

= Looking for par 'Mach in All the Wrong Places =

" Looking for par 'Mach in All the Wrong Places " is the third episode of the fifth season of the American science fiction television series Star Trek : Deep Space Nine , originally airing on October 14 , 1996 in broadcast syndication . The story was written by Ronald D. Moore and directed by actor Andrew J. Robinson , who played the recurring character Garak . The episode received a Nielsen rating of 5 @. @ 7 percent , a slight decrease from the previous week .

Set in the 24th century , the series follows the adventures on Deep Space Nine , a space station located near a stable wormhole between the Alpha and Gamma quadrants of the Milky Way Galaxy . In the episode , Worf (Michael Dorn) becomes infatuated with Grilka , but is unable to pursue her as a result of his dishonor among Klingons . In an adaption of the 19th @-@ century play Cyrano de Bergerac , Worf instead helps Quark (Armin Shimerman) win Grilka 's love . When Quark ? wholly inexperienced in Klingon fighting and mating rituals ? is forced to fight Grilka 's bodyguard to legitimize their relationship , Worf employs a device to remotely control Quark 's body movements in combat , enabling him to defeat his opponent . Jadzia Dax (Terry Farrell) attempts to console the dejected Worf , and becomes the aggressor in a romantic scene between the two . It is revealed that " par 'Mach " is the Klingon word for " love " with an aggressive connotation .

Michael Dorn had originally proposed a story along the lines of Cyrano de Bergerac . Writers were deliberately vague in their depiction of the technology used to help Quark defend himself ; viewers are shown a transmitting device on Worf 's head and a receiver concealed behind Quark 's head , but given no indication of its workings . " Looking for par 'Mach " has been met with mixed critical reception . Many reviewers enjoyed the whimsical nature of the episode , but it has been criticized for a weak plot and the characterisations were both praised and criticized by different critics .

= = Plot = =

Grilka (Mary Kay Adams) , the Klingon ex @-@ wife of Quark (Armin Shimerman) from a " marriage of convenience " (see " The House of Quark ") , unexpectedly boards Deep Space Nine . Although her intentions are unknown , Worf (Michael Dorn) is immediately attracted to her , but is dismayed at her friendliness toward Quark . After unsuccessfully attempting to impress Grilka , Worf is admonished by her adviser , Tumeq , who says that Worf 's dishonor precludes her from mating with him . In pursuing Grilka romantically , Quark finds himself completely unfamiliar with Klingon mating rituals , so he asks Jadzia Dax (Terry Farrell) for help . Worf , eager to prove himself capable of courting a Klingon woman , joins Dax in coaching Quark to win Grilka 's affections . Through diligent efforts to learn Klingon culture , including the holosuite reenactment of an ancient Klingon battle scene , Quark is successful with Grilka . However , her bodyguard , Thopok (Phil Morris) , becomes outraged at the unconventional relationship , and challenges Quark to a fight .

Completely unskilled at combat , Quark stands to either lose Grilka or be killed . Worf again helps the Ferengi ; using a special device implemented by Dax , Worf is able to control Quark 's body movements from an adjacent holosuite and help Quark defend himself with a bat 'leth . Although the device temporarily malfunctions , he ultimately defeats the bodyguard . The scene concludes with Grilka and Quark alone and enamored with one another . Worf opines to Jadzia that Quark is unworthy of such a great Klingon woman , and she counters that Worf 's interest in Grilka is superficial , asserting that there are better options awaiting him . Observing that Worf still fails to see the subtext in her hints , Dax initiates an aggressive romantic encounter . In the next scene , both couples are shown in the infirmary ; Doctor Julian Bashir (Alexander Siddig) treats their wounds and quickly deduces the source of their injuries .

In a subplot , Miles O 'Brien (Colm Meaney) is faced with the increasingly uncomfortable situation of Major Kira Nerys (Nana Visitor) carrying his baby and living with him and his wife , Keiko (Rosalind Chao) (see " Body Parts ") . The two begin to develop feelings of attraction , which are apparent to both Doctor Bashir and Odo (René Auberjonois) , though Keiko remains oblivious . O 'Brien and Kira try to avoid growing closer , but Keiko insists that O 'Brien accompany Kira on a brief retreat to Bajor . As their shuttle is about to depart , Kira reveals that their destination is in a highly

romantic setting , which prompts Miles to back out of the trip ; Kira also changes her plans and decides to visit her boyfriend , First Minister Shakaar , instead .

= = Production and themes = =

The episode boasts the longest title of the series and the second @-@ longest of all Star Trek television installments , behind " For the World Is Hollow and I Have Touched the Sky " of the 1960s series . " Looking for par 'Mach " drew inspiration from the 1897 play *Cyrano de Bergerac* , in which a brilliant Frenchman , resigned to the fact that the woman he adores will never be able to look past his distractingly large nose , helps another man win the lady 's heart by dictating beautiful language from nearby . The idea for a modern adaption of *Cyrano de Bergerac* was proposed by Michael Dorn . " Looking for par 'Mach " was directed by Andrew Robinson , who plays the Cardassian Elim Garak on *Star Trek : Deep Space Nine* . This marked the first time that the actor of a recurring (but not main) Star Trek character had directed an episode in the franchise . Having just received two Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Awards for theatrical directing , Robinson personally asked executive producer Rick Berman to direct an episode of *Deep Space Nine* ; Robinson was pleased to have been assigned this particular episode .

Challenged with inventing an original way for Quark to survive the fight without directly paralleling prior material , writers devised a " holographic puppeteer " system . Worf is seen wearing a headset which allows him to control the body movements of Quark , who is wearing a concealed receiver . It is not made clear how the " virtual control device " works . Indeed , Ronald D. Moore clarified : " I wasn 't interested in explaining it to the viewers . We just buy the premise and move on . " However , science consultant André Bormanis agreed that the " web of sensors and actuators " was conceptually sound . Dan Curry , who originally designed the bat 'leth and helped developed Klingon fighting techniques , was instrumental in choreographing the combat scene between Quark and Thopok . Despite his character 's apparent ineptitude at hand @-@ to @-@ hand combat , Shimerman practiced extensively with a bat 'leth to make Worf 's influence over Quark seem convincing . Shimerman also enlisted the help of a mime artist to improve his technique .

Guest star Joseph Ruskin played Tumek in " Looking for par 'Mach " , and had previously appeared in the *Star Trek : The Original Series* episode " The Gamesters of Triskelion " as well as earlier in " *Deep Space Nine* " in " *Improbable Cause* " . He went on to appear both in the film *Star Trek : Insurrection* and the *Star Trek : Voyager* episode " Gravity " .

= = Reception and home media release = =

" Looking for par 'Mach in All the Wrong Places " was first broadcast on October 14 , 1996 in broadcast syndication . It received a Nielsen rating of 5 @. @ 7 percent , placing it ninth in its timeslot . This represented a slight decrease in viewership from the previous week ; " The Ship " garnered a rating of 6 @. @ 0 percent . In contrast , " Trials and Tribble @-@ ations " was the most @-@ watched episode of the season , with a rating of 7 @. @ 7 percent .

Several reviewers re @-@ watched the episode after the end of the series . Zack Handlen reviewed the episode for *The A.V. Club* in April 2013 . Handlen remarked on the episode 's farcical title and content , noting that the script was largely without substance . However , he granted that the episode served as a welcome change of pace from the ongoing " agonies of war " in the series . He notes that the main plot involving Grilka was " wafer thin " but nonetheless effective in creating humor and introducing the relationship between Dax and Worf . Still , Handlen thought Worf 's strong attraction to Grilka lacked sufficient justification , given Worf 's long @-@ standing desire to maintain solitude on the station . In addition , Handlen disliked the subplot concerning Miles O 'Brien and Major Kira , suggesting that the romantic tension between the two was forced and inconsistent with their personalities .

On his website *Jammer 's Reviews* , Jamahl Epsicokhan praised the episode as being among the show 's " most purely amusing " , while acknowledging the weak plot . Epsicokhan enjoyed Quark 's interactions with other characters , which were rare in that Quark had other motives than his usual

lust for monetary profit . Unlike Handlen , Epsicokhan liked the Kira and O 'Brien scenes , especially near the episode 's close when the characters were set to depart for Bajor . He gave the episode a score of three out of four stars . For the website TrekNation , Michelle Erica Green wrote that she strongly disliked the episode and considered some of its sexual implications " repulsive " . She felt the episode inappropriately objectified its female characters ? having depicted both Quark and Worf as " players " ? and that Worf had neglected to discuss with Dax the risks inherent to Klingon sex rituals . Green was somewhat more receptive to the O 'Brien / Kira storyline , and was fond of the portrayal of pregnancy . Science fiction writer Keith DeCandido reviewed " Looking for par 'Mach " for Tor.com , lauding Ronald D. Moore 's sense of humor on display in the episode , as well as the performances by Nana Visitor and Colm Meaney . In contrast with some other reviewers , DeCandido thought the story stayed true to all involved characters .

The first home media release of " Looking for par 'Mach " was part of a two @-@ episode VHS cassette alongside " ... Nor the Battle to the Strong " in the United Kingdom on October 1 , 1999 . In the United States and Canada , this was followed by a single @-@ episode release on July 10 , 2001 . It was later released on DVD as part of the season 5 box set on October 7 , 2003 .