



OUTPOST 9

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Cover illustration provided by Zaquia Tarhuntassa

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STATION COMMANDER'S LOG

(Stardate 3009.98)

Wow. What a year this has been!

Believe it or not, two years ago I had yet to discover the world of fan fiction. Three years ago, all I knew of Star Trek was that my mother and sister both loved it — therefore, it was the epitome of uncool and must be avoided at all costs. Now, not only am I a devotee of Trek — and particularly of DS9 — but I've been a regular contributor to alt.startrek.creative for almost two years. Who'da thunk it? I think even Spock would agree that the next logical step in my evolution would be trying my hand at 'zine editing. So here I am, with uneasy mind and heavy heart, presenting to you, oh most kind and generous readers, my first attempt.

I don't know which of us is the more insane: Randy Landers, for entrusting Outpost to me, or myself, for even volunteering for the job. Even so, I did, and he did, and now it's up to you to decide if we made the right choice. I think you'll be pleasantly surprised.

If you're interested in action/adventure and humor, then Outpost 9 is the 'zine for you. We've got everything from a mirror universe medical mystery to a nail-biting showdown between Garak, Dukat and Damar, from a reunion of two old — *very* old — friends to a sexually-charged transaction putting Kira in an uncomfortably intimate situation with her worst enemy. And there's more! Doctor Bashir gets up close and personal with a bowl of ice cream, Morn has to find a way to pay off his bar tab, and K'Noid finally wins the woman of his dreams. Last but certainly not least, we have an in-depth and thought-provoking examination of the *first* Federation-Cardassian war that perhaps the bigwigs at Starfleet Command should pay careful attention to if they want to bring the *current* war to a close.

Of course, as we all know, a 'zine is nothing without its contributions. My deepest regards and gratitude goes out to all my contributors, for having faith in me, enduring my nitpicking, and waiting patiently for all the pieces to fall into place. If it weren't for them, I'd have probably gotten much more sleep the past month, but then you wouldn't have this to read and enjoy.

I'd like to send a special thanks to all my artists and illustrators. I'm a big fan of illustrations, and it disheartens me to see how artists' creative efforts often go unappreciated. I know they put just as much hard work into crafting illustrations as writers do into creating stories, and often under a tight deadline with impatient editors breathing down their necks. The artists whose works are showcased in Outpost 9 outdid themselves in hard work, talent and punctuality, so be sure to take the time to appreciate their contributions.

And, finally, many thanks to all of the Orion Press old-timers for welcoming me into the fold. To Randy, most of all, for giving me the chance to stretch my wings; to Ann, for being there when I needed a voice of reason; to BEKi, Glenn, Elizabeth, Zaquia, Brenda and everyone else who dropped by via e-mail or greeted me at Shore Leave, my most grateful thanks goes out to y'all.

Now that I've got Outpost 9 out of my hair, I'm already looking ahead to Outpost 10, which will be an all-romance issue. Besides stories featuring the 'classic' couples — Worf/Dax, Kira/Odo, Julian/Jadzia, etc., I'm particularly interested in less common pairings, such as Sisko/Yates, Garak/Ziyal (or Damar/Ziyal), Quark/Grilka, perhaps even Ezri/Jake (let's face it: the poor boy needs a date!). And those of you who know me can count on at least one Kira/Dukat in Outpost 10 <BG> So, start writing those love stories — the deadline for submissions is April 30, 1999!

And so, my friends, go forth, read and enjoy!

LAURA

JADZIA DAX: R.I.P.