

00:00:00	Sound Effect	Transition	<i>[Computer beeps.]</i>
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	<i>[Airhorns.]</i>
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 17 th !
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 24 th at ten AM. Tickets are \$30, and \$40 for reserved premium seating, Ben. That's in the splash zone.
00:00:30	Ben	Promo	<i>[Laughs.]</i> 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. Greatest Gen Khan II—
00:00:45	Sound Effect	Sound Effect	<i>[Airhorns.]</i>
00:00:46	Ben	Promo	—Star Trek III is coming to San Francisco!
00:00:49	Sound Effect	Transition	<i>[Computer beeps.]</i>
00:00:50	Music	Transition	Dark Materia's "The Picard Song," record-scratching into a Sisko-centric remix by Adam Ragusea.
			<i>Picard:</i> <i>Here's to the finest crew in Starfleet! Engage.</i>
			<i>[Music begins. A fast-paced techno beat.]</i>
			<i>Picard:</i> <i>Captain Jean-Luc Picard, the USS Enterprise!</i>
			<i>[Music slows, record scratch, and then music speeds back up.]</i>
			<i>Sisko:</i> <i>Commander Benjamin Sisko, the Federation starbase... Deep Space 9.</i>
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 <i>The Greatest Generation: Deep Space Nine</i> . It's a <i>Star Trek</i> podcast from a couple of guys who are a little bit embarrassed to have a <i>Star Trek</i> podcast. <u>And</u> to be doing a Quark's Bar while doing it. I'm Ben Harrison.
00:01:20	Adam	Host	I'm Adam Pranica.
			<i>[Music fades out.]</i>
			The drinking helps me lose my inhibitions, which...
00:01:25	Ben	Host	<i>[Stifling laughter]</i> Uh-huh?
00:01:26	Adam	Host	Which is why I would be embarrassed! I don't expect to be embarrassed in another... ten minutes.
00:01:31	Ben	Host	<i>[Laughs.]</i> Have you already started?

00:01:34 Adam Host Yeah. Started a little bit.

00:01:36 Ben Host Yeah. I had a moment in the corner store when I was buying my provisions for today's episode that... I may come to regret, because I was there thinking about maybe getting some apple cider, some hard cider. And I had a can of that in my hand, and then I looked up and there was a four-pack of a microbrew called Banana Bread Beer. And I thought it would be funny to have apples and bananas?
[Laughing] So—so I got that.

00:02:11 Adam Host *[Sighs.]* God. I—I just don't understand you sometimes.

00:02:14 Ben Host *[Laughs.]* So I'm gonna try this Banana Bread Beer for the first time.

00:02:19 Adam Host I hope it's great. I don't hope it's bad. I'm not making fun of you. Did you get a sixer of this, or just get one?

00:02:27 Ben Host It was a four.

00:02:28 Adam Host Okay.

00:02:29 Ben Host It was sold as a four-pack, and I don't have whatever bone that is that other people have, in my head, where you can take one out of a four-pack and walk up and make eye contact with the person selling it.

00:02:41 Adam Host Yeah, I don't have that either. Instead I have the bone that buys four or six of a thing, I'll have the first one and not like it, and then it'll stay in my pantry for four years.

00:02:52 Ben Host Wow! If I don't like it, I will accelerate through the remaining five to not let them go to waste.

00:03:00 Adam Host Man, I've been, uh—
[Ben laughs.]
—leaving a half a beer behind sometimes. I'm just not consuming a thing I don't like, if I don't like it. You know?

00:03:09 Ben Host Well, Banana Bread Beer, surprisingly pretty good! I think you would like this in a, uh, beach context!

00:03:17 Adam Host What?!

00:03:18 Ben Host Yeah.

00:03:19 Adam Host A Banana Bread Beer is a light-and-crushable?

00:03:22 Ben Host It is light, it is crushable, Adam.

00:03:25 Adam Host Gimme on a scale of one to ten bananas how much of that banana's coming through.

00:03:29 Ben Host I would say that it's about... a three on the banana, and like a two on the beer flavor.

00:03:36 Adam Host Are you gonna have a second one on the show? I guess that's the real test, right?

00:03:41 Ben Host I don't have a choice! It's the only thing I have left, because I drank my one apple cider.

00:03:46 Adam Host You're stuck with it.

00:03:47 Ben Host I'm stuck with you, Adam. And we are cruising into a whole new decade! Who'd'a thought that *The Greatest Generation* would last—

would span more than one decade?

- 00:03:57 Adam Host I certainly didn't. I mean, this weird experiment has turned into a lifestyle.
- 00:04:01 Ben Host Yeah.
- 00:04:02 Adam Host And here we are.
- 00:04:03 Ben Host Do you have any new decade resolutions?
- 00:04:07 Adam Host Lately, my mind and my focus has been so narrowed to... the week that I'm living—
- [Ben laughs.]*
- that it has been very hard to think very far into the future. And I know this is a time of year where many people do, but I feel like if I look past the week that I'm in, I'm just going to drive myself crazy. I'm in that kind of headspace lately.
- 00:04:33 Ben Host Right. 'Cause you've got the whole move coming up. You've got a lot of, uh, "i"s and "t"s that need crossing in the extreme short-term. And we're kind of—we're recording this a couple weeks ahead of its release, but you know, like, I'm going on a holiday trip. Like, I don't think either of us is particularly hoping to do a lot of work during the holiday season.
- 00:04:55 Adam Host Right. And—
- 00:04:56 Ben Host So we're trying to pre-tape and pre-edit. And that kinda turns this time of year into an end run. And you stack that on top of your impending out-of-state move, and that's a lot!
- 00:05:10 Adam Host Yeah, I'm working as fast and as hard as I can, because I know there's gonna be... a period of weeks where I can't. Because all of my shit will be in a box or something.
- 00:05:19 Ben Host Right.
- 00:05:20 Adam Host You know?
- 00:05:21 Ben Host Yeah.
- 00:05:22 Adam Host Exciting.
- [Ben laughs.]*
- What about you, Ben? When you look at 2020, what do you see through those smudged glasses?
- 00:05:29 Ben Host Uh, keeping my glasses less smudged is one thing that I aspire to on an ongoing basis, so that might be a good thing to look at for 2020.
- 00:05:40 Adam Host Uh-huh.
- 00:05:41 Ben Host And the twenties in general.
- 00:05:42 Adam Host Yeah.
- 00:05:43 Ben Host I lost a bunch of weight in 2019, and I would like 2020 to be about being... just in better shape in general, and also keeping an eye on that. Like, 'cause I think I—it was mostly through studied indifference and inaction that I gained weight that I didn't want.
- 00:06:02 Adam Host Yeah.

00:06:03 Ben Host That I put it all on. So a 2020 where I maintain. I don't, you know, fluctuate radically in pants size, would be nice.

00:06:12 Adam Host People don't concentrate enough on maintenance in favor of either gaining or losing a certain thing. You know?

00:06:21 Ben Host Yeah.

00:06:22 Adam Host Maintenance is healthy!

00:06:23 Ben Host Yeah! And I'm—literally, like I'm paying attention to this stuff for the first time in my life, so... I'm lucky to be saying that, but—

00:06:30 Adam Host Sure. Yeah, we all are.

00:06:31 Ben Host Yeah! So, I don't know. I don't think anything major. My wife and I are trying for having a house sometime soon that isn't a tiny little rental.

00:06:45 Adam Host So many of those words are usually followed by "baby," Ben, that uh, it—

[Ben laughs.]

—I sharply inhaled before the end of that sentence. "My wife and I are expecting to live in a house."

00:06:56 Ben Host *[Laughs.]* "I proposed... getting pre-approved for a mortgage."

00:07:03 Adam Host *[Stifling laughter]* Uh-huh.

[Ben laughs.]

"My wife has pulled the goalie in her fantasy hockey league."

00:07:08 Ben Host *[Laughs.]* Yeah, so that's like—2020 is a year that that is... as likely as any so far to happen. But it's really scary to me, because she and I have very different approaches to major purchases. And I get really stressed out and just, you know—I commit hard and fast, and she really likes to consider every option, and, you know, is willing to let an opportunity pass if it—if she's not 1000% sure.

00:07:45 Adam Host Yeah.

00:07:46 Ben Host And it takes her a long—a much longer time to get to 1000% sure than it does for me. So... I'm, you know, bracing myself for the challenges of that, as well.

00:07:58 Adam Host Yeah, man. I think I know the feeling. And these decisions last for years and years, so it feels like you need to get 'em right. And that is a—that is a kind of pressure.

00:08:08 Ben Host Yeah.

Well, man, I know you've got a lot on your mind. So why don't you crack a beer, and we can do our favorite thing? Which is sitting around yammering about a *Star Trek* episode we just watched.

00:08:24 Adam Host The pod heals, Ben.

[Ben laughs.]

Maybe this one will do the same. It's *Deep Space Nine* season 5, episode 20! "Ferengi... Love Songs."

00:08:34 Music Transition 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!

00:08:44	Adam	Host	With a title like that, I expected more music. Didn't you?
00:08:48	Ben	Host	<i>[Laughs.]</i> You thought it might be like, uh—like that episode of <i>Buffy</i> that's a musical?
00:08:54	Adam	Host	That woulda been great!
00:08:55	Ben	Host	Turns out Ferengi love songs are... a lot of <u>crying</u> ! There is a ton of <u>crying</u> in this episode!
00:09:01	Adam	Host	There's so many Ferengi in this episode that it made me really appreciate Armin Shimerman's performance as Quark by—I mean, that's not to say <u>any</u> of the guest stars are <u>bad</u> , to any extent. But Armin Shimerman's been wearing the <u>loaf</u> for years and years.
00:09:18	Ben	Host	Yeah.
00:09:19	Adam	Host	He is <u>practiced</u> in how to do what he does. One of the things I noticed in this episode is how much of the lower part of his mouth moves compared to his top. Like, when he's enunciating— <i>[Ben laughs.]</i> —articulating words?
00:09:32	Ben	Host	Yeah.
00:09:33	Adam	Host	Like, it's his bottom lip moving, because his top teeth are so big!
00:09:37	Ben	Host	Yeah. Yeah—
00:09:38	Adam	Host	It looks really hard!
00:09:39	Ben	Host	One of the things about the Ferengi teeth is that... it—it is definitely causing <u>all</u> of these actors to have to kind of consciously do things with their mouths to keep them closed when they're <u>not</u> talking?
00:09:52	Adam	Host	Yeah!
00:09:53	Ben	Host	It—they look like they got a mouth full of marbles. And just the fact that they are <u>elocuting</u> through all that crap that's being stuck in their mouths is really impressive.
00:10:05	Adam	Host	I mean, I think it's one of the reasons why Moogie was recast! The actor who played her in the last Moogie episode was like "Can't do the loaf! Sorry!"
00:10:14	Ben	Host	Wow, I didn't even realize!
00:10:16	Adam	Host	So they brought in Cecily Adams to play her this time around.
00:10:18	Ben	Host	Wow.
00:10:19	Adam	Host	Who is great! But I wonder—it's— <i>[laughs]</i> . It's hard!

[Ben laughs.]

To cast guest stars on these shows for so many reasons! I mean...

00:10:28	Ben	Host	Yeah.
00:10:29	Adam	Host	Let alone the discomfort that an actor goes through in just wearing the prosthetic.
00:10:35	Ben	Host	Yeah. This episode opens with very strong season one, episode one vibes. They show Quark, like, standing, just looking quite dismayed outside the bar. Which... sounds and looks sort of like the scene of a battle.
00:10:52	Clip	Clip	Jadzia Dax: Who's winning the war? Quark: <i>[Sighs.]</i> It's too early to tell.
00:10:55	Ben	Host	Like, there's smoke and flashes and crackling noises back there. And, uh... we are led to understand, by a conversation he has with Dax, that the bar has been totally overrun or <u>occupied</u> by Cardassian voles.
00:11:15	Adam	Host	This is a time where, depending on the sound effects you use, you can really change the feeling of a scene. Right?
00:11:25	Ben	Host	Mm-hm.
00:11:26	Adam	Host	And you don't wanna make it too cartoonish. You don't wanna make it sound like a vacuum and a thump.
00:11:30	Ben	Host	Yeah.
00:11:31	Adam	Host	Uh, you don't wanna sound like they're <u>screaming</u> and—and being vaporized. Like, they—
00:11:36	Ben	Host	Right, you don't wanna ruin people's TV dinner.
00:11:38	Adam	Host	Yeah. So I really think that they tried to get the middle ground here, sound-wise. But you can imagine there's a version of this that is <u>terrifying</u> .
00:11:48	Clip	Clip	Speaker 1: LET'S ROOOOCK! Speaker 2: YEAHHH! <i>[Gunfire and shouting.]</i>
00:11:52	Ben	Host	I was trying to tell my wife about how the new <i>Watchmen</i> show is good.
00:11:56	Adam	Host	Yeah!
00:11:57	Ben	Host	And she—to my <u>shock</u> , she agreed to watch an episode of it with me. <i>[Chuckles.]</i> And, uh—and I had forgotten that that first episode features a scene where they attempt to storm a barn house and have to take cover behind the corpses of cows.
00:12:12	Adam	Host	Yeahhh.
00:12:13	Ben	Host	<i>[Laughs.]</i> Which are getting machine gunned apart. And my wife is sitting there, like, you know, pushing her dinner away from her— <i>[laughs].</i>
00:12:23	Adam	Host	Yeah. That's, uh—that's an unfortunate steak night.
00:12:25	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	Ben: It was like, "Ugh. God damn it. Come on!" <i>[Laughs.]</i> Like, this—

Adam: That's—that show is great.

00:12:30 Ben Host But that is such an atypical, like, needle-pegging scene in that show.

00:12:35 Adam Host Yeah.

00:12:36 Ben Host That's not standard issue—I mean, it's crazy that that's in the first episode, given how... how crazy that scene is.

00:12:44 Adam Host It's excessive in that way that comedy can be, where something starts a little funny and then it gets less funny the more you do it, but then it gets more funny?

00:12:55 Ben Host *[Laughs.]* Right.

00:12:56 Adam Host When you do it for an excessive amount of time?

00:12:58 Ben Host Yeah.

00:12:59 Adam Host That seems like how sound design works, too. Like, if they were just filling up one cow full of artillery—

[Ben laughs.]

—it would be gross and bad. But that they fill up 80 cows...

00:13:10 Ben Host Yeah.

00:13:11 Adam Host It somehow circumnavigates gross into something... better.

00:13:14 Ben Host Not for my wife! *[Laughs.]*

00:13:16 Adam Host Yeah.

00:13:17 Ben Host What's the one thing that can cheer Quark up at a moment like this, Adam?

00:13:21 Clip Clip **Rom:** We're getting married!

00:13:22 Adam Host Didn't this episode make you think a lot about mental health?

[Ben laughs.]

And your own personal mental health? Because Quark is depressed—he says as much. Whether or not he is is another... is a conversation for another time, but—

00:13:35 Ben Host Well, there's like, situational depression and clinical depression, and I think he's depressed because he's been in the ball-kicking machine—

00:13:44 Sound Effect Sound Effect *[Mechanical sounds followed by a thud.]*

00:13:45 Ben Host —for a long time.

00:13:47 Adam Host What many people don't realize about those who are experiencing depression is that other people's happiness does not generally have an effect.

00:13:54 Clip Clip **Quark:** Wish I was dead.

00:13:56 Ben Host *[Laughing]* No.

00:13:57 Adam Host And—*[stifles laughter]* and Rom and Leeta are like "You are gonna love this!"

[Ben laughs.]

"You're gonna feel so much better once you see how we have paired off and found love."

00:14:05 Ben Host Yeah. Uh, Rom and Leeta, not exactly taking things slow. *[Laughs.]*

00:14:10 Adam Host No.

00:14:12 Ben Host I don't think we've seen a single date go down. But now they are betrothed to one another. And this does not... this does not cause Quark to jump for joy on his, uh, *[stifles laughter]* psychoanalyst couch that he happens to have in his living room.

00:14:28 Adam Host Yeah.

00:14:29 Ben Host And so Rom suggests that because he's feeling crummy, he should go home for an extended visit with Ma Duke.

00:14:40 Adam Host *[Questionably sincere]* Because when a person's feeling bad, family is often the answer.

[Both laugh.]

Clearly Quark's family does not prescribe to the three-night rule that you and I know and love, because he goes back to visit Moogie on Ferenginar open-endedly.

00:14:58 Ben Host He surprises her with the visit. She's not given any advance warning that he's coming.

00:15:03 Adam Host Yeah.

00:15:04 Ben Host And, uh—I think this—is this the first time we've seen him wear a raincoat?

00:15:09 Adam Host Oh, yeah!

00:15:10 Ben Host 'Cause Ferenginar's always rainy.

00:15:13 Adam Host Yeah.

00:15:14 Ben Host But Ferengi are always wearing, like, pretty elaborate clothing that doesn't seem super rain-friendly.

00:15:21 Adam Host Yeah, they—

00:15:22 Ben Host So I liked that he was bundled up in this.

00:15:25 Adam Host Not a lot of wicking fibers.

[Ben laughs.]

On the Ferengi, it appears.

00:15:29 Ben Host No. So he schleps into his childhood bedroom to drop his stuff, and, uh, is shocked to find that his mom has kind of redecorated. Turned it into more of a guest room than a, uh—than a shrine to her fully grown, 40-year-old son. *[Laughs.]*

00:15:52 Adam Host Yeah, there's like a NordicTrack, and a...

[Ben laughs.]

And a home office.

00:15:56 Ben Host Yeah, yeah. The printer is on the floor 'cause there isn't really an

appropriate piece of furniture to put it on.

00:16:01 Adam Host It's very—very disappointing.

00:16:03 Ben Host But also well within her rights to do it, because he has been grown and out of the house for a long time. And you know, when you—when you grow up, you have to put away childish things.

00:16:15 Adam Host Yeah! Also, uh, he hasn't been... a great family member to her.

00:16:20 Ben Host Yeah. And he's putting stuff away, he opens the closet, sticks something in, and—

00:16:26 Music Music Excerpt of R. Kelly's "Trapped in the Closet, Chapter 2."

He opens the door, I can't believe it's a man!
[Echoing] Man! Man!

00:16:31 Clip Clip **Grand Nagus Zek:** Quark! What are you doing here?!

00:16:33 Ben Host That is the hilarious reveal that Grand Nagus Zek and Maihar'du, *[laughs]* are, uh—are stashed in the closet!

00:16:42 Adam Host This really feels like a... episode of a season that is really paying attention to its budget.

[Ben laughs.]

Because the closet becomes a transporter room throughout the episode.

00:16:56 Ben Host *[Laughing]* Yeah!

00:16:57 Adam Host And you never see the effect! People just appear in the closet!

00:17:00 Ben Host They are not bothering with the effect. If this was season one of *TNG* and they were hiding the transporter effect every time, people would go insane.

00:17:11 Adam Host Yeah, you don't even see a glow from behind the door. It makes me wonder what constraints that, uh, René Auberjonois had to go through for this. This is a—yet another episode directed by him.

00:17:23 Ben Host I think he directed eight, and this is his sixth.

00:17:26 Adam Host Yeah, the reveal is that Zek is there because he and Moogie... are in love. A love that began at a Tongo tournament that she gave him winning advice for.

00:17:37 Ben Host They really schmoopie each other, these two.

00:17:40 Clip Clip *[Zek and Ishka sort of affectionately squeal at each other.]*

Quark: Does anyone know about this?

00:17:44 Adam Host There's way more nose-play than ear-play with them. Isn't that weird?

00:17:49 Ben Host Yeah. Yeah! I wonder if the Zek ear-loaf is so...

00:17:54 Adam Host So fucked out? *[Laughs.]*

00:17:56 Ben Host Yeah, well I wonder—I wonder if it's like, delicate, because it's so bumpy and lumpy.

00:18:00 Adam Host If you're Zek, aren't you getting oo-mox on the reg? Like, to the point where your shit is just totally numb?

00:18:08 Ben Host *[Laughs.]* He—

00:18:10 Adam Host Maybe that's why he switched to the nose.

00:18:12 Ben Host He's got the kung fu grip problem, but for his ears?

00:18:15 Adam Host Yeah!

[Ben laughs.]

00:18:19 Ben Host Yeah, I mean look at those things! They are pretty ragged.
"Sorry, baby, I just can't get there in your pussy because I've been fucking with my ears my whole life!"

[Adam laughs.]

00:18:25 Adam Host "Do you mind oo-moxing me off?"
Yeah!

[Both laugh.]

00:18:28 Ben Host Back on Deep Space 9, the B story is the Rom and Leeta betrothal. And this a—this is one of those deep B stories that wraps up, like, well ahead of the A story because the episode loses interest in it. But the basics of it are: Rom is kind of converting to Bajoranism. He's taken to wearing the Bajoran earring.

00:18:54 Clip Clip **O'Brien:** Rom is not your traditional Ferengi male.
Rom: *[Hesitantly]* I guess not.

00:18:58 Ben Host And Dax kind of, as a—as a... you know, as an ally to the Ferengi people, uh, sort of "no true Scotsman"s him, *[laughs]* where she—she's asking like, how Leeta is going to conform to his belief system as a Ferengi. And you know, this is stated very innocently, as Dax just asking questions. But leads to Rom nearly ruining a good thing for himself.

00:19:29 Adam Host Can you remember another conversation between Rom and Dax?

00:19:33 Clip Clip **Dax:** You're probably the least Ferengi-like Ferengi I've ever met!

00:19:37 Ben Host I think that Dax... the implication is that Dax has spent a lot of time with Quark and Rom because of all of her late-night Tongo hijinks.

00:19:46 Adam Host And has been a member of many cultures over her centuries of existence. So I bet that's like a natural conclusion for her to draw. Like, coming from a place of centuries of life experience than...

00:19:59 Ben Host Yeah.

00:20:00 Adam Host ...her experience knowing Rom in any way.

00:20:03 Ben Host It's amazing how she can seem super wise and super naive at the same time.

00:20:08 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Adam:** You would expect her to be more condescending or Guinan-like in her takes, but she's never written that way.
Ben: Right. Yeah, she's—

00:20:17 Ben Host She is not written like Guinan at all.

00:20:19 Adam Host Yeah.

00:20:20	Ben	Host	But yeah, Rom is like "Oh, shit." <i>[Laughs.]</i> "I better, like, go get like a prenup written up. Uh, I gotta go see my family attorney. 'Cause I—you know, I never even <u>thought</u> about the fact that Leeta's not gonna be nude and unemployed while we're married!"
00:20:36	Music	Transition	A techno song mixed with clips and soundbites from <i>DS9</i> . <i>O'Brien: Gul Dukat!</i> <i>Kira: Dukat!</i> <i>Sisko: Dukat.</i> <i>O'Brien: Gul Dukat!</i> <i>Kira: Dukat!</i> <i>Dukat: So...</i>
00:20:41	Adam	Host	There's a <u>thousand</u> different episodes on television of "Oh no, my mom is in love with my boss." Or something.
00:20:48	Ben	Host	Right.
00:20:49	Adam	Host	But this doesn't <u>feel</u> like any of those.
00:20:51	Ben	Host	No. The relationship by itself doesn't really offend him, and only later in the episode do they even like, speak to the kind of scandalousness of it.
00:21:02	Adam	Host	Mm-hm.
00:21:03	Ben	Host	Because she is... to, you know—like, she's the only example of a Ferengi woman we have on an ongoing basis on the show, but we're led to understand that she's extremely unconventional in many ways. In a way that would probably be like, politically inconvenient for Zek if it was public knowledge?
00:21:22	Adam	Host	Sure.
00:21:23	Ben	Host	But they have a great bond with each other. And like, that part of it doesn't really bother Quark. It's not until the idea that there might be a come-up for him in breaking them up that he starts to really reject what they've got.
00:21:42	Adam	Host	I mean, the way that the A and the B story are so alike in this episode is that they're about people in love with each other who are imperfect fits.
00:21:54	Ben	Host	Right.
00:21:55	Adam	Host	And where Rom and Leeta are concerned, Rom needs to make a decision about how much of his culture to inject into his own marriage. O'Brien reviews what is tantamount to a Ferengi prenup, and <u>wisely</u> tells him that there's no fucking way that Leeta's gonna sign something that onerous.
00:22:14	Clip	Clip	<i>O'Brien: Well, it's your life. But I think you're making a big mistake.</i>
00:22:17	Ben	Host	It's not <u>just</u> a prenup. It's referred to as a WP&P. The Waver of Property and Profit.
00:22:24	Adam	Host	Yeah.
00:22:25	Ben	Host	And it stipulates that at such time as the marriage ends, like, anything that is hers is his and anything that's his is his. <i>[Laughs.]</i> Like, it's a real "Fuck you."

00:22:36 Adam Host What's really interesting about this contract and its reason for existence—and the reason that Rom wants to use it—is his backstory with his first wife. And these two scenes are ones that I thought a lot about the order of, because I wonder how different it would feel to go through that scene with O'Brien talking about that contract if before that scene you got the moment of Rom revealing that he's scared of making the same mistake with Leeta that he made with his first wife. And that really incites it.

But instead, in the episode, it's—you get to understand the contract first, and then you follow it up with the reason that Rom has in encouraging Leeta to sign it.

00:23:20 Ben Host Yeah, he's definitely not falling the—following the Brené Brown TED Talk thing of "Be vulnerable with your loved ones."

00:23:29 Adam Host Yeah.

00:23:30 Ben Host If he laid his cards on the table, she would understand what was motivating this and maybe not just react to it like it's a thing he's doing to her.

00:23:37 Adam Host Yeah.

00:23:38 Ben Host That'd be nice.

00:23:39 Adam Host I don't know what that's like, though.

00:23:41 Ben Host Yeah. She, uh—she throws this iPad right back in his face.

00:23:44 Clip Clip **Rom:** Sign the WP&P!

Leeta: [*Incredulous*] Never!

Rom: Then the marriage is off!

Leeta: You bet it is!

00:23:51 Adam Host I think when you jump into marriage this quickly, it is very easy to call it off just as fast, right?

00:23:57 Ben Host [*Laughs.*] Yeah.

Yeah. We learn that, uh, five minutes into the episode that marriage was on—

00:24:03 Adam Host Mm-hm.

00:24:04 Ben Host —and then fourteen minutes into the episode that marriage was off, so...

00:24:07 Adam Host Right.

00:24:08 Ben Host Hard to feel terrible about this. But wanting Rom to get something this good seems like what they're counting on, for this to carry any weight for us.

00:24:16 Adam Host Right.

Dinner at Moogie's has Quark and Zek and her around the dinner table. And Quark is attempting to butter Zek up. He's got an angle, and the angle is if he can just butter him up, possibly, he may be in a position to reinstate his business license.

00:24:37 Clip Clip **Zek:** Forget it, Quark!

00:24:38 Ben Host Right, and the quotient of shame that this connotes—

00:24:40 Sound Effect Sound Effect *[Ding!]*

00:24:41 Ben Host —is a little unclear, because the first words that pass between Quark and Zek in the beginning of the episode is—are like, "What the hell are you even doing on Ferenginar? You're not even welcome here."

00:24:52 Adam Host Yeah.

00:24:53 Ben Host But now it doesn't seem like—it doesn't really seem like Quark is so... it's not like Worf's discommendation, where he can't even show his face around other Ferengi. Like, he can leave the house safely, right?

00:25:08 Adam Host Right.

00:25:09 Ben Host So yeah. But Zek's position is "The FCA were the ones that revoked your license, and it's really like a bureaucratic matter. I can't be seen to, you know, engage in acts of nepotism like getting my girlfriend's son his business license back."

00:25:27 Adam Host Yeah, and what's worse is that Moogie won't back him up. At least in public.

00:25:31 Ben Host This is when, in frustration, he heads back to his room and the transporter closet reveals...

00:25:38 Clip Clip *[Dramatic music.]*

Brunt, FCA: Brunt... FCA.

00:25:41 Ben Host It's our second Jeffrey Combs episode in a row, Adam!

00:25:43 Adam Host Yeah!

00:25:44 Ben Host This time not as Weyoun, but as Brunt!

00:25:47 Adam Host He's getting a lot of work, that Jeffrey Combs!

00:25:49 Ben Host Yeah! Yeah, he's nearly main cast except for he's playing multiple characters. *[Laughs.]*

00:25:55 Adam Host Yeah.

00:25:56 Ben Host And he is offering Quark a way back to having the business license.

00:26:00 Clip Clip **Brunt:** You've gotta put an end to their relationship.

Quark: You've got a deal.

00:26:04 Adam Host This is a scene that made me really recognize the lighting challenges that a Ferengi represents.

[Ben laughs.]

And it's Brunt's face, especially, that underscores this. Because what he needs is an under-light.

00:26:19 Ben Host Yeah, he's got very deep-set eyes.

00:26:21 Adam Host His eyes are almost totally in the black, contrast-wise here, for a lot of this scene. And it's clearly a challenge on some sets to make sure an actor's face is well-lit.

00:26:35 Ben Host Like, especially when he's in the closet, super hard. Because that—like, all the doors are lower than Ferengi head height.

00:26:42 Adam Host Yeah. Yeah.

00:26:43 Ben Host For some reason. And so like, you can't even get a light up above him.

00:26:48 Adam Host Right.

00:26:49 Ben Host Necessarily. *[Laughs.]*

00:26:50 Adam Host Yeah, it's tough! I mean, you were talking before about how DS9 as a set is unique for its having a lid on it in all of its locations.

00:27:00 Ben Host Right.

00:27:01 Adam Host It's...

00:27:02 Ben Host Yeah.

00:27:03 Adam Host It's unclear how this is working on these—

00:27:05 Ben Host Yeah.

00:27:06 Adam Host —Ferenginar sets, and the challenges that those present.

00:27:09 Ben Host I don't think that there are ceilings on these sets, but one thing I thought a lot about in this episode is how uncomfortable Maihar'du's life is?

00:27:16 Adam Host Yeah...

00:27:17 Ben Host Like, he lives in these buildings! *[Laughs.]*

00:27:19 Adam Host Yeah!

00:27:20 Ben Host Like—like, most of these—most of the doors are like, waist-tall for him.

00:27:24 Adam Host Yeah, he's bent at the waist for most of the ep. That's not fun.

00:27:29 Ben Host Can you imagine how fucking uncomfortable that would be if every day you had to stoop over to get through doorways?

00:27:34 Adam Host Constantly getting things off of the top shelf for people.

00:27:38 Ben Host Yeah.

The next day is at the Nagus's, like, audience chamber, where he—you know, sits there and has Ferengi businessmen kiss his ring all day. And, uh—and unloads some bad stuff on the Nagus. It's kind of—like, Quark's version of PSYOPS is just telling the Nagus things about his mother that would horrify Quark to learn about his mother.

00:28:06 Adam Host Right. Yeah.

00:28:07 Ben Host And Quark has already learned most of this stuff. But the rumors are that she has not in fact given back all of the money that she earned when she was illegally obtaining profit—referring to an earlier episode with her—and that she has a scheme to use the money that she hid from the FCA to fund a women's rights movement on Ferenginar.

00:28:33 Clip Clip **Quark:** It's a horrifying thought!

00:28:36 Adam Host It's interesting how, like, as soon as Quark becomes motivated in this way, in exchanging his mother's happiness for his own—like, all of that depression of the first quarter of the episode... it's not like he becomes happy. It's that neutrality and a mission gives him a reason for being. You know?

00:29:00 Ben Host Yeah.

00:29:01 Adam Host Like, he's not—I don't think he's relishing this at all.

00:29:04 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Ben:** No.

Adam: But it's almost like in his neutral play on things, like, you get a sense that he's feeling better about himself because he's got this possibility.

Ben: Right. I think that he'd be really, like, gleeful if there was also a payday involved here.

Adam: Yeah.

00:29:22 Ben Host But instead he's just—he's playing it pretty neutral. Like—and competent! You know? Like, this is not... this is not one of those schemes that Quark embarks on that doesn't go well.

00:29:33 Adam Host Right.

00:29:34 Ben Host Like, when he leaves the room, Zek is... is... you know, in a tailspin, emotionally.

00:29:40 Adam Host Yeah.

00:29:41 Ben Host And that's kind of the—like, what Quark is playing at in the next scene, right? He's like, waiting for his mom to come in, and when he hears her coming, sort of gets into character as depressed and dejected Quark.

00:29:58 Adam Host Yeah, he's manipulating his mom's sense of... of being a good mom for him.

00:30:04 Ben Host And he's like "Well, you wouldn't understand, because I don't—I'm not allowed to earn profit in the Ferengi Alliance."

00:30:10 Adam Host She's like "Get in fucking line."

[Ben laughs.]

"I'm a woman on Ferenginar. Gimme a break."

00:30:15 Ben Host But also still loves him.

00:30:17 Adam Host Yeah.

Moogie agrees to talk to Zek on Quark's behalf about reinstating his business license.

00:30:23 Ben Host And I thought that was interesting, that he's—on the chance that the FC—what he's being promised by the FCA doesn't work out, he is still pushing her, right? Like, he doesn't have to go back and pursue this scheme with her, does he?

00:30:37 Adam Host But it's like one last stone unturned.

00:30:40 Ben Host Right.

00:30:41 Adam Host Like, if he tries every available option, he's got to turn over the Moogie stone.

00:30:45 Ben Host Yeah. We get a little scene on the Promenade. Uh, Odo—

00:30:48 Music Music Very brief clip of the [Mr. Bucket song](#), a "pop!"-like sound effect.

00:30:49 Ben Host —and Worf are arguing about what to do with Martok, because Martok threw someone from the second floor of the Promenade and is now locked up in Odo's holding cell. And Worf would like him to be released, and Sisko agrees that he should be released, but also Martok needs to understand that he is not—he's not living on a Klingon station where you can engage in martial disciplinary action like throwing a guy from the second floor *[laughs]* of the Promenade, and not go unpunished.

00:31:26 Adam Host Not to play Martok's advocate on this, but—
[Ben laughs.]
—he has no depth perception. Is it possible that he, like, wanted to just throw him against the rail, and instead...
[Ben laughs.]
...threw him over the side? I think so! He should take this to court!

00:31:42 Ben Host Yeah...

00:31:43 Adam Host This episode should pivot to Deep Space 9 court, and the last 20 minutes is in defense of Martok.

00:31:49 Ben Host I wish they had fleshed that out a little bit more, because... every time I've had a conversation with an attorney where I was fired up about something and I was like "Let's have our day in court!"

00:32:03 Adam Host *[Stifling laughter]* Mm-hm.

00:32:04 Ben Host You know, like, "I think we can—I think we can really stick it to them!" or whatever, the attorney is like "Don't be an idiot." Like, going to court is the last thing you want. It's expensive. Like, you know, big companies beat each other up in court over civil shit all the time, but like, private citizens can't afford that type of shit.

00:32:23 Adam Host God.

00:32:24 Ben Host So what would it be? Would Martok have to hire his own attorney, and pay for it somehow? Do the Klingons have money? Or are the Klingons also a post-scarcity, moneyless society like the Federation?

00:32:37 Adam Host We've seen Klingon lawyers before, Ben!

00:32:40 Ben Host I know! What the fuck! What would it look like?!

00:32:44 Adam Host You bring up such an interesting point about lawyers, and that is like, I've got a few lawyers in my life as friends. And the one I've been friends with the longest has been a lawyer for maybe... 15 years?

00:32:57 Ben Host *[Stifling laughter]* Uh-huh?

00:32:58 Adam Host He's been to trial maybe like, three times.
[Ben laughs.]
Why don't lawyers wanna go to trial? It's what they were trained to do!

00:33:06 Ben Host I mean, a lot of lawyers are not... trial-oriented. Like, my wife for example has had phases of her career where she was in court all the time, but she is currently primarily a policy and contracts lawyer. So...

00:33:22 Adam Host I am not—I'm not disparaging your wife's great work in any way when I say this: isn't the attraction to becoming a lawyer the trial? Isn't that, like, the inciting incident for going to law school? It feels like that's such a concentrated form of justice.

00:33:39 Ben Host Yeah. But—

00:33:40 Adam Host That—

00:33:41 Ben Host But here's the thing: it's so expensive that it's not actually the best way to resolve...

00:33:47 Adam Host Yeah...

00:33:48 Ben Host ...differences that have a legal component.

00:33:52 Adam Host A conference room is more efficient.

00:33:53 Ben Host Like, it's—it's such a weird job. Like, when I was mostly a freelance filmmaker, like, there was a ton of incentive to like, up-sell my clients on things. Like "Okay, we could do this video, but what I really think you should do is this video and then two shorter videos—"

00:34:09 Adam Host Mm-hm.

00:34:10 Ben Host "—that you can share on social media, and I can do that for only this much extra."

00:34:13 Adam Host Mm-hm.

00:34:14 Ben Host You know? And like, when my wife was working for a litigation firm, and like, a case that she was working on settled? Like, that was a celebration in her office. And I was always like, "But don't you get, like, way more billable hours if it goes to trial? Like, isn't it better to go to trial from your standpoint?"

And like—like—like, "I understand that you're like, happy on your client's behalf, but... but why are you celebrating?"

[Adam laughs.]

And I—like, I can't explain it. They just—*[laughs]*. You know? It's a weird thing about lawyers. I don't get it.

00:34:48 Adam Host Yeah, I guess the end of any trial is a cause for celebration.

00:34:53 Ben Host It's like the ethical oath that they take means something to them.

00:34:56 Adam Host Huh.

00:34:58 Ben Host I mean, going into freelance filmmaking, there's no, uh, *[laughing]* hippocratic oath.

There's no swearing-in ceremony.

00:35:06 Adam Host There's no ethics in podcasting, either, so I think we found a career that's right for us.

00:35:10 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.

00:35:26	Adam	Host	Sisko has Martok released, and then rounds a corner to hear the <u>crying</u> that can only come from a <u>Rom</u> .
00:35:34	Ben	Host	Yeah. Rom is... cry-working. <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:35:38	Adam	Host	You never wanna cry at work.
00:35:39	Ben	Host	Yeah.
00:35:40	Adam	Host	Yeah, you wanna—you wanna take that into the bathroom stall, where it belongs. Or in the <u>car</u> ! Cry in the car.
00:35:46	Ben	Host	Yeah. You'd like a workplace that has enough bathroom stalls that you can—you can go cry, and nobody knows who's in there crying.
00:35:55	Adam	Host	Yeah, doors to the floor. That's how you know you've got a good crying stall.
00:35:59	Ben	Host	Yeah. Like, European-style latrine would be great.
00:36:03	Adam	Host	<i>[Laughs.]</i> A European-style crying latrine!
			<i>[Both laugh.]</i>
00:36:08	Music	Music	Smooth, cheerful background music throughout <u>the bit</u> .
00:36:09	Adam	Host	<i>[Throughout, Ben laughs quietly and Adam stifles laughter.]</i>
			<i>[Norm Abram impression; exaggerated Boston accent]</i> "We don't normally do remodels in office spaces. But on the 43rd floor of the Transamerica tower, we're installing a new bathroom set-up here. The client's chosen to go with a floor-to-ceiling door environment for their bathroom stalls. That way, anonymous crying is allowed for all of their 40 employees."
00:36:32	Ben	Host	<i>[Same impression]</i> "It's really the classic plumber's lament!"
			<i>[Music record scratches to a stop. Return to normal voices.]</i>
00:36:34	Adam	Host	Yeah, you want a high-flow toilet in a crying stall.
00:36:38	Ben	Host	Yeah. Well, you—

00:36:40 Adam Host Wanna flush those tears down!

00:36:41 Ben Host A lot of ladies' rooms in Japan have just, like, constant water flow noise playing in them.

00:36:48 Adam Host I like that!

00:36:49 Ben Host To mitigate embarrassment.

00:36:52 Adam Host That's why when I go to the bathroom in Japan, I always choose the ladies' room.

00:36:56 Ben Host *[Laughs.]* Yeah, we should—we should experiment with having just loud water noises on this program all the time to mitigate our embarrassment.

00:37:06 Adam Host You know what? I'm gonna call the shot here. Friend of the program Ann Kilzer, uh, send us another postcard and tell us about the bathrooms in Japan.

00:37:14 Ben Host Yeah! What's up with those bathrooms?

00:37:15 Adam Host Yeah.

00:37:16 Ben Host Is that—I mean, I've only heard secondhand about this water flow noise! Maybe I'm talking about—talking outta my butt!

00:37:22 Adam Host Yeah. Bet it takes a lot less than 15 flushes—

[Ben laughs.]

—to get the stuff down over there. They know what they're doing!

00:37:29 Ben Host Well, we're living really high on the hog in this country, you know?

00:37:31 Adam Host *[Stifling laughter]* Uh-huh.

00:37:32 Ben Host This is a bang-bang-bang of crying scenes, Adam. Because we see Rom crying about how sad he is that the marriage is off, and then the camera floats up to a brief little scene with Kira and Leeta, and Leeta sort of trying to talk herself into this being the right choice, and Kira rejecting every argument that she makes to that end, and then Leeta breaking down crying.

00:37:59 Adam Host Does Nana Visitor break here? I am almost positive she does.

00:38:03 Ben Host I think it is Kira's character thinking it's cute that Leeta is this broken up about this obviously fleeting argument.

00:38:11 Adam Host I love—that moment lasts for maybe a half a second.

00:38:14 Ben Host Yeah.

00:38:15 Adam Host But I love—I love that like, her whole body feels the absurdity of that.

00:38:20 Ben Host Yeah. She's—that is a—that is... the moment of the episode, I feel like.

00:38:25 Adam Host Yeah.

00:38:26 Ben Host And then we're on Ferenginar, and Ishka is crying.

00:38:29 Adam Host Yeah. Triple crying.

00:38:31 Ben Host Quark comes in. Mom is very upset because Zek has left her, and you know, left her on a very insulting note. He called her a "profit-hungry female."

00:38:45 Adam Host I mean, he also accused her of trying to overthrow the government,

[both laughing] which is an angle that Moogie was not expecting in the breakup, right?

00:38:53 Ben Host "How'd you find out about that?!"

[Both laugh.]

"Do you look at my texts?"

[Both laugh.]

00:38:58 Adam Host Kinda blindsided. Do you think you can see your ears if you're wearing a Ferengi prosthetic? Like, out of your peripheral vision? Speaking of blind-sided.

00:39:08 Ben Host Hmm!

00:39:09 Adam Host I bet you can!

00:39:10 Ben Host Yeah!

00:39:11 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Adam:** Like, hold your fingers up to the side of your head, like, where Ferengi—like, even touching where your headphones are!

Ben: I'm wearing headphones that I can see out of the side of my eyes.

Adam: Yeah!

00:39:23 Adam Host Yeah, so you totally can!

00:39:24 Ben Host That means you can't see stuff coming up behind you, if you're a Ferengi!

00:39:28 Adam Host Yeah, that's true.

00:39:29 Ben Host That's the way to get at 'em!

00:39:30 Adam Host That's how you know the Ferengi are predators and not prey.

00:39:33 Ben Host Maybe that's why they use those whips! 'Cause they're like—they're like, circling 'em over their heads, so you—if you get close, you might just get caught by that thing.

00:39:40 Adam Host Yeah. Like that headcanon. Hey, is that Ferengi whip called a head cannon?

00:39:45 Ben Host *[Laughs.]* I believe it is.

00:39:47 Adam Host Mm.

00:39:48 Ben Host No sooner has she left the room than he blows in a FaceTime to Brunt.

00:39:52 Clip Clip **Brunt:** You're smiling, Quark. Therefore I assume your mother is not?

00:39:56 Ben Host And gets his license reinstated. And then, uh... he goes in to try and cheer his mom up, and she's gone from the crying phase to the pissed off phase, and is in the process of sort of inviting him to leave, and him accepting that invitation, when the Nagus calls.

00:40:21 Adam Host The Nagus has a job offer for Quark, and that is to be his First Clerk. It's a job of some pedigree!

00:40:28 Ben Host Yeah!

00:40:29 Adam Host Quark is made to see that like, his bar job doesn't have the shine of First Clerk. And so he accepts!

[Audio briefly cuts out, but not while anyone is speaking.]

00:40:38 Ben Host This is kind of a Chief of Staff kind of position, where he's there to help the Nagus run the society. And this—you know. This starts, you know, first day of work for Quark is in that same audience chamber. And they hash out an agreement about what Quark's role is gonna be, and then he's like, handed the iPhone of power, and does the—and the Nagus cannot remember his passcode.

00:41:10 Adam Host All of the things that are happening between Quark and the Nagus are things that you could conceive of as happening between he and Moogie, right? Like, the—"Why doesn't my Internet work?!"

[Ben laughs.]

Like "Well, what's your password?"

[Stifling laughter] "I don't know!"

[Ben laughs.]

Like—like it's very Old V. Young conflicts happening. And it's—

00:41:31 Ben Host Yeah.

00:41:32 Adam Host —and it's super clear that Zek is slipping.

00:41:34 Ben Host It's really scary to imagine the idea that the leader of a society could be—uh, you know, mentally compromised in some way like this—

00:41:43 Adam Host Right.

00:41:44 Ben Host —and still have their hand on the levers of power.

00:41:46 Sound Effect Sound Effect *[Crickets chirp.]*

00:41:49 Adam Host Yeah, you just hope that there is some sort of check and/or balance in play here.

00:41:54 Ben Host Right. Yeah.

Well, anyways—*[laughs]*. Uh, they finally get into the phone, because Maihar'du knows the password also. But probably won't be that good of an advisor, on account of he never says anything.

00:42:09 Adam Host Yeah...

00:42:10 Ben Host And Zek has just really lost the plot. He like, cannot keep track of a thread of conversation for longer than two or three back-and-forths before he can't remember what they're talking about or why it's—why it's what they're talking about.

00:42:24 Adam Host I mean look at him, he's too old! He's too old for office, Ben! There should really be a limit! An age limit!

00:42:31 Ben Host Yeah.

00:42:32 Adam Host If you want to ascend to the highest reaches of Ferenginar.

00:42:36 Ben Host Right! Like, you have to be at least 35, and no older than... I don't know. *[Stifling laughter]* 70?

00:42:44 Adam Host What's wrong with that?
00:42:45 Ben Host It's a—it's such a big window!
00:42:48 Adam Host Yeah. Plenty of qualified people in that window.
00:42:51 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.

00:42:58 Adam Host Back on the station, Rom is sitting on the floor. And he's got—he's got his entire fortune on the table in front of him. He's like a little kid with all of his Matchbox cars.

[Ben laughs.]

Like, all lined up in neat rows.

00:43:12 Ben Host I thought you were gonna say he's like a little kid selling chocolate bars so that his team could go to State. [Laughs.]

00:43:19 Adam Host Is that—is that something you're familiar with? Did you have to do the door-to-door chocolate bar game?

00:43:24 Ben Host Yeah, we did that when I was in school.

00:43:27 Adam Host Yeah?

00:43:28 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Ben:** Yeah.

Adam: Even though it was milk chocolate, you managed to hold your nose and sell it?

00:43:32 Ben Host I did.

00:43:33 Adam Host Wow. Was the first 40 to 50 seconds of your doorway pitch just apologizing for the idea that you're selling milk chocolate bars, and not dark?

00:43:42 Ben Host "Hey, listen. I know that milk chocolate is trash."

[Adam laughs.]

"It's too sweet. It's too waxy. And, uh... it doesn't really have much appeal to anybody, but how about this as a pitch: it's good for kids. If you buy this chocolate bar, I won't eat it. And also, my team will get to go to State!"

00:44:01 Adam Host "Young man, I've never seen you before in my life, and I'm not sure you live in my neighborhood."

[Ben laughs.]

"Also, it's my family's dinner time; I'd like to ask you to leave."

00:44:09 Ben Host "Yeah, that, uh—that plays right into all of my, uh—*[laughs]* all of my premature liberal guilt, so—"

00:44:16 Adam Host *[Laughing]* Yeah?

00:44:17 Ben Host "—I apologize, sir." *[Laughs.]*

Adam, what's a more romantic place to get back together with somebody than the jumja stick-selling job that they just apparently got?

00:44:28 Adam Host Is... Leeta working a second job? Now that the bar is closed? Or is this her backup plan?

00:44:35 Ben Host I don't know!

00:44:36 Adam Host Quark's is closed, she's selling the jumja stick.

00:44:38 Ben Host Does the Bajoran Provisional Government have some sort of Works Projects Administration where they can place you in other menial jobs while your remunerative employment is out of commission?

00:44:53 Adam Host *[Stifling laughter]* We could use a little more detail here.

00:44:55 Ben Host *[Laughs.]* I just wanted one line of expository dialogue. *[Laughs.]*

00:45:00 Adam Host Yeah. I mean, I'm not besmirching the long line of jumja salespeople that we've seen.

00:45:06 Ben Host It's honorable work to sell jumja sticks! Because people are always getting their relationships back on track when they get one!

00:45:13 Adam Host That's true!

00:45:14 Ben Host And there's always money in the jumja stand.

00:45:17 Adam Host *[Adam laughs, then sighs.]* Nice job!

[Ben laughs.]

Cheers to you, Ben. *[Laughs.]*

00:45:17 Ben Host I don't even really like that show. *[Laughs.]*

00:45:29 Adam Host She is a friendly face. She's selling a shitload of jumja.

00:45:32 Clip Clip **Speaker:** You tell 'em you made 25 grand last month, they're not gonna fucking believe you! Fuck them! Fuck 'em!

00:45:37 Adam Host And Rom appears. Like, here's what you don't wanna do, if you're in limbo with someone, or if things aren't good.

00:45:42 Ben Host Mm-hm.

00:45:43 Adam Host I don't think you surprise them at their workplace.

00:45:45 Ben Host Nooo. *[Laughs.]*

00:45:47 Adam Host But Rom does it, because Rom doesn't have any concept of... social graces at all. He tells her—

00:45:57 Clip Clip **Rom:** I gave all my latinum to Major Kira for the Bajoran War Orphans Fund.

00:46:01 Adam Host Like, this is the loophole that he has. He doesn't have to split

anything with her if he doesn't have anything at all to split.

00:46:07 Ben Host I think that the—I have two problems with this. One, Rom's fortune or lack there of is such a squishy concept on this show. Like, sometimes he's a fucking idiot who has noth—who doesn't have a nickel to his name, that Quark can make fun of. Other times he's got great big piles of latinum that he can give away and—in a grand romantic gesture.

Two, just keep the money for like a down payment or something! Like... like, you don't have to give it away for it to be okay for the two of you to get married without the MP&P!

00:46:43 Sound Effect Sound Effect *[Buzzer.]*

00:46:44 Ben Host Or the WPP.

00:46:45 Sound Effect Sound Effect *[Buzzer.]*

00:46:46 Ben Host M&P?

00:46:47 Sound Effect Sound Effect *[Buzzer.]*

00:46:48 Ben Host WP and P?

00:46:49 Sound Effect Sound Effect *[Ding!]*

00:46:50 Adam Host WP&P.

00:46:51 Ben Host Yeah. WP&P. Banana Bread Beer.

00:46:54 Adam Host I agree with you. This is a part of life and culture on the station we need to know more about. Because it seemed as though as soon as Rom took a Starfleet job, that the need to acquire that latinum was going to be a thing of the past.

00:47:12 Clip Clip **Captain Picard:** The acquisition of wealth is no longer the driving force is our lives.

00:47:16 Adam Host But we see Starfleets in Quark's all the time spending latinum.

00:47:21 Ben Host Right.

00:47:22 Adam Host Where do they get it if they're not being paid by Starfleet?

00:47:24 Ben Host Yeah. I just wish this was described a little bit, at some point in some episode, because—like, I love the idea that Starfleet is so rich that like—like—like, post-scarcity, like, extends past its borders somewhat. Where like, you can have—

00:47:41 Adam Host Like everyone's getting a UBI on Deep Space 9?

00:47:43 Ben Host Yeah! Like, there's like a—like, Deep Space 9 is on like the Bajoran economy. And so everybody in Starfleet is just given, like, a credit card that has no limit, and Starfleet were—will honor all debts that they incur, because it like, doesn't matter at all.

00:48:02 Adam Host No, I mean, I've gotta—I've gotta argue against you on that! I think it has to have a limit! Because if—here—here's the thing. I love the idea of the universe being so vast that you must integrate yourself in the financial culture of other worlds and races. Like, I think that's cool.

00:48:20 Ben Host Yeah.

00:48:21 Adam Host But I don't think you can give a blank check to Starfleets working in those areas! Otherwise they would just take over, right? They'd have

the biggest house in the Bajoran cul-de-sac. And all the sudden you've kind of spoiled the culture by financially being its leaders. Like, I think—

00:48:36 Ben Host Shit, dawg.

00:48:37 Adam Host Like, wouldn't you need a Bajoran credit card with a—a nominal limit. Like, a—

00:48:42 Ben Host Yeah.

00:48:43 Adam Host —a middle income limit.

00:48:45 Ben Host You could—what you need is a Bajoran per diem!

00:48:48 Clip Clip **Speaker 1:** And who do I give it to?

00:48:49 Adam Host Yeah.

[Ben laughs.]

00:48:51 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Adam:** Yeah, that's what it is!

Ben: With a Bajoran per diem, you limit the amount.

00:48:54 Ben Host But it's a—it's generous enough that you don't feel constrained on a day-to-day basis.

00:48:58 Adam Host Right! And it's the same way if you're—if you're working near Vulcan, or if you're working near any other of these worlds! Like, it's just different. It's a different limit, it's a different currency.

00:49:08 Ben Host Yeah.

00:49:09 Adam Host But the—but the philosophy's the same. Like, no better, no worse. Just enough to exist.

00:49:15 Ben Host You wanna—you wanna integrate into the culture, but you also wanna, you know, keep a sense of the, you know, lifestyle that you're used to! If it's a "poop in a hole" culture, you might want enough in your per diem to afford a hotel that has the kind of toilet you're used to.

00:49:30 Adam Host "Poop in a hole" culture, huh, Ben?

00:49:32 Ben Host That's what I think the Ferengi are probably working with. *[Laughs.]*

00:49:36 Adam Host We have not seen a Ferengi bathroom, and we do not know if the doors go all the way to the floor.

00:49:41 Ben Host Yeah, what—where do the Ferengi go when they need to cry? I bet you just go outside, 'cause nobody would be able to tell!

[Adam laughs.]

You let the—you let the rain run down your face, it doesn't look like anything!

00:49:53 Adam Host Yeah. It's a—

00:49:54 Ben Host That's a private cry you could have right there!

00:49:57 Adam Host Latinum rain, latinum rain.

00:49:59 Music Music Very short excerpt from "Purple Rain" by Prince.

00:50:00 Ben Host *[Laughs.]*

So Rom and Leeta are back together, and Quark comes home to his Moogie stressed the fuck out. She's been watching the—like the CNBC all day, and knows that the markets are down all over Ferenginar. And what Quark doesn't realize is that she has been sort of "guy behind the guy"-ing Zek for a long time. She's the reason the Ferengi economy was doing okay at all.

00:50:30	Adam	Host	She's not only wise in the way that props up the entire Ferengi economy, she also figures out that he's the one along with Brunt that sabotaged her relationship with Zek!
00:50:40	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	Ben: Yeah. Adam: And she's <u>pissed</u> !
00:50:42	Ben	Host	Quark is her son, so she loves him, but also she is sick of his bullshit, basically.
00:50:48	Adam	Host	Moogie is <u>smarter</u> and <u>better</u> ... and <u>wiser</u> and <u>kinder</u> than any other Ferengi that we know.
00:50:57	Ben	Host	It's really amazing when you meet a parent that's <u>so</u> much better than their kids.
00:51:01	Adam	Host	Yeah!
00:51:03	Ben	Host	You wonder what that's about. <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:51:05	Adam	Host	Yeah! And yet it seems like at the end of every episode Moogie's in, like, she's made to make the ultimate sacrifice for the comfort of other people.
00:51:14	Ben	Host	Yeah.
00:51:15	Adam	Host	That's not right!
00:51:16	Ben	Host	Yeah! That's some retrograde <u>bullshit</u> , Adam!
00:51:18	Adam	Host	But there's some real danger here for Ferenginar, because the market needs to be stabilized. This has the consequence of destroying millions of people's lives if it gets out that Zek is unfit for leadership.
00:51:33	Ben	Host	Right.
00:51:34	Adam	Host	When really, like, the removal of someone so unfit is probably better for <u>everyone</u> in the long run.
00:51:40	Sound Effect	Sound Effect	<i>[Crickets chirp.]</i>
00:51:43	Ben	Host	Right, like, he may be—from Moogie's standpoint—a useful idiot. But what should be done posthaste is some sort of, uh, removal process.
00:51:53	Adam	Host	Yeah.
00:51:54	Ben	Host	That's where I sort of turn on her <u>and</u> Quark in this episode, <i>[stifles laughter]</i> because Brunt comes into Quark's place of work the next day as he's desperately trying to First Clerk this economic crash into submission. And Brunt is <u>gloating</u> !
00:52:11	Clip	Clip	Quark: Why are you picking on me?! I've done everything you asked, haven't I?
00:52:15	Ben	Host	And it doesn't really make sense that Brunt would be gloating, initially, because what would be in it for Brunt for things to be going badly for Quark? And then he reveals his grand plan. Quark has been a pawn the entire time for Brunt to <i>Game of Thrones</i> his way

into the... Nagucy.

00:52:38	Adam	Host	Yeah. Brunt's happy in the way that many bad guys are before their evil plan comes to fruition.
00:52:44	Ben	Host	Yeah.
00:52:45	Adam	Host	But Brunt knows the history of Ferenginar, and knows that Zek's predecessor was assassinated <u>along</u> with his <u>Clerk</u> ! And he knows that that's a very real threat for Zek and Quark <u>here</u> .
00:52:55	Ben	Host	It—yeah. It's—this is a classic villain monologue, telling the plan before the plan has fully been realized.
00:53:03	Clip	Clip	Brunt: I couldn't have done it without you. I feel almost... grateful!
00:53:08	Adam	Host	With Zek out of the way, it actually clears the path for Brunt to become the new Nagus.
00:53:14	Ben	Host	He even tries the throne on for size.
00:53:16	Adam	Host	Yeah.
00:53:17	Ben	Host	He looks good in that throne! I feel like this is a show where... like, that could be the end of the episode, too.
00:53:23	Adam	Host	Yeah.
00:53:24	Ben	Host	Like, if Nurse Ratched can become the Kai, then why can't Brunt become the Nagus?
00:53:30	Adam	Host	Yeah. So Quark confides all of this to Moogie, and the second thoughts that he has about it. His <u>conscience</u> won't <u>allow</u> this to happen. This is an observation that Moogie has about her son. They both talk about the idea that there's two types of greed. There's Zek's type of greed, which is good for <u>people in general</u> .
00:53:50	Ben	Host	<i>[Laughing]</i> Uh-huh?
00:53:51	Adam	Host	Like, broad—the <u>broad</u> type of greed. And then there's <u>Brunt's</u> type of greed, which is only good for himself. And when put that simplistically, the choice becomes fairly clear about which one of the two is a danger to the <u>most</u> people.
00:54:06	Ben	Host	It's a "Do you want Gordon Gekko or do you want Charlie Sheen?"
00:54:09	Adam	Host	Yeah.
00:54:10	Ben	Host	And so this is a <u>bit</u> of a smash cut to victory party, right? The—like, the conversation that Quark has with his mom cuts to Grand Nagus Zek, Maihar'du, and Quark walking out of whatever meeting they had with the Board of the FCA. And Zek was able to answer all their questions to their satisfaction. He's maintained his status as Nagus. And I guess the FCA is some sort of check on his power? Uh, unclear. <i>[Laughs.]</i> Take—to what <u>extent</u> that is true.
			And then Quark ushers in the person that helped him formulate all the advice he gave Zek, because Zek really credits Quark with this advice having been the way he preserved his political power. And this person comes in in a—in a hood, and very unsurprisingly reveals herself to be Ishka.
00:55:12	Clip	Clip	Quark: All the advice I gave you today came from her.
00:55:15	Adam	Host	Quark also admits to lying to Zek about the rumors about her. Those rumors about her wanting to overthrow the government, turns out,

were unfounded. Or at least founded by Quark. Falsely.

00:55:28 Ben Host You know, like, Quark still has this First Clerk gig. But makes the argument that the advice that he's able to offer is... not terribly valuable compared to what she is able to offer, and she says, like, "Listen! I'm not gonna lie to you. Like, I do think women should have equal rights. And I'm never going to back off of that opinion, but if you'll have me back, I would like to be your special lady friend, and I can also help you continue the project of running Ferengi society."

00:56:03 Adam Host *[Sighs.]* It's a weird anti-resolution here, right?

00:56:07 Ben Host Yeah.

00:56:08 Adam Host Because all of the game pieces are put more or less back into their original places—

00:56:13 Ben Host Yeah.

00:56:14 Adam Host —at the beginning of the episode. Including the Brunt piece!

00:56:18 Ben Host Right.

00:56:19 Adam Host Who, during the button on the episode—like, Quark packs for home. Things have been resolved. He and his mom appear to be okay. They have a cute moment having to do with Quark's action figures. But when Brunt beams into Quark's beaming closet, he makes it clear that he is still going to be a concern. He's gonna be looking out at Quark in a way that—that he wants to entrap him once again.

00:56:45 Ben Host Yeah.

00:56:46 Adam Host And one assumes that he's going to be doing that very same thing to Zek, right?

00:56:50 Ben Host Brunt stays the villain of Ferengi society, and the villain in Quark's life, and is perfectly happy to do that. Like, his scheme failed, but it didn't cost him a thing.

00:57:03 Adam Host No. Nothing really changed at the end. We're back to one.

00:57:07 Ben Host We're back to one, and that's a very TV ending.

00:57:10 Adam Host Yeah.

00:57:11 Ben Host It's like a one that we didn't know was one, though.

00:57:13 Adam Host Right.

00:57:14 Ben Host I guess Quark has his business license back, right? Does Quark get to take those signs down in his bar?

00:57:20 Adam Host Think so! I think that's the deal!

00:57:23 Ben Host We'll have to watch for that.

00:57:24 Adam Host Did you like the episode?

00:57:25 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!

00:57:30 Ben Host Uh, I did! *[Laughing]* I—I don't know why I liked it.

But I—I kinda liked it. I mean, it was... a nice, light episode. How about you?

00:57:39 Adam Host Any episode having to do with Ferengi, like, just looks like it should be dumb, and it's—

[Ben laughs.]

—and it's not trying to say anything sophisticated. But I think this episode says something sneakily sophisticated, about how... preventable it is for there to be conflicts between, you know, like family members and lovers that have to do with cultural stubbornness.

00:58:03 Ben Host Right.

00:58:04 Adam Host Because remember, Rom's stubbornness about his culture was not coming from himself. Like, it was suggested by Dax. And then it just sort of spun him out of control into this sort of—into the kind of cultural stubbornness that broke up him and Leeta!

00:58:21 Ben Host Yeah.

00:58:23 Adam Host And the thing with Zek and Moogie is the same way! Like, Zek clearly doesn't prescribe to the sort of cultural stubbornness that would prevent having a relationship with Moogie. It's only when outside powers come in and interfere with that that he's made to break up with her. Like, I really think he was okay with everything about Moogie up until other people knew about it.

And that I feel like is a quality that people are aware of right now. Like, people our age getting into relationships with people of other cultures, where the parents of those kids are hardline into whatever religion or culture that they belong to in a way that the kids don't!

00:59:07 Ben Host Yeah.

00:59:08 Adam Host And it's only through that injection of someone else's opinion that a conflict can take hold. And that's what this episode made me think about, is like, how often you're not really in conflict with the person you're with. You're arguing with them because of some outside force.

00:59:26 Ben Host Right.

00:59:27 Adam Host It's unnecessary.

[Adam repeats "Yeah" a few times as Ben speaks.]

00:59:29 Ben Host Yeah. Yeah. I had a good buddy whose wedding was only complicated because his wife's grandma really wanted some very traditional Jewish elements to be part of their wedding that they didn't—like, neither of them wanted it, and she super did. And they like—the compromise was just to have those things happen on, like, the day before, basically just for her benefit, in a private, smaller ceremony.

And you know, they—their culture other than that was—is basically

not different at all. *[Laughing]* So—

01:00:08 Adam Host Right.

01:00:09 Ben Host Like, it—like, these things happen even when the differences are really minor.

01:00:15 Adam Host I mean, this episode doesn't exist if all parties sort of hold fast.

01:00:19 Ben Host Right.

01:00:20 Adam Host And are grounded in the confidence of their decisions and their feelings.

01:00:24 Ben Host Yeah.

01:00:25 Adam Host And I think it is when characters don't feel those things, and moreover when people don't feel those things, that you leave yourself open to these unnecessary entanglements.

01:00:35 Ben Host Yeah. Indeed. Well, do you wanna see if we have any Priority One Messages in the inbox, Adam?

01:00:42 Adam Host It's one entanglement we get into every episode.

01:00:46 Clip Transition **Computer:** *[Beeps four times.]* Priority one message from Starfleet coming in on secure channel. *[More beeping.]*

01:00:50 Music Transition "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.]

01:01:01 Music Music Music plays softly in the background of this segment, peppered by the ship's computer repeating, "Captain Picard, priority one message."

01:01:02 Adam Promo Ben, our first Priority One Message is of a promotional nature.

01:01:06 Sound Effect Sound Effect *[Coins drop on a hard surface.]*

01:01:07 Ben Promo *[Happily]* Heyyyy!

01:01:08 Adam Promo And it's from our friends at the *7th Rule* podcast!

01:01:11 Ben Promo Whoa!

01:01:12 Adam Promo This is the podcast that was created by Cirroc Lofton and Aron Eisenberg, and Ryan T. Husk, that is still going strong. Here's the message:

"Attention *Greatest Gen* [viewers](#): Jake and Nog created a new *Star Trek* podcast with sci-fi producer Ryan T. Husk called *The 7th Rule*, with entertaining behind-the-scenes insights while reviewing *DS9*.

After the tragic passing of our brother Aron, we are continuing the show in his honor. Please subscribe to *The 7th Rule* [YouTube channel](#) today, and catch new episodes weekly. We have a ton of

cool *Trek* stars on the show, and also check out our [Patreon page](#). Thanks!"

And that message is from Cirroc Lofton and Ryan T. Husk.

01:02:01	Ben	Promo	Wow!
01:02:02	Adam	Promo	This is a—a little peek behind the pod is that we had been in some preliminary discussions with that show about doing some guesting between us, and it was <u>right</u> before Aron Eisenberg's death. And, uh—
01:02:20	Ben	Promo	Yeahhh. It was really crazy timing on that.
01:02:23	Adam	Promo	Yeah.
01:02:24	Adam	Promo	I'm really happy to know that the show continues—
01:02:27	Ben	Promo	Yeah.
01:02:28	Adam	Promo	—without Aron. I can't imagine how difficult that's got to be, but I'm confident in Ryan and Cirroc's ability to do that, and to carry that on in his spirit.
01:02:41	Ben	Promo	Yeah! So give <i>The 7th Rule</i> a go on YouTube and Patreon !
01:02:47	Adam	Promo	No other <i>Star Trek</i> podcast may purchase advertising space on our show. I'm gonna make that rule <u>right now</u> .
01:02:55	Ben	Promo	<i>[Laughing]</i> Whoa! What the hell?
			<i>[Adam laughs.]</i>
			What about <i>Go Trek Yourself</i> ?
01:02:59	Adam	Promo	Ah, <i>Go Trek Yourself</i> can do that. I—
01:03:01	Ben	Promo	What about <i>Mammary Alpha</i> ? What about <i>Women at Warp</i> ?
01:03:04	Adam	Promo	Alright, noted. With a couple of exceptions...
01:03:07	Ben	Promo	Okay. Okay.
01:03:09	Adam	Promo	That's what I'll say.
01:03:10	Ben	Promo	Uh— <i>[laughs.]</i>
01:03:11	Adam	Promo	You really wanna advertise for our competition?
01:03:14	Ben	Promo	I think that a rising tide raises all starships, Adam.
01:03:18	Adam	Promo	Mm.
01:03:19	Ben	Promo	You can listen to those other shows at 1.5x, but you have to listen ours at 1—at, uh, 1.0.
01:03:26	Adam	Promo	That's right. Well, check out <i>The 7th Rule</i> over on YouTube and Patreon .
01:03:32	Ben	Promo	Adam, we have a second Priority One Message. It is from Danielle, and it is to Riley! It goes like this:

"Dear Riley,

Happy 35th birthday to you, my magical Winter Solstice babe. Even if you were covered in loaf, I would still think you're a total cutie. I love you, your incredible mind, and the fact that you introduced me to the *Star Trek* universe. You're the captain of my heart. Don't

change a thing!

Love,
Danielle."

01:04:03	Adam	Promo	Boy, you <u>know</u> you're a cutie when it shines through the loaf. That's what I'll say.
01:04:07	Ben	Promo	Yeah!
01:04:08	Adam	Promo	I'm not sure if my cute would—is loaf-proof.
01:04:11	Ben	Promo	I think—I think you would be cute in loaf, Adam.
01:04:13	Adam	Promo	I don't know. I don't think I have the face for loaf.
01:04:16	Ben	Promo	I think you—I think you'd be a nice high-carb snack!
01:04:20	Adam	Promo	<i>[Laughs.]</i> Wow. Well, uh, sounds like Riley and Danielle are celebrating a great year to come. If you have a message that you would like transmitted to our myriad viewers, you can take it over to MaximumFun.org/jumbotron , where commercial messages are \$200 and personal messages are \$100, both of which are a great way to support our program well into the new year.
01:04:49	Music	Transition	<i>[Music ends.]</i>
01:04:50	Ben	Host	Hey, Adam!
01:04:51	Adam	Host	What's that, Ben?
01:04:53	Ben	Host	Did you find yourself a Drunk... Shimoda?
01:04:56	Music	Music	Clips of <i>TNG</i> and Adam and Ben mixed with electric guitar. <i>Shimoda (TNG, "The Naked Now"): Incredible!</i> <i>Adam & Ben: Druuunk Shimoda!</i> <i>[Music ends abruptly.]</i>
01:04:58	Adam	Host	<i>[Sighs.]</i> Yeah, Sisko's <u>barely</u> in this episode, but he's my Drunk Shimoda because of his interaction with Rom, who's crying at work. <i>[Ben laughs.]</i> We are made to believe that Sisko is one of the great <i>Star Trek</i> leaders and captains. He's many people's favorite. But he shows <u>zero</u> empathy for what's going on with Rom. <i>[Ben laughs.]</i> And—and in fact tells him to <u>carry on</u> after seeing that he's crying at work.
01:05:29	Ben	Host	That is a very Picard reaction to that phenomenon.
01:05:33	Adam	Host	It really is, and it—it's <u>so</u> Picard that it made me wonder how much thought was put into that moment. I know that it's a slide whistle. Like, it's played for laughs. And it <u>is</u> funny.
01:05:47	Ben	Host	Yeah.
01:05:48	Adam	Host	<u>But</u> ... it's <u>cruel</u> , also!
01:05:51	Ben	Host	Yeah, it's weird that the scene where Rom and Leeta are their

saddest is the silliest moment in this episode a bunch of—about a bunch of money-hungry trolls running around.

01:06:06 Adam Host These people aren't their friends!

[Ben laughs.]

That's what I'm getting from this episode.

01:06:11 Ben Host Well, *[laughs]* what have the Ferengi done to earn friendship, Adam?

01:06:15 Adam Host That's fair.

01:06:16 Ben Host That's what I would ask you.

01:06:17 Adam Host I think Leeta deserves to be happy.

01:06:18 Ben Host Yeah.

01:06:20 Adam Host What about you, Ben?

01:06:21 Ben Host My Drunk Shimoda is Rom. And it's for the whole Waiver of Profit and Property...

01:06:28 Adam Host Mm-hm.

01:06:29 Ben Host ...gambit. And I think that this is maybe like, the thing that we've criticized the most about this character, is that he's kind of written as a punchline. And one thing that you are taught in an improv class is like—like, whatever character you wind up playing in your scene can't be dumb. Like, the joke about your character being that your character is super dumb is tempting—

[Adam laughs.]

—when you're starting out in improv, because it's like, "Oh, what if this guy was really dumb? That would be funny, right?"

[Adam laughs.]

And the reason you're discouraged by an instructor from playing a character that way is that if you do that every single time, it's never gonna be funny.

01:07:13 Adam Host Yeah.

01:07:14 Ben Host And Rom is... a dumb, but I think that the reason that it doesn't work for me is that like, they've started to try and write him out of that. Like "Oh, he's actually a brilliant engineer. He's actually, like, got a lot of heart." But if that's true, like, he can't keep doing super-duper dumb shit. Like—*[laughs]* like—

01:07:36 Adam Host Yeah, but Rom is a dumb, but dumbs deserve love, too!

01:07:39 Ben Host Right. But I also don't think he's this dumb. I don't think he's dumb enough to get—be given the slightest of pushes by Dax and suddenly be like "Oh, shit! I gotta really stick it to my future wife, because that's my culture!" Like—

01:07:57 Adam Host Yeah, but I think we—I think we both know people who are work-smart and social-dumb. Like, I think these are just aspects of him—

01:08:05 Ben Host I'm one of those people!

01:08:06 Adam Host I know!

01:08:07	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	Ben: I—like— Adam: Why don't you recognize this? Ben: I don't think— <i>[laughs]</i> .
01:08:10	Adam	Host	'Cause you're social-dumb!
01:08:12	Ben	Host	I think that this is past social-dumb. Like, if they wanted to have an episode about Ferengi prenups, I think that that is an interesting and fun thing to tell a story about. But the story that they wind up telling is just "Boy, Rom's real dumb, right?"
01:08:33	Adam	Host	R—you know what, up until now, Rom's entire story has been about the rejection of his culture and the replacement of it with something he sees as better. Something that enriches his life more.
01:08:46	Ben	Host	Right.
01:08:47	Adam	Host	For him to be pushed over with Dax's feather back into subscribing to this way of thinking? I think it's—it's not character-honest for him. And it would have been far more interesting if this was a B story that was about Rom's rejection of that <u>again</u> . Like, "This is a thing that Ferengi do! This is a—this is an experience I had with an ex-wife that was bad, and this is why I'm <u>not</u> doing it," <u>in spite</u> of the many cultural pressures that he feels. And instead it's the exact opposite of that.
01:09:22	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	Ben: What if— Adam: You can still have conflict! Ben: Yeah! Adam: It's just a <u>different</u> conflict.
01:09:26	Ben	Host	What if it had been a story about his <u>Moogie</u> feeling really strongly about him getting one of these prenups, and him disagreeing with her?
01:09:33	Adam	Host	Yeah! Like, how fucking <u>weird</u> is Moogie if she is so progressive in this way that she is with Zek, and still <u>super</u> conservative in the marriage aspect with Rom?
01:09:44	Ben	Host	I think that would have been an interesting story to tell.
01:09:46	Adam	Host	Yeah.
01:09:47	Ben	Host	I think there's a bunch of interesting directions you can take this, but I thought a <u>lot</u> in this episode about how Quark has all these instincts toward progressivism that he's like, constantly at war with in himself. Like, they're always showing him like, doing a nice thing for a character as a counterpoint to what a scumbag he is most of the time.
01:10:07	Adam	Host	Right.
01:10:08	Ben	Host	And that's not Rom. And telling <u>this</u> story about <u>Rom</u> felt a little bit like an—like a bad fit. You know?
01:10:17	Adam	Host	He's too suggestible. <i>[Sighs.]</i> I thought I knew who Rom was before this episode, and now I don't.
01:10:22	Music	Transition	A techno song mixed with clips and soundbites from <i>DS9</i> .

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!

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-go-gold-pressed latinum!
Nog: That's a lot of yamok sauce!

[Cash register "cha-ching!" sound.]

01:10:41	Ben	Host	Well, you know another thing that has consequences, Adam, is the Game of Buttholes —
01:10:45	Sound Effect	Sound Effect	[Thunder crashes.]
01:10:46	Ben	Host	—the Will of the Prophets.
01:10:48	Adam	Host	That's right.
01:10:49	Ben	Host	It's how we decide <u>how</u> our next episode will be consumed. And our next episode is season 5, episode 21, "Soldiers of the Empire." "On a mission for the Klingon Empire, Worf realizes that his friend General Martok... is no longer fit to lead."
01:11:09	Adam	Host	Yeah, I mean, I—I don't think he's gonna pass the... the warrior's physical. [Ben laughs.] With an eye like <u>that</u> .
01:11:16	Ben	Host	Yeah. Well, we are currently on square 18, that Quark's Bar that we slipped down to via the, uh, Space Butthole . Just ahead we have another Space Butthole on square 21 that could get us stuck with a... a Darmok episode.
01:11:35	Adam	Host	Mm. Everyone loved the first time we did <u>that</u> .
01:11:38	Ben	Host	[Laughs.] Was that one of the controversial ones?
01:11:42	Adam	Host	Oh, yeah, people hated that ep.
01:11:43	Ben	Host	Really?!
01:11:44	Adam	Host	Yeah!
01:11:45	Ben	Host	Oh, man!
01:11:47	Adam	Host	People don't like it when we break format.

01:11:49 Ben Host Fuck them! *[Laughs.]* This is our game!

01:11:53 Adam Host I'm not—

01:11:54 Ben Host This is our podcast.

01:11:55 Adam Host I'm not gonna go that far as to saying "Fuck them." I like a format that I've grown accustomed to, too, as a—as a viewer of a podcast. So I get it. But also... it's fun every once in a while to do something different.

01:12:05 Ben Host I think that's the point of the Game of Buttholes. Sometimes it's painful...

01:12:08 Adam Host Mm.

01:12:09 Ben Host ...to—to roll a bad—to roll a bad bone.

01:12:13 Adam Host Yeah.

[Ben laughs.]

Well, why don't you roll that bone? Figure it out.

01:12:16 Ben Host Okay.

01:12:17 Clip Clip **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.]

01:12:22 Ben Host I think we could also potentially hit a [Banger](#). So, uh—depends on what I roll here, but, uh...

01:12:28 Clip Clip *[Quark breathes on the dice.]*

01:12:29 Ben Host Here I go.

01:12:30 Clip Clip *[Dice roll. Tapping stops.]*

01:12:31 Ben Host And I have rolled a one, Adam.

01:12:32 Clip Clip **Falow:** Chula!

Crowd: *[Laughing]* Chula! Chula!

Quark: Did I win?!

Falow: Hardly!

[Clip audio ends.]

01:12:36 Ben Host So we are on square 19.

01:12:37 Adam Host Alright!

01:12:38 Ben Host It's almost like I was ghostly rolling for you!

01:12:42 Adam Host Yeah!

01:12:43 Ben Host It's a regular episode next week, but a peek behind the pod... probably gonna be a bit of a drunkisode as well, because we're gonna record it really soon after we stop recording this ooone.

01:12:54 Adam Host That's right! That's how we like it, though.

01:12:57 Ben Host Yeah.

01:12:58 Music Music Dark Materia's "The Picard Song" begins fading in.

01:12:59 Ben Host We'd like to thank all of the Friends of DeSoto who contribute on a monthly basis to the production of this program. You guys are the best!

01:13:07 Adam Host Yeah, it's the end of the year! I think a lot of people at the end of the year are thinking about the things that they've supported the year behind, and what else they might be interested in supporting in the year ahead. And we would ask that if you enjoy what we do on *The Greatest Generation*, you support it over at MaximumFun.org/donate.

01:13:26 Ben Host Just yesterday as of this recording, I went over to the Children's Hospital of Los Angeles and dropped off the 60-something Lego kits that you and I bought to donate to their playroom there for the kids who are stuck in the hospital. And—

01:13:47 Adam Host You didn't tell me that! That's great!

01:13:48 Ben Host Yeah, that's something that we were only able to do because of the incredibly generous support of the Friends of DeSoto, so we're trying to take this good will and spread it around as much as we can. And they—like, the people at the drop-off—like, I scheduled my drop-off and I went and—when I was pulling the boxes and boxes of Legos out of the back of my car, they were like "Wow, holy crap! I hope you guys make a regular thing of this! This was really great." They were really thrilled. So—

01:14:24 Adam Host Wow!

01:14:25 Ben Host I just wanted to say thanks to the Friends of DeSoto for supporting us, and enabling us to do a thing like that.

01:14:31 Adam Host Wow, that's pretty excellent.

01:14:33 Ben Host And we should also thank Adam Ragusea, who makes music for our program. He of course based his music off of that of Dark Materia, who made the original "Picard Song." Adam Ragusea... quitting his job as a college professor to go full-time [YouTube Cook!](#)

01:14:54 Adam Host That's pretty awesome.

01:14:55 Ben Host Yeah. Pretty great. Search for [Adam Ragusea on YouTube](#) and, uh—your—your dinner, tomorrow night, taken care of!

01:15:04 Adam Host When you're Adam Ragusea, you season the two-week notice.

[Ben laughs.]

And—and not the mailbox you put it in.

01:15:12 Ben Host Yeah, you pour white wine into almost every resignation letter—*[both laughing]* you leave on your boss's desk.

01:15:21 Adam Host To understand what we're talking about, you gotta go over to [Adam Ragusea's YouTube channel](#). It's great.

01:15:28 Ben Host We gotta thank our buddy Bill Tilley, who makes trading cards about just about every episode of the show. I think every single episode, right?

01:15:34 Adam Host Every single one! I don't think he's missed one.

01:15:36	Ben	Host	No.
01:15:37	Adam	Host	And it would be fine if he did!
01:15:39	Ben	Host	Yeah.
01:15:40	Adam	Host	If anyone deserves a break, it's Bill Tilley.
01:15:41	Ben	Host	But he ain't taking 'em!
01:15:42	Adam	Host	No.
01:15:43	Ben	Host	He's on Twitter at @billtilley1973 , and he uses the hashtag GreatestGen when he posts his posts. There are also lots of social media groups on Discord and... Reddit , and Facebook . <u>All</u> these evil companies have a— <i>[laughs]</i> group of Friends of DeSoto operating inside them.
01:16:03	Adam	Host	That's right. They're groups waiting to spring into action and overthrow them.
01:16:09	Ben	Host	<i>[Laughing]</i> Yeah.
01:16:11	Adam	Host	With that, we'll be back atcha next time with another great episode of <i>Star Trek: Deep Space Nine</i> , and an episode of <i>The Greatest Generation: Deep Space Nine</i> that is considering going sleeveless.
01:16:22	Music	Music	"The Picard Song" continues. <i>Captain Jean-Luc Picard, the USS Enterprise!</i> <i>Captain Jean-Luc Picard, the USS Enterprise!</i> <i>Make make make-make-make-make-make make it so!</i> <i>Jean-Luc Picard!</i> <i>Make it so!</i> <i>Make make make-make-make-make-make make it so!</i> <i>[Echoing] Jean-Luc Picard—card—card—card—</i> <i>[Song fades out.]</i>
01:16:38	Music	Transition	A cheerful guitar chord.
01:16:39	Speaker 1	Guest	MaximumFun.org .
01:16:40	Speaker 2	Guest	Comedy and culture.
01:16:42	Speaker 3	Guest	Artist owned—
01:16:43	Speaker 4	Guest	—audience supported.