

Redeeming Features

Cast Captain Bad-Luck Picard, Breakdown Agent

Scene: on a Starfleet Shuttle

- C Computer. Begin log. Captain's log, Stardate 45654.2. Whilst on course for Starbase 35, my shuttle's blown a warp coil and have called for help and am awaiting assistance. I have now been waiting for two hours and 23 minutes even though they promised to be here 35 minutes after call-out. Perhaps I should have joined the RAC after all. End log. (*looks around twiddleing fingers*) Come on. (*another gap whilst he twiddles fingers*)
- B (*Radio*) Calling Federation Shuttle do you read me.
- C Yes, receiving
- B Is that Captain Bad-Luck Picard
- C This is Interstellar Breakdown here, I am about to rendezvous with you.
- C About time. What kept you.
- B Oh there was a multiple pile up of freighters around Alpha Centuri, so they had to call me out from Arcturus for you as all our units were out to that.
- C Better late than never.
- B Just a minute and I'll beam over.
- C (*enters*) Right. What I first need to see is your membership card
- C (*hands card*) There you are
- B (*examines it*) I'm sorry you have the wrong cover here. This card is for a starship. It doesn't cover shuttles. You need Comprehensive Starship Cover with home start. You only have Starship Recovery which will tow your starship and not one of its shuttles to the nearest starbase. Sorry.
- C What am I supposed to do now?
- B You could try thumbing a lift.
- C Ha ha. It will take 30 years to get to Starbase 35 on impulse power. Can't you do anything?
- B Just a minute. I will ask Control. (*gets out mobile phone*) Hello Control. ... Heel Hello What an appalling connection. I thought Star Mobile's coverage was better than this out here. Yes, I'm with this Bad-Luck Picard guy now...
- C Guy... guy ..I'm a Starfleet Captain
- B Yes with the wrong cover. (*speaks into phone*) Yes, he's only got Starship cover. Shall I return to base? That seems reasonable. The controller says you can have a tow to Starbase 35 for 50 strips of gold-pressed latinum. That takes your cover up to the correct level for a tow. Is that OK?
- C But I don't have any latinum on me. This is a Starfleet vessel. We did away with money years ago so we don't carry any.
- B We take Visa, Mastercard and American Express
- C But we phased out plastic too.
- B Well.. tough - I'm going. You can find your own way home. See you in 30 years time.
- C No, no. Just a minute. Is there nobody that could help?
- B Well, I hear there is a Ferengi guy that could help you.
- C Ferengi. I hate Ferengi. They're the meanest guys around. They'd sell their own mother to make a profit. All they want is to acquire. Helping is not in their nature. Did you know what they tried to do with my ship once?

B No
C But it was on Start Trek

B I don't watch that - I'm more of a Coronation Street sort of person. Anyway this one's really nice and helpful.
C Well, I guess you'd better ring him then - although helpful isn't a word I'd use for a Ferengi.

B (*phones*) Hello, is that Damon Bok commander of the Ferengi trade ship Jeffery Archer? ..Yes.. Good. I've got this Federation Captain Bad-Luck Pikelet or something like that... yes .. Picard is what I meant and he's stuck in a shuttle. Can you lend her 50 strips of gold pressed latinum to help her home? What? Really? That's very generous of you... (*to Picard*) He's going to give the latinum to you to help you get home. He'll be passing in 10 minutes and will beam it over if you want it.
C Damon Bok? You must be joking. He does the meanest deals.
B Well, he's your redemption - he's paid the price in full.
C But why should I trust him? He's Ferengi. Ferengi are people that never give something for nothing.
B Does that make a difference? I'd never refuse that kind of freebie. He said free - no catches.
C I really don't know.
B He's your redeemer right now - either that or 30 years to Starbase 35.
C I suppose you're right.
B Well if you'd just like to come aft and fill in the paperwork, we'll get you out of here when the latinum arrives.
C (*both exit*) Have you never seen an episode of Start Trek before ... not even the ones with Captain Kirk and Mr Spock Beam me up Scotty and all that.