

*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 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.]*

00:00:14 Music Music Record scratch back into "The Picard Song," which plays quietly in the background.

00:00:15 Ben Harrison Host Welcome to *The Greatest Generation: Deep Space Nine!* It's a *Star Trek* podcast by a couple of guys who are a little bit embarrassed to have a *Star Trek* podcast. I'm one of those guys. I'm Ben Harrison.

00:00:26 Adam Pranica Host I'm Adam Pranica.

00:00:27 Ben Host I'm really not used to doing this on camera. *[Laughs.]*

00:00:30 Adam Host Hello to the 79 people—nice—

00:00:32 Ben Host Yeah.

00:00:33 Adam Host —who are watching this as we speak.

*[Music fades out.]*

00:00:35 Ben Host I mean, we joke about the livestream all the time, but this is like a new, weird version of that.

00:00:40 Adam Host Yeah.

00:00:41 Ben Host Right? *[Laughs.]*

00:00:42 Adam Host No one wanted this!

00:00:43 Ben Host *[Laughs.]* No. And, uh—and once we've done it once, I think there will be a resounding rejection of us ever doing it again.

00:00:50 Adam Host Right.

00:00:51 Ben Host But, uh, I am here in my new studio. And I have a great big pile of boxes, because over the course of the move, I have not checked our PO box that many times. I think I have... I don't know, eight things or something like that to open up? I have a bunch of things! Many of these might not even make the final edit in the episode, but I thought I would start opening them.

00:01:14 Adam Host Wow. So if you sent something awful to us—

*[Ben laughs.]*

—now is your time.

00:01:18 Ben Host You can see us open the anthrax envelope that kills me and not Adam.

00:01:22 Adam Host I always knew I would be the last survivor of this show.

00:01:25 Ben Host *[Laughing]* Yeah.

00:01:26 Adam Host It's my curse.

00:01:27 Clip Transition *[Computer chiming.]*

**Music:** Flute music that continues through the clip intro, holding steady at the same two notes.

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

**Data:** I'm receiving a code 47.

**Riker:** Verify?

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

**Troi:** Captain's eyes only.

00:01:37 Music Music Flute music rises in pitch, crescendos, and transitions into soft, cheerful keyboard and synth music with some quiet dialogue at intervals that sounds like Picard.

00:01:38 Ben Host But the moral of the story is follow the [@GreatestTrek accounts](#) on social media. If you're listening to this after the fact and wish you had tuned in, you could have!

This first thing I'm opening is from Austin, Texas, but it does not have a name. It has been discreetly sent by a [Friend of DeSoto](#) that did not want to reveal themselves. It is... *Deep Space Zine!* (*Zeen.*) With comics and illustrations by a bunch of people here. Um, that's a—

00:02:07 Adam Host Ben, I don't wanna be pedantic, but I think that's actually pronounced, "*Deep Space Zine.*" (*Rhymes with "nine."*)

00:02:12 Ben Host *[Laughs.]* Oh, yeah! For "Auld Lang Syne," my dear.

*[Adam laughs quietly.]*

There's a fun picture of Weyoun there. I don't know which version of Weyoun it is.

00:02:23 Adam Host Right.

00:02:24 Ben Host But wow, this is cool! It's a comic book! It's—and it's comics by lots of different artists, in lots of different drawing styles. Some of these kinda look familiar to me! I—I wouldn't be shocked if Friends of DeSoto were directly involved in the creation of this, based on some of the art styles I'm seeing in here.

00:02:42 Adam Host Well, you only know if it's DeSoto-related if there's Bashir [piss references](#) in it.

*[Ben laughs.]*

We have any of that?

00:02:50 Ben Host I mean, there's a... Bajoran drinking something.

00:02:53 Adam Host There we are! Yeah. Delicious.

00:02:57 Ben Host *[Laughs.]* I love the—I love the last page, there.

00:02:59 Adam Host There you go.

00:03:00 Ben Host There's Morn saying, "The end." Uh, thank you anonymous Texan, for sending *Deep Space Zine!* (*Rhymes with "nine."*)

This one came all the way from Canada, Adam. I'm not gonna hold it up to the camera, 'cause I don't want to show our address or the person who sent it's address. But it came par avion from London, Ontario.

00:03:21 Adam Host We have 105 viewers, Ben, on very short notice. That's pretty fun.

00:03:25 Ben Host *[Laughs.]* That's—that's wild. This is from Ryan of London, Ontario. There's a kind of styrofoam packaging here—oop! Something fell out already. ...Oh, boy! We got some rubber keychains here. We got one for Quark, and one for Odo.

00:03:43 Adam Host Oh, I like a rubber keychain, because they don't jingle-jangle!

00:03:46 Ben Host And then you—this is something we always love to see when we open a letter from a stranger. *[Stifling laughter]* A label that says, "Not for food use."

00:03:55 Adam Host Mm.

00:03:56 Ben Host "Food consumed from this plate may be harmful." *[Laughs.]* Oh! These are, like, mini commemorative plates! And we have one Counselor Deanna Troi, and we have one of Dr. Beverly Crusher.

00:04:11 Adam Host Hey, that's pretty great. Are they actual porcelain?

00:04:13 Ben Host They're—yeah! They're the little versions of the, uh—of the *Star Trek* commemorative plates that we have a couple of from other viewers. These are great!

00:04:21 Adam Host Hey, that's pretty fun.

00:04:22 Ben Host I didn't know that they made them in—in little size! I was thinking about putting together a wall of commemorative plates here in my new office, 'cause I don't have anything on the walls yet.

00:04:29 Adam Host What kind of person eats a meal on those little plates?

*[Ben laughs.]*

This is a meal for ants!

00:04:35 Ben Host *[Laughs.]* I mean, you don't even need to put the warning, right? 'Cause there's not enough plate space to put food.

00:04:42 Adam Host Right. Hey, we've got a—we've got a Bill Tilley on the feed. We've got a Rob Schulte on the feed.

00:04:47 Ben Host No kidding!

00:04:48 Adam Host Yeah, we got a lot of Friends of DeSoto! I think I saw, uh, a Bree on the feed? Sam Nitz on the feed!

00:04:54 Ben Host Bill and Rob know they'd be fired if they didn't tune in for this, right?

[Laughs quietly.]

00:04:56 Adam Host

Right. Yeah.

00:04:58 Ben Host

This is mandatory.

00:04:59 Adam Host

Oh, what are you drinking out of your goblet?

00:05:01 Ben Host

I'm drinking some of that mezcal that you got me!

00:05:04 Adam Host

Nice!

00:05:05 Ben Host

That's my birthday mezcal!

00:05:06 Adam Host

Very fancy.

00:05:08 Ben Host

That's not a goblet, Adam, that's a—that's a snifter.

00:05:10 Adam Host

[Laughs.] Thanks.

[Both laugh.]

00:05:14 Ben Host

Okay, I'm opening another one. Another package. This is from J. Barrow of San José, California.

[Rustling.]

It's a kind of a small, cube-shaped package. I hear some rattling inside, so it could be Legos. You know we love Legos around here.

[Pause.]

There's a letter. From the desk of J. Barrow.

"Dear Ben and Adam,

Thank you for creating the awesomeness that is *The Greatest Generation* and *The Greatest Discovery*. It has been especially great to listen to in these trying times. My husband and I have been loyal viewers of the pod since early 2016, when we had been dating for just a few months! You've been with us through our engagement, marriage, house purchase, and the birth of our daughter. Listening during many pumping and breastfeeding sessions have really helped my sanity in my current career as a milk cow."

[Laughs.]

00:06:07 Adam Host

*Greatest Gen* makes the milk flow, Ben. We've always said it.

00:06:09 Ben Host

Yeah. Indeed.

"Anyways, enclosed are some miniature ships circa 1993 or '94. I had them proudly displayed in my room during middle school and early high school, but they've lived in a box ever since. I unpack them every time I move, admire them, then put them away again. This time my husband says I have to either do something with them or get rid of them. No more back-in-the-box! So I'm giving them to you in the hopes that they can enjoy a second life, perhaps on display at a live show, when those become a thing again.

Take care, stay safe, and of course... live long and prosper.

Best,  
Jane."

Wow! *[Chuckles.]* That rules, Jane. Thank you! Uh, I had some of these when I was a kid, these—these mini ships.

00:06:50 Adam Host Oh, wow. Yeah!

00:06:51 Ben Host We've got the mini Borg Cube here. Got mini Deep Space 9.

00:06:58 Adam Host Oh, I love mini Deep Space 9. That's cool. Do you have a mini *Hood* in there?

00:07:01 Ben Host There's mini [Entrepreneur](#).

00:07:03 Adam Host There's the mini *Big D*.

00:07:04 Ben Host Mini *Reliant!*

00:07:06 Adam Host Oh, I like that.

00:07:08 Ben Host From *Wrath of Khan*.

00:07:09 Adam Host Mini movie *Enterprise*? Fun!

00:07:12 Ben Host Yeah! Mini runabout.

00:07:14 Adam Host Mm-hm.

00:07:15 Ben Host And last but definitely not least... mini [Previa](#).

00:07:19 Adam Host Aw, that one might be my favorite.

00:07:22 Ben Host If you had to guess what the name of this Previa is, Adam, what would you guess?

00:07:26 Adam Host "*Galileo*" seems kind of hack.

00:07:28 Ben Host "*Galileo*" is hack, and, uh—and not a pervy producer from the *Star Trek* series.

00:07:34 Adam Host Yeah.

00:07:35 Ben Host I don't know if the camera will pick this up. But, uh, this is—

00:07:37 Adam Host It is, uh—it's softly focused. I don't think we can get it.

00:07:40 Ben Host It's the USS *Berman*. *[Laughs quietly.]*

00:07:43 Adam Host The *Berman*?!

00:07:45 Ben Host *[Laughing]* Yeah! Can you believe that shit?! Give me a break!

00:07:48 Adam Host That's the only Previa with a casting couch in it.

*[Ben laughs.]*

That's too bad.

00:07:54 Ben Host Oh, I didn't—I didn't know they made these shuttles with black leather seats.

00:07:57 Adam Host Yeah!

00:07:58 Ben Host Alright, Adam. Next box is from Kristen from Minneapolis, Minnesota.

*[Tearing sound.]*

Bigger box here.

00:08:06 Adam Host We've got a lot of friends in Minnesota.

00:08:09 Ben Host *[Rustling.]*

Yeah. Minneapolis is one of our favorite places to visit. Alright. Letter.

"Hey, Ben! Adam!"

00:08:16 Clip Clip **Bill and Ted (*Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure*):** Deedle-ee-dle-oo! Deedle-ee-dle-oo! Deedle-ee-dle-oo! Deedle-ee-dle-oo!

00:08:18 Ben Host "Please don't read this on the pod!"

*[Both laugh.]*

"It's a lame letter." I'm sorry! We'll cut the—we'll cut the letter out of the episode.

00:08:24 Adam Host Wow.

00:08:26 Ben Host Uh, "Stay awesome. Your friendly Minnesota Trekkie, Kristen."

00:08:29 Adam Host We really blew up Kristen's spot here by reading the letter!

00:08:32 Ben Host Yeah. I mean, Kristen could've saved herself a lot of grief by putting that, "Don't read this out loud" part at the beginning. *[Chuckles.]*

00:08:38 Adam Host Yeah. Yeah.

00:08:41 Ben Host So this is one of these, uh—one of these kits that you order from the Internet. We got some Klingon stickers. Klingon badge. What do we got here?

00:08:53 Adam Host Is—that looks like a case of blank CDs.

00:08:55 Ben Host *[Laughs.]* It does look like a case of blank CDs. It's called a tribble. but this is a... tribble with teeth! I've never seen a—a toothsome tribble!

00:09:05 Adam Host Tribble dentata!

00:09:06 Sound Effect Sound Effect *[Ding!]*

00:09:07 Ben Host *[Laughs.]* Tribble dentata indeed. "Mirror Universe tribble" is what it is.

00:09:12 Adam Host That makes sense.

00:09:13 Ben Host They have bad kinds of tribbles in the MU.

00:09:16 Adam Host Yeah.

00:09:17 Ben Host Look at this! Klingon socks!

00:09:20 Adam Host Oh, I do like Klingon socks. Do Kl—does—

00:09:22 Ben Host A warrior's hosiery!

*[Both stifle laughter.]*

00:09:24 Adam Host Does—does each Klingon sock have two foot-holes in it?

00:09:28 Ben Host *[Laughs.]* I've got...

*[Rustling.]*

...Worf statue here. With bat'leth.

00:09:36 Adam Host Wow.

*[Ben laughs.]*

Yeah. He looks like he's gonna bring that thing down on someone's head.

00:09:42 Ben Host Looks like he's about to fucking kill Duras or something.  
00:09:46 Adam Host I really like the expression on him!  
00:09:49 Ben Host Yeah!  
00:09:50 Adam Host That's a good face.  
00:09:51 Ben Host There's a good Worf verisimilitude there.  
00:09:52 Adam Host Yeah.  
00:09:54 Ben Host Alright, Adam. I got, uh, two more boxes. I think I know what this one is. This one is from Wesley in Jefferson City, Missouri. And I think I remember exchanging some emails with Wesley about, uh, our—a problem we have with our “Kanar with Damar” episodes.  
00:10:10 Adam Host Mm.  
00:10:11 Ben Host Got a letter. “Not sealed, for coronavirus reasons” it says. That's nice.

*[Rustling.]*

00:10:17 Adam Host I like that a lot. But, uh, all—all the ricin inside the box—

*[Ben laughs.]*

—just loosely strewn about.

00:10:26 Ben Host It says,  
“Dear Ben and Adam,  
Here is my attempt at kanar. I've been a hobby home-brewer for several years, and enjoy trying to recreate fictional beverages. This is a version of an amaro/Kräuterlikör steeped with sage, walnuts, white peppercorns, cinnamon, dried cherries, cardamom, fennel seed, mustard seed, star anise, and ricin.”

*[Adam laughs quietly.]*

“And then fortified to 40% alcohol by volume. The biggest challenge to recreating kanar is that there's no single good description of what it is. One feature I wanted to include but decided against was the custard-like consistency seen in a few episodes of *Deep Space Nine*.”

*[Stifles laughter.]*

00:11:08 Adam Host Whoa.  
00:11:09 Ben Host “If this is a dealbreaker, I imagine you could sprinkle some unflavored gelatin over a glass to achieve the effect.”  
00:11:14 Adam Host Yeah.  
00:11:16 Ben Host “Ideally, I'd like to brew and distill the kanar from scratch, with the end result being somewhat similar to absinthe. But this recipe has

the advantage of being far less technical."

00:11:26 Adam Host I'm gonna mix mine with a little cornstarch, to thicken it up.

00:11:28 Ben Host *[Chuckles.]* Yeah. Yeah. Give it a little body.

00:11:32 Adam Host Yeah.

00:11:33 Ben Host "I've also included a bottle of sherry from a local winery which I like. I think I recall there having been opinions about sherry shared on the pod previously, though not enough—in enough detail that I can cite specifically."

00:11:45 Adam Host You know who likes sherry, are the Crane brothers!

00:11:48 Ben Host Oh!

00:11:49 Adam Host Miles and Frasier! Niles and Frasier.

00:11:50 Ben Host Yeah, that's—yeah. Those guys fucking love sherry.

00:11:53 Adam Host Yeah. I don't know whether—

00:11:54 Ben Host And hate our show! *[Laughs quietly.]*

00:11:55 Adam Host I don't know whether the Cranes' dad likes sherry, though. Do you?

00:11:59 Ben Host Mm. Wouldn't surprise me, Adam. *[Laughs quietly.]*

00:12:02 Adam Host *[Stifling laughter]* Yeah!

00:12:03 Ben Host It says, "I have faith of the heart that you'll make the right decision in regards to viewing *Enterprise* after *Voyager*.

Only slightly embarrassed to be writing in to a *Star Trek* podcast, Wesley.

PS,  
Regardless of when you cover *Enterprise*, I will continue to be a loyal viewer. All passive-aggression in this letter is intended only for comedic effect."

00:12:22 Adam Host Mm.

00:12:23 Ben Host *[Stifles laughter.]* "Whatever small effect it might have.

PPS,  
Not sure if you have this issue, but I tend to keep handwritten letters for far longer than they are relevant. I am explicitly giving permission to chuck this letter, despite the obvious effort that went into it."

*[Stifles laughter.]*

"PPPS,  
I hope this one is legible!"

*[Rustling.]*

Alright. I hope this is the kanar! Oh, wow.

*[Rustling.]*

So here's the bottle.

00:12:51 Adam Host You have to drink it on camera, Ben. You gotta do it.



00:12:54 Ben Host Okay, but I don't know if this is the sherry or the—or the...  
*[Rustling.]*  
 There's two bottles here.

00:13:00 Adam Host Our viewers are very funny, Ben. I don't know if you're able to read the feed the way I am, but it's great.

00:13:06 Ben Host *[Rustling.]*  
 I—I can't—I can't read it from here.

00:13:09 Adam Host It's really great.

00:13:11 Ben Host *[Rustling.]*  
*[Chuckles.]* Fun. Uh, hey! Tell 'em, uh—you said, uh, Rob and Bill are on the feed right now?

00:13:21 Adam Host They are! Yeah!

00:13:22 Ben Host Hey. Everybody—I don't know if there's, like, an emoji you can do, but give a round of applause to Rob and Bill for keeping us going.

00:13:30 Adam Host Yeah!

00:13:31 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Adam:** Yeah, throw hearts at Rob and Bill!  
**Ben:** Oh, the—I see the hearts going crazy right now.

00:13:35 Ben Host So here's the sherry. That looks really nice.

00:13:37 Adam Host That really does!

00:13:38 Ben Host It's a cream sherry. It's a "rich, sweet sherry with complex, nutty aroma and flavor which develops during extended aging in old oak barrels."

00:13:47 Adam Host If my sherry doesn't taste like nuts, then... I just pour it down the drain. So I think you got a good one.

00:13:54 Ben Host Okay, I'm gonna give—I'm gonna give this, uh—I'm gonna give this amaro a little taste test here.

00:14:00 Adam Host Gotta do it.

00:14:02 Ben Host Let's see. I'm gonna put it in this *Enterprise-A* coffee mug that I happen to have here.

00:14:08 Adam Host That's where it belongs. And then put that mug on top of one of your new coasters!  
*[Ben chuckles.]*  
 Then you've got the whole setup.

00:14:13 Ben Host Oh, yeah. Oh, it's a very light color. Smells nice!

00:14:17 Adam Host Alright!

00:14:18 Ben Host Mmm!

00:14:19 Adam Host [RSVP](#) Benjamin Ahr Harrison.

00:14:21 Ben Host Ricin-y!

*[Ben or Adam laughs quietly.]*

Oh, that's delicious. My wife is a big amaro drinker.

00:14:28 Adam Host

Yeah. Mine, too.

00:14:29 Ben Host

That's a—that's a—I think she's likely to be a big fan of that. So, uh, thank you, Wesley!

Alright. This is the last box. It's a really big one.

00:14:38 Adam Host

Look at the size of that thing!

00:14:40 Ben Host

Yeah. It's got the black, um... uh, duct tape that always worries me when I think about the Unabomber.

*[Tearing sound.]*

00:14:53 Adam Host

Hey, are you feeling any symptoms of—of kanar poisoning at this point?

00:14:57 Ben Host

*[Chuckles.]* Um... I think I could quit this kanar whenever I want to, Adam.

00:15:03 Adam Host

Alright. We got it.

00:15:04 Ben Host

This one is from Mike, also of Minneapolis! Another Minnesotan sending something in to *The Greatest Generation*.

*[Tearing, rustling.]*

First discovery: Captain Kurn! Oh my god!

00:15:19 Adam Host

Wow.

00:15:20 Ben Host

I did not know that there was an action figure of Kurn!

00:15:22 Adam Host

Is he, uh—is that a deep V he's wearing?

00:15:26 Ben Host

Yeah, he's got major chest going on—

00:15:29 Adam Host

Wow. No kidding!

00:15:30 Ben Host

—in this, uh, this action figure. Oh, here's a letter! There is a letter. Great! Goes like this:

"Peldor joi, fellas! As the bar manager for a Mexican restaurant, I get introduced to lots of interesting tequilas and mezcals! And as a fellow agave-man, I wanted to share a couple of my favorites with you guys. Hopefully you can do a responsibly distanced hang soon, and give them a try. I'd love to know what you think. First up is the Espadín Barril Ensemble from Banhez."

Oh, I was just reading about this! This is a—supposedly a really great everyday mezcal. Says:

"This is our go-to at the restaurant because it's great on its own or in cocktails, and is my shot of choice before, during, and after shift."

00:16:17 Adam Host

Oh, yeah. That sounds great!

00:16:20 Ben Host

Hell yeah! Say—it's—

00:16:21 Adam Host

I like a little ensemble.

00:16:24 Ben Host

"I agree with Adam; drinkability shouldn't be considered a bad thing.

Banhez is also cool because it's a co-op of almost 40 family farms helping ensure sustainability and fair prices for all participating families."

00:16:35 Adam Host

That sounds nice. That's what you want.

00:16:38 Ben Host

He says:

"Next up, without hyperbole, is my favorite mezcal. The 100% Chino Expression from La Luna. Light smoke, a bit sweet, herbal, and it has a tint of pine on the finish due to its fermentation in open-air pine vats! Reminds me of hiking in the Pacific Northwest after it rains. Runs a little hot at 102 proof, but it still sips very easily. Everything La Luna makes is great. If you see any, snap it up.

Also, Kurn action figure I found at a nerd shop in downtown Madison visiting my wife's family, and made sure to tell the guy working there that I was going to send this to my favorite podcast, assuming it would strike up a fun conversation. It did not!"

00:17:22 Music Music

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

00:17:23 Adam Host

*[Kurn voice; over-emphatic]* "I know I work at a Mexican restaurant, but I do not... remember... which one!"

*[Both laugh.]*

*[Kurn voice stops.]*

*[Previous background music returns.]*

00:17:31 Ben Host

"He said absolutely nothing while never once looking up from his point-of-sale screen. I looked over at my wife, who just rolled her eyes, shook her head at me. It was hilarious. I thought he would look dope on the table at a live show once you guys can tour again someday, and would hopefully get another Kurn impressoin for the FoD.

Anyway, you guys are appreciated, and wishes of continued health in these crazy times to both of you, the wives, the very good boys Dar and Sprocket, and even Ad am's dusty cat.

Thanks!  
Mike."

00:18:05 Adam Host

Wow. Covered all the bases. Thanks!

00:18:07 Ben Host

*[Rustling.]*

*[Chuckles.]* Your dusty cat maybe needs that the least of anyone.

00:18:11 Adam Host

Show me a bottle! There it is.

00:18:13 Ben Host

There's the La Luna.

00:18:15 Adam Host

Wow. Pretty! Alright, you're obligated to take a pull.

00:18:21 Ben Host

Okay. I'm running out of—

00:18:23 Adam Host

You have to drink everything we've received.

00:18:25 Ben Host

I'm running outta glassware here. Should I just take it to the dome?

00:18:28 Adam Host Take it to the dome.

00:18:29 Ben Host Alright.

00:18:31 Adam Host If you want Ben to take it to the dome, drop a—drop a heart.

00:18:33 Ben Host *[Laughs quietly.]* Drop—drop a heart on ya boy!

00:18:35 Adam Host *[Laughing]* Yeah.

00:18:36 Ben Host Okay, I see the explosion of hearts.

*[Liquid glugs.]*

Mm! That is fabulous!

00:18:42 Adam Host Alright!

00:18:43 Ben Host Fuck, man. As described. That is a—that is a hike in the PNW.

00:18:48 Adam Host Wow.

00:18:49 Ben Host When I'm out of my, uh—my Health Department—ordered quarantine, you and I are gonna have to get together and enjoy a bottle.

*[Stifles laughter.]*

00:18:56 Adam Host Yeah!

00:18:57 Ben Host At a safe social distance. Alright.

*[Rustling.]*

It's fucked up, 'cause we're gonna have to make our wives drive us to—*[laughs]*—to this hang, so that we can get shifaced, and then have them drive us home.

00:19:11 Adam Host Yeah, they'll love that!

00:19:13 Ben Host *[Laughs.]* And then, here's the Banhez. I was, like, literally just reading about this—

00:19:17 Adam Host That's the ensemble?

00:19:18 Ben Host Yeah. That this ensemble is like, a really special and, like, very affordable bottle. It's like, less than 40 bucks.

00:19:27 Adam Host Wow.

00:19:28 Ben Host And, uh—

00:19:30 Adam Host That's tough to find.

00:19:31 Ben Host And apparently, like, a great mixed drink mezcal that, uh, works in a lot of things that Vida might not, because it's a—it's supposedly less smoky. So—

00:19:43 Adam Host Dome it!

00:19:45 Ben Host *[Liquid glugs.]*

Mm! I love it! Boy, I've—I—I did not realize I was gonna have two bottles of mezcal in here with me. Or I might not have poured myself this big brandy snifter full of mezcal!

00:19:59 Adam Host Now take that to the dome, Ben!

00:20:00 Ben Host *[Laughs.]* Hey! We have to record an episode here, Adam!

00:20:05 Adam Host Wow. Well, it looks like the experiment worked.

00:20:08 Ben Host Yeah!

00:20:09 Adam Host Uh, we did an Instagram thing.

00:20:10 Ben Host Mm-hm!

00:20:11 Adam Host For over 100 people.

00:20:13 Ben Host I can't believe it.

00:20:15 Adam Host On no notice at all! Imagine if we actually gave notice!

00:20:17 Ben Host *[Laughs.]* So thanks to everyone that tuned in. And if you would like to be notified of these in the future, I guess you—I think if you follow us on Instagram at [@GreatestTrek](#), it will give you, like, a notification if we're gonna go live.

00:20:34 Adam Host Right.

00:20:35 Ben Host And then... theoretically, we may do this again! If anybody ever sends us anything in the mail again, which they probably won't.

00:20:39 Adam Host Yeah, I think a surefire way to get us to do this again is to just send more booze.

00:20:43 Ben Host *[Laughs.]* Yeah. I mean, that might not be great for my overall health, but, uh... Hey. Anything for the podcast.

00:20:53 Adam Host Who cares about overall health anymore?

00:20:55 Ben Host Not me!

*[Both laugh.]*

*[Music fades out.]*

Alright. Well, uh, I think we should shut the livestream down, 'cause we now have business to attend to, Adam. We've got to talk about an episode of *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*.

00:21:07 Adam Host That's right. Uh, we better not say which one.

00:21:10 Ben Host You don't wanna—why don't we say which one? And then we can throw to the—to the music, and we'll—and we'll shut these people down.

00:21:16 Adam Host Alright. You do it. It's—it's your kick. It's your episode.

00:21:19 Ben Host Oh, fuck, I don't remember! Oh—you're just making me do this 'cause it's the crazy Latin title! *[Laughs.]*

00:21:25 Adam Host Yep! That's why!

00:21:27 Ben Host Yeah, Adam, of course it is season 7, episode 16, "Inter Arma Enim *(attempting a Latin pronunciation)* Silent Leges"!

00:21:34 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!*

*[Music stops.]*

00:21:44 Ben Host The war, which we have not really talked much about in a long time, did not ever end! And this episode starts with a McLaughlin Group—  
00:21:54 Clip Clip **John McLaughlin (*The McLaughlin Group*):** Issue one!  
00:21:55 Ben Host —about the kind of bureaucracy of war.  
00:21:57 Adam Host I feel like the title of this episode kinda gives it all away, right?

*[Ben laughs.]*

'Cause when you translate it it's, "In time of war, the law falls silent."  
00:22:04 Ben Host Mm-hm.  
00:22:06 Adam Host Like, everyone knows that.  
00:22:07 Ben Host Duh.  
00:22:08 Adam Host It's on our money.  
00:22:09 Ben Host *[Laughs.]* I mean, ever since Steve Mnuchin was the Treasury Secretary, it has been.  
00:22:16 Adam Host Right. Right.  
00:22:18 Ben Host But, uh, yeah. This is a scene where Kira and Cretak and, uh, O'Brien—  
00:22:26 Music Music "I'm Shipping Up to Boston" off the album *The Warrior's Code* by Dropkick Murphys. Intense bagpipes punctuated by percussion and electric guitar.

**O'Brien:** *I am Chief Miles Edward O'Brien!*  
**Duncan Malloy (*Con Air*):** *This is fucking spectacular!*

*[Music stops.]*

00:22:32 Ben Host —Worf. Like, they're all talking about these repair schedules for different warships that come to the station. And O'Brien is defending his Klingons-first repair philosophy. And Worf actually has a pretty funny line to back this up.  
00:22:47 Clip Clip **Worf:** They are usually more damaged because Klingon warships are relentless in pressing home their attack.  
00:22:52 Ben Host And so their ships get fucked up a lot more in battles. Not like those... scrotum-sack Romulan ships that always cut and run at the first sign of trouble when they do an attack!  
00:23:03 Adam Host Right. Very precious are the *D'deridex*-class ship captains.

*[Ben laughs.]*

Never see a scratch on 'em!  
00:23:11 Clip Clip **Worf:** The fight must be taken to the enemy! We cannot win this war—

**Kira:** Alright. We're not here to debate combat tactics.

00:23:17 Adam Host I really love scenes in *Star Trek* that teach us about process. Like, the idea that the station acts as a sort of starship garage.

00:23:23 Ben Host Yeah, totally!

00:23:25 Adam Host And they need to, like, figure out how to do repairs, and expedite them in such a way that it isn't troubling or insulting to the people involved. Like, I love all this stuff!

00:23:37 Ben Host It also highlights the idea that, like, "post-scarcity" is really a matter of perspective.

00:23:42 Adam Host Mm-hm.

00:23:43 Ben Host If we lived like the people on Deep Space 9 here and now, we would be rich. You know? Like, we could have whatever we want whenever we wanted. Our entertainment would be, like, way better than what anybody else could experience. You know. Like, the advantages of living like a—a future person would be so, so great compared to our current quotidian existences.

00:24:07 Adam Host Right.

00:24:08 Ben Host But if you got a fucked-up starship, you gotta get in line, baby!

00:24:13 Adam Host Even if you're the *Rotarran*.

00:24:14 Ben Host And—*[laughs]*—I think part of this is that nobody wants to tell Martok that he's, like, fourth. You know? *[Laughs.]*

00:24:21 Adam Host No!

00:24:22 Ben Host So this is a—a meeting that is about reminding us that we are still at war, and that the Romulans are a big part of the war effort, and are demanding to be treated as such.

00:24:35 Adam Host Garak and Bashir are in the next scene, reminding us that they're still friends.

00:24:39 Ben Host *[Chuckling]* Mm-hm.

00:24:40 Adam Host It feels like it's been a long time since we've seen them together. Garak's chatting up Bashir about his trip to Romulus.

00:24:48 Ben Host Bashir's got an upcoming trip to Romulus. And Garak starts taking the time to drag Romulus!

00:24:57 Clip Clip **Garak:** How dull!

00:24:57 Ben Host *[Laughs.]* And his line of attack is... absurd! He starts making fun of the—of the Romulan heart as being gray, and that Romulus itself is very gray? Are you kidding, Garak?! You're fucking gray!

*[Adam laughs.]*

You're the grayest thing on screen at the moment!

00:25:20 Adam Host It's the gray pot calling the gray kettle gray.

00:25:24 Ben Host *[Laughing]* What is he talking about?!

00:25:27 Adam Host It's ridiculous!

00:25:30 Ben Host *[Laughs.]* Anyways...

00:25:31 Adam Host It looks like Garak's gotten jacked! Between, uh, now and the last time we saw him. He's really got some good shoulder definition in this scene.

00:25:38	Music	Music	Trap music sting. Three sharp, high-pitched synth chords.
00:25:39	Ben	Host	Yeah, those traps are fucking huge right now.
00:25:42	Adam	Host	Yeah.
00:25:43	Clip	Clip	<b>Garak:</b> If only you meant it.
00:25:44	Ben	Host	Another just table-setting conversation. This is, uh, putting Bashir into the front of the episode.
00:25:51	Adam	Host	Right.
00:25:52	Ben	Host	And talking about the fact that he's going to Romulus and <u>not</u> doing anything interesting. He is—he's there for Starfleet Medical, doing medical-ass shit, and Garak is like, "Yeah, but what about the military shit?"
			And Bashir is like, "Well, that's not—that's not really my area, Garak. Like, I'm mostly—I'm just gonna see, like, whether the locals are into piss play or not. You know?" Like—
			<i>[Both laugh.]</i>
			"I'm kind of focused on my own shit on this trip."
00:26:20	Adam	Host	"I'm wearing this yellow handkerchief out the back of my dress uniform."
			<i>[Ben laughs.]</i>
			"Gonna see if I get any bites!"
00:26:20	Ben	Host	Yeah. Garak has that—that worldview of, like, "The worl—the universe is, like, a cold, hard place, and you're a soft Starfleet. And you need to, like, come to grips with reality."
00:26:39	Adam	Host	Well, Garak's been around the block! Bashir's—
00:26:41	Ben	Host	He's <u>been</u> to Romulus!
00:26:42	Adam	Host	Yeah.
00:26:43	Ben	Host	He was a—he was a <u>gardener</u> there. He was the Boothby of Romulus, in a lot of ways.
00:26:46	Adam	Host	Right. It's true.
00:26:48	Clip	Clip	<b>Picard (TNG, "The Game"):</b> Oh... How is old Boothby?
00:26:51	Ben	Host	But right on cue, we smash cut to Bashir sleeping in his bedroom, and waking up to discover Director Sloan just... sitting there watching him sleep.
00:27:04	Clip	Clip	<b>Heywood (The Shawshank Redemption)</b> Terrible fucking luck, huh?
00:27:05	Ben	Host	You wonder how long Sloan waits for Bashir to wake up.
00:27:08	Adam	Host	Yeah.
00:27:09	Ben	Host	Is Sloan, like, clearing his throat? After—like, he's like, "Alright. I've been here for like 30 seconds and he's not waking up. I'm gonna give him a— <i>[pointedly clears throat]</i> ."
00:27:17	Adam	Host	When you're wearing leather head to toe—



00:27:19 Sound Effect Sound Effect *[Leather creaking.]*

00:27:20 Adam Host —I feel like you could hear every breath that Sloan takes, sitting in that chair.

00:27:23 Ben Host *[Laughs.]* Yeah, he sits—he just sits down, and it—and it—Bashir bolts out of bed.

*[Both laugh.]*

*[Creaking stops.]*

00:27:29 Clip Clip *[Bashir yawning.]*

00:27:31 Adam Host I mean, and speaking of that, there's a real power imbalance in the costuming. It's—it's Bashir in this loose-fitting pajama combo.

00:27:40 Ben Host Yeah.

00:27:41 Adam Host And Sloan is in, like, super tight S&M leatherwear.

00:27:46 Ben Host *[Laughs.]* Yeah—

00:27:48 Adam Host Like, just looking at them, you can tell that—that one person means business.

00:27:52 Ben Host *[Laughs.]* I love Sloan's mode here. He's like, "So, since you're now a Section 31 agent—you passed the test and everything—we're giving you a mission."

And Bashir is like, "I didn't even apply! Much less—"

You know, like, "If nominated, I will not run; if elected, I will not serve, sir!"

00:28:10 Adam Host I love how Sloan's like—

*[Dramatically]* "And the mission is... Do exactly what you were going to do anyway. Just take a look around."

00:28:17 Ben Host *[Dramatically]* "And just tell us some of your observations!"

00:28:21 Adam Host Yeah.

*[Both laugh.]*

He could've just said, uh, "CC me on your report after."

00:28:25 Ben Host Yeah. Or—

00:28:26 Adam Host That's the mission.

00:28:28 Ben Host Or you know how Sloan does it. "BCC me on your report later."

00:28:31 Adam Host That's right. Yeah.

00:28:34 Ben Host That's—that's some secretive-ass Section 31 shit.

00:28:38 Adam Host If the mission from *Rambo: First Blood Part II* was, instead of taking pictures, just share the after-mission report with an extra person?

*[Ben laughs.]*

That's what this episode would be.

00:28:48 Clip Clip **Rambo (*Rambo: First Blood Part II*):** Do we get to win this time?

00:28:50	Adam	Host	So Sloan drops this mission bomb in Bashir's quarters, and then... <i>[stifling laughter]</i> leaves through the front door.
00:28:56	Ben	Host	<i>[Laughs.]</i> And Bashir grabs a strap, and like, runs out into the hallway, and almost blows Ezri's head off.
00:29:05	Clip	Clip	<b>Ezri Dax:</b> Whoa! Easy, Julian!
00:29:07	Ben	Host	You know how Ezri has been the main character of this season? Not this episode!
00:29:11	Adam	Host	And also, uh, Ezri has been prone to explosive violence lately.  <i>[Ben laughs.]</i>
00:29:20	Ben	Host	So I kind of feel like she's <u>not</u> the person to hold at phaser-point. What if he had just <u>shot</u> Ezri, 'cause she was the first thing that <u>moved</u> when he walked out of his apartment? <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:29:26	Adam	Host	I feel like Bashir's probably the best person on the crew for covering up a murder! He'd be great at that.
00:29:20	Ben	Host	Yeah! He would, uh—he would know how to do <u>all</u> the tricks.
00:29:36	Music	Transition	A techno song mixed with clips and soundbites from <i>DS9</i> .  <b>O'Brien:</b> <i>Gul Dukat!</i> <b>Kira:</b> <i>Dukat!</i> <b>Sisko:</b> <i>Dukat.</i> <b>O'Brien:</b> <i>Gul Dukat!</i> <b>Kira:</b> <i>Dukat!</i>  <b>Dukat:</b> <i>So...</i>  <i>[Music ends.]</i>
00:29:39	Ben	Host	Sloan is like, very optimistic about what the outcome of the war is gonna be, right? 'Cause like, the—in the conversation, he's like, "Hey, so, um, this war's gonna be over pretty soon. And then the Cardassian Empire will be occupied, the Klingons are gonna be totally fucked up because of the fact that they mess their ships up every time they get into combat, and so that will leave the Romulans and the Federation as the only two powers in the quadrant. So we would like to just look to that, so that we can have a leg up."  And that really felt noticeable to me, because I didn't feel like a win was a foregone conclusion for most characters on this show. But for Sloan, it kind of is.
00:30:25	Clip	Clip	<b>Kilgore (Apocalypse Now):</b> Someday this war's gonna end!
00:30:26	Adam	Host	Bashir's gotta tell Sisko what happened.
00:30:28	Ben	Host	Yes.
00:30:29	Adam	Host	And Sisko— <i>[laughs]</i> —Sisko sees the—sees an angle here!
00:30:34	Ben	Host	Yeah.
00:30:35	Adam	Host	He solicits Bashir into becoming a double agent!
00:30:37	Ben	Host	Yeah! This kind of mirrors the conversation that they had last time Sloan came around, which was...

00:30:45	Clip	Clip	<b>Sisko:</b> And the next time he asks you to join his little group... you will say <u>yes</u> .
00:30:51	Ben	Host	Sisko says in this scene, "I've asked around, and I've basically been told, 'Stop asking.' And that either means Section 31 is fake and Sloan is some other thing, or the Federation actually <u>does</u> have a Section 31, and they don't want people asking questions about it. But whichever one it is, Bashir, I want <u>you</u> ... to enter... the Sloan Zone."
			<i>[Both laugh.]</i>
00:31:19	Adam	Host	We cut to Sisko asking around about Section 31, and he's like, "Look, I've been hearing about this part of the Federation that's, like... kind of—it operates in the basement of a pizza place?"
			<i>[Ben laughs.]</i>
			"And there's, like—and they're, like, harvesting the blood of kids?"
00:31:34	Ben	Host	Yeah.
00:31:35	Adam	Host	"It's, uh—it's pretty—have you heard anything about this?"
00:31:38	Ben	Host	And Admiral Ross is like, "You antisemitic piece of <u>shit</u> ."
			<i>[Both laugh.]</i>
			And Sisko's like, "What?! I'm just asking questions!" <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:31:46	Adam	Host	So... This, coming on the heels of Sloan thing, establishes that, uh—that back to back, Bashir has received an offers he can't refuses from both Sloan and Sisko.
00:31:56	Ben	Host	<i>[Laughs.]</i> Yeah.
00:31:58	Adam	Host	And so, armed with these—
00:31:59	Ben	Host	The horse heads are really piling up.
			<i>[Ben laughs, Adam stifles laughter.]</i>
00:32:02	Adam	Host	These two missions running concurrently for Bashir, and it's a good thing he's a smart guy. He can hold all of this in his head at once.
00:32:10	Ben	Host	Bashir boards the USS <i>Bellerophon</i> , which is a ship in the same class as the USS <i>Voyager</i> .
00:32:18	Adam	Host	Right.
00:32:19	Ben	Host	Very fun to see them just use the set from <i>Voyager</i> for a <i>Deep Space Nine</i> episode.
00:32:25	Adam	Host	It looks <u>spacious</u> . Every set on this ship has extremely high ceilings.
00:32:30	Ben	Host	Yeah. Yeah!
00:32:31	Adam	Host	Really looks luxurious in there.
00:32:33	Clip	Clip	<b>Susie (<i>Curb Your Enthusiasm</i>, "Krazee Eyez Killa"):</b> So come on, I'll give you the tour.
			<b>Larry (<i>Curb Your Enthusiasm</i>, "Krazee Eyez Killa"):</b> Oh, you know what? That's okay. I, uh—I—I get it.
00:32:37	Ben	Host	Yeah. I like Federation architecture a lot more than I like Cardassian architecture.

00:32:41 Adam Host Yeah.

00:32:42 Ben Host Admiral Belt Buckle and Senator Cretak are other dignitaries on the mission to Romulus. The conference that they're all going to be attending is pretty high-level. I thought it was interesting that Bashir was even rubbing elbows with Belt Buckle and Cretak, given their relatively high status in their respective governments compared to Bashir.

00:33:06 Adam Host Right.

00:33:07 Ben Host Like, Bashir is a frontier medicine man. And, like, Belt Buckle and Cretak are like, statesmen and magistrates.

00:33:16 Clip Clip **Matt Foley (Saturday Night Live):** WELLL, LA-DEE-FRICKIN'-DAH!

00:33:20 Ben Host So they're all, like, knocking back Romulan ales, and you know the kind of trouble that that can spell. And, uh, one major downside of people getting a little loose-lipped is that folks'll walk up and kinda butt into your conversation that you did not invite. And, uh, Wendell Greer—a mapmaker from the Federation—sort of invites himself to talk to all of these high-power people in the Bashir/Cretak/Belt Buckle chat.

00:33:51 Adam Host It's Sloan undercover as "Never Say Die" Reply Guy.

00:33:55 Ben Host *[Laughs.]* Yeah. Uh, he—he came with a secret identity! And Bashir, like, nearly shits himself in this moment. I just thought that this performance was really, really fun.

00:34:12 Adam Host Yeah, Alexander Siddig plays it really well.

00:34:14 Ben Host And then gets scolded by Sloan. Like, Sloan grabs his elbow and walks him away and is like, "Hey. Uh, ix-nay on the ig-bay eaction-ray." *[Laughs.]* "Every time I walk into a room. I'm sort of undercover here."

00:34:30 Adam Host Bashir's like, "Fuck you, man! You chose me." Like, "This is what you get."

00:34:34 Ben Host *[Laughs.]* Yeah. "I'm not a trained spy! I'm—I'm a trained physician!"

00:34:37 Clip Clip **Leonard McCoy (Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan):** Damn it, Jim.

00:34:39 Adam Host Yeah. And what's great about, like, this sequence of scenes is that Bashir snitches right to Admiral Belt Buckle—

00:34:44 Clip Clip **Speakers:** Where you at, bro?

00:34:45 Adam Host —after this.

00:34:46 Ben Host Yeah.

00:34:47 Adam Host Like, it seems as though he's gonna be given more to do than just observe. Like, as soon as he gets on the ship, Sloan makes this clear. And then he goes right to Belt Buckle.

00:34:55 Ben Host Yeah.

00:34:56 Adam Host And is like, "This is probably a security threat."

00:34:58 Ben Host And Belt Buckle is like, "Well, we've looked into him." Like, "We vetted him. And he has been a low-level diplomat for 15 years as far as the, like, cartography department is concerned. But, like, let's keep tabs on him. If this is in fact Section 31 as you claim, like, this may be more important. Like, this—this could become a diplomatic

thing that we have to concern ourselves with [W/R/T](#) the Romulans."

And it's a third time where Bashir is asked to just, like, do the thing Sloan said.

00:35:32	Adam	Host	Right. So now he's got kind of three programs running at once in his brain.
00:35:36	Ben	Host	Yeah. And to introduce a fourth program, we get him studying up on Romulan dignitaries with Sloan in his quarters on the <i>Bellerophon</i> as they're en route to Romulus. They're like, putting holograms of different Romulans—uh, Praetor Ted's Dad—
			<i>[Adam laughs quietly.]</i>
			—that they take a look at.
00:35:59	Clip	Clip	<b>Bashir:</b> Neral. Formerly Proconsul, now Praetor, of the Romulan Star Empire.
00:36:04	Clip	Clip	<b>Ted (<i>Bill &amp; Ted's Excellent Adventure</i>)</b> What are you doing home, Dad?
00:36:06	Adam	Host	I love how it's like a "choose your character" scene from <i>Street Fighter</i> , where the characters are like, moving?
00:36:13	Ben	Host	<i>[Laughs.]</i> Yeah, and like, blinking?
00:36:14	Adam	Host	They're breathing and blinking and stuff? Yeah. That's fun.
00:36:16	Ben	Host	Yeah. The people that they're studying are high-level. It's the head of the Romulan government, and the Chairman of the Tal Shiar. So I guess—I don't know if Sloan is, like, the <u>head</u> of Section 31, but if he <u>is</u> , then Koval is kind of his counterpart in Tal Shiar.
00:36:32	Adam	Host	Yeah.
00:36:33	Ben	Host	And we're reviewing this after having read a novel and watched the series of <i>Star Trek: Picard</i> , which went a <u>long</u> way toward developing the mythos of the Romulans as, like, the species that is secretive to a fault.
00:36:51	Adam	Host	Mm-hm.
00:36:52	Ben	Host	Like, the house that a Romulan lives in has a fake front door and a real secret door somewhere else.
00:36:57	Adam	Host	I thought about that here, too, yeah.
00:37:01	Ben	Host	And I feel like the—like, it—like, this canonically works in these scenes.
00:37:06	Adam	Host	Yeah.
00:37:07	Ben	Host	The secretiveness of the Romulans is totally being established here. It's not as well-developed as those later entries in the <i>Star Trek</i> universe. But I feel like this doesn't break that, or vice versa.
00:37:22	Adam	Host	Right. Right. And it's fun to cut from this scene of the holo-dignitaries to meeting Koval for real at the stuffy white-uniform event that follows.
00:37:35	Ben	Host	Yeah.
00:37:36	Adam	Host	I liked seeing 'em bust out the white dress uniforms from the Riker/Troi wedding.

00:37:40 Ben Host Yeah, that was cool.

00:37:41 Adam Host I thought that was gonna be a costume only used once, but it's neat to see 'em again. It's, uh—it's neat—it's neat, and it's awkward, the way that you would expect a scene like this to be awkward.

00:37:50 Ben Host It really gave me *Undiscovered Country* vibes.

00:37:53 Adam Host Mm-hm.

00:37:54 Ben Host The, like, "We don't really know how to interact with each other, but we are having a social gathering nonetheless" kind of feeling.

00:38:02 Adam Host I love the—the contrast between Cretak and Koval is great. Like, Senator Cretak, probably a cool hang! You can just tell. Like, she's more open—

00:38:09 Ben Host Yeah.

00:38:10 Adam Host —and Koval is just the worst.

00:38:11 Ben Host You could have an ale with her!

00:38:12 Adam Host Right.

00:38:13 Ben Host A Romulan ale, specifically.

00:38:14 Adam Host Yeah. Yeah.

00:38:15 Ben Host *[Stifles laughter.]* Koval just comes up to Bashir and he's like, "Hey. That, uh—the *Quickening* disease? How about you tell me about how we could, like, inflict that on people? Is that possible?"

And Bashir is like, *[hesitant/bewildered]* "Technically?"

*[Laughs quietly.]*

00:38:27 Adam Host Yeah. "Could we possibly weaponize the *Quickening*?"

00:38:31 Clip Clip **Sam Daniels (*Outbreak*):** They want their weapon!

00:38:32 Ben Host The first interaction between Koval is very awkward, and I loved the framing on that scene, because Admiral Belt Buckle and Senator Cretak are like, in the deep background, like almost out of focus.

00:38:46 Adam Host Yeah.

00:38:48 Ben Host Just like, watching the whole thing. And you can tell that they are both, like, very intent on seeing what happens here, but also don't want the other person to know that they're very intent on it.

00:38:59 Adam Host Right.

00:39:00 Ben Host I really liked that.

00:39:01 Adam Host It's great! I like character development in depth of field. You know?

00:39:04 Ben Host Totally.

00:39:05 Music Transition A techno song mixed with clips and soundbites from *DS9* and other sources.

*Odo: To be quite honest about it, I was in a pail.*

*Speaker: A bucket?*

*Odo: A pail.*

*Announcer (Mr. Bucket commercial): Mr. Bucket!*

*Odo: I have to revert back to my liquid state!*

*Nog: Hoh!*

**Jake:** Odo!

**Odo:** I don't use the bucket anymore!

*[Music ends.]*

00:39:15 Adam Host I love that we get to see Bashir's presentation.

00:39:18 Ben Host Yeah.

00:39:20 Adam Host Like, we get to see Bashir at work, doing what he's there to do, and... looks like a pretty good presentation. He's doing a lot—like, his slides are pictures, and—without any text on them, and that's always a good sign for a good presentation.

00:39:32 Ben Host Bashir's TED Talk where he comes out with no shoes on, and the—the headset.

00:39:37 Adam Host Yeah.

00:39:38 Ben Host Says—

*[Bashir voice; posh]* "What if we could solve the Quickening in our time?"

*[Adam laughs quietly.]*

"What if it only took a glass of simple urine?"

*[Bashir voice stops.]*

00:39:48 Clip Clip *[A sparkly chime.]*

*[A drop of liquid.]*

*[A quick string chord.]*

*[Applause.]*

00:39:51 Adam Host And then he just fucking takes it to the dome in front of everyone.

*[Ben laughs.]*

Everyone gasps.

00:39:57 Ben Host Hey. Don't make fun of taking things to the dome in front of everyone today, Adam.

00:40:00 Adam Host Yeah! I know!

00:40:01 Ben Host I may—I may not wake up after doing something similar.

*[Both laugh quietly.]*

00:40:05 Adam Host So Bashir shows the Quickening, but does not tell. And after the presentation, he gets that—that, "Good game, good game, good game" receiving line from everyone who was there.

*[Ben laughs.]*

Which is great! That's gotta be a great feeling! You're doing an away game. Doing a presentation. Feels like it was a great success.

00:40:21 Ben Host The suggestion has been made that Koval may be sick. He may—

may have some... some kind of Romulan disease.

00:40:27 Clip Clip **Sloan:** We've heard he's ill. Something called Tuvan Syndrome.

00:40:29 Music Music Real or simulated Tuvan throat singing plays during the above clip.

00:40:32 Ben Host One of the things Sloan wants to find out is, like, "If so, can we use it to get him dead so that Senator Cretak can join the Continuing Committee, and therefore be a powerful voice for pro-Federation peace in the Romulan government?"

00:40:49 Adam Host Yeah. Big stakes. Koval's got 25 years left, which... sounds like a lot. Sloan wants to bump that up a little, if it's possible.

00:40:58 Ben Host *[Laughs.]* Yeah.

00:40:59 Adam Host "Anything we can do, Doctor."

00:41:00 Ben Host And it's awkward, right? Like, there's—there's that, like... wartime issue of, like, if we accelerate his disease, will it be plausible? Like, fi—like, less than 5% of cases, the disease can take you down way quicker. But it doesn't seem like the kind of thing a dirty tricks organization like Section 31 would wanna do, because it might raise more questions than it answers.

00:41:27 Adam Host Right.

00:41:28 Ben Host But like, there is a strategy. Like, if we could get him, like, exposed to a certain type of radiation... that would be great. And it's another just, like, "run to Daddy Belt Buckle" moment for Bashir.

00:41:40 Clip Clip **Peter Paparazzo (*The Ed Hardy Boyz: The Case of the Missing Sick Belt Buckle*):** It's a sick belt buckle, and it's here!

00:41:42 Adam Host Right. And Belt Buckle's perspective is... "Maybe there are other leather-clad spies here that aren't there just to take pictures."

*[Ben laughs.]*

Maybe Sloan has an accomplice on Romulus.

00:41:54 Ben Host Yeah! I mean, the thing I love, having read that *Star Trek* novel especially, is, like... the Romulans pride themselves on being extremely deceitful, as a people.

00:42:06 Adam Host Mm-hm.

00:42:07 Ben Host And I like the idea that if a human like Sloan is doing deceit, he can do it even better than a Romulan. You know? *[Stifles laughter.]*

00:42:16 Adam Host Right.

00:42:17 Ben Host It's like, uh—like, "Oh. I mean, you guys pride yourself on deceit, but we—we're fucking good at everything."

00:42:24 Adam Host Yeah.

*[Both laugh quietly.]*

00:42:25 Ben Host Like, "We're good at all of the above." *[Laughs.]* "And if I—if I specialize in that, like, I can fucking run deceit rings around you."

And that's sort of what is being implied here! Right? Like, maybe everyone on the delegation is kind of a spy in one way or another.

00:42:39 Adam Host Yeah. Yeah, really raises the tension. It's fun.



00:42:43 Ben Host You know what else is fun, is that shot of Romulus from orbit, where there's just, like—there's so many warbirds, and then the—*[stifles laughter]*—the *Bellerophon* is just like, "Derp-a-derp-a-derp!" *[Laughs.]* "I'm here, too!"

00:42:53 Adam Host It made me think a lot about the flight pattern in orbit, like—and how the *Bellerophon* is cutting across—*[laughs]*—

00:43:00 Ben Host *[Laughing]* Yeah!

00:43:01 Adam Host —the pattern in a way that seems very dangerous?

00:43:03 Ben Host Yeah. Like, the—the pilot of the *Bellerophon*—like, cut to bridge of the *Bellerophon*, and the pilot just, like—

*[Distressed/nervous]* "Hhhh! Hhhhgg!"

*[Adam laughs.]*

"There's so many fucking ships! This is, like, a—every 30 seconds, I'm making an adjustment!"

00:43:16 Adam Host And you know for every ship you're seeing, there's another eight that are cloaked.

00:43:21 Ben Host *[Laughs.]* Yeah. They just ram into one, accidentally.

00:43:24 Adam Host Yeah.

00:43:25 Ben Host It also—you know, like, the *Bellerophon* is a *Voyager* size and class starship. So... I mean, we've seen the *D* go nose-to-nose with these ships a million times.

00:43:36 Adam Host Mm-hm.

00:43:37 Ben Host And I feel like it's always, like, scary. Right?

00:43:39 Adam Host Mm-hm.

00:43:40 Ben Host Like, the Romulan ships are scary compared to the *D*. And the *Bellerophon* feels very naked because of that.

00:43:47 Adam Host Right. In the mess, Dr. Bashir hears some—he eavesdrops onto a conversation that is about Admiral Ross's health.

00:43:58 Ben Host Yeah.

00:43:59 Adam Host And that he has collapsed. And this is especially scary because in the scene that came before, Admiral Belt Buckle's plan was to arrest Sloan.

00:44:07 Ben Host Yeah.

00:44:08 Adam Host And so when we go from a scene where Belt Buckle's like, "I'm gonna have him arrested" to the story of Belt Buckle collapsing with a health issue, it's kind of a scary time to be Dr. Bashir, far from home.

00:44:20 Ben Host I love the way they did the blocking in this scene. Because Bashir walks outta the room, and the camera lands in the foreground with Sloan, like, taking a satisfied sip from his mug. "Got him right where I want him."

00:44:36 Adam Host You know not to trust anyone drinking the hotel lobby grapefruit juice, though.

*[Ben laughs.]*

That is not a good drink.

00:44:44	Ben	Host	Yeah. Especially these days. <i>[Chuckles.]</i>
00:44:47	Adam	Host	It's so bitter!
00:44:48	Ben	Host	So where does Bashir go at this point?
00:44:50	Adam	Host	You gotta find a friend!
00:44:51	Ben	Host	He's like Dr. Crusher. Like—like, people don't seem to <u>know</u> him. The world is shrinking around him. And the friend that he goes to is... <u>Senator Cretak</u> , of all people.
00:45:06	Adam	Host	Which seems plausible! Because she's been the nicest person on the ship. Like, she feels like a safe harbor.
00:45:15	Ben	Host	Right. And she... actually has power here. Right?
00:45:20	Adam	Host	Right.
00:45:21	Ben	Host	Like, she is high up in the Romulan government, and could potentially move resources around to deal with this. And what Bashir imagines he's doing is avoiding a really bad diplomatic incident. Right? Like, the—
00:45:34	Adam	Host	Yeah.
00:45:35	Ben	Host	The... Federation, like, offing a high-up intelligence official in the Romulan government would not go well for their alliance. And so he's saying, like, "Listen. There's an assassination that seems to be afoot. I'm <u>guessing</u> that somebody is involved inside <u>your</u> government."
			And she is like, "I—I kinda see the logic of this. Koval has been saying the same thing, like, that there's probably a traitor in the Senate."
			It's not easy for her to hear. She's not psyched about the responsibility that's falling on her shoulders.
00:46:13	Adam	Host	Did you get bumped a little bit here about the hierarchy of—of danger? Because this scene is all about trying to find out who's gonna try to kill Koval, and Admiral Belt Buckle does not come up in conversation at all. And I felt like if you are on a Federation starship, and someone is attempting to kill admirals, that is at <u>least</u> as important as this Koval situation.
00:46:38	Ben	Host	Yeahhh. But is Bashir trying to kinda play his cards in that? In like, not mentioning it? Like—
00:46:46	Adam	Host	Yeah.
00:46:48	Ben	Host	Who knows?
00:46:49	Adam	Host	It would seem—it would seem that way. That would be the only reason <u>not</u> to bring it up.
00:46:52	Clip	Clip	<b>Geordi LaForge (TNG, "The Measure of a Man"):</b> More to this than just the cards, Data.
00:46:54	Adam	Host	But that's a pretty sophisticated bit of business for someone who, up to this point, has been fairly <u>unsophisticated</u> in his ability to be a spy, you know?

00:47:03 Ben Host Right, but like, that's—something I really like about the writing of this episode is that Sloan talks to Bashir like, "You're a fucking secrecy and spycraft nerd."

00:47:13 Adam Host Mm-hm.

00:47:14 Ben Host Like, "You fucking love this shit." And...

00:47:16 Adam Host Right.

00:47:17 Ben Host You know, and Garak, the same way. Like, "Are you kidding me?" Like, "This is a big part of your, like—of your interests as a person."

00:47:27 Adam Host Right.

00:47:28 Ben Host So maybe he's, like, trying to rise to the occasion in that moment?

00:47:31 Adam Host Yeah.

00:47:32 Ben Host Or maybe the writers just forgot. *[Laughs.]*

00:47:35 Adam Host Yeah. I mean, that's a lot of projection.

00:47:37 Ben Host *[Laughs.]* Anyways. He, uh—he can't radio back to *Deep Space Nine*, right? Like, there's some kind of communications blackout. So he's saying, like, "We've gotta do this through your people, or Koval is gonna be killed."

00:47:52 Adam Host Yeah. I feel like at this point, Bashir starts to get a little squishy about... what he knows about things, especially around Sloan. 'Cause Sloan really presses him on the diagnosis, and Bashir's like, "Well, I mean, he might have it, but he also might not. It's really hard to say. Who could really say?" And SI—

00:48:13 Ben Host Yeah! Yeah, 'cause they have that meeting, and Bashir's like, "I know I came to you, like, with some strong observations about Koval being... probably sick with this."

00:48:25 Adam Host Mm-hm.

00:48:26 Ben Host "But in the early stages. But now I'm, like, wondering, 'Do I know enough about Romulans to make a call like that?' And my thinking is no!"

00:48:35 Adam Host Sloan is like, "Well, if you can't tell by looking, maybe you can tell by touching." And so he encourages Bashir to try the sweaty palm technique for next time.

00:48:43 Ben Host Yeah.

00:48:44 Adam Host So that, like, during the handshake, there will be some transfer onto this thing in his palm that will allow for a more accurate diagnosis.

00:48:53 Clip Clip *[Sizzling sounds.]*

**The Joker (Batman):** *[Singing]* Oh, there'll be a hot time in the old town toniiiight!

00:48:58 Ben Host The handshake is the last thing you wanna do.

00:49:02 Adam Host Yeah!

00:49:03 Ben Host But, uh, yeah. Bashir shakes Ko—he—there's that awkward moment, right, where he, like, puts his hand out for Koval to shake, *[stifles laughter]* and Koval—maybe this is a cultural difference! Maybe this is the first time anyone has tried to shake Koval's hand. He's like, "Sorry... Doctor. We had a coronavirus on our planet

recently—"

*[Adam chuckles.]*

"—and we are limiting our hand-to-hand contact with people."

00:49:25 Adam Host You can tell this is something that Bashir struggles with, too, because most of the time he's gone in for the handshake, he, uh—he too-slows it.

00:49:33 Ben Host *[Stifling laughter]* Mm-hm.

00:49:34 Adam Host And goes up to his hair.

00:49:36 Ben Host *[Laughs.]* Yeah.

00:49:39 Adam Host He's gotta leave that hand out.

00:49:40 Ben Host Yeah. Koval is like, "Hey. You want to, uh, go somewhere a little quieter, and just... talk?"

And Bashir is like, "I'd like that."

00:49:48 Adam Host So he brings him into the scariest room ever.

*[Ben laughs.]*

And starts filming an episode of *Between Two Roms*.

00:49:54 Music Music "Theme from *Taxi Driver* (Reprise)" by Dave Blume plays, also the theme song for *Between Two Ferns*. Groovy, funky flute.

00:49:56 Adam Host Because, like, he gets sat down on this bench.

*[Both laugh.]*

*[Music fades out.]*

Two scary Roms are on either side of him. And Koval has taken control of the situation.

00:50:05 Clip Clip **Speaker 1:** I—I have friends who are American, so—

**Speaker 2:** You people keep coming over to our country and acting like you can control us, and tell us what kind of country we should be, and to obey the queen. We're tired of it!

00:50:14 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.]

00:50:31	Adam	Host	You do not want the <a href="#">Clip Show Devices</a> to be attached while you're on Romulus.
00:50:35	Ben	Host	No. This definitely reminded me of the things that they put on Geordi's temples—
00:50:39	Adam	Host	Mm-hm! Mm-hm!
00:50:41	Ben	Host	—when they—when they scanned him?
00:50:44	Adam	Host	Yeah.
00:50:45	Ben	Host	Good Romulan continuity.
00:50:46	Adam	Host	It's fun that Bashir's brains provide an adequate defense to this, though.
00:50:51	Ben	Host	Yeah.
00:50:52	Adam	Host	Like, it's—they aren't able to drill into him the way that they think they should.
00:50:57	Ben	Host	Yeah. They promise that they have other ways to make him speak. And...
00:51:02	Adam	Host	Right.
00:51:03	Ben	Host	That was an interesting threat, because the next scene is Bashir walking into a meeting of the Romulan—like, the highest level of the Romulan government. It's the Praetor and all the—and all the top... uh, panel members. What is it called? The Continuing Committee?
00:51:22	Adam	Host	Sure.
00:51:23	Ben	Host	And like, my head immediately—especially with <i>TNG</i> as precedent—went to, "How does Bashir know he's not walking into a simulation right now?"
00:51:35	Adam	Host	Dude. I thought <u>exactly</u> the same thing. There's something about the visual language here that makes me think, "Oh, yeah." Like, "Giant holosuite." The "Future Imperfect" episode is—is the thing. It's all I could think about during this moment.
00:51:49	Ben	Host	Yeah.
00:51:50	Adam	Host	We go from a confined space to this wide open space, and all these characters.
00:51:54	Ben	Host	Yeah.

00:51:55 Adam Host Something about it... really made me feel that way.

00:51:59 Ben Host And Praetor Neral, AKA Ted's Dad—

*[Adam laughs quietly.]*

—is there to... you know. He—like, Bashir is not the main subject of questioning in this scene. Senator Cretak is. And she's gotten in trouble for accessing a Tal Shiar database. And—

00:52:17 Adam Host That Bashir asked her to, and that just makes you feel sad, right?

00:52:20 Ben Host *[Stifling laughter]* Yeah.

00:52:21 Adam Host This is all Bashir's fault!

00:52:22 Ben Host He really threw her under the bus.

00:52:24 Adam Host Yeah.

00:52:25 Ben Host And they want him to kind of corroborate her fantastical story. So he's like, "Yeah." Like, "I got word from somebody in—you know, that was human, that there's this group called Section 31 that I can't really tell if is part of the Federation or not, that they wanted to kill Koval. And I didn't know who to trust, so I went to Senator Cretak, and we wanted to, like, stop whatever was happening so that Koval wouldn't be killed, because I want to, like, establish trust between our people."

And Romulans are like, "'Trust.' What mean 'trust'?"

*[Ben or Adam laughs quietly.]*

00:53:02 Adam Host "It's like when you're invited to a party, and you're told to bring appetizers. And you can be relied on to bring appetizers, and maybe something else that's a little extra, that the host didn't even ask for."

00:53:14 Ben Host *[Laughs quietly.]* "And then they're like—"

00:53:15 Adam Host "That stuff really matters."

00:53:18 Ben Host "Thanks for bringing these pigs-in-blanket, and—oh, nice! A bottle of wine as weqll? You shouldn't have."

00:53:22 Adam Host "Also, Rambo brought a really giant knife to cut the hor d'oeuvres with?"

*[Ben laughs.]*

"Kind of—not the sort of tool you'd wanna use. Kind of really dangerous?"

00:53:35 Ben Host *[Laughs.]* "It's like, almost a sword it's such a big knife?"

*[Adam laughs.]*

"Like, what the hell?!" *[Laughs.]*

00:53:43 Adam Host "The sort of knife that you'd think requires an open carry permit."

00:53:47 Ben Host *[Laughs.]* And this is, like, a perfect hall of mirrors, right?

00:53:55 Adam Host Yeah.

00:53:56 Ben Host Like, Bashir is like, "I wanted to talk to people back home that I knew,

but I couldn't radio Deep Space 9 because of the radio being turned off." Like, everything was perfectly set up so that he would enlist Senator Cretak. And the decision comes down, like, Senator Cretak is in big, big trouble. And Bashir is getting kicked off of the planet surface.

00:54:20	Clip	Clip	<b>Koval:</b> It's an interesting story. But it's not the whole story.
00:54:24	Adam	Host	Things have gone <u>terribly</u> on this mission.
00:54:27	Ben	Host	It's gone terribly for every Romulan senator that has gone to Deep Space 9, frankly. <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:54:33	Adam	Host	Wow. Yeah, good call!
00:54:34	Ben	Host	Like, that's a <u>bad</u> job to get if you are in the Romulan Senate.
00:54:39	Adam	Host	Yeah.
00:54:40	Ben	Host	They <u>bring in</u> Sloan! And he is, like, beat the hell up. Koval knows <u>all</u> about Sloan.
00:54:45	Clip	Clip	<b>Koval:</b> Under questioning, he has confirmed much of what the doctor and the Senator have told you, with one important exception.
00:54:51	Ben	Host	He has actually been able to scan Sloan's brain. He's like, "Yeah, Section 31 doesn't exist. That's nothing."
00:54:58	Adam	Host	"This guy's got just <u>normal brains</u> ."
00:54:59	Ben	Host	Yeah.
00:55:00	Adam	Host	"We could lobotomize him easily. Bashir, you know all about that."
00:55:04	Ben	Host	He's just a rogue agent. He's been trying to violate the laws of the Federation. And, uh—
00:55:10	Adam	Host	It's <u>so</u> disappointing, right?
00:55:11	Ben	Host	Yeah.
00:55:13	Adam	Host	Like, they start going over Sloan's bio and he's just, like, a regular fucking crone.
00:55:17	Ben	Host	I know! Like, in this scene, you're like, "God. Fucking Sisko and Bashir were so fucking shook by this <u>clown</u> ."
00:55:26	Adam	Host	Yeah. Yeah!
00:55:27	Ben	Host	Like—
00:55:28	Adam	Host	I <u>like</u> that this episode does this to us.
00:55:30	Ben	Host	Yeah! Like, he fucking took them for a <u>ride</u> in that other episode. And now—
00:55:35	Adam	Host	Yeah.
00:55:36	Ben	Host	And now here he is <u>naked</u> in front of the fucking Continuing Committee of the Romulan government, just beat to hell and, like— and like, when the sentences start coming down, they—like, he gets the worst deal of all. They're like, "We're gonna take this guy and fucking put some pipes to his legs." And he does that thing—
00:55:57	Adam	Host	Yeah—
00:55:58	Ben	Host	—where he goes for somebody's cat basket and gets their disruptor out of it, and Koval is the one that, uh—that vapes him.
00:56:07	Adam	Host	It's a really fun courtroom scene!

00:56:09 Ben Host Yeah. Yeah! I—

00:56:11 Adam Host Like, the courtroom scene begins with, like, the moment every lawyer dreams of. Like, the—the panache of proving your point. The verdict and the sentences going bang, bang, bang. Like, everything is going great for the Roms here.

00:56:25 Ben Host Yeah.

00:56:26 Adam Host And then that cat basket scene is—is great!

00:56:29 Ben Host Yeah.

00:56:30 Adam Host Nicely done!

00:56:31 Ben Host So Bashir, back to the *Bellerophon*. And he's, like, tossing and turning, thinking about what happened to him. And he, uh—he finds Admiral Belt Buckle, doing some late-night office work. And he's like...

*[Bashir voice]* "Something doesn't quite add up."

*[Bashir voice stops.]*

00:56:50 Adam Host Right, and the thing that—that doesn't add up is, like, as believable as the Sloan story was, didn't quite work for Bashir.

00:57:00 Ben Host Yeah.

00:57:01 Adam Host Bashir believes Sloan is still alive.

00:57:02 Clip Clip **Ross:** What can I do for you?

**Bashir:** I have a question. Where's Sloan?

00:57:07 Ben Host Belt Buckle does a pretty interesting move here, which he says, "We're gonna have to have this conversation off the record," and he removes his combadge. Are the combadges recording everything that happens?!

00:57:19 Adam Host I love what is established as canon in this moment.

00:57:23 Ben Host What the fuck?!

00:57:25 Adam Host "Off the record" means take off your combadge!

00:57:27 Ben Host It's like, uh—"Are we gonna go kill Duras?!" Like, what do you mean, "Take off your combadge"?!

00:57:32 Adam Host I wanna go back to all those moments where Worf resigned—

*[Ben laughs.]*

—by sticking his combadge on the table, and replay them. Because I think we cut away from those scenes too soon. If we stay in the scene, Picard looks up at Worf and is like, "...What do you wanna go off the record for?"

*[Ben laughs.]*

"What's going on, bud?"

00:57:54 Ben Host Yeah. "Take a knee! What's—what's happening here?"

00:57:55 Adam Host Yeah.



*[Ben laughs.]*

That's what it means!

00:57:58 Ben Host Bashir does the whole Sherlock—  
00:58:01 Adam Host Mm-hm.  
00:58:02 Ben Host —discussion of, like, "Everything that happened was for a reason."  
00:58:05 Adam Host He galaxy-brains this.  
00:58:07 Ben Host "You had your aneurysm. You were out of the picture. I had to go to Cretak. Now she's fucked. Why is she fucked?"  
00:58:16 Adam Host We've already established technology that can beam bullets as they're fired; obviously it's possible to beam a person away as they're being shot.  
00:58:24 Ben Host And—  
00:58:25 Adam Host Like, that was a bit of payoff there.  
00:58:27 Clip Clip **Ross:** He was supposed to be beamed away a split second before the phaser beam hit him. Whether it worked or not, I couldn't say.  
00:58:34 Adam Host There was kind of a lot of arterial spray in the courtroom.

*[Ben laughs.]*

00:58:41 Ben Host Uh, that we can't explain. So maybe it worked, maybe it didn't!  
The upshot here is that Koval has been working with Starfleet Intelligence! He's been giving them all kinds of information.  
00:58:51 Adam Host Everyone's a double agent!  
00:58:52 Ben Host Ross was perfectly happy to trade Cretak's life for having Koval go on to the Continuing Committee, because they have actionable, trustworthy information from him.  
00:59:04 Adam Host Yeah.  
00:59:05 Ben Host And he explains it like—like, Cretak is a patriot. Like, she wants to do what's best for Romulus at all times, no matter what. And that means if making a deal with the Dominion happens to be that next week, she would do it. She's not down for our alliance, she's down for Romulus. Full stop.  
00:59:25 Adam Host Right.  
00:59:26 Ben Host And Koval is a little bit more of, like, a real politic actor.  
00:59:30 Adam Host Bashir is so disgusted at hearing this. He can't even put his communicator back on before leaving.  
00:59:36 Ben Host Yeah.  
00:59:37 Adam Host Which may actually mean that he—he's resigning?  
00:59:40 Ben Host *[Chuckles.]* Yeah, we never see him with the communicator on again in the episode, right? 'Cause the button on the episode is him waking up again—

*[Adam laughs quietly.]*

—on Deep Space 9.

00:59:51 Adam Host We see him having lunch with Worf the next day, and Worf looks at his chest, and he's like, "So. You've resigned?"

00:59:57 Ben Host "Or are you just going to kill a member of a House that has crossed you?"

*[Both laugh.]*

01:00:05 Adam Host Yeah.

01:00:06 Ben Host Bashir wakes up, and again, Sloan is in his bedroom. And it's a, uh, "Hey. Thanks for all your help, little buddy."

01:00:13 Clip Clip **Grim Reaper (*Bill & Ted's Bogus Journey*):** Don't overlook my butt. I work out all the time, and reaping burns a lot of calories.

01:00:19 Adam Host Nocturnal Sloan is—is never a good thing.

01:00:23 Ben Host You wonder about Bashir, right? 'Cause he's like, a genius.

01:00:26 Adam Host Mm-hm.

01:00:27 Ben Host And his brain is so special that it can't be penetrated by the Romulans. But also, like, Sloan... seemed to give—either Koval reported fake results from the brain scan, which I guess is maybe the better explanation—but also, like, possible that Sloan can fake results in a brain scan somehow? But Bashir's supposed to be, like, this brilliant genius! And Sloan can just trick him?

01:00:55 Adam Host Yeah. Which one of those is true?

01:00:58 Ben Host Right.

01:00:59 Adam Host Is Bashir a genius, or is Sloan a super super genius? Doesn't seem like that would be the case.

01:01:06 Ben Host Yeah. Like, why does Bashir do—even do the interview with Borat's daughter?

*[Ben or Adam laughs quietly.]*

If he's such a fucking great lawyer.

01:01:16 Adam Host Yeah. Yeah, really makes you think.

01:01:20 Ben Host *[Laughs.]* Did you like the episode, Adam?

01:01:22 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.]*

01:01:26 Adam Host Yeah, I did! Quite a bit, actually! It felt like one of those episodes that was really constructed carefully. And I really respond to episodes like this. It felt very intentional with all of its pieces.

01:01:39 Ben Host Yeah.

01:01:40 Adam Host It fit together really well, in a way that was satisfying.

01:01:43 Ben Host I agree. It was a super fun episode. Like, it's—it's like—it's writing an episode on hard mode, because you write an episode like this and you're sort of asking the audience to poke holes in it.

01:01:58 Adam Host Mm-hm.

01:01:59 Ben Host Like, "See if you can find where the cracks are," and I... didn't find a lot of them. Like, I—it was—

01:02:04 Adam Host Yeah.

01:02:05 Ben Host It really had me.

01:02:06 Adam Host I really liked the use of, uh—of the *Voyager* set, too!

01:02:09 Ben Host Yeah.

01:02:10 Adam Host Like, as a choice.

01:02:11 Ben Host Yeah. That—

01:02:13 Adam Host It really made the—it made the moment feel different. It was effective in making the stakes high because we're changing ships, and we're bringing Belt Buckle along. Like, there are a lot of factors that made it seem like this was a significant moment.

01:02:29 Ben Host It's really great use of *Star Trek* as a place. And it's also—like, it made me wonder, like—so, was *Voyager* on a bye week that week? Or was—were they shooting a—an episode of *Voyager* that took place not on the ship that week? And if so, like, how do they coordinate that between two writers' rooms? Like, "Okay, we gotta line these two up somehow." Like, that's—there's fun, like, production stuff that must have taken place because of that.

01:02:56 Adam Host Yeah. It's—it looks to me like the producers were in constant contact about it, and then they just tried to make the schedule work. Like, they were on a different soundstage over at *Voyager*, and that allowed them to be able to use the ship sets for this episode.

01:03:11 Ben Host I love it.

01:03:12 Adam Host Pretty great! That's what you want! You want your shows talking to each other and working collaboratively.

01:03:17 Ben Host Yeah. Yeah, that's cool.

01:03:19 Adam Host Yeah.

01:03:21 Ben Host Well, Adam, do you wanna see if we have any Priority One Messages in the old inbox?

01:03:24 Adam Host I'm on my way there right now.

01:03:25 Clip Transition **Computer:** [*Beeps four times.*] Priority one message from Starfleet coming in on secured channel. [*More beeping.*]

01:03:30 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):** Why, the interest alone could be enough to buy this ship!

[Coins drop on a hard surface.]

[Music ends.]

01:03:40	Music	Music	Music plays softly in the background of this segment, peppered by the ship's computer repeating, "Captain Picard, priority one message."
01:03:41	Ben	Promo	Adam, we have a couple of Priority One Messages. The first one here is from Cousin Bo, and it's <u>to</u> Cousin Ben! And it goes like this:  "This P1 comes as you are saving lives for a third Covid ward rotation, and two months out from your first kid. Pro dad tip: If you are up late with baby, Ben and Adam are great company. Why not enjoy piss jokes whilst cleaning piss?"
01:04:07	Adam	Promo	Perfect.
01:04:08	Ben	Promo	"I know you'll be a better dad than Worf, and <u>are</u> a better doctor than Bashir.  PS, How dare you pass on TGG 2018 LA show in pediatrics rotation? What the fuck?!"
			[Laughs.]
01:04:23	Adam	Promo	Wow.
01:04:24	Ben	Promo	Wow. Cousin Ben <u>could</u> have come to our live show in 2018, back when things <u>weren't</u> that fucked up! And... really missed out.
01:04:33	Adam	Promo	God, working Covid ward. I can't imagine.
01:04:36	Ben	Promo	Yeah. Thank you, Cousin Ben, for doing that.
01:04:38	Adam	Promo	Uh, wear your <u>fucking masks</u> , everyone.
01:04:41	Ben	Promo	Yeah.
01:04:42	Adam	Promo	Try to help out our Friend of DeSoto, Cousin Ben, here.
01:04:47	Ben	Promo	Please, please, please.
01:04:48	Adam	Promo	Ben, our second Priority One Message is from "Crew Member on the USS <i>Corona</i> ," and it is to "All Friends of Shimoda."
01:04:56	Ben	Promo	Wow!
01:04:57	Adam	Promo	Message goes like this:  "This is for Ben, Adam, the greater or greatest Shimoda family, and all of Maximum Fun. Hang in there! Thanks for keeping me relatively sane—"
			[Ben chuckles.]
			"—while the transporters are down, and all the shuttlecraft are out of service, and I'm trapped on this stupid ship with my stupid loved ones."

[Ben laughs, Adam stifles laughter.]

Yeah.

01:05:19	Ben	Promo	Yeah...
01:05:21	Adam	Promo	We're all on our separate ships, it seems. That's how it feels.
01:05:23	Ben	Promo	Yeah. I alluded to the fact that I'm under quarantine directive right now in our <a href="#">Maron</a> , Adam.
01:05:30	Adam	Promo	Yeah.
01:05:31	Ben	Promo	And, uh, that is because my wife, uh—probably falsely, but, um—but she tested positive for the virus about a week ago, as of this recording. And we're supposed to do two weeks of self-isolation, and we're doing our best to do that. We've tested negative twice, both of us, since her her positive test. So we're like, cautiously optimistic that she's not gonna get sick or anything, but yeah. It's a—it's been a good reminder that this thing is nowhere near being behind us. So just try to be safe.
			And thank you to all of the medical folks out there that are working hard to get as many people through this as they can. And thanks to everyone who is taking it seriously, and masking up, and—and, you know, limiting how much time they spend in public.
01:06:26	Adam	Promo	Yeah. It doesn't take a lot to do a lot of help.
01:06:30	Ben	Promo	Yeah.
01:06:31	Adam	Promo	It just takes caring about other people. So...
01:06:33	Ben	Promo	Yeah! Just get—
01:06:34	Adam	Promo	Wear your mask, please.
01:06:36	Ben	Promo	Just enjoy being trapped on a stupid ship with your stupid loved ones.
01:06:39	Adam	Promo	Right. See what not wearing your mask does! It possibly infects one of the hosts of <i>Greatest Generation!</i>
01:06:47	Ben	Promo	Yeah.
01:06:48	Adam	Promo	There are stakes involved here!
01:06:49	Ben	Promo	That would be bad!
01:06:50	Adam	Promo	You don't want me to do the show alone, right?
01:06:53	Ben	Promo	[Laughing] That would suck!
01:06:54	Adam	Promo	Yeah. That'd be a curse.
01:06:55	Ben	Promo	I mean, it'd be better than if I did the show alone, but...
01:06:58	Adam	Promo	I don't know, Ben. I think we need you around. I—I hope it's a false positive, buddy.
01:07:04	Ben	Promo	I think it is. But! All that being said, uh, get a P1. Head to <a href="http://MaximumFun.org/jumbotron">MaximumFun.org/jumbotron</a> . We really appreciate it.
			[Music stops.]
01:07:13	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.]

[Music ends.]

01:07:31	Ben	Host	Hey, Adam.
01:07:32	Adam	Host	What's that, Ben?
01:07:33	Ben	Host	Did you find yourself a...

[Deep breath.]

...a [Drunk Shimoda](#)?

01:07:36	Music	Music	Electric guitar.
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*Druuunk Shimoda!*

*Take important stuff, stack it up, doesn't give a fuck!  
Everybody's drunk and Tasha Yar's getting robot-pumped!  
Bend, bend, bend, bend, bend, LOW!*

*D-d-d-druuunk Shimoda!*

*D-d-d-druuunk Shimoda!*

[Music ends abruptly.]

01:07:55	Adam	Host	I think it's gonna be Sloan. He's the guy with the... 40,000-foot view of everything. He's pulling all the strings.
01:08:05	Ben	Host	Mm-hm.
01:08:06	Adam	Host	Like, I think, uh—I don't think there's a moment where he doesn't keenly know what's happening.

[Ben laughs.]

Like, uh—like, he looked like he had plausible battle damage when he was wheeled into the courtroom.

01:08:19	Ben	Host	Yeah. Yeah.
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01:08:20 Adam Host Like, uh, I—I love shit like that! He allowed himself to be tortured, maybe?

01:08:26 Ben Host *[Stifling laughter]* Mm-hm!

01:08:27 Adam Host That's pretty hardcore.

01:08:28 Ben Host Indeed.

01:08:30 Adam Host He was in command the whole time, and I think, uh, who's having more fun than Sloan this episode? That makes him my Drunk Shimoda. What about you?

01:08:37 Ben Host Uh, my Drunk Shimoda is gonna be... Admiral Belt Buckle. There's that scene on the *Bellerophon* with Bashir, Cretak, and Belt Buckle, where they're knocking back tumblers of Romulan ale, and Belt Buckle does the—the newb liquor drinker thing of, uh, having a big coughing fit.

01:08:59 Adam Host That was big fun.

01:09:01 Ben Host It was big fun, and he—he, like, mentions that it used to be illegal, so something about the warming relations between the Romulan Star Empire and the United Federation of Planets has led to the end of Romulan ale prohibition. Parties in the streets!

01:09:19 Adam Host Yeah.

01:09:20 Ben Host But I love that Admiral Belt Buckle is such a cop that this is the first time he's even tried it. *[Laughs.]*

01:09:27 Adam Host Yeah. He—he would never be good at going undercover and having to do the drugs on the table, you know?

01:09:34 Ben Host Right, right! *[Laughs.]*

01:09:38 Adam Host That was fun.

01:09:39 Ben Host It was—it was a really funny moment. Like, a much funnier moment than I think I would have realized when I may have first watched this in 1999 or whatever.

01:09:50 Adam Host I think the casting is one of the big reasons. Like, there's something about Belt Buckle and the way he looks and carries himself that is very, like, uh—like, "Dad from *One Tree Hill*" type.

*[Ben laughs.]*

Like, he just seems very non-threatening and innocent, and this is a scene that underscores that idea. Like, he just can't—he's—he'll never be the type to do the drugs.

01:10:16 Ben Host Yeah. Absolutely. He's a fucking square, man. *[Laughs.]*

01:10:20 Adam Host Yeah. Well, uh, speaking of square, we have a square game board, Ben! At the Game of Buttholes—

01:10:26 Sound Effect Sound Effect *[Thunder crashes.]*

01:10:28 Adam Host —Will of the Prophets.

01:10:29 Ben Host You are right about that, sir. I'm going to head over to the game. Of course, the next episode, Adam, is season 7, episode 17... "Penumbra."

"While Ezri searches for a missing Worf, Sisko makes plans to marry

Kasidy Yates."

01:10:52 Adam Host Whoa!

01:10:53 Ben Host Damn. You know, all, uh, tragedies end in—in death, and all comedies end in a marriage. So... this should be a funny episode, Adam.

01:11:02 Adam Host *[Laughs.]* Is that how it works?

01:11:04 Ben Host Yeah.

01:11:05 Adam Host Cool. Who do you think the officiant's gonna be? I think it's gonna be Vic.

01:11:08 Ben Host Oh. Yeah, you're probably right. It's probably gonna be fucking Vic. Anyways...

01:11:18 Clip Clip I'm gonna go ahead and, uh, roll this here bone.  
**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.]*

01:11:21 Ben Host We are currently wedged right in between a Quark's Bar and a "Looking at each other during" on square 55. And, uh, if we skip over that "Looking at each other during," I don't think there's anything the old runabout can hit.

01:11:38 Clip Clip *[Quark breathes on the dice.]*

01:11:39 Ben Host But, uh, let's see what happens here!

01:11:40 Clip Clip *[Dice roll. Tapping stops.]*  
**Falow:** Chula!  
**Crowd:** *[Laughing]* Chula! Chula!  
**Quark:** Did I win?!  
**Falow:** Hardly!  
*[Clip audio ends.]*

01:11:44 Ben Host The roll was a two!

01:11:46 Adam Host Alright!

01:11:47 Ben Host We're on square 57. Regular episode next week.

01:11:52 Adam Host That's great. Looking forward to that.

01:11:55 Ben Host Yeah!

01:11:56 Adam Host Thanks for listening to *The Greatest Generation*. Thanks for tuning in, those of you who did, to the video portion of the show that we recorded on Instagram.

01:12:04 Ben Host Yeah! We gave a little heads-up about ten minutes before we did that on [Twitter](#), and then we took it over to the [Instagram](#), and if you would like to be able to tune in next time, I highly recommend you give us a follow. It's @GreatestTrek on both platforms, and it's a



really fun follow, because we got our buddy Bill Tilley running the accounts.

01:12:27 Music Music Dark Materia's "The Picard Song" begins fading in.  
01:12:28 Ben Host And he is just, uh—he's just making it a super fun hang over there. Like, it's retweeting cool *Star Trek* stuff, and giving you, like, the birthdays of beloved cast members, and just—he—it's a fun time! He's retweeting the trading cards he makes every week.  
01:12:48 Adam Host Good to be in business with Bill.  
01:12:49 Ben Host Indeed. Also good to be in business with our buddy Adam Ragusea, who makes the theme music for the program. He, of course, is a trained composer, but also a YouTubesman!

*[Adam chuckles, Ben stifles laughter.]*

He, uh—he has a really cool [cooking show on YouTube](#), where he teaches you all about food science, and teaches you great recipes that almost anybody could reproduce in their home and become a better cook for it. Like, understanding why cooking techniques work is, I think, a big part of Adam Ragusea's ethos. Like, why would you do something, and—

01:13:29 Adam Host Right.  
01:13:31 Ben Host —and why does it make something taste better than doing it a different way?  
01:13:35 Adam Host It's really great. He does a great job over there.  
01:13:37 Ben Host Yeah.  
01:13:38 Adam Host We're grateful to have him involved in our show. Where he—  
01:13:42 Ben Host Yeah. He's a cool, cool friend.  
01:13:45 Adam Host Where he's committed to making music for us long into the future.  
01:13:47 Ben Host Speaking of our shows, Adam, we have another *Star Trek* podcast! You're not gonna believe this.

*[Adam stifles laughter.]*

We do an entire extra *Star Trek* podcast every week. It's called *The Greatest Discovery*, and over there we are reviewing *Star Trek: Discovery* and *Lower Decks* and *Star Trek: Picard*, and we also have reviewed a bunch of comic books, and old episodes of the original series, and novels, and all kinds of things!

01:14:14 Adam Host Yeah, it's a supplemental *Star Trek* podcast, Ben.  
01:14:18 Ben Host I'd say you could make it your main Ben and Adam *Star Trek* podcast if you wanted.  
01:14:22 Adam Host Yeah! Why not? Look—  
01:14:24 Ben Host I mean, I wouldn't abandon *The Greatest Generation*.  
01:14:26 Adam Host As long as you subscribe to the three shows of Uxbridge-Shimoda...  
01:14:31 Ben Host Mm-hm. *[Laughs quietly.]*  
01:14:32 Adam Host *Greatest Generation*, *Greatest Discovery*, and the hit war movie podcast *Friendly Fire*... I think, uh, it doesn't matter which one

becomes your favorite!

01:14:40 Ben Host Yeah. But you have to listen to all three.

01:14:42 Adam Host Right. Well, with that, we'll be back atcha next time with another great episode of *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*, and an episode of *The Greatest Generation: Deep Space Nine* that... I'm almo—I'm already a little nervous about needing to make a speech!

*[Ben laughs.]*

During this wedding!

01:14:59 Ben Host You think you're gonna be Ben Sisko's Best Man?

01:15:03 Adam Host I mean, who else is it gonna be?

01:15:05 Ben Host *[Laughs.]* It's gonna be one of those, uh—

*[Glass ringing as it's tapped.]*

*[Adam laughs.]*

"Hey, uh... lot of you may—may or may not know me. I am Adam. Uh... It may come as some surprise that I'm Ben Sisko's best friend going back to our days at the Academy. Uh, a lot of people thought Calvin Hudson was his best friend, and that used to be true. However..."

01:15:29 Adam Host *[Stifles laughter.]*

"You might have noticed I'm wearing my combadge especially low."

*[Ben laughs.]*

"Uh, in honor of Cal Hudson. Cal Hudson, a criminal—you know, I—I was told not to bring this up. Uh, Kasidy Yates, also a criminal!"

*[Ben laughs.]*

"So, uh, I mean, kind of a track record here, Ben Sisko."

01:15:49 Ben Host "Bit of a track record, but—but obviously, while Cal Hudson has not served his debt to society, Kasidy did do some pretty hard time. And we—uh, I—I would say the first time I wanna raise my glass tonight is to Kasidy for serving her debt to society."

01:16:05 Adam Host *[Laughs.]*

"And, uh, let's raise those glasses again. For we all know that, uh, Kasidy Yates will be serving more hard time, uh, tonight."

*[Adam laughs, Ben cracks up.]*

01:16:19 Music Music "The Picard Song" continues at full volume.

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

*Make make make-make-make-make make it so!*

*Jean-Luc Picard!*  
*Make it so!*

*Make make make-make-make-make make it so!*

*Jean-Luc Picard!*  
*Make it so!*

*(Make make make make make make make—)*

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

*Make make make-make-make-make make it so!*

*Jean-Luc Picard!*  
*Make it so!*

*Make make make-make-make-make make it so!*

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

*[Song fades out.]*

01:16:50	Music	Transition	A cheerful ukulele chord.
01:16:51	Speaker 1	Guest	MaximumFun.org.
01:16:53	Speaker 2	Guest	Comedy and culture.
01:16:54	Speaker 3	Guest	Artist owned—
01:16:55	Speaker 4	Guest	—audience supported.