

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	<i>[Computer beeps.]</i>
00:00:01	Adam Pranica	Host	Just wanted to hop in and give a thank-you to all the Friends of DeSoto who supported <i>The Greatest Generation</i> during MaxFunDrive 2020.
00:00:10	Ben Harrison	Host	Yeah, we're recording this on Friday, but every hope and prayer we had for the MaxFunDrive has been completely surpassed by the amazing generosity of the Friends of DeSoto. So we just wanted to hop in here and say thank you. And we just really appreciate you bearing with us for all four weeks of that extremely long Drive. And for the ones that came forward and supported, we especially appreciate you!
00:00:37	Adam	Host	If you're one of the Friends of DeSoto who <u>just</u> started subscribing to <i>The Greatest Generation</i> and then downloaded our entire catalogue during the last four weeks, you <u>are</u> stuck with all those pledge breaks!
			<i>[Ben laughs.]</i>
			And you're stuck with 'em forever!
00:00:51	Ben	Host	Yeah. Sorry. <i>[Laughs.]</i> But to everyone listening, just thank you so much. We are—we feel so fortunate to have found an awesome fan community as awesome as you.
00:01:03	Adam	Host	Thanks so much. Really appreciate it. We'll tell you about it next year.
			<i>[Ben laughs.]</i>
			Until then, we're just gonna shut up about it.
00:01:10	Ben	Host	I don't know if we actually hit our stretch goal or not, but what do you say? Let's put that GreatestGenKhan II—
00:01:14	Sound Effect	Sound Effect	<i>[Air horns.]</i>
00:01:15	Ben	Host	—episode in the bonus feed! You into that?
00:01:17	Adam	Host	Yeah. I mean... we're not gonna tour that tour anymore. That much we know. That's the <u>hard</u> truth!
00:01:24	Ben	Host	So if you've got that bonus feed access, keep your eye on it!
00:01:27	Adam	Host	Yeah.
00:01:28	Ben	Host	We'll get that in there as soon as we can.
00:01:30	Adam	Host	Thanks again, everyone, for making this year's MaxFunDrive such a success. We really appreciate you.
00:01:35	Ben	Host	You rule!
00:01:36	Sound Effect	Transition	<i>[Computer beeps.]</i>
00:01:37	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.*

[Music ends.]

00:01:51	Music	Music	Record scratch back into "The Picard Song," which plays quietly in the background.
00:01:52	Adam	Host	Welcome to <i>The Greatest Generation: Deep Space Nine</i> . It's a <i>Star Trek</i> podcast by a couple of guys who are a little bit embarrassed about having a <i>Star Trek</i> podcast. I'm Adam Pranica.
00:02:03	Ben	Host	I'm Ben Harrison.

[Music fades out.]

[Ben cracks open a can and chuckles quietly.]

00:02:09	Adam	Host	Ooh!
00:02:10	Ben	Host	We did it.
00:02:11	Adam	Host	What do you got there?
00:02:12	Ben	Host	<i>[Drinks.]</i>
			This was—we had a recent mail call, and somebody included a couple of cans of gin gimlet from Venus Spirits. It's like a...
00:02:24	Adam	Host	Hm!
00:02:25	Ben	Host	It's like premix cocktail in a can. It's pretty good!
00:02:29	Adam	Host	That Venus logo looks like, uh—it looks like money! It looks like the money font!
00:02:34	Ben	Host	Mm! It kind of is the money font, yeah!
00:02:36	Adam	Host	Yeah!
00:02:37	Ben	Host	It's got Venus Gin Blend 1 with lime juice, cucumber, and natural flavors.
00:02:43	Adam	Host	Can you shave a woman's legs with it?
00:02:44	Ben	Host	<i>[Laughs.]</i> I don't know! <i>[Laughs.]</i> Is that something you're supposed to be able to do with a cocktail?
00:02:50	Adam	Host	Well, I mean that—the name! Naming something "Venus..."
00:02:53	Ben	Host	Mm! Hmm.
00:02:55	Adam	Host	...uh, made me think of the shaving product of the same name.
00:02:58	Ben	Host	Yeah. I don't, uh—I will say that this beverage is my Venus, it's my fire, my desire.
00:03:04	Adam	Host	I'm on a text thread with a couple of friends from back in Seattle, and for whatever reason, like, lots of pictures are being traded back and forth.

00:03:13 Ben Host Yeah.

00:03:14 Adam Host Like, random shit. Like, what we're up to. One of my buddies shared a fairly innocuous picture of a big bag of flossers.

00:03:23 Ben Host *[Chuckling]* Uh-huh?

00:03:24 Adam Host Like those plastic flossers. Like—

00:03:26 Ben Host Those ones that have a little, uh—like a little "U" shape and then there's a bit of dental floss across the gap?

00:03:33 Adam Host Yeah! The kind you seen thrown into the street and on the sidewalk all the time. *[Laughs.]*

00:03:38 Ben Host Mm-hm. Yeah.

00:03:41 Adam Host And, uh, this—

00:03:42 Ben Host "I'm very fastidious about dental hygiene, but no other kind of hygiene!"

00:03:47 Adam Host And much like the famous, uh, "nude man in a eBay sales ad for a tea kettle" situation—

[Ben laughs.]

—I noticed something else on the counter! And when I clicked and enhanced...

00:04:03 Ben Host *[Stifling laughter]* Mm-hm.

00:04:04 Adam Host ...I noticed what could only be the bottom of two personal shavers.

00:04:09 Ben Host Wow! *[Laughs.]*

00:04:10 Adam Host And I was like, "Hey? What's going on with those two personal shavers?" And then that started a whole—a whole thing.

00:04:18 Ben Host One for the face, one for the nards? Was that the deal?

00:04:22 Adam Host I mean, no, I—this friend of mine has two body shavers!

00:04:25 Ben Host Wow!

00:04:26 Adam Host Two for the body!

00:04:28 Ben Host Must be a hairy friend. I'm trying to think about which friend of yours this could be. *[Laughs.]*

00:04:32 Adam Host Yeah, I think you know which hairy friend this is.

00:04:34 Ben Host Yeah, I—*[laughs]*. My mind was—immediately went to one person.

00:04:38 Adam Host The thing about personal shavers is they don't come like cordless drills, with battery packs.

[Ben laughs.]

00:04:47 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Adam:** You know? You can't just slap another magazine in there to keep going! You got—

Ben: You don't take the interchangeable Makita—*[laughs]*—brick battery?

Adam: Yeah. If you're a person of a certain amount of forestation—

Ben: Uh-huh. If—

00:05:01 Adam Host —you'll need to just switch to the backup Peanut.

00:05:03 Ben Host *[Laughing]* Uh-huh.

00:05:06 Adam Host Which is what this friend's got.

00:05:08 Ben Host Wow!

00:05:09 Adam Host A primary and backup Peanut!

00:05:11 Ben Host Damn.

00:05:12 Adam Host I'll never have that problem!

00:05:14 Ben Host I have a corded Peanut.

00:05:15 Adam Host Yeah?

00:05:16 Ben Host But it's for shaving your head, not for shaving your—your sack.

00:05:20 Clip Clip **Speaker 1:** That's just nasty, man! What the fuck?!
Speaker 2: Yeah, you sick piece of shit!
Speaker 1: You sick fuck!

00:05:24 Adam Host But I mean, so you're doing at-home haircuts. That's where we're at right now.

00:05:28 Ben Host Yeah! We're doing at-home haircuts. My wife cuts my hair, and then asks me to cut her hair, and I say, "Well, dear, I've had a couple of beers and a jazz gummy. Are you sure?"

And she says, "No, I'll do it myself." *[Laughs.]*

00:05:43 Adam Host That's a hell of a combination, and I'm sure it keeps your hands very steady.

[Ben laughs.]

Ben, I think—I honestly think I'm gonna take off my headphones to show you here. I think it's been almost three months since my last haircut. I'm gonna show you the profile view, alright?

00:05:56 Ben Host Yeah!

00:05:57 Clip Clip *[Indistinct murmuring drowned out by loud rustling, ending in a thump.]*

00:05:59 Ben Host Oh, boy! You've got like, season one Data going there!

00:06:04 Adam Host I really do, and that's the problem!

[Ben laughs.]

Because, uh, I'm pretty happy with the, uh—with the party in the front happening here.

00:06:10 Ben Host Yeah. The party in the front looks solid!

00:06:13 Adam Host The party in the back is just way too loud, Ben. It's like your neighbors in New York. They're—

00:06:16 Ben Host *[Laughs.]* Mm-hm. Yeah.

00:06:17 Adam Host They've got the drum set in their loft, and—

00:06:20 Ben Host You're, uh—you can't even get their attention with your broom handle

against the ceiling.

00:06:25 Adam Host Here's the problem. For at-home haircuttery, you are committed to the idea of cutting all around. I could not just Peanut the back.

00:06:35 Ben Host No. That would be bad.

00:06:37 Adam Host You—it's impossible! It can't be done! So I'm stuck with either growing the front and the back at different rates—

00:06:43 Ben Host Right.

00:06:44 Adam Host —where the consequence of this becomes... what? Some sort of like, Joe Dirt situation?

00:06:50 Ben Host Yeah.

00:06:51 Adam Host Or I actually commit to a haircut where I lose the party in the front and the party in the back, and become... uh, Joe Number Three Guard.

00:06:59 Ben Host Mm-hm. I obtained the Peanut with the attention of becoming Joe Number Four.

[Adam laughs.]

And I made this intention clear to my wife, and we got in a great big fight about it. She did not want me to go to a uniform short length all over. And she was so adamant about it that she insisted on giving me a haircut herself, and so we had the experience of me sitting there biting my tongue while she gave me a haircut. *[Laughs.]*

00:07:37 Adam Host I think a quality about a professional hairstylist that often goes unmentioned-on is the degree to which they are expressionless as they cut your hair. Right?

00:07:49 Ben Host Yeah.

00:07:50 Adam Host Like, you're having a conversation, you're talking like people, but a professional will not look like they're working particularly hard to do a good job—

[Ben laughs, Adam stifles laughter.]

—in a way that... your wife would. Look like they are really trying, in a way that—

00:08:04 Ben Host Right.

00:08:05 Adam Host —has got to be very stressful.

00:08:08 Ben Host I think that, uh—she doesn't have good bedside manner, as a barber. But I will say she did a surprisingly great job on the actual cut. Like, it's not professional by any means, but it's not embarrassing, either.

00:08:22 Adam Host I was about to say, I'm looking at you right now, and you do not look like a person who has endured a at-home haircut by an amateur.

00:08:31 Ben Host *[Laughs.]* Yeah. It just—it's just that it took, like, five times as long as a professional haircut, and also—like, the kind of haircut I get is so different from the kind of haircut that she gets, that she doesn't even have, like, the benefit of having seen it done by another person.

00:08:46 Adam Host Mm-hm. Mm-hm.

00:08:47 Ben Host Like, I had to do all of that. Like, uh, "Yeah, you like, hold the hair

between your fingers, and you like, look for the bit that you just cut—
"

00:08:54 Adam Host

Yeah.

00:08:55 Ben Host

"—and cut everything else to that length." Like, that was like, new thought technology to her.

00:09:00 Adam Host

Yeah, that's scary stuff, man.

[Ben laughs.]

I mean, I remember the family friend haircut of my youth.

[Ben laughs.]

I remember the \$8 strip mall haircut place—

00:09:11 Ben Host

Yeah!

00:09:12 Adam Host

—by the grocery store, that I grew up on. I mean, the consequences of those cuts stay with you for a long time!

00:09:19 Ben Host

I used to go to a chain barbershop in a strip mall near our house called Great Clips for Hair that was sailboat-themed.

00:09:28 Adam Host

That was a franchise where I grew up, too!

00:09:31 Ben Host

Yeah. Every—between every chair, there was like a little—like a jib sail. *[Laughs.]* To divide the different stations. I had this one barber—he cut my hair for like, years and years and years. This guy whose name was Joe. And he was like, the Bic-shaved bald barber, you know?

00:09:49 Adam Host

Yeah, I mean... do you trust a bald barber?

00:09:53 Ben Host

I trusted Joe.

00:09:54 Adam Host

That's the Mott Question!

00:09:56 Ben Host

Yeah. He gave me great haircuts! You know, come to think of it, Joe had a look not unlike that of Captain Benjamin Sisko. He was a, uh—he was an African American man with a goatee and no hair!

00:10:08 Adam Host

Well, there's a treat in store for us, Ben, I believe. As we get into the episode the day. Of course that being *Deep Space Nine* season 6, episode 19: "In the Pale Moonlight."

00:10:22 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!

[Music stops.]

00:10:31 Adam Host

The rare *Batman* reference!

[Ben laughs.]

In a *Star Trek* title, right?

00:10:36 Ben Host Yeah. Who is the devil that we're dancing with?
00:10:39 Clip Clip **Picard:** Q!
00:10:40 Ben Host I guess it's the Romulans. Always a game of chess with them.
00:10:44 Clip Clip **Zapp Brannigan (*Futurama*):** If we can hit that bullseye, the rest of the dominoes will fall like a house of cards. Checkmate!
00:10:50 Adam Host I expected Sisko's dad to be murdered in this episode! Weren't you?

[Ben laughs.]

Shot outside of his restaurant?

00:10:57 Ben Host I—I just could not believe that there wasn't a slow motion shot of pearls bouncing on the ground in an alleyway.
00:11:06 Adam Host This is an episode that has discovered the Interrotron.

[Ben laughs, Adam stifles laughter.]

The episode inspired by all Errol Morris films everywhere.

00:11:16 Ben Host Yeah! It is Ben Sisko's *Fog of War*. And, uh...
00:11:20 Adam Host It is.
00:11:21 Ben Host We talked about that episode where René Auberjonois wanted to have a, you know, beaten Odo look like the vanquished samurai, with the—
00:11:31 Adam Host Mm-hm.
00:11:32 Ben Host —you know, hair hanging down in front of his face. And Sisko starts this episode, you know, with his action jacket open, his shirt unzipped somewhat, and he just looks... devastated, in that way!
00:11:48 Adam Host Yeah! He kind of plays strip storytelling as the episode goes on.

[Ben laughs quietly.]

Taking off an article of clothing with every return to his in-room narration?

00:11:57 Ben Host Yeah!
00:11:58 Adam Host His in-room captain's logging?
00:12:00 Ben Host *[Chuckles.]* He looks quite ruffled, and, uh—
00:12:03 Adam Host You wonder where it's gonna end, Ben!
00:12:06 Ben Host Yeah. Dong out. It's gonna be a boudoir photo at the end of this.

[Both laugh.]

Uh, he wants to think back over the last two weeks, and see if he can puzzle through... where he went wrong!

00:12:19 Adam Host What do you think his drink of choice is? He's got that big *Blade Runner* glass out.

00:12:25 Ben Host Yeah!

00:12:26 Adam Host He's got a bottle of a clear liquid. I don't think we've gotten a sense, like—all of our *Star Trek* captains seem to have a main drink?

00:12:33 Ben Host Right.

00:12:34 Adam Host A drink that you know them by, and I'm not sure if we have that trivia about Sisko! Do we?

00:12:39 Ben Host I feel like there's a lot of raktajino—

00:12:41 Adam Host Yeah.

00:12:42 Ben Host —that gets talked about, but it doesn't... that doesn't feel like he lives on that plot. Like, everybody lives on that plot on this show.

00:12:50 Adam Host This is an evening for booze. For sure.

00:12:53 Ben Host Yeah. Yeah. I like to think that he's got a nice smoky mezcal.

00:12:57 Adam Host That is a great big glass. A friend of mine, for my birthday, got me these *Blade Runner* glasses.

00:13:04 Ben Host Cool!

00:13:05 Adam Host And they are super cool, but they are heavy AF!

00:13:11 Ben Host Wow.

00:13:12 Adam Host Like, they're so substantial that it feels like—you know how sometimes you—like, a nice piece of glass, where you feel like it'll be fragile enough to break?

00:13:20 Ben Host Mm-hm.

00:13:21 Adam Host This seems heavy enough to break!

00:13:23 Ben Host Yeah.

00:13:24 Adam Host In just as easy of a way.

00:13:27 Ben Host Like if you drop it, it's gon—its terminal velocity...

00:13:30 Adam Host Yeah.

00:13:31 Ben Host It will reach its terminal velocity in the, like, two and a half feet it has to get to the—*[laughs]*—to the floor?

00:13:35 Adam Host Yeah. It's a no doubter.

[Ben laughs.]

That thing—like, it would make me fearful of washing it in the sink.

00:13:40 Ben Host Yeah!

00:13:41 Adam Host That's the most dangerous time for glassware.

00:13:43 Ben Host Mm-hm.

00:13:44 Adam Host In that sink basin.

00:13:45 Ben Host Yeah. Gotta be careful.

So, uh, he launches into this log. He starts talking about how every Friday, he posts the deaths within the Federation on a big viewscreen in the wardroom, and so...

00:13:59 Adam Host It's Casualty Friday?

00:14:00 Sound Effect Sound Effect [\[Ding!\]](#)

00:14:01 Ben Host Oh boy! *[Laughs.]* Oh, yeah, yeah. You deserve the title.

I think that these characters, no longer saying "TGIF." They're probably saying something more like "GDIF."

00:14:16 Adam Host Mm! Yeah.

[Ben laughs.]

What do you make of Sisko's posting these in the wardroom? Like, can you just go in and out of the wardroom if you're an officer, whenever you want?

00:14:27 Ben Host That seem—

00:14:28 Adam Host I suppose you wouldn't wanna put this on the opposite side of the mall directory on the Promenade, right? That's no fun.

00:14:34 Ben Host Right. Yeah. They post it right outside Quark's, so everybody's got a real bumner on when they go in there. *[Laughs.]*

00:14:40 Adam Host Yeah. Yeah!

00:14:42 Ben Host No, yeah, I mean... It's weird, like—it's weird to think about, like, "Oh, yeah, I gotta go up and check the list of casualties. Shit, there's a meeting scheduled right now. Can't get in until 4:30."

[Both laugh quietly.]

00:14:53 Adam Host Yeah, you ever accidentally walk in on that McLaughlin Group?

[Ben laughs.]

00:14:56 Clip Clip **John McLaughlin (*The McLaughlin Group*):** Issue one!

00:14:57 Adam Host As it's going? 'Cause they've gone over on the meeting room? Very awkward!

00:15:01 Ben Host Yeah, and then that awkward backing out of the room. "Sorry!"

00:15:05 Adam Host I hated that aspect of corporate life, especially, like, when you're in the meeting. It's not your meeting to run, and you're in there, and you've noticed that it's gone over.

00:15:13 Ben Host Yeah.

00:15:14 Adam Host And then you start seeing the people gathered outside, wondering, "What the fuck?"

00:15:17 Ben Host Yeah.

00:15:18 Adam Host And you're like, shooting mind daggers at the manager who's going over, not realizing this.

00:15:23 Ben Host *[Laughs.]* Oh, god. Get me as far away from that as I can get. *[Laughs.]*

00:15:29 Adam Host Guess what is the maximum amount of distance ever measured by anyone in the history of time? It's working that job, being in that conference room, and now recording a *Star Trek* podcast.

[Ben laughs.]

We did it, Ben!

00:15:44 Sound Effect Sound Effect *[Air horns.]*

00:15:46 Ben Host This idea is kind of *Inception*, right? 'Cause it's Bashir that floats it, I think. The, uh—they're talking about, like, how a friend of theirs bought the farm, and they're like, "Yeah, some Jem'Hadar came across the Romulan part of the border and took out the *Cairo*. And Bashir's like, "Well, if the Romulans came into the war, like... this would be great."

And Dax is there to remind Bashir that for the Romulans, this is awesome. Because they can just sit back in the cut and watch the Jem'Hadar and the Cardassians and the Federation and the Klingons tear each other to shreds. And then when the dust settles, the Romulans will be in a great position.

00:16:27 Adam Host *[Bashir voice; posh]* "You know, the Romulans' urine is blue-colored."

[Ben laughs.]

"Most people don't know that."

00:16:34 Ben Host *[Bashir voice]* "Interesting, given the color of most of their beverages."

00:16:38 Adam Host *[Laughs.]*

[Bashir voice] "You could see how it is aligned with the human custom of drinking champagne. Or beer."

[Ben laughs.]

"Whiskey, if you are particularly dehydrated."

[Impressions stop.]

Yeah, it's interesting to hear this coming from him. Like, and he's not wrong. At all.

00:16:54 Ben Host No.

00:16:55 Adam Host The Roms are in a prime position to just lay back in the cut and watch the Federation get creamed from a safe distance. Without getting their hands dirty!

00:17:04 Ben Host I wanted a little bit to hear him address the idea of how this factors into the... Unenviable X-Men calculus—

00:17:10 Music Music Brief clip of the *X-Men: The Animated Series* opening theme, by Ron Wasserman. A climatic flourish followed by a crackle of electricity.

00:17:11 Ben Host —that the war is unwinnable? Like, if they—like—

00:17:13 Adam Host Yeah. Yeah! Does it suddenly become winnable with their involvement?

00:17:17 Ben Host Yeah. Like, "We had this one variable that we could never figure out how to flip the bit on, but if the Romulans come—become Team Alpha Quadrant, it changes all of the math" would be a great, reassuring thing to hear in a scene like this.

00:17:31 Adam Host Yeah.

00:17:32 Ben Host Like, it would—and it would help unders—it would help you

understand, like, why Sisko would go to such lengths, right?

00:17:37 Adam Host Yeah. It's true. It feels a little... unusual, that this appears as though this is the first time that Sisko has considered this idea.

00:17:47 Ben Host Yeah.

00:17:48 Adam Host Like, it hits him like epiphany.

00:17:50 Ben Host *[Chuckles.]* It sure does! It's epiphany eyes to commercial.

00:17:55 Adam Host Mm-hm. Sisko has been inspired to make this happen.

00:17:59 Clip Clip **Music:** Soft brass.

Sisko: That was the moment I made the decision.

[Clip audio stops.]

00:18:02 Adam Host And he does a little bit of playacting with Dax. In—

[Both laugh quietly.]

In a way to just sort of run a simulation about how a conversation would go between him and a random Romulan in order to, like, sell the idea of joining the war.

00:18:19 Ben Host I really liked this scene! I like that Dax kinda slips into Romulan affect without—they don't—you know, they don't signpost it before she does it. And it's very clear what she's doing! Like, that—

00:18:29 Adam Host Yeah.

00:18:30 Ben Host I feel like it's well written and well acted.

00:18:32 Clip Clip **Sisko:** Very good, old man. You would have made a decent Romulan!

00:18:35 Adam Host Yeah.

00:18:36 Ben Host And she's channeling that Romulan vibe, in a way that I didn't see coming!

00:18:42 Adam Host Her impression works, but the conversation doesn't. By the end of it, Sisko's like, "Yeah, you're right. This is gonna be pretty challenging."

[Ben laughs.]

"Not sure if I've got what it takes to make a convincing argument."

00:18:55 Ben Host Right.

00:18:56 Adam Host The question remains, how do you convince them?

00:18:59 Ben Host The only solution they can come up with is, "You have to prove to the Romulans that it's in their best interests to be in this war, with, like, tangible evidence that the Dominion plans to fuck them over."

The issue is like, you know, if the Dominion wins and it's not a—like, a Pyrrhic victory where they technically win and destroy the Federation and the Klingon Empire but are also so fucked up themselves that they can't project power into the rest of the quadrant? That's great for the Romulans. But the scenario where the Dominion and the Jem'Hadar just run roughshod over everyone else totally fucks the Romulans, 'cause it paints them into a corner.

00:19:38 Adam Host Right.

00:19:39 Ben Host And they kind of need to persuade the Romulans that it's that second situation that is more likely.

00:19:47 Adam Host Yeah. And it can't just be a presentation. Appealing to their sense of logic and strategy doesn't appear to be on the table at all.

00:19:55 Ben Host Yeah.

00:19:56 Adam Host There has to be a sort of proof of existential threat.

00:19:59 Ben Host In a funny way, it kind of like, makes it a harder sell overall. *[Stifles laughter.]* Because it's like, "Yeah, like, this isn't that even of a fight." Like, "We are definitely gonna get our asses kicked unless you help us—"

00:20:10 Adam Host Mm-hm.

00:20:11 Ben Host —is not like, the most appealing invitation. *[Laughs.]*

00:20:15 Adam Host One of the qualities I really like about this episode is like so many plans, the first idea is the most complex and difficult.

[Ben laughs.]

And then as the story goes on, like, Sisko as the decision maker has to, like, walk it back a little bit into something more attainable.

00:20:33 Ben Host Yeah.

00:20:34 Adam Host And then walk it back even more into something more attainable than that.

[Ben laughs.]

And that feels like real life!

00:20:39 Ben Host Yeah. I think it's a little bit above his pay grade that he's—*[laughing]* like, he, a captain in Starfleet, has decided to personally draw the entire Romulan Star Empire into the war.

00:20:50 Adam Host I felt the same way. The moment he—*[stifles laughter]*—the moment he talks to Garak, and is like, "I'm gonna run this up the flagpole to Starfleet Command," I checked the timecode and it was like halfway through the episode.

[Both laugh.]

Like, that train has left the station! *[Laughs.]*

00:21:03 Ben Host Yeah! *[Laughs.]*

00:21:04 Adam Host He's asking for forgiveness at this point instead of permission!

00:21:08 Ben Host Yeah. We recently watched "The Balance of Terror" on [Greatest Discovery](#), and like, the fact that Kirk is constantly radioing home for approval just to cross the Neutral Zone is like, such a—

00:21:20 Adam Host Yeah!

00:21:21 Ben Host *[Laughing]* Like, that idea is so far from where Sisko lives.

00:21:24 Adam Host Right.

[Ben laughs.]

So not only is the idea that an attack on Romulus by the Dominion is the only thing that would convince the Romulans to join the war. They hypothesize that it exists.

00:21:38 Ben Host

Right.

00:21:39 Adam Host

And they also believe that it exists on Cardassia Prime. And that their job is to go to Cardassia Prime, and get it.

[Ben laughs.]

So... a number of assumptions combined here. And—*[laughs]*.

00:21:53 Ben Host

They are setting up the road trip episode that we don't get. *[Laughs.]*

00:21:56 Adam Host

Nice to see Garak back on the scene here! "Hello, Garak! I... forgot you were there."

00:22:01 Ben Host

[Laughs.]

Yeah. When Sisko says, "There is somebody living on the station that specializes in getting in places that he isn't invited," I was like, "Who?? I can't think of anyone!" *[Laughs.]*

00:22:16 Adam Host

Right. And when you hear Garak say back the plan to Sisko, it sounds insane.

00:22:23 Ben Host

Yeah.

00:22:24 Adam Host

It sounds almost as insane as hearing Sisko say it.

00:22:26 Clip Clip

Garak: It's more like a suicide mission!

00:22:28 Ben Host

Yeah. And sometimes that's all it takes, right? Somebody to recapitulate the thing you just said to them, to expose—*[laughs]*—what a bozo you are.

00:22:38 Adam Host

It's like that stupid MasterClass ad. Have you seen that? The one where—like, one of the experts on MasterClass is like a master interrogator.

00:22:47 Ben Host

[Laughing] Uh-huh.

00:22:48 Adam Host

Like, "Use the technologies of a master interrogator in the workplace." And one of the examples he gives is, like, repetition.

00:22:55 Ben Host

[Stifling laughter] Mm-hm?

00:22:56 Adam Host

He's like, "Use conversational repetition to get the upper hand in all business matters."

[Ben laughs.]

And they cut to a scene of him doing it, and it's basically him just repeating the last four words that were said to him in a conversation.

[Both laugh.]

00:23:12 Ben Host

[“Yikes” noise.]

00:23:13 Adam Host

That's what happens here! That's what Garak does to Sisko.

00:23:15 Ben Host

Yeah.

00:23:16 Adam Host

He gets the upper hand by just repeating the last four words!

00:23:19 Ben Host Garak has been using this time for a lot of e-learning opportunities.

00:23:24 Adam Host Right. Garak sort of pivots Sisko into another way of thinking. Like, "If only you were interested in spilling a little bit of blood—"

[Ben laughs.]

"—I have a related plan that could sort of work to all of our benefit, if you'll only hear me out."

00:23:41 Ben Host Yeah. 'Cause Garak has, like, a few favors left that he could call in on Cardassia Prime. But he is—he's quite hesitant to do that, when he doesn't think that it's actually gonna work.

00:23:53 Adam Host Right.

00:23:54 Ben Host What he would like instead is to trick the Romulans.

00:23:58 Adam Host That's right. Because it would take a lot of effort to go to Cardassia and get information that may or may not exist. Why would you go through all that effort if instead you could... create this evidence out of thin air?

[Ben laughs quietly.]

00:24:11 Sound Effect Sound Effect *[Magical-sounding rising glissando on bar chimes.]*

00:24:12 Adam Host Then you would save the gas on the road trip. You get to keep things close to home. You get to get a Romulan senator coming to your house, instead of going to theirs.

00:24:21 Ben Host Yeah.

00:24:22 Adam Host It's just much more convenient for everyone involved.

00:24:24 Ben Host The road to Hell is paved with conveniences.

[Both laugh quietly.]

00:24:30 Adam Host That's what they say.

00:24:31 Music Transition A techno song mixed with clips and soundbites from *DS9*.

O'Brien: *Gul Dukat!*
Kira: *Dukat!*
Sisko: *Dukat.*
O'Brien: *Gul Dukat!*
Kira: *Dukat!*

Dukat: *So...*

[Music ends.]

00:24:35 Adam Host So the involvement of Senator Vreenak is going to be vital here, because he's like—he's known on the street as the guy who is the most hard-line. Like, this is his plan. His plan is to lay back and watch the world burn. And so what Garak is saying is that, "If you can convince this guy that Romulus is in trouble, all the other bread boxes lined up behind him are gonna fall like dominoes."

00:24:56 Ben Host *[Chuckles.]*

Speaking of dominoes, a pretty major Federation domino falls in this moment. They get word that Betazed has been taken over by the

Dominion!

00:25:10 Adam Host How could they not have sensed that coming?

[Ben laughs.]

Is my question.

00:25:16 Ben Host I wondered what is happening with Lwaxana in this moment!

00:25:22 Adam Host Do we know whether or not a Betazed can get a hit off of a Founder? Or a—

00:25:27 Ben Host Oh!

00:25:28 Adam Host Or a Vorta? 'Cause Lwaxana spent a lot of time with Odo.

00:25:32 Ben Host Yeah.

00:25:33 Adam Host But she—I don't think she spent much time with a Vorta or a Jem'Hadar, ever.

00:25:37 Ben Host Yeah, I don't think she could read Odo.

00:25:39 Adam Host Yeah.

00:25:40 Ben Host But it wouldn't surprise me if the Founders, like, coded that in genetically. Like, if the Ferengi are unreadable...

00:25:47 Adam Host Especially with the Alpha-bred ones, right?

00:25:50 Ben Host Oh, yeah! You gotta harden those guys.

00:25:53 Adam Host *[Stifling laughter]* Mm-hm.

00:25:54 Ben Host Um—*[laughs]*. Yeah. Interesting that Betazed gets brought up here, without any of like the—you know, we know Betazoid characters! And they're left in abstraction in this moment.

00:26:04 Adam Host Yeah, it's too bad. Cut to Betazed! I say.

00:26:07 Ben Host Yeah!

00:26:08 Adam Host Let's see those picnics in the park that they're known for.

00:26:10 Ben Host Yeah. *[Laughs quietly.]* Those, uh—those cum-filled leaves that they love eating.

[Both laugh quietly.]

00:26:16 Adam Host So the plan is to show the senator a holographic conversation depicting the plan for this Romulan invasion being hatched.

00:26:25 Ben Host Yeah.

00:26:26 Adam Host But the thing is, these holograms have to be perfect. There's a technology involved, right? There's a rod.

00:26:33 Clip Clip **Garak:** These rods are manufactured only as needed on Cardassia Prime. Information can only be transcribed on them once, and then cannot be altered.

00:26:42 Ben Host They—they're gonna do, like, the best forgery that has ever been done in the history of forgeries.

00:26:47 Adam Host Right.

00:26:48 Ben Host And to do that, Garak is gonna need Sisko to call in a favor to Gowron, because the only forger that he thinks is capable of doing this is currently on death row. *[Laughs quietly.]* In Klingon jail.

00:27:03 Adam Host I feel like the name "Grathon Tolar" is like the name an eight-year-old gives his DND character.

[Ben laughs.]

It sounds, like, so perfectly *Star Trek*-ian...

00:27:14 Ben Host I know.

00:27:15 Adam Host ...in name, right?

00:27:17 Ben Host I was kind of hoping that this was gonna be a Klingon? And he was gonna be like—

00:27:20 Music Music "The Klingon Battle" from *Star Trek: The Motion Picture* by Jerry Goldsmith. Warlike horns, martial snare drums.

00:27:21 Ben Host *[Klingon impression; over-emphatic]* "I am incredibly talented in working in fine details!"

[Both laugh.]

[Music fades out. Impression stops.]

00:27:30 Adam Host I got my first look at this guy, and I was like, "Is this one of those knee-genitals guys?"

00:27:35 Clip Clip **Martia (*Undiscovered Country*):** That was not his knee.

00:27:36 Ben Host Oh!

00:27:37 Adam Host That's what I thought he looked like! 'Cause he was blue like him.

00:27:39 Ben Host He's blue like him, but he's also got kind of like... extra [loafy](#) head, the way those green guys in ["Who Mourns for Morn"](#) have?

00:27:48 Adam Host Right. Yeah. They look like cousins.

00:27:52 Ben Host And then he's got those—

00:27:52 Adam Host Well, we don't know where those guys's genitals are!

00:27:54 Ben Host No, I guess we don't. He's got those spots all over his head, and I wondered if those were scars from choosing his pain.

[Both laugh.]

00:28:04 Adam Host Uh-huh. Yeah! Yeah, you could see it. This guy, though—he does not have the sort of attitude that would suggest a hardened criminal type.

00:28:14 Clip Clip **Tolar:** *[Pleasantly]* I've never worked for Starfleet before!

00:28:17 Ben Host He's interesting! Because he's a chill and pretty, like, pleasant character to be around?

00:28:23 Adam Host Definitely a white-collar criminal.

00:28:25 Ben Host Right. I mean, he's like a dirtbag, right? Like, he assumes that they busted him out of jail so he could make an incredibly detailed porno for Captain Sisko.

[Both stifle laughter.]

00:28:33 Adam Host Right.

00:28:34 Ben Host Which is, like, a little worrisome about his level—like, his intelligence

quotient. But, um—*[laughs]*.

00:28:40 Adam Host He was so excited about this plan that it's almost as if he had started it already.

00:28:45 Ben Host Yeah, he—like, in midflight he was already, like, designing the—
[Adam laughs quietly.]
—the Orion slave girls for the program?

00:28:52 Adam Host I feel like if you are the designer of a holosuite program, much in the same way you and I worked as editors professionally, like, you have a sequence that's already templated for such a thing.

00:29:05 Ben Host Yeah.

00:29:06 Adam Host You already have four Orion slave girls dialed up, ready to go.

00:29:10 Ben Host *[Laughs.]* Right. Yeah, you just—you launch the project, and you've got assets that have already been pulled into it.

00:29:17 Adam Host Right. Right.

00:29:18 Ben Host You just start dropping transitions and stings onto everything. This guy is not on board the station for long before the hardened-ness of his criminality becomes evident, though.
[Both laugh quietly.]

00:29:30 Adam Host Yeah, because he goes and gets into a bar fight almost immediately with Quark, and he stabs him!

00:29:36 Ben Host Yeah, with the bartender! That's fucked up!

00:29:38 Adam Host Never fight a bartender.

00:29:41 Ben Host He was drinking Weyland Bitters, Adam. I wondered if, uh, if Weyland Bitters are a thing you can get, can you get Yutani Liqueur?

00:29:49 Clip Clip **Burke (Aliens):** There's nothing wrong with it.

00:29:50 Adam Host Maybe!

00:29:51 Ben Host *[Chuckles.]* That would be good!

00:29:52 Adam Host This looks like a flesh wound, in Quark's chest?

00:29:55 Ben Host Yeah!

00:29:56 Adam Host This looks like a nearly fatal stab wound that he's absorbed!

00:30:00 Ben Host I think they talk about a knife, but it kind of—it kinda looks more like the, like, "break a bottle on the edge of the bar and stab somebody with it."

00:30:08 Adam Host This is classic bad bar behavior! We get a nice bit of storytelling by Odo. 'Cause Odo tells Sisko what happened, and what happened is Tolar got hammered. He tried to grab the ass of a dabo girl. Quark defended her, and then got stabbed in the process!

00:30:25 Ben Host Like, maybe like the first unambiguously good thing that Quark has done on the show. *[Laughs quietly.]*

00:30:30 Adam Host Yeah. But this is a problem for Sisko, because Tolar isn't supposed to even be there, man.

00:30:36 Clip Clip **Odo:** Normally he'd be sitting in a holding cell, but he claims he's a

friend of yours.

Sisko: He's no friend of mine.

00:30:42 Adam Host And if Quark decides to press charges, it means that administratively, he will have been there. And that can't happen. So Sisko has to sit down next to Quark and work out some sort of arrangement where Quark would not press charges, and this takes a bribe.

00:30:58 Ben Host I was thinking about how often it comes up that Quark is the one getting bribed. And it's not that often, but I do remember a scene in maybe like season one or two, where Quark was in Sisko's office, and Sisko said, like, "You're gonna do this for me or I'm going to start charging you rent on the bar." And I feel like that should just always be the leverage. *[Laughs.]*

00:31:22 Adam Host Right. Yeah!

00:31:23 Ben Host But instead Quark gets, like, a big payout. He gets his shirt replaced. He's coming up off this! Like, this was—this "getting stabbed" business was great for him.

00:31:35 Adam Host Unfortunately this really diverts Sisko's attention, because now he's working with Garak on the repair of Quark's shirt and this mission.

00:31:45 Ben Host Right.

00:31:46 Adam Host It's just a lot for Garak to concentrate on.

00:31:48 Ben Host The guy only has so much bandwidth, you know?

00:31:51 Adam Host Back with Sisko, we get another—and these are dotted throughout the episode. We go back into the current time and get more of him speaking to camera. And I—I would say you either love or hate these scenes. If you did not appreciate the acting of Avery Brooks in "[Far Beyond the Stars](#)," you're probably not gonna be into this. Because...
[Ben laughs.]
Only Avery Brooks can do this! I think.

00:32:15 Ben Host Yeah.

00:32:16 Adam Host I can think of no other *Star Trek* captain who could do an episode like this, with scenes like this directly to the camera, and make them of the quality that they are. I mean, he's monologuing here. But he's... he's ten outta ten, every time.

00:32:32 Ben Host Yeah. I think like the first time I watched this episode, my brain couldn't even compute that he was looking at me.

00:32:38 Adam Host Yeah, you kinda looked away?

00:32:39 Ben Host Yeah!

00:32:40 Adam Host *[Stifling laughter]* Every time?

00:32:41 Ben Host Yeah! And I think that that's an amazing—it's amazing that it's taken them this long to discover this power he has, almost.

00:32:51 Adam Host You know what's wild about that, is it's kind of a simulation for acting across from him. Like, think about how difficult it's got to be to lock into his attention when you're sharing a scene with him as an actor.

00:33:05 Ben Host Yeah.

00:33:06 Adam Host If you're already—if you're just feeling this watching the episode, in the scenes where he's—

[Ben laughs, Adam stifles laughter.]

—he's acting to camera here.

00:33:13 Ben Host Yeah! It's fucking wild.

00:33:16 Adam Host Doesn't look easy if you can't even watch the episode, Ben.

00:33:18 Ben Host *[Laughing]* Yeah.

00:33:19 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.

[Music ends.]

00:33:35 Adam Host One of my favorite scenes is next, because Garak gets on the lift wearing a flamboyant *TNG* season one security uniform.

00:33:44 Ben Host *[Laughs.]* It's kind of the Tuvix uniform, in a way!

00:33:51 Adam Host It is hilarious looking.

00:33:52 Ben Host Yeah. It's good.

00:33:54 Adam Host Usually Garak wears more layers than this, and you really get a sense for how jacked he is as a character!

00:34:00 Ben Host Mm-hm. Yeah, he moves around a lot more in this episode.

00:34:04 Adam Host Mm-hm. Mm-hm.

00:34:05 Ben Host Than he often does. And the shape of his body is, uh—is not what I expected!

00:34:10	Clip	Clip	Garak: The less I'm seen parading through Ops, the better.
00:34:13	Adam	Host	You get a sense for how much power Garak has over this circumstance. Because he tells Sisko that he's locked Tolar in his quarters, with the suggestion that his door may be wired to explode if he attempts to leave.
			<i>[Ben laughs.]</i>
			And also, like, in order to get this rod situation dealt with, they're gonna need some bio-mimetic gel in exchange.
00:34:33	Ben	Host	Yeah.
00:34:34	Adam	Host	And we know from experience what kind of value is placed on this gel. It's not something that is obtained easily.
00:34:42	Ben	Host	There's one person that they can obtain this very special kind of honeystick from, and what they want is 200 liters of bio-mimetic gel in payment. Which is... uh, not really possible! Because the Federation does not release bio-mimetic gel to anyone. Uh, it's the best lubricant in the galaxy, and letting anyone fuck that smooth is not in the Federation's best interest. <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:35:10	Adam	Host	In the conversation that he has next with Bashir, Bashir's like, <i>[Bashir voice]</i> "Well, you've come to the right source for all matters liquid."
00:35:19	Ben	Host	<i>[Laughs.]</i>
			<i>[Bashir voice]</i> "Two hundred is a lot of liters, but if this person is a real freak like me, that might be what they need."
			<i>[Impressions stop.]</i>
00:35:28	Adam	Host	This is a great scene for Bashir!
00:35:30	Clip	Clip	Bashir: I'd like this order in writing, please, sir.
00:35:32	Adam	Host	Because he takes great umbrage with the idea of letting this controlled substance just go out to... <u>whoever</u> .
00:35:39	Ben	Host	Yeah.
00:35:40	Adam	Host	And Sisko is not trying to hear his objections. Sisko goes all the way up to ordering him, and Bashir does the administrative protest moves that are available to him—
00:35:50	Ben	Host	Right.
00:35:51	Adam	Host	—but they are pretty flaccid.
00:35:53	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	Ben: He basically doesn't wanna get left holding the bag if this blows up.
			Adam: Yeah.
00:35:56	Ben	Host	So he wants the orders in writing, which Sisko has anticipated. And then he's like, "Well... shit. Uh, well, I'm also putting it in my log, then!"
00:36:07	Adam	Host	Mm-hm.
00:36:08	Ben	Host	Like, you know. He's paper-trailing it. It's like when you notice somebody is including a lot of details about when you last spoke in the emails, and you're like, "Oh, man." <i>[Laughs.]</i>

00:36:16	Adam	Host	Right.
00:36:18	Ben	Host	"This is weak." <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:36:19	Adam	Host	Yeah.
00:36:21	Ben	Host	Bashir's like, "I can't give you all 200 liters but I can give you 85 liters, and if you have to, you can just spit on it."
			<i>[Ben laughs.]</i>
00:36:30	Clip	Clip	Sisko: Dismissed.
00:36:31	Ben	Host	The next scene is them reviewing the forgery, which is a holographic record of this conversation that never took place between Damar, some legate, and Weyoun about quote-unquote "Stage 2" of the Dominion's plan in the Alpha Quadrant. And Stage 2 is the turning on the Romulans and surprising them by invading them.
			There was like apparently an earlier version of this that didn't work for Sisko. So he's given some—some studio notes, and now he's reviewing DataRodVersion17FinalFinalFinalLastOne.mov.
			<i>[Adam laughs quietly.]</i>
			And, uh—you think it's probably good enough.
00:37:11	Adam	Host	I love the suggestion of the versioning. But I wish we saw one of the older, crappier run-throughs of this.
00:37:18	Ben	Host	Yeah.
00:37:19	Clip	Clip	Adam: Where Damar just isn't—
			Ben: Like, Weyoun and Damar being cordial with each other? <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:37:22	Adam	Host	Where their voices don't match up?
			<i>[Ben laughs.]</i>
			Where there's like, some, uh—like, we're running into this a lot as we record the show remotely, like, where you go out of sync a little bit.
00:37:33	Ben	Host	Oh, yeah, yeah.
			<i>[Adam laughs quietly.]</i>
			Some little flash frames or whatever. <i>[Laughs quietly.]</i> Yeah!
00:37:37	Adam	Host	Yeah. That'd be fun.
00:37:38	Ben	Host	Just little editing mistakes. I mean, like, that's gotta be a joke that's available to them, right?
00:37:44	Adam	Host	Yeah.
00:37:45	Ben	Host	Like, they have to send these episodes to the studio for approval, I imagine, so they're—it would have been fun to see them just, like, play with that a little bit more.
00:37:51	Adam	Host	Tolar is <u>at</u> the controls in this scene!
00:37:54	Clip	Clip	Tolar: So... you are happy?

00:37:56 Adam Host And they both give him the approval thumbs-up. "Go ahead and lock it in. Stick it in the rod!"

00:38:02 Ben Host The idea with this rod is that it's like a—you can write to this one time. You can't copy what's been written to it. It's like a perfect, one-time-only archival record of something. So theoretically impossible to fake. And they're getting as close to perfectly faking one as you possibly can.

00:38:21 Adam Host I love the moment where Tolar is done, and he pulls out the honeystick and hands it to Garak, and Garak's like, "I'm not touching that thing. Stick it in the box!"

00:38:29 Ben Host *[Laughing]* Yeah!

00:38:30 Adam Host Like, if you're ever given a job where the person you're doing the job for does not want to touch the thing that you worked on...

[Ben laughs.]

That's a pretty bad sign of—

00:38:40 Ben Host Yeah.

00:38:41 Adam Host —*[stifling laughter]* of the criminality that you've conspired in, right?

00:38:44 Ben Host Yeah, yeah. I mean, I kind of thought that Grathon Tolar should have like, pulled out a hanky from his pocket and, like, *[laughing]* rubbed the fingerprints off this thing.

00:38:55 Adam Host This is how Grathon Tolar went to prison the first time. By touching the rod.

00:38:59 Ben Host This guy's a fucking idiot. *[Laughs.]*

00:39:01 Adam Host Yeah.

00:39:02 Ben Host Take basic precautions, Grathon!

00:39:04 Adam Host He's kinda dumb.

00:39:06 Ben Host This is a scene that ends with Sisko, like, slamming Grathon up against the wall. 'Cause Grathon's like, "Cool! Thanks, guys! Off I go!"

And Sisko's like, "No, you're sticking around, bub." Like, "We're gonna make sure that this passes muster with our client before we let you go. And if you—and if it doesn't, you're right back to, like, the clutches of the Klingon Empire."

00:39:28 Adam Host Kind of a lot is made at the end of the episode about how much regret Sisko feels about his actions. But it starts here, right? You never see him get physical with a guy out of the blue like this!

00:39:40 Ben Host Yeah!

00:39:41 Adam Host I think it speaks to the desperation that really starts now.

00:39:44 Ben Host Right. 'Cause like, he has been really playing outside the margins to get this done, and going out on limb after limb. Best intentions being save a lot of lives and, you know, end the war with a V for the good guys. But he's also, like, really gone outside the margins for it, and, uh... and is starting to act more like a gangster than a Starfleet captain, to be honest!

00:40:13 Adam Host Yeah. Like Avery Brooks is so intense—

00:40:15 Ben Host Yeah.

00:40:16 Adam Host —verbally, that to get that combination of his intensity both in a line delivery but also in a "throw a guy up against a wall" kind of way? It's pretty scary stuff!

00:40:29 Ben Host Yeah, and the "addressing the camera scenes" ha—like, I feel like they started at like an eight, but now we're, like, past a ten. I feel like—

00:40:36 Adam Host Yeah.

00:40:37 Ben Host I feel like when we cut away from this scene, he's like at an 11. It's when—it's really when I started to get uncomfortable. *[Laughs quietly.]*

00:40:44 Adam Host There's a really neat scene next, where Senator Vreenak's shuttle arrives. And we see a part of the station that we haven't seen before. Because they go up to the docking bay, and they await the arrival of this thing. And we see the entire process. We see the door open—

00:41:00 Ben Host Yeah.

00:41:01 Adam Host —uh, something invisible come in. The door shuts behind, and then like, the airlock pushes out at the now uncloaked Romulan shuttle. It's a really neat sequence.

00:41:13 Ben Host It's super cool! It's Deep Space 9's equivalent of the shuttle bay.

00:41:15 Adam Host Right.

00:41:16 Ben Host And we see like a runabout parked in the back there. But this is, like, the other side of the wall for what—you know, when we see a runabout coming up on a landing pad.

00:41:26 Adam Host Right.

00:41:27 Ben Host What goes on, you know, under that hole. And, uh, yeah! Like, I—it's amazing that it's like, late season six that we ever get to see the mechanics of that. And it's super neat! It's—I was also quite excited to see it.

00:41:42 Adam Host Vreenak joins Sisko for a glass of the blue drink of illicit conversations between enemies.

[Ben laughs.]

It's a conversation that started out in the hallway, where Vreenak really big-dogs Sisko quite a bit!

00:41:57 Clip Clip **Vreenak:** My opinion of Starfleet officers is so low, you'd have to work very hard indeed to disappoint me.

00:42:03 Ben Host Yeah. He's, like, taking his time to come hear Sisko out, which is kind of amazing by itself. But he's also, like—doesn't wanna let Sisko get the wrong idea that Vreenak is, like, considering him to be an equal.

00:42:16 Adam Host This is one of those, like, summit meeting-type scenes. Where, like, two leaders of their people come together to chop it up, and they talk about the possible outcomes of the war. Concurrently, Garak has asked permission to board his shuttle. Which you just sort of understand is happening at the same time—

00:42:34 Ben Host Right.

00:42:35 Adam Host —while Vreenak is distracted by this blue drink.

00:42:38	Ben	Host	Garak makes the case that he's gonna go see if there's any interesting intelligence in the computer on Vreenak's shuttle surreptitiously, because Vreenak won't be traveling with that many guards.
			This scene's also really interesting because Vreenak is—they're—you know, they're talking about, like, "Yeah, we're in this cold war against each other," and you know, "The Dominion winning the war could really be great for Romulus." But the other part of the conversation is about this—this blue drink! This kali-fal that they're drinking. And Vreenak detecting the flaws in the replication of it.
00:43:14	Adam	Host	Yeah.
00:43:15	Ben	Host	Like, talking about it being an imperfect facsimile of the real thing.
00:43:19	Clip	Clip	Vreenak: Real kali-fal should <u>forcibly</u> open one's sinuses well before the first sip.
00:43:25	Ben	Host	Really foreshadowing his ability to detect... a FAAAAAKE!
00:43:29	Adam	Host	Because we smash cut right into the holo-meeting, and Vreenak watching it! I should say "experiencing it," because that's the way holo-meetings work.
00:43:38	Ben	Host	Mm-hm.
00:43:39	Adam	Host	He's like, walking around, mingling with the characters inside.
00:43:42	Ben	Host	Yeah. Looking up close at Weyoun. And you know, this is—this is a pretty crazy piece of news for him to be processing.
00:43:51	Adam	Host	Yeah.
00:43:52	Ben	Host	That they're about to get fucked over by these people that they thought they had a peace treaty with.
00:43:58	Adam	Host	Yeah.
00:43:59	Ben	Host	So he's like, "You'll forgive me if I want to subject that honeystick to a little bit of scrutiny."
00:44:05	Adam	Host	And this is maybe the moment of greatest stress for Sisko, this intervening time between the moment he gives the honeystick to Vreenak and when he gets an answer!
00:44:14	Ben	Host	Right.
00:44:15	Adam	Host	As to whether or not Vreenak believes it to be true.
00:44:18	Music	Transition	A techno song mixed with clips from <i>DS9</i> 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.

[Music ends.]

00:44:26 Ben Host What did—I can't remember. What did Vreenak say about the honeystick?

00:44:30 Clip Clip **Music:** Ominous orchestral swell.

Vreenak: *[Whisper-shouting]* It's a FAAAAKE!

[Clip audio stops.]

00:44:33 Adam Host Pretty silly moment for Vreenak here.

00:44:35 Ben Host Yeah. I thought that it was maybe the greatest masterstroke that the show has ever done to have Kenan play Sisko just for this one moment.

[Both laugh.]

00:44:46 Clip Clip **Music:** Ominous orchestral swell.

Vreenak: *[Whisper-shouting]* It's a FAAAAKE!

[Music stops. Audience laughs.]

Kenan Thompson (Saturday Night Live): *[Singing]* Uncomfortable silence!

[Audience laughs. Clip audio stops.]

00:44:50 Adam Host This—I think the pacing of this episode makes possible this transition. Because we go straight from this crescendo—like, we've reached this moment of great stress. Sisko's been found out. The honeystick's a fake. And we cut elliptically to, like, back at work a few days later! We never get the consequence of "It's a fake" in the moment. We never get the conversation that happens after this. We don't get Vreenak stomping off towards his shuttle.

00:45:19 Ben Host Right.

00:45:20 Adam Host It's just... that's the end of that scene. And then we cut to the consequence later. I thought that was a really interesting choice! That I don't think works in an episode that's paced differently.

00:45:30 Ben Host Right.

00:45:31 Adam Host You really are made not to think about that.

00:45:33 Ben Host It was a gambit that failed, except for that it didn't!

00:45:37 Adam Host Right.

00:45:38 Ben Host Because... the potential for blowback here, like the reason that you would imagine Starfleet would forbid a captain to engage in an enterprise like this is that, like, the Romulans now have every reason to side with the Dominion against the Federation. For being duplicitous creeps that tried to trick them into a giant war that will result in millions of Romulan deaths!

And yet, like, the moments after Sisko processing that are, like, pretty optimistic? Like, we're back in—we're back at, uh, GDIF. And you know, like, they're—like, people are saying, like, "Yeah, like,

there's like one casualty of somebody we know," but it, like, seems like the death list is not as big a bummer this week as it is a lot of weeks.

00:46:23	Clip	Clip	Bashir: I know it sounds a bit strange, but I'd say we're off to a pretty good start today.
00:46:26	Ben	Host	And then Worf comes in with some pretty crazy news!
00:46:30	Adam	Host	He's giddy, which made me suspicious right away.
00:46:32	Ben	Host	<i>[Chuckling]</i> Mm-hm.
00:46:33	Adam	Host	He says that Vreenak's shuttle was destroyed.
00:46:36	Clip	Clip	Worf: Senator Vreenak. He was returning to Romulus from a diplomatic mission to Soukara when his shuttle <u>exploded</u> .
00:46:41	Music	Music	"Running on Empty" by Jackson Browne, from the album <i>Running on Empty</i> . Triumphant piano, percussion, and guitar.
00:46:43	Clip	Clip	Worf: They believe that the Dominion is responsible. Dax: The Dominion assassinated a Romulan senator... Bashir: On a diplomatic mission. Worf: That changes everything. It could even bring the Romulans into the war. <i>[Clip audio ends, music fades out.]</i>
00:46:57	Ben	Host	He's like, "Guys, guys, guys! You know how when <u>we're</u> coming back from a conference, it's <u>always</u> super fucked up? Did you know that that can happen to <u>Romulans</u> also?!"
00:47:06	Adam	Host	"Hey, Sisko! You know that sound you've been working on?" <i>[Ben laughs.]</i> "Well, listen to this!"
00:47:14	Sound Effect	Sound Effect	<i>[Loud crashing.]</i>
00:47:16	Ben	Host	Sisko does the math on why that would be and is in Garak's shop punching him over a table in short shrift. <i>[Laughs quietly.]</i>
00:47:26	Adam	Host	The back-of-the-hand punch!
00:47:29	Ben	Host	Yeah.
00:47:30	Adam	Host	Criminally underutilized in <i>Star Trek</i> . <i>[Ben laughs.]</i> I think.
00:47:34	Ben	Host	Yeah.
00:47:35	Adam	Host	But also got to be, like, one of the most painful punches for the puncher.
00:47:40	Ben	Host	It's like a bellyflop, where it's like, it is a funny joke at the expense of... really hurting yourself. <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:47:48	Adam	Host	It's also a very <u>weak</u> punch, because you—you put no body behind a

punch that you backhand.

00:47:56 Ben Host Yeah.

00:47:57 Adam Host Like, you get none of the force involved with punching forward!

00:48:03 Ben Host Well, you have to count on your victim to really sell it, which Garak does. *[Laughing]* He goes flying over this table.

00:48:09 Adam Host You see that table in the foreground, and it's like seeing a wheelchair basketball team in a Michael Bay movie.

[Ben laughs.]

Like, you know someone's going over that table, Ben!

00:48:18 Ben Host *[Laughs.]* Yeah. And Garak's, like, explanation is like, "Yeah!" Like, "I put a bomb that made it look like the Jem'Hadar did this in his shuttle, because we needed to guarantee that this worked. And now, like, the Romulans will find his dead body. And they will find the damaged-but-still-readable honeystick, and the damage will cover up the fact that the honeystick is a forgery. And now you've got exactly what you set out to do!"

00:48:48 Clip Clip **Garak:** A war between the Romulans and the Dominion.

00:48:50 Ben Host "Look at me! I am Section 31 now!"

00:48:54 Adam Host I love how the reasons for Sisko being angry are so multifaceted, right? Because—like, let's talk about all the ways that he's angry here! He's angry that Vreenak's shuttle was destroyed without his express written approval. Like, he—like, this mission was done behind his back.

00:49:13 Ben Host Yeah.

00:49:14 Adam Host But also that he was party to murder.

00:49:16 Ben Host Right.

00:49:17 Adam Host But also that... I truly believe that he's the most upset at his lack of control of the situation.

00:49:24 Ben Host Yeah, he's mad at himself more than Garak.

00:49:27 Adam Host Yeah.

00:49:28 Ben Host It's just that Garak, he has, like, the ability to punish a little bit.

00:49:32 Adam Host Right. Garak makes a pretty strong case about the outcome maybe forgiving the method. And he sort of questions Sisko's ability to accept that.

00:49:44 Clip Clip **Garak:** And if your conscience is bothering you, you should soothe it with the knowledge that you may have just saved the entire Alpha Quadrant—!

00:49:51 Adam Host And when we get that final moment in Sisko's quarters, of the personal log, we see how tortured Sisko is.

00:49:59 Ben Host Yeah.

00:50:00 Adam Host Before finally being... not tortured at all about it. He reconciles himself with the truth of the matter, and his instrumentality in it.

00:50:09 Ben Host Like, it's a very dark idea. And the idea, I think specifically, is... in this case, the ends are gonna justify the means. And that's an idea that I

don't think you could do with a Captain Picard, for example.

00:50:28 Adam Host It suggests to me a question about whether or not Ben Sisko has broke bad. Because when characters on TV shows do this, when they get a taste for what's possible when you act outside of the rules of your job or your society or anything else, you don't just stop. After doing it once.

00:50:51 Ben Host Yeah.

00:50:52 Adam Host There is—there's an addiction to an ability to get something done, sometimes easier this way. And so, uh, that was the feeling that I had at the end. It's like, "Is this a—is this a new Sisko going forward? The Sisko that isn't afraid to, uh—to break a couple of Tolars to make a Siskomelette?" (*Sisko + omelette*.)

00:51:14 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!

[Music ends.]

00:51:18 Ben Host It's an idea that kind of flies in the face of some of the things I really like about *Star Trek*. Which is, like... I don't think the ends do justify the means! I think there—there are no ends. You know? Like, there are only means. In reality. And you have to live up to your own morals. And I think that this is a great episode from an acting standpoint and a very interesting episode from a storytelling standpoint. But to me it's a little bit of a disappointment in terms of a, like, presenting the ideals of a better future.

00:51:57 Adam Host I like the episode because... it's the "needs of the many" question. Like we've seen so many times. But it's presented in a way where—like, this is Sisko's Spock box. Like, this is his warp core. You know?

[Ben chuckles.]

Like, he's going in and doing something awful in order to ensure the Federation's survival.

00:52:20 Ben Host Yeah.

00:52:22 Adam Host And it doesn't matter if all he has are those gloves. Like, he's willing to absorb the radiation of this mission he did.

00:52:29 Ben Host Yeah.

00:52:30 Adam Host So that the Federation can survive. And I really like how there is a parallel between those two things. I think you're right, though. I think there's no question that there—that this is, like, the darkest possible permutation of that idea, and it is an idea that has been presented in *Star Trek* episodes and movies since the beginning.

00:52:51 Ben Host Right.

00:52:52	Adam	Host	And you're only supposed to think of it in the most Roddenberrian kind of way.
00:52:55	Ben	Host	Right.
00:52:56	Adam	Host	The nice way. The case I'm trying to make here is that it's not a <u>manipulation</u> of that theme at all; I think it is <u>exactly</u> what it says on the box! I think this is just <u>one</u> of the versions. One of the <u>many</u> versions that you get inside that theme.
00:53:10	Ben	Host	I think it despoils the character a little bit, though. And—like, if this <u>is</u> the moment that he breaks bad and... and learns the wrong lesson, that breaking the rules is sometimes an easier way of getting to what you want, then that sucks! You know? <i>[Laughs quietly.]</i>
00:53:26	Adam	Host	Hey, man! I was already here with him after he fucked Mirror Dax and Mirror Sisko's wife!
			<i>[Ben laughs.]</i>
			On the same day. If you didn't think this was predicted a couple of seasons ago—
			<i>[Ben laughs harder.]</i>
			—that's where he broke bad! He broke it <u>off</u> bad, Ben!
00:53:43	Ben	Host	Wow. <i>[Laughs.]</i>
			Well, do you want to, uh—do you wanna get into a pledge break, Adam?
00:53:49	Adam	Host	Yeah, we gotta do that.
00:53:51	Clip	Transition	Computer: <i>[Beeps four times.]</i> Priority one message from Starfleet coming in on secure channel. <i>[More beeping.]</i>
00:53:55	Music	Transition	"Push it to the Limit" by Paul Engemann, mixed with clips from various sources.
			Ernie McCracken (Kingpin): <i>We need a supplemental income.</i>
			Roy Munson (Kingpin): <i>Supplemental income?</i>
			Ernie: <i>Supplemental.</i>
			Roy: <i>Supplemental.</i>
			Ernie: <i>Yeah, it's extra.</i>
			Ralph Offenhouse (TNG): <i>Why, the interest alone could be enough to buy this ship!</i>
			<i>[Coins drop on a hard surface.]</i>
			<i>[Music ends.]</i>
00:54:06	Music	Music	Music plays softly in the background of this segment, peppered by the ship's computer repeating, "Captain Picard, priority one message."
00:54:07	Adam	Promo	Ben, we have a couple of personal Priority One Messages here. The first one is from Officer Steve McKenzie, and it's to J.L. Wallace. Message goes like this:
			"Sup, buddy?"

[Ben laughs.]

"Purchase of this P1 has forced me to pawn off my vintage one-of-a-kind Gym Shimoda collectible card just to cover the costs!"

00:54:27 Ben Promo

Wow!

00:54:28 Adam Promo

"But it's a small price to pay for the countless hours of ridiculous entertainment. So I will learn to live with it, because... I can live with it. I can live with it!"

[Ben laughs.]

"Here's to 25 more years of friendship!"

00:54:43 Ben Promo

Wow! *[Laughs.]*

00:54:44 Adam Promo

I think the more times you say you can live with something, the more clear it is that you... might not be able to live with that thing you're saying that you can live with.

00:54:51 Ben Promo

[Laughs.] Yeah, you're—you're telling yourself as though you need to tell yourself a lot in order to believe it.

00:54:58 Adam Promo

Right.

00:54:59 Ben Promo

I have a question here, which is that Officer Steve McKenzie spelled it with a G. G-Y-M Shimoda.

00:55:06 Adam Promo

Right. Right. Right.

00:55:07 Ben Promo

Is there such a thing as a Gym Shimoda collectible card?

00:55:12 Adam Promo

I'm wondering if this is a thing—this is a product made on the Gym Shimoda Facebook group.

00:55:18 Ben Promo

Ohhh!

00:55:19 Adam Promo

Because I'm unaware of a G-Y-M Shimoda collectible card.

00:55:25 Ben Promo

Yeah.

00:55:26 Adam Promo

And if there were one, uh, I would be inflating that Shimoda bubble...

[Ben laughs.]

...as we speak. You know I'm wont to do that.

00:55:32 Ben Promo

[Chuckles.] Mm-hm. You love to create a bubble, wherever possible. Especially in a pool.

00:55:40 Adam Promo

Right. Yeah. That—I love making bubbles in a Jacuzzi!

[Ben laughs.]

Then nobody knows it's you!

00:55:46 Ben Promo

Adam, we have a second Priority One Message here. It is from "Erin, your wife," and it's to "Peter, who gets excited when Ben and Charles Allen like his Tweet." Goes like this:

"Happy seventh anniversary! Shit hasn't hit the fan! No Riker hair or disheveled Janeway bun to signal trouble. I love our Riker levels of enthusiastic consent, and I'll keep things tighter than a RealDoll

down there."

00:56:15 Adam Promo *[Laughing]* What?!

00:56:17 Ben Promo "The Tans and I love you so much! Adam and Ben, the best tiki bar in DC is in our kitchen, and you are welcome any time."

[Beat.]

[Laughs.]

00:56:29 Adam Promo Is—I'm a little confused about where the euphemisms begin and where they end in this message.

[Ben laughs.]

Uh, what tiki bar is Erin referring to? *[Laughs.]*

00:56:40 Ben Promo I think Erin wants us to come over for drinks.

00:56:42 Adam Promo Okay.

00:56:43 Ben Promo But I feel like it's pretty—it's pretty intense on the heels of her—

[Adam laughs.]

—describing how she's intending to "keep things tight!" *[Laughs.]* In a very specific way! Uh—*[laughs]*.

00:56:57 Adam Promo Wow. Lot of enthusiasm in a lot of places in this message.

00:57:02 Ben Promo Yeah! No—

00:57:03 Adam Promo From "Erin, your wife."

00:57:04 Ben Promo No seven-year itch for "Erin, your wife" and "Peter who gets excited." Tell you that!

00:57:08 Adam Promo Jeez. I think—you—tell you what, I think Peter is gonna need some of that nugget ice that tiki bars have.

00:57:15 Ben Promo *[Laughs.]* Wow. Well, uh, couple of great P1s! If you'd like to get one, head to MaximumFun.org/jumbotron, and you know what to do!

[Music fades out.]

00:57:28 Ben Host Hey, Adam!

00:57:29 Adam Host What's that, Ben?

00:57:30 Ben Host Did you find yourself a [Drunk Shimoda](#)?

00:57:32 Music Music Clips of *TNG* and Adam and Ben mixed with electric guitar.

Jim Shimoda (TNG): Incredible!

Adam & Ben: Druuunk Shimoda!

[Music ends abruptly.]

00:57:35 Adam Host This is the easiest Shimoda I think either of us have ever picked, right?

00:57:40 Clip Clip **Music:** Ominous orchestral swell.

Vreenak: *[Whisper-shouting]* It's a FAAAAKE!

[Clip audio ends.]

00:57:41 Adam Host I mean, this line read is incredible! I would watch... an oral history documentary about this choice.

00:57:48 Ben Host Uh-huh.

00:57:49 Adam Host In saying it this way?

00:57:50 Clip Clip **Music:** Ominous orchestral swell.

Vreenak: *[Whisper-shouting]* It's a FAAAAKE!

[Clip audio ends.]

00:57:52 Adam Host Like, I would want to see the script, and the script notes, and whatever parentheses were there.

00:57:56 Clip Clip **Music:** Ominous orchestral swell.

Vreenak: *[Whisper-shouting]* It's a FAAAAKE!

[Clip audio ends.]

00:57:57 Adam Host I wanna sit down with this actor and really dig in.

[Ben laughs.]

To why he did it like this.

00:58:02 Clip Clip **Music:** Ominous orchestral swell.

Vreenak: *[Whisper-shouting]* It's a FAAAAKE!

[Clip audio ends.]

00:58:04 Adam Host Everything about "It's a fake" is amazing. And I'm not sure if it's for the reasons that they would hope. You know? Like, I wonder if you're shooting this scene, if you see the humor in it the way we do.

00:58:15 Ben Host It's such a big choice, I think—I think they have to have seen the humor in it. So is your Shimoda Vreenak?

00:58:23 Adam Host It is. Vreenak and the actor who plays Senator Vreenak, in making the decision.

00:58:30 Music Music Sinister swell of strings, woodwinds, and timpani, building up to dramatic jabs.

00:58:31 Adam Host It's like at the end of "Best of Both Worlds," we rack into Riker, and he's like—

[Unenthusiastic, underenunciated] "Fiiiiire!"

[Both laugh.]

It's—

00:58:40 Ben Host I mean, 'cause my Shimoda is Sisko.

[Music fades out.]

For the cut-to react in this scene. *[Stifles laughter.]* The camera

pushing in on Sisko just bricking one is... unbelievable. Like, it's—like—like, it is matching big for big, in a certain way.

00:58:58 Adam Host As soon as you add another vowel to the word in the script, you have got to be really sure that you have the performance right. Because I think—think of the way we've seen climax in *Star Trek* forever.

00:59:12 Ben Host Mm-hm.

00:59:13 Adam Host Like, when you start chaining together vowels in words—

00:59:17 Ben Host *[Laughs.]* Like in the word "Khan," for example?

00:59:21 Adam Host That's what I'm saying! Like, you increase the camp value of that line read, like, by an order of magnitude.

00:59:28 Ben Host With every vowel? *[Laughs.]*

00:59:30 Adam Host I don't think you see it a lot, and I think there is a reason for that. And it's—and this scene is proof of it.

00:59:35 Ben Host Yeah. I think that you can be a little bit more... colorful in your line read, when Avery Brooks is going to be the reaction shot, though? And his—

00:59:45 Adam Host Very true.

00:59:46 Ben Host When you see the implications of how fucked he is wash over him, it retroactively justifies a weird choice.

00:59:56 Adam Host Yeah, you're exactly right. When you do the math of it, it's what he's saying that carries the day, and not the way he says it.

01:00:03 Ben Host It is a totally amazing moment. It's like, one of the most amazing, like, two-shot scenes in the entire history of *Star Trek*.

01:00:12 Adam Host Why did he take the honeystick with him, if it was a fake?

01:00:16 Ben Host I guess to show the rest of Romulus what duplicitous jerks the Federation are?

01:00:22 Adam Host Everyone's lucky he did.

01:00:23 Ben Host Yeah!

01:00:24 Adam Host That's for sure.

01:00:25 Music Transition 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 ends.]

01:00:33 Promo Clip **Music:** Upbeat, cheerful music plays in the background.

Allie Goertz: Hi, I'm Allie Goertz!

Julia Prescott: And I'm Julia Prescott. And we host—

Both: —[Round Springfield!](#)

Julia: *Round Springfield* is a new *Simpsons* podcast that is *Simpsons-adjacent*—

Allie: Mm-hm.

Julia: —um, in its topic. We talk to *Simpsons* writers, directors, voiceover actors, you name it, about non-*Simpsons* things that they've done. Because, surprise! They're all extremely talented.

Allie: Absolutely. For example, David X. Cohen worked on *The Simpsons*, but then created a little show called *Futurama*!

Julia: Mm-hm!

Allie: That's our very first episode.

Julia: Yeah!

Allie: So tune in for stuff like that with Yeardley Smith, with Tim Long, with different writers and voice actors. It's gonna be so much fun, and we are every other week on [MaximumFun.org](#) or wherever you get your podcasts!

[Music fades out.]

01:01:14 Promo Clip

Music: A quick, energetic drumroll leads into exciting techno music.

Jarrett Hill: Hey, I'm Jarrett Hill, co-host of the brand-new Maximum Fun podcast, *FANTI!*

Tre'vell Anderson: And I'm Tre'vell Anderson. I'm the other, more fabulous co-host, and the reason you really should be tuning in!

Jarrett: I feel the nausea rising.

Tre'vell: To be *FANTI* is to be a big fan of something, but also have some challenging or “anti” feelings toward it.

Jarrett: Kind of like Kanye.

Tre'vell: We're all fans of Kanye. He's a musical genius, but, like, you know...

Jarrett: He thinks slavery's a choice.

Tre'vell: Or like *The Real Housewives of Atlanta*. Like, I love the drama, but do I wanna see black women fighting each other on screen? *[Singing]* Hell to the naaaaw, to the naw-naw-naaaw!

Jarrett: We're tackling all of those complex and complicated conversations about the people, places, and things that we love.

Tre'vell: Even though they may not love us back.

Jarrett: FANTI! Maximum Fun! Podcast!

Tre'vell: Yeah!

[Music fades out.]

01:02:03 Sound Effect Transition

[Computer beeps.]

01:02:04 Music

Music

Electronic music with some quiet, indistinguishable speech.

01:02:05 Adam

Promo

Whether I'm working from home or working out at home, I want what I'm listening to to be what I'm listening to, and not what my neighbors have cranked up. So before you go dropping hundreds of dollars on a pair of wireless earbuds, check out Raycon! Raycon earbuds start at about half the price of any other premium wireless earbuds on the market, and they sound just as amazing as other top audio brands that you know. Their newest model, the stylish and discreet everyday E25 earbuds, are their best ones yet, with six hours of play time, seamless Bluetooth pairing, more bass, and a more compact design that gives you a nice, noise-isolating fit.

Raycon's wireless earbuds are perfect for conference calls and binging podcasts. I've done both! I've done all of it! I've done everything that you can do with these Raycon earbuds, and I like 'em a lot! So now's the time to get the latest and greatest from Raycon. Get 15% off of your order at BuyRaycon.com/scarves. That's BuyRaycon.com/scarves for 15% off Raycon wireless earbuds. BuyRaycon.com/scarves.

[Music stops.]

01:03:05 Sound Effect Transition

[Computer beeps.]

01:03:07 Music

Music

Cheerful background music.

01:03:08 Adam

Promo

Support for *The Greatest Generation* is brought to you by Manscaped. Manscaped offers precision-engineered tools... for those family jewels.

Hey, we've all been there. You notice you've let yourself go in the penis and testicles department, and while you're on your way to that big date with a special someone! So you do what anyone would! You pull over, take that straight razor out of the glove box, and go to work. Before you know it, all those nicks and cuts have got you covered in little bits of toilet paper to stop the bleeding. It's terrible! But we've all been there.

That's why I'm here to tell you about Manscaped. The new and improved Lawn Mower 3.0 Trimmer features a cutting-edge ceramic blade to reduce manscaping accidents, thanks to Manscaped's advanced skin-safe technology. It's water-resistant, lasts up to 90 minutes, and features an LED light to help you get a closer and more precise trim. So transform that thimble dropped into a Supercuts dustpan into a monument to your declining virility, and get 20% off and free shipping with the code "scarves" at Manscaped.com. That's 20% off with free shipping at Manscaped.com, and use the offer code "scarves."

Our thanks to Manscaped for supporting today's *Greatest Generation*.

[Music stops.]

01:04:16 Sound Effect Transition

[Computer beeps.]

01:04:17 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-go-gold-pressed latinum!

Nog: That's a lot of yamok sauce!

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

[Music ends.]

01:04:26 Ben Host

Well, Adam, I think it is about time to determine what the next episode will be on this show, and how we will be consuming it. So why don't you head to Gagh.biz/game, while I tell you about season 6, episode 20: "His Way"?

"Odo receives lessons in romancing Kira from a holographic 1960s lounge singer."

01:04:52 Adam Host

Gross.

[Ben laughs.]

I... will... veto the next episode, Ben.

01:04:55 Clip Clip

Theme music from *A Current Affair*. Electronic sounds followed by a low bass note.^

01:04:58 Adam Host

I'm using my one veto. We're skipping the next one. I don't wanna see it.

01:05:01 Ben Host

Oh. Uh, you may be thinking of the *TNG* portion of our program. This is, uh—this is the *Deep Space Nine* portion of the program. And, uh—

01:05:13 Adam Host

You're saying—you're saying I don't have one of those.

01:05:17 Ben Host

You do—[laughs]—you do not have one of those. And Vic Fontaine, the lounge singer in question, becomes a very important character in *Deep Space Nine*. [Stifles laughter.] If you can believe it.

01:05:27 Adam Host

I have no idea who this guy is, outside of just, like—I've heard the name.

01:05:32 Ben Host

Yeah.

01:05:33 Adam Host

I've seen pictures of him. But this is—yeah, this is *DS9* I've never seen before. So, great. Really looking forward to it, Ben.

[Ben laughs.]

You really—you really sold me on the idea.

01:05:45 Ben Host That's the beauty of the *Deep Space Nine* portion of *Greatest Gen*. I don't need to sell you, baby. This shit... sell itself.

01:05:51 Adam Host Well, uh, one part of our show that couldn't possibly be screwed up is the Game of Buttholes—

01:05:58 Sound Effect Sound Effect *[Thunder crashes.]*

01:06:00 Adam Host —Will of the Prophets. Where currently, our runabout is on square 69.

01:06:04 Ben Host Nice.

01:06:05 Adam Host Nice. A couple of squares ahead is a Quark's Bar episode—

01:06:12 Ben Host Oh, boy!

01:06:13 Adam Host —and nothing at all after that. So... let's see what we got.

01:06:16 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.]

01:06:20 Adam Host Got the die in my hand. I'm gonna give it a roll.

01:06:23 Clip Clip *[Quark breathes on the dice.]*

[Dice roll. Tapping stops.]

01:06:25 Adam Host And I have rolled a five!

01:06:27 Clip Clip **Falow:** Chula!

Crowd: *[Laughing]* Chula! Chula!

Quark: Did I win?!

Falow: Hardly!

[Clip audio ends.]

01:06:30 Ben Host Wow!

01:06:31 Adam Host Which has plopped us on square 74.

01:06:34 Ben Host Okay!

01:06:35 Adam Host Inching ever closer to a Mornhammered episode at the end of the game.

01:06:41 Ben Host Yeah. Still a few hazards ahead. There's that Nth Degree pretty close now.

01:06:47 Adam Host Yeah.

01:06:49 Ben Host We could be stuck doing research, Adam! We hate that!

01:06:51 Adam Host Yeah, I don't wanna do that. Fuck that!

01:06:54 Ben Host *[Deeper voice]* Fuck that shit!

[Adam laughs quietly.]

[Usual voice] Well, regular old episode next week. And we like those as well. Another thing we really like is all of the [Friends of Desoto](#) who support the show on a monthly basis.

01:07:04	Music	Music	Dark Materia's "The Picard Song" begins fading in.
01:07:09	Ben	Host	It is the easiest thing to do! You go to MaximumFun.org/join , and, uh, it just dings your credit card. Or debit card, or whatever.
01:07:18	Adam	Host	Make it a credit card thing! Get a—get some—
01:07:20	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	Ben: Yeah, get some airline miles out of it! Adam: Get some rewards!
01:07:22	Adam	Host	<i>[Chuckling]</i> Mm-hm!
01:07:23	Ben	Host	I'm pretty sure, like, Capital One or somebody is offering a, uh—you know, "5x points on Maximum Fun contributions" credit card.
01:07:31	Adam	Host	Right.
01:07:32	Ben	Host	So, uh—so, you know, look around for that. Sign up for it. Uh— <i>[laughs]</i> . And support your favorite <i>Star Trek</i> podcast. And we... uh, really, really, really, really need that support. It, uh... does not get any easier to run the business that we accidentally started when we started <i>Star Trek</i> podcasting. <i>[Laughs.]</i> So the funds that you contribute make that possible. And make it possible for us to continue doing the show going forward.
01:08:04	Adam	Host	When you support the show, you are known as a Friend of DeSoto, and two of our Best Friends of DeSoto come in the form of Bill Tilley, who's on Twitter at @billtilley1973 . He of the comedy trading cards that you can find using the hashtag #GreatestGen every week. Adam Ragusea, another great Friend of DeSoto. He is the creator of our interstitial music that we use on the show. Which is a fun little riff on the main title music that we've used for years. That's by the great Dark Materia.
01:08:38	Ben	Host	Yeah! And if you enjoy the show, you know, tweet about it. Go on Facebook. Tell people on Facebook that you like it. And there are Reddit subs and Facebook groups , and there's the Greatest Gen Wikia . There are all kinds of great online ways to have a more rich experience with the show. And we encourage you to do them, and not be dicks! <i>[Laughs quietly.]</i>
01:09:02	Adam	Host	And with that, we'll be back atcha next time with another... <u>great</u> episode of <i>Star Trek: Deep Space Nine</i> , and an episode of <i>The Greatest Generation: Deep Space Nine</i> ... which you can't veto! <i>[Ben laughs.]</i> 'Cause we don't have those anymore!
01:09:14	Ben	Host	Yeah. <i>[Laughs.]</i> Why did we—why did we beat our swords to ploughshares, Adam? What were we thinking?!
01:09:22	Adam	Host	You know what, a listener can veto any episode they want.
01:09:26	Ben	Host	Yeah. They probably should. <i>[Laughs.]</i>

01:09:28	Adam	Host	They have that kind of power.
01:09:31	Ben	Host	Yeah...
01:09:32	Music	Music	"The Picard Song" continues at full volume. <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 it so!</i> <i>Jean-Luc Picard!</i> <i>Make it so!</i> <i>Make make make-make-make-make make it so!</i> <i>[Echoing] Jean-Luc Picard—card—card—card—</i> <i>[Song fades out.]</i>
01:09:47	Music	Transition	A cheerful ukelele chord.
01:09:48	Speaker 1	Promo	MaximumFun.org .
01:09:50	Speaker 2	Promo	Comedy and culture.
01:09:51	Speaker 3	Promo	Artist owned—
01:09:52	Speaker 4	Promo	—audience supported.