

FRASIER

"Star Mitzvah"

#40570-224

Written by

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FRASIER

"Star Mitzvah"

#40570-224

CAST

FRASIER CRANE.....KELSEY GRAMMER
MARTIN CRANE.....JOHN MAHONEY
DAPHNE MOON.....JANE LEEVES
NILES CRANE.....DAVID HYDE PIERCE
ROZ DOYLE.....PERI GILPIN

KENNY DALY.....TOM MCGOWAN
LILITH.....BEBE NEUWIRTH
FREDERICK CRANE.....TREVOR EINHORN
NOEL SHEMPKY.....PATRICK KERR
RABBI GENDLER.....COREY FISCHER
STEVE BERMAN.....BRENDAN HILL
GUY.....

SETS

INT. FRASIER'S LIVING ROOM

INT. RADIO STATION/HALLWAY

INT. LILITH'S OFFICE

INT. CAFÉ NERVOSA

INT. SYNAGOGUE

FRASIER - "Star Mitzvah"
#40570-224

ACT ONE	
Scene A	(1)
<u>INT. LILITH'S OFFICE - DAY</u> (Lilith, Frederick)	DAY/1
Scene B	(5)
<u>INT. RADIO STATION HALLWAY -</u> <u>A FEW DAYS LATER</u> (Kenny, Frasier, Guy)	DAY/2
Scene C	(8)
<u>INT. RADIO STATION -</u> <u>MOMENTS LATER</u> (Roz, Frasier, Noel)	DAY/2
Scene D	(14)
<u>INT. FRASIER'S LIVING ROOM -</u> <u>LATER</u> (Martin, Niles, Daphne, Frasier)	DAY/2
Scene E	(22)
<u>INT. RADIO STATION HALLWAY -</u> <u>A FEW DAYS LATER</u> (Noel, Frasier, Kenny)	DAY/3
END OF ACT ONE	
ACT TWO	
Scene H	(26)
<u>INT. CAFÉ NERVOSA - DAY</u> (Frasier, Noel, Roz, Niles, Daphne)	DAY/4
Scene J	(30)
<u>INT. RADIO STATION - A FEW DAYS</u> <u>LATER</u> (Noel, Roz, Frasier (V.O.), Eddie)	DAY/5
Scene K	(34)
<u>INT. SYNAGOGUE - SIMULTANEOUS</u> (Frederick, Rabbi Gendler, Niles, Frasier, Martin, Lilith, Daphne, Steve)	DAY/5
END OF ACT TWO	
CREDIT TAG	
L	()
<u>XXX-XXX</u> (xxx)	XXX/X
END OF SHOW	

FRASIER
"Star Mitzvah"
40570-224

ACT ONE

A

FADE IN:

INT. LILITH'S OFFICE - DAY - DAY/1
(Lilith, Frederick)

FREDDIE SITS AT LILITH'S DESK WRITING OUT AN INVITATION LIST.
LILITH STANDS NEXT TO A LARGE FILING CABINET. SHE PULLS IT
OPEN AND STARTS RIFLING THROUGH FILES. SHE PULLS ONE OUT.

LILITH

Here we are. File A, sub-one, photo
record series 1.0, slide sheet one,
image one of subject Frederick G.
Crane.

FREDERICK

(EMBARRASSED) Mom.

SHE TAKES A SHEET OF SLIDES FROM THE FILE AND SITS NEXT TO
FREDDIE. SHE HOLDS THE SLIDES UP TO THE LIGHT.

LILITH

This is you just an hour after being
wrestled from my grudging womb.

FREDERICK

Gross.

LILITH

If you want, we still have time to put
this in your Bar Mitzvah video.

LILITH CROSSES BACK TO THE FILING CABINET.

FREDERICK

Thanks, but I just want to get through
this thing with a minimum amount of
humiliation.

LILITH

Oh, look at this.

SHE PULLS A LITTLE CLOTH BABY CAP FROM THE FILE DRAWER.

LILITH (CONT'D)

It's your hospital cap; the very combed
cotton that swaddled your little...

LILITH CHOKES UP, BUT MANAGES TO SQUASH THE EMOTION BEFORE IT
BECOMES A FULL-BLOWN TEAR. SHE AND FREDERICK ARE BOTH
SURPRISED.

FREDERICK

Are you okay?

LILITH

Of course I am. It's only natural that there should be some emotional upheaval caused by the impending shift in our relationship. I knew it would come, I just wasn't expecting such a roller coaster. (THEN) All done.

SHE CLOSSES THE FILE CABINET AND GOES OVER TO THE DESK TO LOOK AT WHAT FREDERICK IS DOING. SHE LOOKS AT THE SHEET OF PAPER HE'S WRITING ON.

LILITH (CONT'D)

Is this your list? I didn't realize you wanted to invite so many friends. (FLIPS THROUGH THE NOTEPAD) I don't even know who most of these people are. Nomar Garciaparra?

FREDERICK

He's kind of a long shot.

LILITH

And why are you inviting Steve Berman? I thought you told me he's the biggest nerd in your class.

FREDERICK

He's not so terrible. Besides, he gives big cash presents at Bar Mitzvahs.

LILITH

Frederick. A Bar Mitzvah is a rite of passage, not an excuse for you to collect presents.

FREDERICK

Sorry. You're right. I'll try to trim it down.

CUT TO:

B

FADE IN:

INT. RADIO STATION HALLWAY - A FEW DAYS LATER - DAY/2
(Kenny, Frasier, Guy)

FRASIER IS COMING INTO WORK AND JUST ABOUT TO HEAD INTO THE
BOOTH WHEN KENNY INTERCEPTS HIM, INVITATION IN HAND.

KENNY

Hey, Doc. I can't tell you how touched
I am that Freddie invited me to his Bar
Mitzvah.

FRASIER

He did?

KENNY

Yeah. What a great kid. That's your
son, right?

FRASIER

Yes. I didn't realize you two had met.

KENNY

We haven't. I guess he's probably heard his share of Kenny stories.

FRASIER

From whom?

KENNY

You sly kidder. Well, it sounds like a hoot, but if I don't find someone to drive with me to Boston and share a tent on the way, I probably won't be able to afford to go.

FRASIER NODS APPRECIATIVELY, BUT DOESN'T TAKE THE BAIT.

KENNY (CONT'D)

Fun drive, I bet.

AGAIN, NOTHING FROM FRASIER.

KENNY (CONT'D)

I guess I can just send him something.

FRASIER

I'm sure he'd like that. Thanks,
Kenny.

KENNY CROSSES OFF. FRASIER STEPS TOWARD THE BOOTH AGAIN WHEN SOME GUY DOWN THE HALL WAVES HIS INVITATION AND CALLS OUT.

GUY

Ay, Dr. Crane! Mazel Tov!

7.
(B)

FRASIER FLASHES A WAN SMILE AND GIVES A THUMBS UP BEFORE
ENTERING THE BOOTH. AND WE:

FADE OUT:

C

FADE IN:

INT. RADIO STATION - MOMENTS LATER - DAY/2
(Roz, Frasier, Noel)

FRASIER IS SETTING UP FOR HIS SHOW. ROZ ENTERS HOLDING
ANOTHER BAR MITZVAH INVITATION.

ROZ

Frasier, this is so nice. Freddie
invited me to his Bar Mitzvah.

FRASIER

Yes, apparently the people of
Washington State have made quite an
impression on him.

ROZ

Unfortunately I don't think I can make it. I can't believe he's thirteen already.

FRASIER

I can scarcely think about it without choking up. This is my son, Roz. The little bald candy man who used to fit right here in the crook of my arm.

ROZ

The little bald candy man! That's adorable. I had a boyfriend who used to call his... is it weird that your son is being brought up in a different religion from yours?

FRASIER

Not at all. It's a faith that espouses love, compassion, and duty; education and art. All values I cherish. And though I've played a regrettably small part in his spiritual upbringing, he's honored me by asking if I would say a few words.

ROZ

Oh God, you're going to make a speech?

FRASIER

No, just a sentence or two, telling my son how much he means to me. And in the spirit of the occasion, I'm going to learn it in Hebrew.

NOEL ENTERS FROM THE HALLWAY WEARING A BACKPACK.

NOEL

Hi, Dr. Crane. Hi, Roz. You've never worn that sweater on a Tuesday before.

ROZ

Shouldn't you be on a bus rubbing up against strangers?

ROZ EXITS INTO HER BOOTH.

NOEL

(RE: ROZ) What a hellcat.

FRASIER

Indeed.

NOEL

So I don't think I can make the Bar Mitzvah.

FRASIER

Great. (THEN) I meant that sarcastically, of course. "Great, you can't come. Terrific."

NOEL

Yeah, sorry. Did I overhear you say you want to learn Hebrew?

FRASIER

I don't really want to learn it. I'm saving that pleasure for retirement. But I've composed a short speech and I'd like to say it in Hebrew.

NOEL

Well, I can translate it and teach you how to say it, if you want.

FRASIER

You can? Really? That's perfect.
Thank you.

NOEL

Of course, I'll expect a little something quid pro quo. The Seattle Sci-Fi Convention is this weekend and all the Enterprise captains are making an appearance. I need Scott Bakula's autograph to make my collection complete.

FRASIER

Why can't you get it yourself?

NOEL

I would. But William Shatner's restraining order against me is still in effect. It's so stupid. It wasn't even a real phaser.

FRASIER

For God's sake, Noel, don't you have any friends who can do this?

NOEL

Trust me, there are no friends in the world of Star Trek autography.

FRASIER

I see. Well, I suppose quid pro quo.

NOEL HANDS FRASIER A PICTURE OF SCOTT BAKULA AND A TICKET TO THE CONVENTION.

NOEL

Thank you so much. You'll be the hit of the Bar Mitzvah, I promise. And don't be surprised if you get caught up in all the fun at the convention, too.

FRASIER

I'll try to pace myself.

NOEL

Thanks again, Dr. Crane.

HE STARTS FOR THE DOOR, BUT FRASIER STOPS HIM.

FRASIER

How did you know I would do it?

NOEL

What do you mean?

FRASIER

You must have known I would help you or
you wouldn't be carrying around Scott
Bakula's picture, right?

NOEL

(BEAT) Right.

NOEL EXITS AND WE:

CUT TO:

D

INT. FRASIER'S LIVING ROOM - LATER - DAY/2
(Martin, Niles, Daphne, Frasier)

NILES IS SITTING ON THE COUCH READING A BOOK AS MARTIN ENTERS
FROM HIS ROOM CARRYING A VERY LARGE CAMERA WITH A VERY LARGE
FLASH BULB. HE POINTS IT AT NILES.

MARTIN

Hey, Niles, think fast.

NILES LOOKS UP AND MARTIN SNAPS HIS PICTURE. THERE IS A
BLINDING, ATOMIC FLASH, FOLLOWED BY:

SFX: AN EXTREMELY LOUD, PIERCING WHINE FROM THE CAMERA

NILES

Dad!

AS NILES COVERS HIS EARS, DAPHNE RUSHES IN FROM THE KITCHEN,
ALSO HOLDING HER EARS.

DAPHNE

What is that?

MARTIN

It's my good old Schmeerblad-7XK.

NILES

The blindingest, noisiest, fifteen-pound camera ever produced by the former Soviet Union.

MARTIN

Can you believe it? Somehow it got buried deep down in storage. But me and Eddie found it just in time for the Bar Mitzvah.

DAPHNE

What smells like burning plastic?

MARTIN

That means the flash unit's working.

NILES

I thought the retina-scorching flash meant the flash unit's working.

MARTIN

Not always.

DAPHNE

My grandparents had a special camera. They only used it to take pictures of us kids.

(MORE)

DAPHNE (CONT'D)

But once when they were out, my brother Simon shoved it down his pants and snapped a quick one.

NILES

What on earth for?

DAPHNE

I don't know. But he got quite a beating after Grammy Moon tried to convince the vicar that her camera had captured a miraculous image of the archbishop's ghost.

NILES

Yes, well, this camera has caused its share of embarrassment, too. In high school I was temporarily blinded by the flash before my first prom. The date was disastrous and I was saddled with the reputation of a persistent groper.

NILES CHUCKLES AT THE MEMORY BUT DAPHNE ISN'T LAUGHING.

DAPHNE

You never told me about her. I thought I knew about everyone.

NILES

You're actually jealous of a disastrous prom date. That is so cute.

FRASIER ENTERS. MARTIN IMMEDIATELY TURNS AND SNAPS HIS PICTURE. POP! WHINE! FRASIER IS STUNNED.

FRASIER

Dear God. The old Flash-and-Whine.

NILES

Yes. Dad found it.

MARTIN

Good thing, too. Hasn't failed me yet.
Except at your wedding, Fras, when the
flash washed out Lilith so bad all you
could see was her hair and eyes.

FRASIER

That's not the camera's fault.

Whenever it snowed in Boston, children
thought I was holding hands with the
invisible man.

MARTIN

Hey, Daph, do you know where the tripod
is? I might need it for group shots.

DAPHNE

I think it's at the back of your
closet. Come on, I'll help you look.

MARTIN AND DAPHNE EXIT TOWARD MARTIN'S ROOM. FRASIER, STILL
RUBBING HIS EYES, STAGGERS TOWARD THE SHERRY.

FRASIER

Sherry, Niles?

NILES

I'll get it. You might break
something.

FRASIER

Thank you. I'm actually dizzy.

NILES

Well, you'll feel much better when I tell you I have two tickets for the Udo Fritzenheim show at the museum tomorrow. Not to mention a reservation for lunch with the artist afterwards.

FRASIER

Are you serious? I'd love to come.

Oh, but I can't. I have other plans.

NILES

How can you say no to Udo Fritzenheim?

FRASIER

It's very difficult. But I made a promise to Noel Shempsky and I am a man of my word. Although... perhaps if I went to the Fritzenheim show, but left lunch early, I'd still have time to meet my obligation.

NILES

Of course you would.

NILES HANDS FRASIER HIS SHERRY.

FRASIER

You're right. Udo Fritzenheim, Niles! You know, when you lunch with a Dada master, anything can happen.

NILES

And probably ostrich trumpet!

THEY SHARE A SELF-SATISFIED LAUGH AND CLINK GLASSES.

SFX: NILES'S CELL PHONE RINGS

NILES (CONT'D)

Excuse me.

HE CROSSES OFF TO TAKE THE CALL. FRASIER CROSSES OVER TO THE PICTURE OF FREDERICK BY THE DOOR. MARTIN AND DAPHNE ENTER.

MARTIN

Good news, Fras. Found the tripod.

FRASIER

What? Oh, splendid.

MARTIN

(NOTICING THE PICTURE) It's tough to see your kids grow up.

FRASIER

He's only thirteen. Still just a boy.

MARTIN

(PUTS HIS HAND ON FRASIER'S SHOULDER)

It goes fast.

DAPHNE

How is Lilith taking it?

NILES REJOINS THE GROUP.

FRASIER

I imagine it's bittersweet for her, but Lilith is a master of concealing her emotion.

NILES

Oh, come now, Frasier. I've seen her
get quite emotional.

FRASIER

I'm sure you have, Mr. Been-There-Done-
That.

DAPHNE

What does that mean?

THERE'S A BEAT OF PAINFUL SILENCE, THEN:

NILES/FRASIER/MARTIN

Nothing.

DAPHNE

What are you hiding?

NILES

Some years ago...

FRASIER

In a drunken stupor...

MARTIN

Yeah, totally stinko...

NILES

I had a one night stand with Lilith.
After Maris, but long before you. It's
pretty funny when you think about it.
Ha ha.

FRASIER

Ancient history. No harm no foul. Ice
floe under the bridge, if you will.

MARTIN

(TO FRASIER) That's good.

DAPHNE

When were you planning to tell me?

NILES

Soon. Very soon. Never, I guess.

DAPHNE

Is there anyone else you've slept with
who I see on a regular basis?

NILES

No, nobody. Nobody? Nobody.

FRASIER

I certainly wouldn't count Anamarie
Hanratty from the Natural History
Museum.

NILES

Frasier!

FRASIER

I said I wouldn't count her. (TO
DAPHNE) They only made out. For
charity. And she makes out with
everyone so it's not really the same...

SENSING DISASTER, FRASIER HITS THE BUTTON ON MARTIN'S CAMERA.
AFTER THE FLASH, NILES, DAPHNE AND MARTIN RUB THEIR EYES.
WHEN THEY OPEN THEM, FRASIER IS GONE, AND WE:

CUT TO:

E

FADE IN:

INT. RADIO STATION HALLWAY - A FEW DAYS LATER - DAY/3
(Noel, Frasier, Kenny)

FRASIER IS JUST LEAVING THE OFFICE WHEN NOEL INTERCEPTS HIM.

NOEL

Hi, Dr. Crane. Ready for Yeshiva
tomorrow? That means school.

FRASIER

Indeed I am. But I'm afraid I have
some very bad news about the science
fiction convention.

NOEL

Uh oh.

FRASIER

Long story short: I went to an art opening and a lunch on Saturday, and though I left early, the traffic to the Convention Center was awful. By the time I got there, Mr. Bakula and all the others had gone.

NOEL

No! You tried to beat traffic on a Star-con weekend?

FRASIER

Noel, I'm very sorry. I did, however, pick up a pair of whimsical elf ears for you.

HE PULLS A PAIR OF SPOCK EARS FROM HIS JACKET POCKET.

NOEL

That's not what I asked for. You made a promise and you welshed on it. Why'd you do it, Dr. Crane?

FRASIER

It's really not such a big deal, is it?

NOEL

It's a huge deal. Who knows when I'll get to Scott Bakula again? I'll be the laughing stock of my clan.

FRASIER

Noel, try to remem -- clan? Never mind. You are aware that Star Trek is just a TV show.

NOEL

So was "Brideshead Revisited".

FRASIER

You're angry, so I'm going to ignore that. But with all due respect, maybe weaning yourself off science fiction could be the first step toward developing a genuine, meaningful, grown-up person's life. Just a friendly suggestion.

NOEL IS STUNNED, BUT PULLS IT TOGETHER.

NOEL

You're right. You did your best and that's good enough for me.

FRASIER

Thank you. And you'll still be my tutor?

NOEL

Sure.

FRASIER

Good man, Noel. Thanks. See you tomorrow.

FRASIER EXITS. NOEL FUMES, WATCHING FRASIER GO.

NOEL

Oh yes, you will see me tomorrow. And
by the rings of Septaurus Five, you
will pay, Dr. Crane. You -- (THEN) Oh,
hi, Kenny.

KENNY WALKS PAST.

NOEL (CONT'D)

-- will pay!

AND WE:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

H

FADE IN:

INT. CAFE NERVOSA - DAY - DAY/4
(Frasier, Noel, Roz, Niles, Daphne)

FRASIER IS SITTING AT A TABLE WITH NOEL, FINISHING THE HEBREW LESSON. ROZ ENTERS IN TIME TO HEAR THE END.

FRASIER

"...Shoave dah nobe poo boagh."

NOEL

Very good, Dr. Crane. You could stand to practice your aspirate glottal rolls. "Ch-ch." Think of the composer, "Bach."

FRASIER

With pleasure.

ROZ

That sounded great, Frasier.

FRASIER

Thank you. I owe it all to my teacher.
(TO NOEL) I hope you know how grateful
I am. And how sorry I am about that
autograph.

NOEL

(GETTING UP TO LEAVE) It's okay. I was
mad when it happened, but I know how
important this is to you. Good luck.
(THEN, TO ROZ) If you'd ever like to
learn a foreign tongue, give me a call.

ROZ

Noel, I've forgotten more about foreign
tongue than you'll ever know.

NOEL STANDS SLACK-JAWED, STUNNED AND SMITTEN.

FRASIER

All right, show's over. Move on.

NOEL EXITS, PASSING NILES AND DAPHNE ON THE WAY IN.

NILES

Hello, mind if we join you?

FRASIER

Not at all, have a seat. By the way, I
heard from my travel agent. There are
no earlier flights to Boston.

DAPHNE

Tough break, darling. I know you were
in a huge rush to get there.

NILES

Okay, are we going to start this again?

ROZ

Start what?

DAPHNE

My husband is very eager to get to Boston and see his former lover. I won't mention names, but hint: she's his ex-sister-in-law.

ROZ

Oh my God -- Lilith?

NILES

It happened a long time ago and I wasn't in my right mind.

FRASIER

Absolutely -- ages ago. Just like Roz and Donny. I mean, Daphne doesn't mind that Roz slept with Donny before he was with Daphne, right? We have to live in the present. (OFF DAPHNE'S SHOCKED LOOK) Oh, look at the time. I've got to run. Bye, everyone.

FRASIER MAKES A QUICK EXIT AS DAPHNE, ROZ AND NILES SIT IN SILENCE.

DAPHNE

You slept with Donny?

ROZ

Before you even knew him. He didn't
mention it?

DAPHNE

Must have slipped his mind. What else
don't I know? Has everyone slept with
everyone else?

NILES

Speaking for myself, of course not.
Roz?

DAPHNE

I know it's not a big deal. I wouldn't
even care, really. Especially not
about Donny and Roz.

NILES

Good --

DAPHNE

But now whenever I see Lilith, I'm
always going to think about the two of
you together.

THEY SADLY CHEW ON THAT FOR A BEAT. THEN DAPHNE STARTS TO
SMILE. THEN SHE STARTS TO LAUGH. AND NOW ROZ JOINS HER.

NILES

I think I liked it better when you were
mad.

ON HIS PAINED REACTION, WE:

CUT TO:

J

INT. RADIO STATION - A FEW DAYS LATER - DAY/5
(Noel, Roz, Frasier (V.O.), Eddie)

EDDIE SITS IN ROZ'S CHAIR.

ROZ

(INTO MIC) You're listening to "The
Best of Crane" on KACL.

SHE PRESSES A BUTTON AND A TAPE STARTS. SHE TURNS DOWN THE
VOLUME IN HER BOOTH AS NOEL ENTERS FROM THE HALL.

NOEL

Well, well, the fox and the hound
working together. How ironic.

DURING THE FOLLOWING, EDDIE JUMPS OFF THE CHAIR AND RUNS INTO
FRASIER'S BOOTH.

ROZ

I'm just watching him until Frasier
gets back from Boston. He left
something for you, by the way.

NOEL

He did?

ROZ HANDS NOEL A PACKAGE FROM UNDER HER DESK. HE STARTS TO
OPEN IT.

ANGLE ON: EDDIE IS NOW SITTING IN FRASIER'S CHAIR. HE COCKS
HIS HEAD AT THE SOUND OF FRASIER'S VOICE, WHICH IS LOUDER THAN
IN ROZ'S BOOTH. FRASIER IS TALKING TO A CALLER.

FRASIER (V.O.)

Interesting question. You're
absolutely right about beauty being in
the eye of the beholder.

EDDIE JUMPS UP ONTO THE TABLE, AGITATED BY FRASIER'S VOICE.

FRASIER (V.O.) (CONT'D)

In fact, I once knew a particular woman
who you might call rather plain...
Actually, she was more like... Oh, how
can I describe her?

EDDIE STEPS ON THE MIC BUTTON AND BARKS. HE STEPS OFF IT.

FRASIER (V.O.) (CONT'D)

I know that may sound a little
insensitive, but it's the truth.

ROZ RUSHES INTO TO THE BOOTH AND TAKES EDDIE OFF THE TABLE AND
PUTS HIM ON THE FLOOR.

ROZ

Eddie, no.

ROZ GOES BACK TO HER SIDE OF THE BOOTH.

ANGLE ON: NOEL, WHO IS HOLDING A WIG. HE'S VERY DISTRESSED.

ROZ (CONT'D)

Whoa, that's pretty cruel, even for
Frasier.

NOEL

Cruel? It's only the wig Joan Collins
wore in Star Trek 28, "City on the Edge
of Forever". It's probably still got
her DNA in it.

~~ROZ PICKS UP THE CARD AND READS:~~

ROZ

"Dear Noel, I hope this begins to repay
you for your great kindness to me,
especially in light of my negligence.
Your friend, Frasier Crane."

NOEL

He called me "friend."

ROZ

That was really sweet.

NOEL STARTS FUMBLING FOR HIS CELL PHONE, WHICH LOOKS LIKE A
STAR TREK COMMUNICATOR.

NOEL

I've got to call him before he delivers
his speech.

ROZ

Oh, my God. You taught him dirty words
in Hebrew, didn't you?

NOEL

Not quite. They're the right words,
but they're in Klingon.

ROZ

From Star Trek? That's not even real,
is it?

NOEL

It's the fastest growing language on
the planet! This is what you people
don't understand. Way back in 1967, a
man named Gene Roddenberry had a
vision --

ROZ

Call him!

AS NOEL FURIOUSLY PUNCHES IN FRASIER'S NUMBER, WE:

CUT TO:

K

INT. SYNAGOGUE - SIMULTANEOUS - DAY/5

(Frederick, Rabbi Gendler, Niles, Frasier, Martin, Lilith, Daphne, Steve)

IN A MODEST BUT FULL BOSTON REFORM SYNAGOGUE, FRASIER, LILITH AND RABBI GENDLER SIT IN CHAIRS ON A RAISED STAGE, FACING THE CONGREGATION. FREDERICK IS AT A DAIS ON THE STAGE, FINISHING THE BLESSING AFTER THE HAFTARAH READING. AMONG THE GUESTS, NILES SITS SANDWICHED BETWEEN DAPHNE AND MARTIN. THE MEN ALL WEAR YARMULKES.

FREDERICK

...Yit-ba-rach shim-cha b'fi kol chai,
tamid, l'o-lam va-ed. Ba-ruch a-tah, A-
do-nai, m'ka-deish ha-Sha-bat.

RABBI GENDLER CROSSES TO FREDERICK.

RABBI GENDLER

Yasher koach, Frederick. That was a
beautiful passage, and a wonderful --

THERE IS A BLINDING FLASH AND A HIGH-PITCHED WHINE. FREDERICK
AND THE RABBI WINCE.

NILES (O.S.)

Dad!

FREDERICK COVERS HIS EYES WITH ONE HAND, EMBARRASSED.

RABBI GENDLER

It was a wonderful reading. You have
honored us all --

SFX: FRASIER'S CELL PHONE RINGS

HE QUICKLY SCRAMBLES TO TURN IT OFF.

RABBI GENDLER (CONT'D)

You have honored us all by including us
in this important occasion. But you
have chosen to specially honor your
parents, Lilith and Frasier, by asking
them to conclude this ceremony.

HE TURNS TO LILITH.

RABBI GENDLER (CONT'D)

Lilith?

LILITH STANDS, COOL AND COLLECTED. THERE'S ANOTHER BRIGHT
FLASH AND THE TERRIBLE WHINE.

RABBI GENDLER (CONT'D)

Excuse me, but could the photographer
please refrain from taking any more
pictures until after the ceremony is over?

MARTIN (O.S.)

Sorry, Rabbi.

LILITH GETS TO THE PODIUM AS FREDERICK AND THE RABBI TAKE A SEAT BEHIND HER. FREDERICK LOOKS A LITTLE WORRIED.

LILITH

Thank you so much. I am very proud to participate in the coming of age ritual of my son, Frederick Gaylord Crane.

THERE'S A JUVENILE GUFFAW FROM SOME YOUNG GUESTS. FREDERICK NOW LOOKS MORTIFIED.

LILITH (CONT'D)

Like all parents, I have delighted in my child's development, from precognition to abstract reasoning. And yet even now, when I look at him, I still see that small, objectively beautiful...

LILITH STARTS TO CHOKE UP.

LILITH (CONT'D)

I still see... (COMPOSED) Forgive me. I seem to be experiencing an ill-timed instinctual reaction. It is interesting to note that many mammals endure a similar response when they part with... when they say goodbye to... to their weensy apple-bottom noodle heads. Look at him. That's my chuggy-wuggy gurgle-burger.

LILITH RUSHES TO FREDERICK AND SMOTHERS HIM IN A HUG.

ANGLE ON: DAPHNE AND NILES.

DAPHNE CAN BARELY CONTAIN HER GLEE. NILES LOOKS ON, STOIC.

DAPHNE

You sure know how to pick 'em. Did she
have any pet names for you?

WE WIDEN OUT TO REVEAL MARTIN, NEXT TO NILES. HE'S ON THE
BRINK OF TEARS. HE TURNS TO HIS SON.

MARTIN

Come here, Daddy's little peanut man!

MARTIN SMOTHERS NILES IN A HUG. NILES IS IN HELL.

ANGLE ON: THE STAGE.

THE RABBI HAS MANAGED TO STEER LILITH TO HER SEAT. SHE'S
SLOWLY RECOVERING. FREDERICK IS HOLDING HER HAND, BUT HE'S
STILL EMBARRASSED.

LILITH

You go ahead, Frasier. I can't finish.

(TO THE GUESTS) I'll post the rest of
my remarks on the lab's website.

FRASIER

(TO LILITH) It'll be all right.

RABBI GENDLER GOES TO THE MIC.

RABBI GENDLER

We'll conclude with a blessing from
Frederick's father, Frasier Crane, who
has chosen to follow his son's fine
example and deliver it in Hebrew.

FRASIER

(SOTTO, TO FREDERICK) Don't worry. I
promise I'll keep this very short.

FREDERICK

Thanks, Dad.

FRASIER GETS UP TO THE PODIUM. HE TAKES A NOTE CARD FROM HIS
POCKET AND PUTS IT ON THE PODIUM. HE HALF-READS AND HALF-
RECITES:

FRASIER

Pookh lod wih le koo. Hach jahj cho-
koov-moakh leng-lidge loo-Teb-jahj leng
widge-vahd bel rahp, shoave dah-nobe-
poo-boagh. (THEN) Shabbat Shalom.

THE RABBI IS ON HIS FEET. THE GUESTS ARE SILENT. SOME LOOK
CONFUSED.

ANGLE ON: DAPHNE AND NILES.

DAPHNE

Oh, that was lovely, wasn't it?

ANGLE ON: THE STAGE. THE RABBI IS FURIOUS.

RABBI GENDLER

What was that gobbledy-gook?

FRASIER

What do you mean? It was a blessing
for my son. "Pookh Lod Wih Le Koo."

RABBI GENDLER

That means nothing. It's gibberish.

A KID STANDS UP FROM AMONG THE GUESTS. IT'S STEVE BERMAN, A
SOMEWHAT NERDY LOOKING KID.

STEVE

That wasn't gibberish, it was Klingon.

RABBI GENDLER

What?

FRASIER

Oh, dear God.

STEVE

Freddie's dad just blessed him in Klingon.

FRASIER TURNS TO FREDDIE, BUT FREDDIE WON'T MEET HIS GAZE. A RIPPLE OF LAUGHTER BEGINS TO SPREAD THROUGH THE CROWD. FRASIER TURNS TO THE GUESTS.

FRASIER

Obviously, a terrible mistake has been made. I am deeply sorry.

THE LAUGHING IS LOUDER AND EVEN THE RABBI SMILES A LITTLE.

RABBI GENDLER

Better to end with laughter than tears. Despite an unusual turn or two, we have come together for a wonderful moment in Frederick's life. I don't know how they say it in outer space, but here we say "ahava and shalom." Love and peace.

Dinner will be served in the common room in twenty minutes.

RABBI GENDLER SHAKES FRASIER'S HAND, BEFORE CROSSING TO LILITH. FRASIER IS STILL A LITTLE SHELL-SHOCKED. HE TRIES TO GO TO FREDDIE, BUT FREDERICK TURNS HIS BACK ON HIM TO TAKE THE RABBI'S CONGRATULATIONS, AS A FEW OTHER GUESTS START TO TAKE THE STAGE. AFTER A BEAT, FRASIER LEAVES THE STAGE AND HEADS TO THE BACK OF THE SYNAGOGUE.

FREDERICK

(TO LILITH) I didn't think it could get worse than "gurgle-burger." But that was the most embarrassing thing that's ever happened to me.

ATOMIC FLASH, DEAFENING WHINE. FREDDIE AND LILITH BLINK HARD A COUPLE OF TIMES.

LILITH

You know he didn't mean to embarrass you.

FREDERICK

He never means to, but he always does.

LILITH

Yes, but... no, you're right. He always does.

STEVE BERMAN JOINS THEM.

STEVE

That was awesome!

FREDERICK

Shut up, Berman.

STEVE

Seriously, dude, I've been to like thirty Bar Mitzvahs this year, and this was the coolest one yet. Your dad's Klingon is really good.

LILITH

(TO STEVE) Did you understand what he said?

STEVE

Of course. Here, I'll translate.

STEVE GRABS FRASIER'S NOTE CARD FROM THE PODIUM.

STEVE (CONT'D)

"My dearest son. Each day, you redeem me. May your journey be filled with the same joy, wisdom and purpose that you have given mine."

LILITH

What a lovely thing to say.

STEVE

It's a lot more beautiful in Klingon. But it's still pretty cool. My dad never said anything like that to me.

ANGLE ON: FRASIER.

FRASIER IS AT THE BACK OF THE SYNAGOGUE, TRYING TO AVOID TALKING TO ANY GUESTS AS THEY FILE PAST. MARTIN COMES OVER TO HIM. NILES AND DAPHNE ARE RIGHT BEHIND.

MARTIN

Fras. What the hell was that?

FOR ONCE, FRASIER DOESN'T HAVE AN ANSWER.

NILES

That was stunning. Truly.

FRASIER NODS GUILTILY. LILITH COMES OVER.

FRASIER

Lilith, I will submit to any rebuke, reproach or tongue-lashing you wish to give.

LILITH

I thought it was a wonderful gesture,
Frasier.

FRASIER

You're right, I deserve that. Wait,
what?

LILITH

The intention was good. You tried your
best.

FRASIER

And failed. I embarrassed our son.
I'm sorry.

LILITH

Don't tell me, tell... (SPOTTING
FREDDIE) little mister tumble-bug!

SHE STARTS CRYING AGAIN, AND FRASIER HUGS HER. FREDERICK
COMES OVER, HOLDING THE NOTE CARD.

FRASIER

Frederick, I'm so sorry. It was a
terrible mistake. See, there's this
fellow at work, and he was going to
teach me how to say what I'd written in
Hebrew --

FREDERICK

I don't really need to hear it, Dad.

FRASIER

Right. I'm sorry I embarrassed you.

FREDERICK

Everyone has embarrassing parents, but you're in a class by yourself. In a perverse way, it's almost cool.

FRASIER

Really? So it was okay?

FREDERICK

Yeah. Berman translated it for me. It was definitely okay. You gave me an unforgettable Bar Mitzvah, Dad.

FREDDIE HUGS FRASIER. FRASIER HUGS BACK.

FRASIER

Thank you.

NILES AND DAPHNE HUG THEM, AND LILITH JOINS IN, BUT DAPHNE WIGGLES AROUND SO THAT SHE'S BETWEEN LILITH AND NILES.

MARTIN (O.S.)

Hey, everybody, look over here.

THEY ALL LOOK UP INTO THE CAMERA. POP! WHINE! ON THEIR FROZEN, DAZED, WASHED-OUT EXPRESSIONS WE:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO