

OUTPOST 7



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Dear Reader,

This issue of Outpost is a special one, for various reasons. For one, it's a brand new season of DS9! Five years now...gods, who would have believed? For another, it's my first year anniversary as editor and what a strange year it has been. So many new things, both in life and on the show. New life seems to be an on-going motif—new life with Kira giving birth to the O'Brien's child, a new life and way of living it for Odo. Jake taking steps toward life as an adult, Quark and Worf rivals over a lady to brighten their lives...and in our corner of the galaxy a non-descript rock provides possible clues to life on our neighboring planet.

Of course, there are obstacles around every corner both here and on DS9, but I know I'm boring you already so I'll get on with things...honest! I'm presenting you an eclectic issue this cool, lovely autumn. Let me tell you, rarely have I read a story where the plot or writing is good enough, satisfying enough to focus only on one or two characters at the expense of the other characters on the station.

Lee Billings provided me not just one, but two and for Outpost, I present you one of them; her up-close and intimate look at the complex character, Dukat, in "Opposites". For those who have asked me about Cardassian stories, I'm certain you'll be as intrigued as I was by this story which examines events taking place on Terok Nor, long before DS9.

Also insightful is new contributor, Tiffani's bittersweet tale "Regrets & Things Left Unsaid" which provides a glimpse into the future...and the past, of two of our favorite characters. Abra Mitchell explains "The Price Of Peace" in a third-season story that lets us have a look at how our old friend, Ro Laren, is doing.

Fellow friend, er, **friend**, Glenn Lash, surprised me with a tongue-in-cheek poem "The Song Of Konid" which explores the foibles of Klingon philosophy. This is followed by "Deep Space Nine Months" (oh, okay! **Five** months since Bajorans like to do things so fast!) This episode suggestion from Heidi Staneslow really made my day when I received it. I hope it makes yours, too!

Then Cameron Burnell and I bring you "Into the Grey Zone, the Hunt For Yesterday", a time-travelling, action-adventure with a large dash of spice. I'll leave you to guess who supplied what to the story!! Tiffani caps up the issue with the short and touching what-if, "One More Chance".

Okay, now I want to apologize to Stephanie Etmanski and Janet D'Airo. Two of Steph's and one of Janet's sketches for FACETS first issue were regrettably lost by the postal service and poor Steph's name was in the credits...with no pictures to show for it. ☹. These things do happen, however it makes them no less upsetting!

Lastly, I (finally!) have a net-address, as follows <OdoLover@ix.netcom.com>. Warning: While I will consider a submission sent on disk or via e-mail; I require a hard copy of your story for editing purposes. I will not edit via e-mail...this is expensive and time-consuming. I can upload/download submissions as ASCII text, ANSI text, Works, Windows Write, Lotus or any Word Perfect format, you may send/save your document in any of these formats. Do not send me art via e-mail!! Art should be submitted rolled in a cardboard tube or flat to protect it in transit. Contributors-- the next issue of Outpost is scheduled for April 1997.

That said, I look forward to reading your latest DS9 dish. And please don't feed the tribbles!

Judith