Well, and I think that now you'd probably go to a casting director and say "We need to cast a woman of a certain age, you know, with Arab lineage that—you know, that will be plausible as Dr. Bashir's mom."

Right.

And they might have 15 or 20 options for you.

Right.

So... you know. Hopefully, you know, the casting world gets better and better at this. [Laughs quietly.]

But I think both of these characters are great. Like, I think also to the writers' credits, like, Bashir has been kind of an underwritten character and a weirdly written character for so much of this show. And to me, this episode spends a lot of time kind of sending up the old Bashir. Making some kind of writerly amends for that, but also introducing these two characters who are fucking delightful to watch just chew scenery.

They are really George's parents on Seinfeld.

Yeah!

Like, not to keep calling back Seinfeld, but the cringe that a child feels when their parents are getting along, and at your workplace, and interfering in your work life... just by being there!

Yeah! Yeah.

Like, just by being themselves. Is such a specifically painful feeling, and...

And so well drawn here!

Alexander Siddig is really great at portraying that here.

Yeah! Yeah. It's really fun, and—[laughs] like, there's so many little moments like, you know, he's like leading his parents out of Sisko's office and he like, turns back for a moment just to look at Sisko and
Dax and you see the—that thing of being around our parents can sometimes just put us back in our adolescence.

00:46:48 Adam Host Yeah.
00:46:49 Ben Host Even as adults.
00:46:50 Adam Host Yeah.
00:46:51 Ben Host And that is an instant that abuts right up against the scene where Zimmerman and O'Brien are messing around with the hologram version of Bashir and just have him walking into walls.
00:47:02 Adam Host Right.

[Ben laughs.]

Yeah, it feels a lot like that when you’re with your parents sometimes!

00:47:07 Ben Host It is really funny!
00:47:09 Adam Host Yeah.
00:47:10 Music Transition A techno song mixed with clips from DS9 and various other sources.

Dax: Morn
Kira: Morn?
Odo: Morn!
[Hammer clang.]
Quark: Dear, sweet Morn!
O’Brien: Morn
Kira: Morn?

Norm (Cheers): Evening, everybody!

Kira: Morn!

MC Hammer: Stop! Hammer time.

00:47:16 Adam Host This dinner with the Bashir family is... something that sort of sharpens the comedy of the scene that comes before, because it's not just that Dr. Bashir's uncomfortable with his mom and dad being on the station. It's that Bashir's dad is kind of full of shit about a lot of things.

00:47:36 Ben Host Yeah.
00:47:37 Adam Host But also they're covering for a dark secret. And it's a secret that Dr. Bashir is very serious about keeping. And it's something that he's encouraging his parents to keep, as well. Like, he's imploring them.

00:47:50 Clip Clip Dr. Bashir: [Angrily] Take this seriously!
00:47:53 Adam Host And in this scene, there's nothing specific said about what they're covering up. But it totally casts a cloud over all of the scenes to come.

00:48:01 Ben Host It's super good.
00:48:02 Adam Host Yeah.
00:48:03 Ben Host It's super dynamic. And like, Bashir's dad is a bit of a charlatan. Doesn't have the same kind of professional esteem that Bashir enjoys. And it blows up! Like, Bashir winds up storming out because he thinks they're idiots and they are going to blow his cover. And
what that could be is a bit... unclear at this point.

Couple of scenes ago, Zimmerman proposes that Leeta move back to Jupiter Station with him. Because they have a little sandwich restaurant there.

Zimmerman: It's not very big!

[Ben laughs quietly.]

That Leeta could run!

Ben: Yeah.

Adam: If she wanted to.

And that first date went so well, even though it was interrupted by Rom, that maybe she should consider moving with him. And it's at this moment that Leeta asks Rom what she should do. She flat out asks him—

Leeta: What do you think I should do?

—if she has a reason to stay. And—

Right.

In this moment, I was hoping Rom would just put himself into a torpedo tube and shoot himself—

[Pew, pew, pew!]

[Ben laughs.]

—out into the Bajoran star. Because he's incapable of getting out of his own way about her.

Yeah. And she's pissed at him about it!

She is.

I mean—

Yeah.

They're—like, it's very clear to both of them what's going on. And I thought that that was, like, pretty well drawn as well. Like, doing something that hurts the person that you care most about because you are up in your head about something like that, is... I think anybody that's ever dated has probably slipped up and done something like that.

It should make what happens toward the end of the episode impossible. Like, I really don't find what Rom does here... forgivable. Like, he lets her go here!

But that's the amazing thing about love, right? There's a lot that you can forgive.

Yeah. Guess so.

I mean, isn't there?

[Beat.]

Bashir's parents—
—come to see him in the holo lab. And they are like, "Hey, so, what we were talking about at dinner, at our private dinner? We need to talk about again in this lab, with a lot of hidden corners and dark spaces."

"Anyway, uh, we're never gonna reveal the massive secret about you, which is that you're genetically enhanced—"

"—with DNA re-sequencing that has been deemed illegal by Starfleet. And, uh..."

"We're not gonna drop the G-Bomb!"

"No, we would never do that! Anyway, see ya!" And then they leave.

And then like, almost as soon as they round the corner, O'Brien and Zimmerman come from around the corner where they were, and were like "What the fuuuuck?"

You realize that they'd been talking to holo-Bashir!

This is a moment that I think is make-or-break for this episode. Because a bad episode would leave this moment as a thing that happened, and this episode cuts straight to O'Brien having confessed—

—this having happened to Bashir, and Bashir fucking losing it.

It's exactly what we need as viewers. Like, of course O'Brien would go tell Bashir that this happened. And O'Brien was in a weird, tough spot where this like, high-status doctor guy was there with him, and he couldn't just run out and say "Shut the fuck up!" You know? There were circumstances at play. But what we now know is that... Bashir is a Khan.

Khan Noonien Singh (Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan): Not quite... domesticated.

This is a really interestingly shot scene, too. Because there's that two-shot of Bashir in the foreground and O'Brien in the background, and O'Brien basically has his head in his hands while Bashir monologues here.

Yeah, and paces, and flips out.
Adam Host

It's really fun and good. It's really well done, and it's between the exact two characters that we need to have this kind of hard conversation. It's great!

What we learn here is that DNA re-sequencing is illegal, and those who have participated in that kind of thing have been barred from Starfleet.

Ben Host

It's such a serious rule that the fact that that information is now in Zimmerman's head, and now in—out in the world, Bashir is done with Starfleet. Like, he will have to—he will either be, like, ejected from Starfleet or he can resign with a little bit of dignity left to his name. But it's one of the two.

Adam Host

One of the things that underscores how serious this is is the single brass instrument of early retirement.

[Ben laughs.]

In this scene. It's sad!

Ben Host

What do you think that is? Like a French horn?

Adam Host

Yeah. You really feel it.

Back at Quark's, Rom and Quark discuss Rom's first wife, which is a person we've never heard about.

Ben Host

Yeah!

Adam Host

But person we've—I mean, we've probably made some assumptions about. His son is Nog; there must be a mother somewhere.

[Ben laughs quietly.]

And that woman is Prinadora. She is a woman who was Rom's first wife, and it is Prinadora's father who took Rom for everything. Like everything else in Ferengi culture, there's a contract involved. And what happened is that Prinadora's father took Rom for everything, and what Rom got was Nog. And it is in the aftermath of that failed relationship that Quark is a little bit of a told-you-so kind of brother.

Rom: [Angrily] Leeta is not Prinadora!

"You're not gonna make this work. You shouldn't make this work. It's obvious it's not gonna work."

Right.

"Here's a holosuite program to make you feel better."

[Ben laughs.]

Quark: She's a female, Rom. And the one constant in the universe is: females are trouble.

It's basically like, "Hey, you might as well go punch one out, because... you're a loser, and you're done."

Yeah! And Rom is... is in agreement with him about this. It looks like he's holding the honeystick of masturbation and thinking like, "Yeah, this is a good idea."

Yeah. Sometimes it clears your head though, you know?
Bashir and his parents are discussing the strategy, should there be one. And his father wants to fight it. But Julian is basically—like, this is—this is like a centerpiece scene in the episode, because Julian is basically calling his father the Geppetto to his Pinocchio. Like, "You are the reason that I am this way. I didn't want this!" And then Mom sort of hops in. This is the moment that the actor playing Amsha Bashir really gets her scene, because she defends the father and pleads for an amount of empathy that I don't think anyone watching the episode was capable of feeling at this moment.

She says that—

**Amsha Bashir:** You don't know what it's like. To stay up every night worrying that maybe it's your fault.

What they did is they watched Julian fall behind. And they—

And they felt so terrible about it that they were willing to do anything to give him a chance to succeed, and so that's why they made the decision to bring him to this hospital to change his brains in such a way that... that made him a crime!

We didn't do it because we were ashamed. But because you were our son. [Fighting tears] And we loved you.

Right. [Sighs.] I think this is such a... insightful scene, because like—it's like, not really something any of us have ever experienced, like, the crime of having been genetically optimized by our parents. But—

Oh, yeah. That's impossible for either of us to think.

But I think what is familiar is the parent that is—simultaneously like, made choices to put, you know, put their child on the best path that they could, but also has like, weird resentments for the success of that child.

Yeah.

I think that comes up in people's relationships with their parents quite a lot.

It's one of the best parts of the episode, is because it—it feels familiar. Like, this is a 24th century future, but this is a parent sharing a feeling that I think we all can understand. Whether or not you're a parent, like—

Yeah.

You can understand this motivation.

Right! And like, a lot of father-son relationships turn contentious in this way, and a lot of mothers find the way to bridge that gap. And that's cathartic, you know? Like, understanding that the things you resent about your family—you know, like, we carry all these things, and like, resentment is one of those things that really builds over time. And like, coming to the realization that a lot of the time things are done out of love rather than out of spite or whatever—or shame or whatever.

I guess he's primarily worried that they did it because they were
ashamed of him not being excellent, you know, right out of the box.

It interestingly reframes Bashir's decision, because after that scene with O'Brien, he's like, aggressively interested in retiring.

[Laughing quietly] Yeah.

And at the end of this scene, he's like, sort of come to terms with accepting the idea of his retirement. Which would happen the next morning. Like, that's what he says. He's like "Tomorrow morning it's gonna be over anyway. I get it. Like, that's the only course of action left for me."

But, this is a great big surprise! Because when Bashir arrives at Sisko's office in the morning, his parents are already there, and so is a hologram of Admiral Bennett.

Yeah.

And what's happened here, offscreen, is that the parents have exchanged a short prison sentence—

Richard Bashir: Two years.

— for his continued career. Admiral Bennett has heard their deal, and he's basically decided that—you know, like, the parents deserve a real punishment.

Seemingly specifically for the dad?

Yeah!

Did you get that?

I got that, too. But also it's hard to punish Julian Bashir for something that wasn't his choice.

Right.

And though that is never said, that is really implied by what Bennett decides in this scene. Like, the parents will be punished because you can't just have people turning their little paste-eaters into Khans any time they want. Like, you need a deterrent for this kind of behavior.

What if you're Chief Wiggum, you've got a Ralph on your hands... Are you gonna turn to crime to fix that?

Right. It was fun to get a Khan reference here!

Yeah.

That hit especially hard. And this seems like a fair deal to Julian Bashir. Like, he initially is like—

Dr. Bashir: You can't do this!

—but he gets it. Bennett makes him get it.

And that's so real, also, right? Like, the like, "I have my differences with these people, but they are my family."

Yeah.

Like, that "putting family first" thing that is his instinct in this moment is also very well drawn. Like, I don't think that—I don't think a bad writer would get that into the script.
It's a scene that made me wonder if I would have a better relationship with my parents if they were thrown in jail for a couple years.

[Ben laughs.]

Is that what it takes? [Laughs.]
mythology of Star Trek. Like all of the genetic stuff. Like the idea that there are charlatans like Julian's dad out there in this moneyless society that are still trying to get an edge on people. The stuff with Rom, like, having a business contract with his wife's father that had a sunset [laughs] at a certain point. Like, "I'll be married to her for five years, and then if we deem that it is mutually advantageous, we can renew the contract."

01:02:29  Adam  Host
Right.

01:02:30  Ben  Host
All of—like, there's so much stuff like that, and the fact that they also wrote in the idea that we could like, project back in all of these episodes of DS9 where Bashir was an asshole that O'Brien hated, and then O'Brien like, came around to liking him over the course of seasons and seasons of television, and it's all been [laughing] calculated bullshit that Bashir has been pulling!

Like, he tried the "I'm way better at you than racquetball" thing and it didn't work, and then he was like "Alright, we'll, like—we'll do darts, and I'll pretend to be roughly your equal."

01:03:06  Adam  Host
Yeah, but it's all bullshit!

[Ben laughs.]

Like, it's all retcon bullshit. And this is... this is what I wanna save for the "did you like" portion of the episode.

01:03:14  Ben  Host
Well, we're basically there!

01:03:15  Music  Transition
A techno song mixed with clips and soundbites from DS9.

Sisko:
You really want to do this?
Here?
Now?!

Okay
Okay
Let's do it!
Do it!

01:03:19  Adam  Host
Alexander Siddig was told the week of shooting that his character was genetically modified. And like, everything that led up to this is just—it's convenient retconning. Which is fun, on the one hand. But I don't wanna give it the credit of having the foresight of doing all of this interesting stuff. Like, it's retcon-interesting. You know?

01:03:41  Ben  Host
Hm.

01:03:42  Adam  Host
It's interesting to consider that Bashir was blowing racquetball games and doing a bunch of other things, like, beneath his ability. But no one who wrote his character knew that until this week. Until the week they wrote and shot the show. So I don't know if they get credit for that!

01:04:01  Ben  Host
I mean, I agree in principle with that as a criticism. But, The Fast and the Furious was never conceived as a cinematic universe, and they decided at some point like, between four and five that it was. And suddenly like—and found things in all of the previous works that they could form into threads that led to subsequent films. And you know,
like—like, there are a lot of dumb things about that universe, but it—like, in *Fast and Furious 5* it really works. It starts to feel like "Oh, fuck!" Like, the—like, they didn't have a plan and suddenly it feels like they did the entire time.

**Adam:** You—look, I mean—

**Ben:** So—I—like, I—

I think that that's like, cool—like, a cool writing feat in a way. To have—

**Adam:** It's cool to get the credit for retroactive continuity, but it's not a real credit. I'm glad it worked out for *Fast and the Furious*. And it really works out on *Deep Space Nine*. Like, it's fun to think about going back and watching all this stuff—it's Dr. Bashir throwing three bullseyes at the end of this episode! It's like, it just fucking works. It works miraculously. But I'm not giving credit.

**Ben:** Yeah.

**Adam:** Glad it worked out. And it did. But. You're not a genius for having done it.

**Ben:** You were in the right place at the right time, and sometimes that's what it takes.

**Adam:** Yeah. Yeah. Uh, one thing that is in—couple of things, actually, that are in the right place at the right time for us are our two Priority One Messages. What do you say we see what those are?

**Ben:** Let's do it, Adam.

**Computer:** *[Beeps four times.]* Priority one message from Starfleet coming in on secure channel. *[More beeping.]*

"Push it to the Limit," by Paul Engemann, mixed with clips from various sources.

**Ernie McCracken (Kingpin):** We need a supplemental income.
**Roy Munson (Kingpin):** Supplemental income?
**Ernie:** Supplemental.

**Roy:** Supplemental.
**Ernie:** Yeah, it's extra.

**Ralph Offenhouse (TNG, "The Neutral Zone"):** Why, the interest alone could be enough to buy this ship!

[Coins drop on a hard surface.]

**Music**

Music plays softly in the background of this segment, peppered by the ship's computer repeating, "Captain Picard, priority one message."

**Adam:** Ben, our first Priority One Message is of a... promotional nature!

**Ben:** Hey!

**Adam:** Message goes like this:

"Do you like instrumental electronic music? No? Well, maybe you'll still like this album, recorded at Watchtower Coffee and Comics in Salt Lake City on a 4-track cassette recorder!"

**Ben:** Whoa.
"Does it have anything to do with Star Trek? Sure. Why not?"

[Ben laughs.]

"Go to RSP-DJShanty.Bandcamp.com to listen. And if you want to throw us $4 or more to download, we won’t say no to that!"

So the call to action is check out The Watchtower Tapes by Red Sky Phenomenon & DJ Shanty. So once again, that’s RSP-DJShanty.Bandcamp.com.

Wow!

To listen!

That sounds great! Very cool to record on an analogue format something that is digital. [Laughs.]

Yeah. 4-tracks, baby.

That’s always really fun.

That’s the shit.

And then I’ve—I’ve heard that Bandcamp is like the last good deal that musicians have in the entire world, basically.

Right. $4 is not too much to spend to find some new music.

Yeah!

So I would encourage you to go there and do... that.

Support people making music, you know?

Yeah.

It doesn’t get made if they can’t make a living making it, so... you know.

It’s the same deal as Greatest Gen. Like, we can’t do this show without your support. Musicians often can’t keep making music without your support, so...

Support the stuff that’s good! Adam, we have a second Priority One Message, and it is of a personal nature. It is from Captain Lis-Soto, and it is to The Entity Known As The Dith. Goes like this:

"Help! Q has kidnapped me, and is forcing me to provide offspring to stop the destruction of his race! Do I give in? Starfleet comm channels have been blocked, so I’m hoping this message gets to you in time. Send help, and condoms. [Stifling laughter] Who knows what kind of weird things these omnipotent beings have picked up?"

Mm.


I never considered the, uh, the STD issues W/R/T Q, but that is very troubling.

Yeah, I'll say.

I hope Captain LeS—Lis-Soto—

[Adam laughs quietly.]
—is able to receive the help they need from The Dith.

01:08:28 Adam Promo Well, one way to help *The Greatest Generation* is by going to MaximumFun.org/jumbotron. That's where you—and I'm talking to you—

01:08:37 Ben Promo Mm!

01:08:38 Adam Promo —can have us read a message just like these!

01:08:40 Ben Promo Yeah!

01:08:41 Adam Promo On our fine program! Personal messages are $100, and commercial messages are $200, both of which reach our wide, broad, vast audience right here on *The Greatest Generation*.

01:08:54 Music Transition [Music fades out.]

01:08:55 Ben Host Hey, Adam!

01:08:56 Adam Host What's that, Ben?

01:08:57 Ben Host Did you find yourself a Drunk Shimoda?

01:08:58 Music Music Clips of *TNG* and Adam and Ben mixed with electric guitar.

**Shimoda (TNG, "The Naked Now"): Incredible!**

*Adam & Ben: Druuunk Shimoda!*

[Music ends abruptly.]

01:09:01 Adam Host It's hard not to choose Leeta! And I think I'm choosing Leeta because the very nature of her character in this episode is just sorta "float from scene to scene." Like, she's just sort of there to take what's given.

01:09:17 Ben Host [Laughing quietly] Uh-huh.

01:09:18 Adam Host And where nothing is given, she's not doing any taking. Like, she's willing to move to Jupiter to be with Zimmerman, because he's a guy that asked! And that feels like a very Drunk Shimoda kind of way to be.

[Ben laughs.]

Like, almost—almost like she's only remembering the last thing that happened to her in making a decision. And I don't mean that disparagingly, I mean—just mean like, there are people in her life that are affecting her.

01:09:46 Ben Host Far be it from you to disparage anyone who has affinity for the last person that spoke to them. [Laughs.]

01:09:53 Adam Host Yeah! And she's living her best life, I guess. But she's making decisions based on people actually doing things around her. I wish she had a little more agency. I wish she asked out the guy that she liked, obviously, instead of waiting until the last possible moment to allow that to happen. Like, that's not great.

01:10:13 Ben Host Yeah.

01:10:14 Adam Host But if there's a Shimoda in this episode, to me... it's Leeta. What about you, Ben?
The thing that made me laugh the most in this episode was the single on O'Brien in the interview section.

[Stifling laughter] Uh-huh.

Where he's terribly concerned that any of this might get back to Bashir.

Right.

And all he has to say are like, the most glowing forms of praise. And I feel like that's O'Brien projecting **himself** onto Bashir. Like, he's a guy that really like, does **not**—does not wanna be the center of attention, and does not want to be the subject of praise.

Yeah.

And, uh—I think there are so many really insightful character moments in this episode, and that is like the **briefest** thing about O'Brien but is **so** true to who he has been presented to us as. And I really loved it. So... O'Brien's my Drunk Shimoda for this episode.

Faaantastic.

A techno song mixed with clips and soundbites from **DS9**.

**Speaker:** Gotta—
**Sisko:** Get that—get that—
**Quark:** Gold-pressed latinum
**Sisko:** Get that—get that—
**Nog:** Gold-pressed latinum!
**Sisko:** Am I right? Ha ha! Hoo! Yeah!

Am I—am I right? Ha ha! Hoo!

**Music:** Dramatic, movie trailer–esque music.

[The hosts use very "announcer" voices in this promo.]

**Mark Gagliardi:** We interrupt the podcast you're listening to to tell you about another podcast! That's right: **We Got This with Mark and Hal**.

**Hal Lublin:** That's correct, Mark! This is Hal. We do the hard work for you! Settling all of the meaningless arguments you have with your friends.

**Mark:** So tune in every week on the Maximum Fun network for **We Got This with Mark and Hal**, and all your questions will be asked... and answered.

**Hal:** You're welcome!

[Music reaches an apex and quiets down.]

**Mark:** Alright. That's enough of that.

**Chorus:** [Singing] **We Got This**!
Lisa Hanawalt: Hey, if you like your podcasts to be focused and well-researched, and your podcast hosts to be uncharismatic, unhorny strangers who have no interest in horses, then this is not the podcast for you.

Emily Heller: Yeah, and what's your deal?

[Lisa laughs.]

I'm Emily.

Lisa: I'm Lisa.

Emily: Our show's called Baby Geniuses!

Lisa: And its hosts are horny adult idiots. We discover weird Wikipedia pages every episode.

Emily: We discuss institutional misogyny!

Lisa: We ask each other the dumbest questions, and our listeners won't stop sending us pictures of their butts.

Emily: We haven't asked them to stop! But they also aren't stopping.

Lisa: Join us on Baby Geniuses.

Emily: Every other week on MaximumFun.org.

[Music ends.]

01:12:27  Music Transition A techno song mixed with clips and soundbites from DS9.

Speaker: Gotta, gotta—
Sisko: Get that—get that—
Quark: Gold-pressed latinum
Sisko: Get that—get that—
Nog: Gold-pressed latinum!
Quark: Latinum?
Speaker: Latinum!
Quark: Latinum?
Speaker: Latinum!
Distorted Speaker: Go-go-go-gold-pressed latinum!
Nog: That's a lot of yamok sauce!

[Cash register “cha-ching!” sound.]

01:12:38  Adam Host Well, Ben, what are we watching for the very next episode of Star Trek: Deep Space Nine, and how will we watch it?

01:12:46  Ben Host Well, I'll tell you what, and, uh, and then I'll tell ya how.

[Adam laughs quietly.]

How about that?

01:12:51  Adam Host Great. That's the right order.

01:12:53  Ben Host Here—here as I finish my fourth Coco Nono. [Coughs.]
Yeah, I'm down to the pitcher, personally.

Yeah! Our next episode is season 5, episode 17, "A Simple Investigation."

"Odo falls in love... with a mysterious woman who has been targeted for murder." Alright. And I now need to call up the Game of Buttholes—

[Thunder crashes.]

—-Will of the Prophets, which you can check out at Gagh.Biz/game. This is where we determine how we will be watching the next episode of the show.

Falow (DS9, "Move Along Home"): You are required to learn as you play. Roll.

[The Wadi are tapping their klon peags (sticks) rhythmically, and continue during the segment. Clip audio and podcast audio are intertwined for the next several lines.]

We are on square 46. Alright, Adam. I'm gonna roll this bone, see where we land. It looks like we've got that, uh, notorious Space Butthole that will send us back to "Fuck it, we'll do it live" as the primary hazard on this roll. And I believe we've canceled that square, but we haven't actually come up with what to replace it with yet, so...

[Quark breathes on the dice.]

This is interesting!

[Clip audio ends.]

Which jumps us over that hazard. Now, uh, I've got us on square 52. And that is a regular-ass episode. We are not going to be drinking any Tiki drinks next time we record the podcast.

[Sighs.] That's good. I think I could use a break. I'm down to the bottom of my pitcher here.

[Ben laughs quietly.]

Very full of rum. And pineapple juice. And coconut milk.

The amount of drinking that goes on on-tour is...

Excessive?

Excessive, and we just came back from tour, so I really am going to appreciate a regular-ass episode. [Laughs.]

Yeah, I thought I'd come home and we'd dry out, but that is not what
No such luck, my friend.

But one thing that makes me feel lucky every month is the monthly support that the Friends of Desoto provide us by going to MaximumFun.org/donate.

You think someone else is just gonna take care of it for you, but that's not how it works.

No.

If you love the show, if you listen to it week-in and week-out, I would encourage you to go to MaximumFun.org/donate to support the production of this show. It is...

Yeah. Gotta be you.

It is difficult. It is expensive. It is more expensive every month.

Yeah. The more people that listen, the more we pay for bandwidth, etc. So, uh, yeah! Thank you for supporting.

So many people help make this show possible. It's not just us. It does take a village. A village of nerds, Ben. I think that village—

—has got a village elder. A leader, if you will.

[Laughing quietly] Mm. Mm-hm?

Who's that gonna be? You think that's Bill Tilley? Before he double-crosses us?

[Chuckles.] Yeah. Bill—Bill Tilley will eventually betray us. But for now—

[Laughs quietly.] For now he gets our gratitude for making the trading cards that he posts to multiple social media sites. You can find him on Twitter, for example, as @billtilley1973. He's one of the best in the business.

Yeah.

Also wanna give a great big shout-out to those who make the music of this show. The original theme music for The Greatest Generation was made by Dark Materia. That music, chopped and screwed by the great Adam Ragusea and turned into theme and interstitial music that you hear on The Greatest Generation and The Greatest Generation: Deep Space Nine. And The Greatest Discovery!

Yeah!

Adam: That guy's—that guy's prolific!

Ben: Yeah!

Prolific! And he has a great cooking channel on YouTube, if you search "Adam Ragusea" on YouTube.

You can find Ben on one of those episodes!

Yeah! I made something for the YouTube channel, and I think—as far as I understand, the invitation is open for you to cook something for
Adam Ragusea's YouTube channel as well.

**Ben:** And I would, uh, really like to see what you do!

**Adam:** Well, I'll wait to hear it from him.

I'll wait to hear it from him. But, uh, I—

**Ben:** He told me to tell you!

I'm gonna—I'm gonna get it from the Ragusea's mouth. Not gonna—

[Ben sighs loudly.]

Not gonna trust what I hear secondhand. That's crazy.

I'm telling you he told me. He's—he's our friend. And I happened to be in contact with him because I was sending him this footage, and he said "Tell Adam I would love for him to cook something for the channel as well."

Well, I'm selling all of my camera gear. I'm going all in on podcast, so...

You're moving to LA, though! And I still have my camera gear! So you could come—you could use my stuff!

[Laughs.] Thanks, Adam Ragusea.

You're the best. Thanks to, uh, the great folks at MaximumFun.org, thanks to all the Friends of DeSoto... Thanks to the people that run the Wikia.

Yeah, thanks to all viewers everywhere, and with that, we'll be back at you next time with another great episode of Star Trek: Deep Space Nine, and an episode of The Greatest Generation: Deep Space Nine... which really has a lot of questions about who Odo might have fallen for if it's not Kira.

Yeah, what the hell, Odo? What are you, Leeta?

Yeah, I don't know. I—I might—I'm—honestly, I think I'd keep the candle lit for Kira if I'm Odo.

I'd turn myself into a candle and remain lit for her.

That's how great I think she is.

Yeah! You—you would, uh, attempt to Dr. Beverly her?

Sure would.

"The Picard Song" continues.
Make make make-make-make-make make it so!

[Echoing] Jean-Luc Picard—card—card—card—

[Song fades out.]

01:18:59 Ben Host Hey, Adam! Before we get off the mic, I just wanna encourage you to have a Brode, /[laughs]/ before—before the night gets too long in the tooth.

01:19:08 Adam Host Good thinking! Yeah! Our friends at Brode.ca. We will give them a free plug here post-credits.

Come on. Come on, Brode.

01:19:18 Ben Host Get those Brodes!

01:19:19 Adam Host If you buy a Brode and you've heard about Brode through Greatest Gen, make sure to tell them that's how you heard about 'em. Because seriously. We're selling a lotta Brodes for Brode.

[Ben laughs.]

On our podcast. Gimme a break.

[Ben laughs.]

Come on.

01:19:35 Music Transition A cheerful guitar chord.

01:19:36 Speaker 1 Guest MaximumFun.org.

01:19:38 Speaker 2 Guest Comedy and culture.

01:19:39 Speaker 3 Guest Artist owned—

01:19:40 Speaker 4 Guest —audience supported.