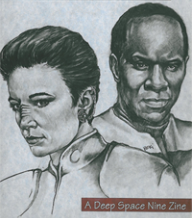


OUTPOST 1



A Deep Space Nine Zine

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Contents

Commence Station Log
an introduction by Randall Landers 2

The Price of Silence
written by Mary Draganis 3

The Quality of Life
written by Barbara Robertson 13

Close Encounter
written by Jeff Morris 23

The Brave Shall Fall and the Mighty Shall Weep
written by Mary Draganis 29

Prisoners
written by Jeff Morris 43

From the Promenade Deck
a closing editorial by BEKi 126

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- BEKi: Front cover.
- Glenn Lash: p. 28.
- David Lawrence: Back cover, p. 5, 14.
- K. A. Marshall: p. 24, 45, 81.
- Rae Anne Weston: p. 54, 65, 110.

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Commence Station Log

an introduction by Randall Landers

The premiere of *Deep Space Nine* garnered a 25 share in the ratings. That would have placed it 7th in the ratings for the week. As of the latest ratings I've seen, *DS9* is the second highest rated hour-long syndicated show; it would place about 32nd in the overall weekly ratings. While that isn't as high as *Star Trek: The Next Generation* (which is the highest rated hour-long syndicated program and would rank 21st in the ratings), it's still quite remarkable. Momentum is building for *Deep Space Nine*, and it looks like it will end up being as successful as its progenitor.

But neither success or failure of the series would have influenced my decision to produce this fanzine. I have enjoyed the new "flavor" of *Star Trek*, and I have looked forward eagerly to each show. At the conclusion of the first episode, I made the conscious decision that Orion Press would produce a *Deep Space Nine* fanzine, and that I would be honored to edit it. I have since garnered submissions from a number of people (including a few whose works will appear in our next issue), and have put together this premiere issue of OUTPOST.

So what's in store for you in this issue?

"The Price of Silence," by Mary Draganis, has Kira Nerys going to a Cardassian prisoner-of-war camp to ascertain whether or not a special member of the resistance was a traitor. This is Mary's first submission to any Orion Press publication, and we're delighted to welcome her to our family of contributors. I might add that Mary's submissions for this story were transmitted electronically to our CompuServe address (Mary resides in Australia, and this is quite a savings of postage for both her and I). Mary also wrote "The Brave Shall Fall and the Mighty Shall Weep," which is the backstory for "The Price of Silence."

Barbara Robertson, who has provided submissions to ERIDANI, has a close look at our station's doctor, Julian Bashir, as he struggles with an epidemic of sorts on *Deep Space Nine*. It's an intense story, and we get to see the trials and tribulations of a young medic practicing on the frontiers of space.

The last fiction contributor to this issue is Jeff Morris, a regular in ERIDANI, who has provided us with the comedic "Close Encounters." In this short piece, Kira Nerys is trapped in the turbolift with Doctor Julian Bashir...a cruel fate, to be sure. His other submission, "Prisoners," is a lengthy novella dealing with Sisko, Kira, a Cardassian concentration camp commandant (try saying that fast five times!) and a couple of Bajorans. It's an intense look at an intense situation, and I'm sure you'll enjoy both of these pieces.

Artwork for this issue was provided by BEKi (who did the front cover), Glenn Lash (whose cartoon is all too apropos), David Lawrence (as always, an excellent job, and his back cover will be featured on every issue of OUTPOST), and lastly, K.A. Marshall and Rae Anne Weston, both newcomers to Orion Press, have provided most of the interiors for us. BEKi also, at my request, wrote the first closing editorial for this zine. Each future issue will feature guest editorials from a variety of fans, and those interested in contributing such an editorial may contact me regarding your subject matter. I'm not guaranteeing that everyone will have a shot at this, but I do want to offer the opportunity to many of you.

Finally, next issue will feature a letter-of-comment (LoC) column, and to do this, we need to hear from you. Let us know what you think of this issue, how we did and all, and also tell us in what direction you'd like to see the zine move. I, for one, would be very interested in your feedback, and I hope to hear from you soon! But until then, enjoy the zine!

Randy