

Power Loss (Episode 32.5)

By

Jennifer Renner

TEASER

EXT. RUNABOUT

Establishing. Runabout moving at impulse speed.

INT. RUNABOUT

MAJOR KIRA sits in the pilot seat telling a story. COMMANDER DAX sits in the co-pilot seat staring into space.

KIRA

(laughing)

Then she tells me that the door was never locked at all, so this whole time I was making a long trip all the way around the building when I could have been going straight through. I was so worried about barging in somewhere I wasn't allowed, I didn't even check!

Dax says nothing. Kira looks at Dax and realizes she is talking to a brick wall.

KIRA

Then she turned into a Tarkinian Newt and squirmed away.

DAX

What? Oh, sorry. I was just thinking.

KIRA

I can see that.

DAX

I was trying to figure out the best way to explain the situation to Commander Sisko.

KIRA

Explain what? First contact with the Nostarians went extremely well. I can't wait to introduce them to the Alpha Quadrant.

DAX

Agreed, but their social structure, although certainly not the first

(MORE)

DAX (cont'd)
 we've encountered like it, is
 still...unique in the Alpha
 Quadrant.

KIRA
 Every new species we encounter has
 cultural differences from our
 own. You and I have different
 practices, different beliefs, but
 it doesn't stop us from working
 together.

DAX
 True. I suppose I should be
 grateful things went as smoothly as
 they did. I've heard first contact
 stories where the team barely made
 it back in one piece.

Kira looks at the controls.

KIRA
 We should reach the wormhole in
 five minutes.

Dax checks conditions on the controls.

DAX
 I just want to handle this as
 delicately as possible so no one
 feels unwelcome and at the same
 time, no one's ego gets bruised.

KIRA
 Is that Jadzia talking or Curzon?

Dax considers the question.

EXT. DEEP SPACE NINE

Establishing. The station hangs in space.

INT. REPLIMAT

BASHIR sits at a cafe table looking over a PADD and sipping
 a drink. A young BEJORAN WOMAN stands at the replicator
 pushing buttons, but not getting it to work.

Bashir watches the woman for a moment before walking to her
 side.

BASHIR
 May I? What are you trying to
 order?

BEJORAN WOMAN
 Anything at this point, nothing
 seems to be getting through.

Bashir smiles smugly.

BASHIR
 (to replicator)
 One raktajino.

Bashir waits, but nothing happens. He pushes a few buttons
 on the top of the terminal. He hits his com badge.

BASHIR
 Bashir to O'Brien.

O'BRIEN'S COM VOICE
 Yes, Doctor.

BASHIR
 We seem to have a malfunctioning
 replicator here in-

O'BRIEN'S COM VOICE
 I'll add it to the list.

Bashir is momentarily taken aback by O'Brien's abruptness.
 He just smiles at the Bejoran woman.

INT. DOCKING BAY

SISKO waits in the hall by the bay doors. Dax and Kira
 enter the hall.

SISKO
 Major, Lieutenant. Welcome back.

KIRA
 Thank you, sir.

The lights in the hallway dim slightly, then return to
 normal power.

DAX
 What was that?

SISKO

We've been experiencing minor power fluctuations all over the station the past day and a half.

DAX

Do we know what's causing it?

SISKO

Not yet. Chief O'Brien is working on it. So far, it hasn't been anything more than a minor nuisance.

Sisko waits patiently for information.

SISKO

Well? How did it go?

Sisko, Kira and Dax walk down the hall away from the bay.

KIRA

Very well. Nostos welcomed us with open arms.

SISKO

Outstanding. And they're planning a visit to our station?

DAX

Yes, shorty, actually. I'll have all the details in my report.

SISKO

I can't wait for that, this is first contact we're talking about. Tell me what I can expect from our new friends?

KIRA

Yes, what should the Commander expect?

The three stop walking. Kira looks delighted. Sisko looks confused.

DAX

I should start by telling you that there was some confusion during introductions and the Nostarians we met don't think you are the commander of this station.

SISKO

Oh?

DAX

They think that Major Kira is head of the station and that I am second in command, head of ops.

SISKO

What made them think that?

DAX

It was simply the logical conclusion to them. Any attempt we made to correct the miscommunication only confused them and caused them to defer to their original assessment even more.

SISKO

I think I might be missing something here.

KIRA

Let's just say you'd be more convincing as a leader if your name was Benjamina.

Dax and Kira walk off, leaving Sisko looking perplexed, but intrigued.

ACT 1

INT. PROMENADE

Major Kira escorts three Nostarian ambassadors, BENNIFIA, SORYA, and LELA, along with one FEMALE NOSTARIAN GUARD and one MALE NOSTARIAN GUARD down the Promenade. The Nostarians are humanoids with large pointed ears and markings on their necks. A few other people mill about.

KIRA

The Promenade is the main hub of activity for our guests here on the station. I remember when the Federation first arrived here, I had doubts we could even get the station fully operational let alone attract vendors. Now, vacancies are filling up almost to the point of capacity. I would be happy to

(MORE)

KIRA (cont'd)
 give you a full tour later, but I'm
 sure you're tired and would like to
 be shown to your quarters.

BENNIFIA
 Oh no, I'd like to dive right
 in. There seems to be so much to
 learn and I've only seen a small
 part of the station.

Sisko approaches the group.

KIRA
 Commander Sisko, allow me to
 introduce the three ambassadors
 from Nostos: Sorya Ree, Head of
 Central Security Forces, Dr. Lela
 Rendzalin, and Chief Minister
 Bennifia Zaldan.

Sisko puts his hand out to Bennifia.

SISKO
 It is a pleasure to meet you, Chief
 Minister Zaldan.

BENNIFIA
 Chief Minister will do just fine,
 thank you.

Benni is to the point, but not unfriendly.

KIRA
 Commander Sisko is the leader of
 this station.

BENNI
 After you, of course.

KIRA
 No, actually, I report to the
 Commander.

Benni looks between Sisko and Kira. A wave of comprehension
 rolls over her...she thinks.

BENNI
 I see.

She pats Sisko on the shoulder.

BENNI

I'm sure you're doing a fine job. Please, carry on, I wouldn't want to keep you from your duties.

Sisko looks at the hand that pats him on the shoulder. He smiles, maintains composure.

SISKO

I would be happy to show you around or answer any questions you might have.

BENNI

That won't be necessary.

Sisko takes the hint.

SISKO

I'll be in ops if you need me. Major.

Sisko walks away.

BENNI

Who's the lucky lady?

KIRA

Lucky lady?

BENNI

It must be someone quite high up in your Federation.

KIRA

I don't think I follow.

BENNI

On Nostos, occasionally one of the husbands of our high ranking officials will get it in his head that he shares the office. We give him a title and let him think it's an important responsibility. Really seems to pacify them, doesn't it?

LELA

(eagerly)

What's that?

Lela indicates Quark's and excitedly heads that direction.

KIRA
That would be Quark's. It's a popular bar and... recreation facility.

SORYA
Gambling?

Sorya seems more concerned than amused.

KIRA
Well, yes, but that's only-

LELA
I'm always willing to try my luck. Benni?

BENNI
(to Kira)
Do you mind?

KIRA
Not at all.

Kira braces herself for what the Nostarians might make of Quark.

INT. QUARK'S

Lela heads in first and goes straight to the dabo tables where a small crowd has gathered to play. A Bejoran DABO GIRL greets her. Benni, Kira and the other Nostarians hang back, closer to the entrance at the bar, where MORN is the only other customer. Benni looks up the staircase.

BENNI
What's up there?

KIRA
Holosuites, mostly.

BENNI
Interesting. This place is much bigger than it looks from the outside. Do you come here often?

KIRA
Sometimes, it's a popular place. I just tend not to linger, usually.

BENNI
Why's that?

QUARK walks over to Benni's group from behind the bar.

QUARK
Major, you're looking as radiant as ever.

KIRA
Chief Minister, this is Quark, the proprietor.

BENNI
A pleasure to meet you. This is quite the establishment you have.

QUARK
Yes it is. And it doesn't bother you that I'm the owner?

Kira gives Quark a warning glare. Benni doesn't understand Quark's question.

BENNI
Bother me? Should it?

QUARK
I've gotten to know a bit about Nostos. I'd assume you-

The crowd over by the tables shouts "dabo". Lela looks pleased as she heads back over to Benni.

LELA
I guess the Gods are on my side today.

QUARK
How much on your side?

KIRA
Why don't we move along? There's a lot more to see.

Benni and Kira head out, followed by the rest of the Nostarian crowd.

BENNI
I hope I didn't say something to offend Quark. She seemed awfully hostile.