



# Martini

*Story by Jim Caswell*

*Audioplay by Jim Caswell and Doug Zeitlin*

## Episode Summary

When Evori's pet gets sick, he calls upon his two medical experts, telling them the results doctors of the past have come up with about the unusual creature.

## Cast List

Doctor Rafael Esposito	Josh Price
Doctor Jother Quarri	Matt Gulliver
Evori	Jim Caswell
Lt. Commander Eugene Westlake	Doug Zeitlin
Doctor Max Rembrandt	Jerry Hallaron
Lieutenant "Ringo" Starkey	Steve Cain
Doctor "Hawkeye" Forrest	Justin Bills
Doctor Sevar	Erick Greeva
Commander Patrick Connerly	Matt Hallaron

## Stardates

Deep Space 5	57416.7	November, 2380
Challenger		November 14, 2157
U.S.S. Potemkin	P 498.3	January, 2259
U.S.S. Iliad	42943.1	July, 2366

## PROLOGUE

**SCENE 1 – ENTER INT.:** *Sick Bay – Deep Space 5*

SOUND: Sickbay background noise.

ESPOSITO

Do you have any idea why he asked us to meet him here?

QUARRI

All he said to me was that he wanted his two top medical officers on the case, whatever the case may be.

ESPOSITO

I haven't heard of any combat in the area, or any ships coming in damaged. I wonder what kind of medical emergency has come up.

QUARRI

Do you think the Admiral's OK? What if he's come down sick?

ESPOSITO

I don't know. I don't know a whole lot about EI-Aurian physiology.

QUARRI

As Deep Space Five's Chief Medical Officer, I've made myself familiar with everything that's on record, but that isn't a lot. If he's come down with something out of the ordinary, we'll be working from a blank slate.

ESPOSITO

Which would explain why he would want his top medics.

QUARRI

What do you think the matter is? Has he mentioned any ailments to you lately?

ESPOSITO

Not to me. Has he been off-station recently to contract any alien diseases?

QUARRI

Not that I know of, though he doesn't need to check in with me to leave.

ESPOSITO

Heaven forbid they check in with us when they do, so that maybe we can safeguard them from potential contaminants. Has no one above the rank of Commander ever heard of preventive medicine?

QUARRI

I don't think it's limited to Command. The transporter biofilters have made people careless.

ESPOSITO

Well, whatever the problem is, we need to make a pact now.

QUARRI

A pact?

ESPOSITO

That if this leads to publication, we split the credit.

QUARRI

I don't think ...

SOUND: Door opening – medical scanners opened and activated.

ESPOSITO

Admiral. What's wrong? What are your symptoms?

EVORI

My symptoms?

QUARRI

We'll do a full medical workup. Whatever the problem is, we'll find a cure, Admiral.

EVORI

Are you positive about that, Doctor? Doctors?

ESPOSITO

You have our word, Admiral.

EVORI

I'm glad to hear that. Let me introduce you to your patient.

QUARRI

Introduce? The patient isn't you?

EVORI

No, doctor, it isn't. It's my pet, Martini.

SOUND: A rock being placed on a counter.

ESPOSITO

Your pet?

EVORI

Yes. Its name is Martini, though I can't exactly say whether it's a he or a she. I got it a long time ago, but it seems to be a bit under the weather. Hasn't been eating right.

SOUND: Medical Scanners abruptly stop <BEAT> silence.

QUARRI

Umm. Admiral, I don't quite know how to broach this.

EVORI

Just come out with it, Doctor.

ESPOSITO

It's a rock, sir.

EVORI

Not just any rock, Doc. It's my pet rock.

ESPOSITO

You want us to examine your pet rock? Is this some kind of joke?

QUARRI

While I think my colleague could show a bit more tact, I must echo his confusion.

EVORI

Take a close look at it gentlemen. Do you see it? It's moving.

QUARRI

Now that you mention it, I can. It's very slow, but it does seem to be inching forward.

ESPOSITO

You're not bumping the table, are you?

EVORI

No. It's actually moving on its own.

QUARRI

What are its symptoms?

EVORI

It seems to be a bit off its feed.

ESPOSITO

It eats?

EVORI

Dust particles. I usually have to import dust to feed it.

ESPOSITO

Now I know you're pulling our legs. You import dust?

EVORI

When needed.

ESPOSITO

Riiiiight.

QUARRI

I've never seen anything like it. What is it?

EVORI

That has been one of the key questions of my millennium, Doctor. I'll tell you what. I have its medical record here on this isolinear chip. You two start the examination while I tell you how Martini came into my life.

SOUND: Cue Intro music and monologue.

## ACT I

### SCENE 1 – ENTER INT.: Evori's Quarters – The Challenger

V.O.

EVORI

Personal log: Challenger Chief Communications Officer;  
November 14, 2157, Earth Standard Calendar. I'm still trying to get used to using the Earth's calendar, or any calendar for that matter. When you travel through the stars, encountering alien races, and live as long as I have already, it's strange to look at things simply in days and weeks. <beat> Listen to me, talking about how *old* I am. I *have* been around these humans for a while. Back home, I'd be looked at like the Earth equivalent of a teenager. As it is, though, I'm the oldest member of this crew by over a century. Sometimes, it's all just a matter of perspective. <beat> Anyway, there have been some rumblings among the crew about the current war with the Romulans. While some of them – specifically the MACOs – wish that we were taking a more active role in the conflict, the majority of the crew is glad that Starfleet has kept the Challenger out of the fight.... at least for the moment. I just hope that a peaceful resolution can be reached before either side takes us to a point of no return. It doesn't help that we have yet to see what a Romulan looks....

SOUND: Communication chirp.

WESTLAKE

*Evori, are you available?*

EVORI

Computer, pause recording.

SOUND: Recording chirp.

EVORI

Go ahead Eugene.

WESTLAKE

*Could you come down to the science lab for a couple of minutes?  
I'm running tests on the mineral samples we took from Tevelon  
Four, and I've found something of interest.*

EVORI

I'm not sure how much help I can be, Eugene, but sure, I'll be down  
in a couple of minutes.

WESTLAKE

*Thanks, Evori. If my suspicions are correct, you may be of more  
help than you realize.*

EVORI

If you say so. Evori out.

SOUND: Transition music.

SCENE 2 – CUT TO: Science Lab – The Challenger

SOUND: Door opens.

EVORI

Evening, Eugene. What's going on?

WESTLAKE

I want you to come over here and tell me if you see anything  
unusual.

EVORI

This is something you needed me for, as opposed to one of your  
science staff?

WESTLAKE

Just play along for a couple of minutes, OK?

EVORI

OK. <beat> Where do you want me to look?

WESTLAKE

Over on my table.

EVORI

OK. I assume that you mean besides the fact that you have that rock  
strapped to an EEG monitor rather than broken up and put into test tubes.

WESTLAKE

Yeah, though that's the general area you should look.

EVORI

Isn't that strange enough?

WESTLAKE

It gets weirder. Take a closer look.

EVORI

Weirder. Right. <beat> I'm not sure what I'm even supposed to be looking for. And who else is in here?

WESTLAKE

What do you mean? It's just you and me in here.

EVORI

Eugene, you're not nearly as good at practical jokes as Rembrandt or Goldman. I'm not sure what you're up to, but I know that there's someone else in here, and they're probably the one that's moving that rock of yours.

WESTLAKE (half-giggling)

I promise, Evori, this isn't a joke. What makes you so sure that someone else is in here?

EVORI

It would be easier to believe this wasn't a joke if you weren't giggling.

WESTLAKE

I'm excited. Answer the question.

EVORI

You know that I'm a low-level empath. I can feel the low buzz of a third person.

WESTLAKE

Person, or creature?

EVORI

A life form. Why?



WESTLAKE

What is it feeling?

EVORI

OK, fine. I'll play along. It seems to be a bit confused and frightened.

WESTLAKE

But not in pain?

EVORI

No.

WESTLAKE

Can you convey to it that we won't hurt it?

EVORI

It? Wait a second. You aren't suggesting that I'm sensing feelings from this rock, are you?

WESTLAKE

Yep.

EVORI

Riiiiight. OK, who's helping you with this? <beat> Mary? Is that you?

WESTLAKE

No joke, Evori. I think we've discovered and are in the midst of a first contact with a whole new alien species.

EVORI

If this is for real.... oh God, Eugene, I'm sorry. I thought...

WESTLAKE

I know. I spent the first three hours trying to figure out how Doctor Rembrandt was doing it myself.

EVORI

How did you discover this?

WESTLAKE

I've been working on the mineral samples for the past two days. Each time I went back to get a fresh sample, I found this rock separated from the rest. The first time, I thought I had just nudged it and it rolled, but after the twelfth time I moved it back, I started getting paranoid. Thought for sure Max was trying to mess with me... again.

EVORI

A reasonable conclusion.

WESTLAKE

I thought so too. But even Dr. Rembrandt can lack the tenacity to play the same tune over and over. And as I sat and studied the rock's movements for the next twelve hours....

EVORI

Twelve hours?

WESTLAKE

That is all I had time for before my next duty shift. I found that it was moving under its own power. Remembering Cleve Backster's theory of primary perception, I decided to test for possible biocommunication within the rock. That's why I hooked it up to the electroencephalogram, to see if I could detect postsynaptic potential.

EVORI

And I take it that you did.

WESTLAKE

The readings are there on the screen; definite brainwave activity.

EVORI

So you wanted me to come in to see if the brain activity was formed into conscious thought patterns.

WESTLAKE (excited)

Exactly!

EVORI

You realize that we need to take this to the Captain.

WESTLAKE

Of course.

EVORI

How many more of them do we have within the samples?

WESTLAKE

As far as I can tell.... none.

EVORI

None? How is that possible?

WESTLAKE

I don't know.

EVORI

You didn't.... you know, by accident?

WESTLAKE

No. I'm certain.

EVORI

OK. The captain will probably want to go back to Tevelon Four, to see if we can find more of them.

WESTLAKE

Of course.

EVORI

And we should have Max take a look at it as well.

WESTLAKE

I was afraid someone would say that.

EVORI

Don't worry. This is something fantastic, Eugene. I know I doubted you, but you've established some strong proof here. Once he learns all the facts, he won't be able to make fun of you for it.

WESTLAKE

I know, but would you be willing to take it to him for me. I'll go debrief the Captain, but I'd rather not have to explain this all to Doctor Rembrandt.

EVORI

Do you want me to go with you to the Captain too?

WESTLAKE

No, he'll believe me. He knows I'm obsessive, but he has also said I've proven myself to him. That's more than I can say for most of the crew.

EVORI

And that's still something we need to work on. I'll be in sickbay, then, if you need me.

SOUND: Transition music.

**SCENE 3** – CUT TO: Sickbay – The Challenger

REMBRANDT

OK. So let me get this straight. This thing is alive, it feels, it moves, and Eugene discovered it.

EVORI

Yep.

REMBRANDT

Well good for him. He deserves to have something nice like this happen to him.

EVORI

You know, Doc, it would go a long way toward helping him if you were to actually say something like that to him directly.

REMBRANDT

Yeah, I know.

EVORI

Then why don't you?

REMBRANDT

What fun would there be in that? If I were to actually show the boy affection, he's liable to become complacent. If I'm busting his chops though, he's more likely to improve himself.

EVORI

You know, of course, that logic like that tends to backfire more often than it works?

REMBRANDT

It's worked for me so far.

EVORI

Really? How many patients has that worked on?

REMBRANDT

You may be older than me, Evori, but remember that I've been practicing medicine longer than you've been practicing psychiatry.

EVORI

That still doesn't answer the question.

<beat>

REMBRANDT

Let's take a look at this pet rock of yours, shall we?

EVORI

I rest my case.

<beat>

REMBRANDT

Do you think they're going to cancel the Starfleet Christmas Party this year?

EVORI

I haven't heard anything. Why do you ask?

REMBRANDT

With the war going on, I don't know if they'll actually feel like celebrating. Have you ever been to one?

EVORI

Can't say that I have.

REMBRANDT

If they hold it, you should go. Especially if the Enterprise is in the area and Archer is able to attend.

EVORI

Why is that?

REMBRANDT

Have you ever heard the man sing?

EVORI

Can't say that I've had the pleasure.

REMBRANDT

He's pretty good, and has an impressive repertoire. I've heard him do everything from Elvis to *The Man From La Mancha*.

EVORI

That's a wide variety. And he usually sings at the party?

REMBRANDT

Sometimes. I remember this one time....

SOUND: Communication chirp.

WESTLAKE

*Westlake to Sickbay.*

REMBRANDT

Sickbay here, boy.

WESTLAKE

*Is Evori still there?*

REMBRANDT

Of course he is. Where else did you expect him to be?

SOUND: Evori clears his voice.

REMBRANDT

That is.... we're working on this creature you found. Nice job.

WESTLAKE

*I beg your pardon?*

REMBRANDT

Nothin'. Never mind.

EVORI

What did the Captain have to say, Eugene?

WESTLAKE

*He said that he's looking forward to seeing the creature, but there's some bad news. Apparently, the front has relocated in the war with the Romulans. Tevelon Four is in the middle of the war zone.*

EVORI

Well, given the circumstances, won't Starfleet give us an escort or send a ship already out there to investigate.

WESTLAKE

*They want to, but there has been a new development. The Romulans have started using atomics in combat.*

REMBRANDT

What!!! That's insane!

WESTLAKE

*I agree. The use of atomic energy in any form has been outlawed for over a century, let alone as a weapon of destruction. They haven't been used since they nearly leveled Earth during World War III.*

REMBRANDT

The Vulcans must be reveling in this. It just proves everything they were saying all those years to be true.

EVORI

Actually, I doubt it.

REMBRANDT

Why is that?

EVORI

First, they haven't had much of anything to say about Earth politics since the destruction of the Earth Embassy. I think they're afraid that Humans will point out how close they came to a civil war or genocide.

REMBRANDT

Isn't fear an emotion?

EVORI

You know what I mean.

WESTLAKE

*What's second? Whenever there is a first, there has to be a second.*

EVORI

Second, I don't know what the history is, but during my time on Vulcan, anytime the Romulan race was mentioned around the upper echelon, there was an added static in the air. A rise in suppressed emotion, if that makes any sense.

REMBRANDT

A lot more sense than the use of atomic weapons. What are we going to do about this?

WESTLAKE

*There isn't much we can do. The Captain is trying to peacefully protest returning to Earth to receive a shipment of atomic torpedoes, but there is no way we're going to get back into the Tevelon sector anytime soon.*

REMBRANDT

So, until then, this little guy is an orphan that we'll have to take care of.

WESTLAKE

*I think it would only be logical to put it into Evori's care, as he is the only one able to read the creature's emotions.*

REMBRANDT

Humans have had pets for centuries without being able to read their emotions.



WESTLAKE

*That isn't really the case. Normally, humans can tell what a pet is feeling by its facial responses and mannerisms. If a dog needs attention, it jumps up and down. If it is happy, it yips and licks your face. This creature isn't able to do any of that. Therefore, having someone who can read those emotions is at a greater advantage.*

REMBRANDT

I guess I'll concede the point, but he's got to bring Martini in to sickbay on a daily basis until we work out the details of what he needs to survive and thrive.

WESTLAKE

*Martini?*

REMBRANDT

The creature needs a name besides "The Creature."

WESTLAKE

*I've been calling it Subject 1275.*

REMBRANDT

That's no name for a pet.

WESTLAKE

*And how did you come up with 'Martini'?*

REMBRANDT

Martini <beat> on the rocks.

WESTLAKE

*I don't get it.*

REMBRANDT

Uggg. We've got to get you out more often, boy.

SOUND: Transition music.

## ACT II

**SCENE 1 – ENTER INT.: Evori's Quarters – USS Potemkin**

SOUND: Door chime.

EVORI

Come.

SOUND: Door opening.

STARKEY

Evenin', Commander.

EVORI

Good evening, Ringo. What can I do for you?

SOUND: Door closing.

STARKEY

Ah was just wonderin' if you were comin' to the concert tonight?

EVORI

That's right. I had almost forgotten. What's the band playing tonight?

STARKEY

Does it really matter?

EVORI (laughing)

Sometimes. Your band performs well no matter what you play, but some music is more to my liking than others.

STARKEY

Well, ya'll don't need to worry about Freedman's picks for a while. After talkin' us into tryin' that Grateful Drad music, we nixed his votin' rights for six months.

EVORI

Well, I'm not sure I'd have gone that far, but ....

STARKEY

Yaw'll didn't have ta perform it eithe'.

EVORI (laughing)

Too true. So what is on the docket for tonight?

STARKEY

We're goin' back to the classics.

EVORI

Classics as in Brahms and Bach, or classics as in Hank and Waylon?

STARKEY (laughing)

Ya know me too well, Commander. Ya know me too well.

EVORI

I think I can make it, barring any....

SOUND: Red Alert claxons.

EVORI

Emergencies.

SOUND: Ship shaking, followed by a rock hitting the carpet.

STARKEY

What in blazes?

EVORI

I don't know. We need to get to the bridge, though.

STARKEY

Commander, your rock. The one on your desk. It fell.

EVORI

I'll worry about cleaning up later, Ringo. We need to get to the bridge.

STARKEY

Right behind ya, Commander.

SOUND: Transition music.

**SCENE 2 – CUT TO INT.: Sickbay – USS Potemkin**

VO:

FORREST

Chief Medical Officer's Log: Potemkin Stardate 498.3. The ship has just cleared the spatial anomaly and we are back on course with no casualties. Crewmen Davis and Pyron suffered minor lacerations from the initial encounter, but were easily treated with the new protolaser. Both men have returned to duty.

SOUND: Door opening.

EVORI

Hawkeye, come quick!

SOUND: Door closing.

FORREST

What's the matter, Commander?

EVORI

It's Martini. He's cracked!

FORREST

Martini?

EVORI (panicked)

Yes. OK. This isn't a joke. I have a pet rock. It's a silicon-based life form, and he's one of a kind. The rest of his species was wiped out during the Earth-Romulan War. And he's cracked.

FORREST

OK, I know you're panicked Evori, but you need to calm down for a minute.

EVORI

But Hawkeye, you need to take this seriously.

FORREST

Believe me, Commander, I am. I know all about Martini, I just didn't recognize it by name. You forget that I'm friends with your former doctor, and he told me all about the creature, but you're not going to do it or me any good in the state you're in.

EVORI

OK. <deep breath> What do you need?

FORREST

How did this happen?

EVORI

He was sitting on my desk when the spatial anomaly hit and he got knocked to the floor.

FORREST

And I take it by your reaction that you've never encountered this before.

EVORI

Not in the hundred years I've had him. Doc Rembrandt ran some preliminary tests when we first got him and we deemed that it was pretty close to invulnerable.

FORREST

So a fall from the desk to a carpeted floor shouldn't have been a problem. <beat> You're an empath. Are you picking anything up from Martini right now?

EVORI

No. That's part of the problem. I think it might be unconscious.

FORREST

Has there ever been a time where you weren't able to pick something up from him?

EVORI

Only when it's sleeping.

FORREST

So it does have a sleep cycle. OK. Does it experience paradoxical sleep?

EVORI

I'm not sure. Without REM, it's hard to tell.

FORREST

OK, that's reasonable. Let's bring him over to the biobed and see if we can detect anything.

SOUND: Biobed activated.

EVORI

Our best bet is using the EEG.

FORREST

It doesn't have a heart rate or respiratory system, so that makes sense.

EVORI

Those look like abnormal reading to me, Doc.

FORREST

I need to call up Martini's previous records to see what the standard is, but I'll take your word for it for the moment. That doesn't necessarily mean that there's something wrong, though. Depending on how susceptible it is to your empathic communication, it could just be reacting to your anxiety. I mean, you have been together long enough to establish an extremely strong bond.

EVORI

How can we find out for sure?

FORREST

You're going to have to leave Martini here with me for a while. Go, get yourself calmed down, and when I have some answers for you, I'll call you back in.

EVORI

So, you're sending me to the... waiting room.

FORREST

In a manner of speaking, yes.

<beat>

EVORI

Fine. I'll go, but I'm not going to like it.

FORREST

No one ever does. Go. I'll be in touch.

SOUND: Transition music.

**SCENE 3 – CUT TO INT.:** *Sickbay – USS Potemkin*

SOUND: Door opening. Biobed monitors in background.

STARKEY

You wanted to see us, Doc?

FORREST

You've got Evori with you, right?

STARKEY

'Course, Hawkeye. When you send Ringo to cheer someone up, Ah don' give up 'till they're cheered up.

EVORI

For future reference gentlemen, going to a country music concert when a person is bordering on depression is not exactly the best of choices.

FORREST

What did you play tonight?

STARKEY

We started out with some of the classics, but it wasn't doin' much good, so we tried to throw in some late twentieth century rock-a-billy at the end. It was real popular at the time.

FORREST

What was it?

EVORI

Garth Brooks. *I Got Friends In Low Places.*

FORREST

Ewwwe. Yeah. Nice try, but no.

EVORI

The concert aside, you called us down here to give me the bad news?

FORREST

What makes you think the news is bad?

EVORI

You had Ringo try to cheer me up and bring me down here.

FORREST

That doesn't mean its bad news. It just means I thought you could use the company. Actually, the prognosis is very positive.

EVORI

You were able to patch him up?

FORREST

No need.

EVORI

What? Why not?

FORREST

Because, as far as I can tell, this was part of Martini's natural development.

STARKEY

I'm a bit confused, Doc.

FORREST

About which part?

STARKEY

In general, all of it, but specifically about how the unbreakable rock was supposed ta break.

FORREST

Well, most creatures have a built-in recycling system. Snakes shed their skin, birds molt and dogs and cats shed hair that was grown for the winter months. Even humanoids shed their top epidural layers. I believe that Martini is just doing the same thing.

STARKEY

The Commander's pet rock is sheddin'. You have got to be pullin' my lariat.



EVORI

I've never seen you use a lasso in the entire time I've known you.

STARKEY

A figure a speech.

EVORI

But Hawkeye, why would it pick now to shed when I haven't seen it do it in the past hundred years?

FORREST

Evori, you have a pet that, theoretically speaking, may be the only creature in the quadrant with a measurable lifespan that could potentially outlive you. Who's to say what a logistical chemical rotation is going to be for it. Experts determined centuries ago that the human body changes over chemically every seven years. Maybe it is the same type of rotation, just extended exponentially.

EVORI

You're certain, Hawkeye?

FORREST

As certain as I can be about an unknown species of which this is our only sample, yes. If you look carefully within the cracked outer shell, though, you can see a secondary layer that has already grown in place. It's probably going to take a couple of weeks for the entire outer layer to chip away, but when he's all done, there will be a new crust in its place.

STARKEY

OK, that's pretty interesting.

FORREST

I thought so as well. I'd like you to bring Martini in every couple of days to make sure things are progressing as I expect.

EVORI

What about him being unresponsive? Do you think that's normal?

FORREST

Again, it's hard to tell, but I'd say he's probably in a regenerative cycle, similar to what a caterpillar will enter into when it enters the cocoon for its metamorphosis. He'll come out of it when the shedding is done.

STARKEY

Who would'a thought: a regenerating rock that rolled.

SOUND: Transition music.

## ACT III

### SCENE 1 – ENTER INT.: Sickbay – USS Iliad

VO:

SEVAR

Chief Medical Officer's Log: Stardate 42943.1. I have just completed the annual medical exams on the crew, with Lt. Commander Francis White once again being the last officer to be examined. His constant reluctance to perform this required duty continues to be illogical, as is his insistence, upon finally submitting, that he be examined for tracking devices and bugs. Why he would believe that he has encountered some form of insect infestation is still beyond my level of understanding. Nurse Crawford insists that he is referring to a form of listening device, but I find this highly implausible as anyone who would want to listen in on his conversations would simply need to open a channel through his communicator. Never-the-less, Lt. Commander White has once again been diagnosed as healthy and free of infestation. <beat> End log.

SOUND: Recording beep.

SEVAR

Computer, prepare musical selection Sevar Rho-Delta. Begin playing when ready.

SOUND: A Vulcan lute accompanied by bells begins to play. Door opens.

EVORI

Good afternoon, Doctor. Am I disturbing you?

SEVAR

Of course not, Captain. The doors to sickbay are intended to always be open to enable those who need my attention to gain entrance.

SOUND: Door closes. Music continues to play.

EVORI

Well, I heard the music playing and didn't know if I caught you on a break.

SEVAR

If I required solitude, Captain, I would have retired to my quarters. What can I do for you?

EVORI

Well, doctor, I have a pet aboard that I would appreciate you taking a look at. I must warn you that it is a bit unusual and has been known to surprise people in the past.

SEVAR

I am Vulcan, Captain, and a specialist in xenobiology. I doubt there is anything you could have kept aboard this vessel this long without others knowing about it that could surprise me.

EVORI

OK, but don't say I didn't warn you.

SOUND: Rock being set on the desk.

SEVAR

I feel as though I must remind you, Captain, that I am Vulcan. I do not have a sense of humor.

EVORI

I would have never of guessed. <beat> This isn't a joke, Doctor. This is my pet. It is a silicon-based lifeform, originally discovered on Tevelon Four, when there still was a Tevelon Four.

SEVAR

Silicon-based you say? Has there been a study for similarities between this creature and the Horta?

EVORI

When we first learned of Kirk's encounter with the Hortas, Doctor Forrest, Damian Oldfield and myself did an in-depth study, hoping that we could discover some basic connection between the two creatures. Unfortunately, the only similarity they seem to have is the fact that they are both silicon-based.

SEVAR

I see. What seems to be the problem?

<beat>

EVORI

No offense, doctor, but you took to Martini's sentence a lot quicker than most. With the exception of Doctor Forrest, who had received prior warning, everyone else seems to need a lot more convincing.

SEVAR

There would be no point to becoming offended by your question, even if I were capable of doing so. You are my Captain and stated that you were not joking. I don't need any further convincing than that.

EVORI

I guess rank does have its privileges.

SEVAR

I must say, though, that you are showing a measured amount of restraint, Captain. Your attitude toward the welfare of your pet is calm, whereas most humanoid species would be reacting emotionally. It is most logical of you.

EVORI

Oh, trust me; I've done the panic mode before. But after two hundred years together, I realize that whatever the problem is with Martini, it will probably pass with proper treatment.

SEVAR

This brings me back to my original question.

EVORI

Ah, yes. Well, Martini consumes dust particles.

<beat>

SEVAR

Yes?

EVORI

Riiiiight. Anyway, while I've been putting out the typical amount of dust particles for him, he hasn't been eating.

SEVAR

Does the creature typically go any length of time without eating?

EVORI

Only when it's getting ready to shed. <beat> But it shouldn't be ready to do that again for at least another seventy or eighty years.

SEVAR

Are there any other occasions that you can think of?

EVORI

Well, it's capable of going without for a week at a time without experiencing discomfort, but it has been closer to two weeks this time around.

SEVAR

And I take it that you have not sensed any discomfort from it?

EVORI

Correct. How did you know?

SEVAR

If you had, you would have brought this to me earlier.

EVORI

Good point.

SEVAR

Where do you get the dust particles from?

EVORI

I buy them.

<beat>

SEVAR

Captain. Is there a reason you have been pausing during this conversation?

EVORI

I've come to expect reactions to these kinds of statements.

SEVAR

Must we go through this again, Captain?

EVORI

I know, I know. You're Vulcan. It's just a bit unnerving that you aren't unnerved.

SEVAR

I am sure you will be able to adapt, Captain. Now, more detail on where you get the dust, if you will?

EVORI

I usually import it from Earth, when I don't run across a dust merchant on an alien planet.

SEVAR

And your latest supply? Where did it come from?

EVORI

I was able to pick some up when we were on Calatos. There was a very helpful young man there who was selling dust on a street corner.

SEVAR

I see. Would you retrieve the supply that he sold you while I begin a preliminary exam of the patient?

EVORI

I suppose so. Do you think that maybe the dust was tainted?

SEVAR

We must not rule anything out.

EVORI

OK. I'll be back in a couple of minutes. Don't you two run off.

SEVAR

That would be highly illogical.

EVORI

Of course it would.

SOUND: Transition music.

**SCENE 2 – CUT TO INT.:** *Hallway – USS Iliad*

SOUND: Door opens.

CONNERLY

Ah, Captain. Just the man I was coming to see.

EVORI

Good afternoon, Commander. Is there something I can do for you?

SOUND: Door closing.

CONNERLY

No sir. I was just coming to check on how you were doing. Is Martini feeling any better?

EVORI

Nothing's changed, so I took him to see Doctor Sevar.

CONNERLY

Here and all I thought you were fond of Martini.

EVORI

Now, now, Commander. Remember, the good doctor is very accomplished in the field of medicine. I have absolute confidence that Martini is in good hands.

CONNERLY

I'm sure you're right, Captain. After all, it would take an awful lot to offend a pet rock.

EVORI

This too is true.

CONNERLY

What do you have there?

EVORI

It's the recent batch of dust I picked up for Martini. Sevar wants to



examine it.

CONNERLY

Does he think someone spiked your dust?

EVORI (imitating Sevar)

We must not rule anything out.

CONNERLY

I've warned you about dealing with those dust peddlers. I mean, besides you, who's going to buy dust?

EVORI

I'm not really sure, but there must be enough of a market on those planets to warrant having a supplier.

CONNERLY

And you're sure it wasn't....

EVORI

No, it's not drugs. I learned to be careful on that one back in the 22nd century.

CONNERLY

Really? I don't think I've heard that story before.

EVORI

And you won't, either.

CONNERLY (laughing)

Now you've peaked my interest.

EVORI

Good. Always a good sign of a storyteller; leave them wanting for more.

CONNERLY

Well, here's your stop.

EVORI

Are you going to come in and give the doctor your regards?

CONNERLY

No, no. I've got other things that I'd rather do.

EVORI

Like what?

CONNERLY

I don't know. Maybe I'll go help an ensign scrub the plasma conduits.

EVORI

With a toothbrush?

CONNERLY

Whatever it takes to keep me out of there. Have fun.

**SCENE 3 – CUT TO INT.: Sickbay – USS Iliad**

SOUND: Door opens.

SEVAR

Did you bring the dust, Captain?

SOUND: Door closes.

EVORI

That is what you sent me out for, wasn't it Doc?

SEVAR

Yes.

EVORI

Then wouldn't it be illogical of me to return without it?

SEVAR

Many humanoid species do a lot of things that are illogical, Captain.

EVORI

Well, you've got me there.

SEVAR

May I have the dust?

EVORI

Here you go.

SOUND: Medical tricorder opened and activated.

SEVAR

Intriguing.

EVORI

You know, that has got to be the first time I've ever heard anyone refer to dust as intriguing.

SEVAR

It isn't so much the dust, Captain, as much as the atomic structure that it is comprised of.

EVORI

Are you saying that it's something other than plain old dust?

SEVAR

No, Captain. That's exactly what it is. Plain old dust from Calatos.

EVORI

Ohh-kayyy?

SEVAR

Calatos is located in the Salavarius sector, which has three self-orbiting suns.

EVORI

I know, Doctor. I've been there. It's quite a sight to see.

SEVAR

But what you do not see is the impact of having three moving gravimetric bodies and the high levels of radiation they have on the objects within that sector. While visitors are not affected due to their short-term exposure to the environment, creatures and objects within the area are severely changed by it.

EVORI

OK, I could see that.

SEVAR

This particular dust is comprised of atmospheric dust, which is caused primarily by soil dust lifted into the wind, pollution and sloughed skin cells. Those skin cells, after being affected by the radiation, and combined with the pollutants in the air, caused this particular dust to have a different chemical compound than that of standard Earth dust, or probably any other form of dust within the quadrant.

EVORI

Is it poisonous to Martini?

SEVAR

No, I don't believe so. It is more likely that it has a somewhat altered texture and, for lack of a better term, taste.

<beat>

EVORI

Let me get this straight. He isn't eating because he doesn't like the taste of his new pet food?

SEVAR

Simplistic in nature, but accurate none-the-less; yes.

SOUND: Evori laughs.

SEVAR

I believe you know that I am not being humorous, Captain.

EVORI

No, no, I know. It's just a rather amusing situation.

SEVAR

I do not see the humor in it. Your pet refuses to eat based on personal preferences.

EVORI

I know, Sevar.

SEVAR

The logical thing to do would be to continue feeding it this food until it

overcomes its.... finickiness.... and conforms to what is available.

EVORI

Or I could just change back to the brand he likes.

<beat>

SEVAR

I suppose that is an option as well.

EVORI

Well, I appreciate the help doctor.

SEVAR

That is what I am here to do. I hope that the next time I see the creature, it will be under better circumstances.

EVORI

Next time?

SEVAR

Of course. As an occupant of this starship, it is required to have a yearly exam, just like everyone else.

SOUND: Transition music.

## EPILOGUE

**SCENE 1 – ENTER INT.: Sickbay – Deep Space 5**

SOUND: Sickbay background noise with biobed scanner running.

ESPOSITO

Permission to speak freely, Admiral?

EVORI

By all means, Doctor.

ESPOSITO

You're pulling our legs, aren't you? You made all of that up. I mean, if this thing was a sentient creature – the last of its kind – wouldn't we have read about it somewhere? Unless, of course, you never reported its existence to Starfleet.

EVORI

Of course we reported it, but keep in mind that we first discovered it during the Earth-Romulan War. Starfleet had a few other things on its mind at the time. And as the years rolled by, people just didn't seem to care all that much about a single, small silicon-based life form. Besides, half of the people who heard about it didn't believe it, just like you don't now.

QUARRI

Well, I am definitely picking up synaptic impulses, and if these records you gave us aren't real, then you went through a great deal of effort to pull a prank.

ESPOSITO

And I think an Admiral has better things to do with his time than to go to an elaborate joke like this. At least, I certainly hope so.

EVORI

So, I've finally convinced you both?

QUARRI

Of course, Admiral.

EVORI

Good. So, what have you come up with then?

QUARRI

It's not so much what we have as what we can eliminate. Based on the symptoms Martini has shown in the past, in comparison to the symptoms he is showing now, we can rule out infection, shedding, fever and tastes.

EVORI

Yeah. I would have realized if it was any of those.

ESPOSITO

So when you've ruled out the probable, whatever is left, no matter how improbable, must be the truth.

QUARRI

Sherlock Holmes?

ESPOSITO

Paraphrased, but yes. According to Commander White, Arthur Conan Doyle met a Vulcan and based Holmes off him.

QUARRI

An interesting theory. Short, dark hair; pale complexion. By the description used, I could see some resemblance, I suppose.

EVORI

All things considered, it's one of his less off-the-wall theories, as long as you are willing to ignore the fact that Doyle created Holmes in the 1880s and the Vulcans didn't arrive on Earth until 2063.

ESPOSITO

Oh, I'm sure he has an explanation for that too.

EVORI

I'm sure.

QUARRI

Tell me something, Admiral. This small lump on Martini; has it always been there? It's not on the medical reports.

EVORI

What lump?

QUARRI

Right here. On the rear, or at least I assume it's the rear, left quadrant.

EVORI

Now that you mention it, no. I've never seen that before.

ESPOSITO

You've owned it for over two centuries. If you haven't seen it before, I'd say it wasn't there. Maybe we should try and remove it; try to biopsy it.

EVORI

You think it might be cancerous?

QUARRI

Let's not jump to conclusions, gentlemen. While there has been a great deal of research done on this little thing thanks to the Admiral, we still know very little.

SOUND: Medical tricorder opened and activated.

ESPOSITO

Let's see what you've got there.

QUARRI

I'm working with the EEG readings and comparing them to the previous readings. Are you seeing what I'm seeing, Doctor?

ESPOSITO

I'm not sure. That background static is messing with the readings.

EVORI

Background static?

QUARRI

I'm picking up some emotions from Martini. Do you sense them as well, Admiral.



EVORI

Yes, though it's a bit confusing for me as it goes against his behavior.

QUARRI

You mean the sense of euphoria?

EVORI

Yes. Pain or confusion, I could understand, but he's far too happy for the condition.

QUARRI

Given the evidence I'm currently seeing, I think that may be the wrong pronoun.

ESPOSITO

Someone care to let those of us not blessed with extra-sensory perception in on the conversation?

EVORI

Are you saying what I think you're saying?

QUARRI

Yep. I think He is a she and that she's pregnant.

ESPOSITO

Asexual reproduction?

QUARRI

I don't see why not.

EVORI

You mean....

QUARRI

Congratulations, grandpa, Martini's going to be a Momma.

ESPOSITO

I don't believe it.

QUARRI

So I take it you changed your mind about publication?

ESPOSITO

No way. I'm definitely in.

CUT: Ending music and credits.

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## Ending Credits

You have been listening to Star Trek: Eras – Episode 5: Martini, starring (in order of appearance) Josh Price as Doctor Rafael Esposito, Matt Gulliver as Doctor Jother Quarri, Jim Caswell as Evori, Doug Zeitlin as Lt. Commander Eugene Westlake, Jerry Hallaron as Doctor Max Rembrandt, Steve Cain as Ringo Starkey, Justin Bills as Doctor Hawkeye Forrest, Erick Greeva as Doctor Sevar and Matt Hallaron as Commander Patrick Connerly.

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