

OUTPOST 5



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Ops Watch

Greetings. Welcome to OUTPOST 5!

As the new editor, I am striving to improve the quality of the zine by way of providing different points of view about *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (DS9)* and each of its characters from as many different people as possible. Watching the cast of characters develop is part of the joy of watching the program and I want to infuse that sense of evolution, of growth into OUTPOST.

Out of the fifty or so ORION contributors who specifically devote themselves to OUTPOST, many wrote to offer help, congratulations or advice. I thank you warmly—you are welcome to OUTPOST. You are holding this issue because you want to read (or write) enjoyable, thought-provoking, supplemental writing to the DS9 universe and you are in the right place. The stories here examine our favorite characters, their faults, foibles, fears, fortitude, faith and failures, from as many different perspectives as could be gathered.

OUTPOST 5's first offering, "**The Terms Of Our Agreement**" is from Cameron Burnell and it looks at the Odo/Kira attraction from the mirror-universe side, asking the question: would Kira be the lovelorn instead of Odo? It is as relentless as the world it takes place in, a wonderful *segué* to the episode "Crossover," our first look at the DS9 mirror universe.

A.S. Medina (my too-modest brother Albert) takes a look at Sisko and Curzon's first adventure in "**Sisko & The Wily Old Worm**." Rebecca E. Wise provides us two amusing views of the station, first in her interesting story "**The Ambassador**," bringing "Madame Ambassador" Lwaxana Troi back to the station to visit...Garak? Then Rebecca returns in parody & prose in "**Keep Space Mine**."

Rebecca Canfield's diversionary tale "**The Traveler**" has a mysterious refugee distracting the busy crew, but is she what she seems to be or something else? J. Callard and J. Bos give us "**Lonely Among Them**," an intense epilogue to the first-season episode "The Vortex."

My own first offering is "**Good-Bye & Good Riddance!**," a comic post-"Meridian" piece that covers what the episode did not. My second offering is for Odo-fans everywhere; "**Shaken**" is a stark epilogue to the incredible third-season episode "Heart Of Stone," and details Kira and Odo's return to DS9 after their fateful runabout trip. Lastly, N.B. Thayer completes this issue with her wonderful fourth-season story "**The Heart That Loves and Must Let Go**," a post-"Rejoined" piece that in the best Trek tradition, does not lay blame or argue, but merely illustrates what love can bring people to.

As for art, well, just look at our cover and flip through the pages. The art submissions were remarkable and I thank you all, but especially must mention Stephanie Etmanski, Terry Cogliano, Gaby Stiene, and Janet D'Airo. Your combined talents just blow me away and I thank you for offering them so generously. I credit each and everyone of my contributors; this issue is beyond my modest expectations due to all of you.

Judith