

STAR TREK VOYAGER®

EPISODE #237

“SPIRIT FOLK”

The Voyager crew makes first contact with a holodeck program.

Tom Paris and the rest of the crew are spending a lot of time in his holodeck creation—the quaint, Irish town of Fair Haven. When one of the townspeople, Seamus, witnesses the broken tire on Tom’s buggy transformed to a new one by the computer, he reports the unnatural powers to the rest of the crowd gathered at the bar. Superstitious, Seamus suspects Tom and the others are spirit folk known to practice black magic. His suspicions are confirmed when he witnesses a local girl transformed into a cow as a joke on Harry.

Seamus and Milo bring Maggie the cow into church as proof of the spirit folks’ unholy magic. The Doctor claims he saw the girl at her flower stand and secretly beams her there to back up his story. However, Maggie remembers her night as a cow as if it were a dream. This is enough to get the rest of the town talking about their observances of the spirit folk vanishing into thin air and changing the weather. Finally, Michael Sullivan confronts Janeway about the charges, insisting she tell him who she really is. Torn, Janeway ends the program instead.

There are damaged subroutines in all the character files, which is why the townspeople are asking so many questions. Tom and Harry reset Sullivan’s perceptual filters, but he catches on and just pretends to be repaired. Instead, he spreads the news that the spirit folk are coming that night to perform some sort of unholy magic on the town. When Tom and Harry arrive at the pub to resequence the program’s algorithms, Seamus and the others are waiting to capture them. They shoot at the computer, causing the holodeck’s emergency override to malfunction.

Because the townspeople weren’t programmed to be violent, Janeway hesitates to cut power to the program, which would destroy all the relationships they have built. Instead, she sends the Doctor to attach transport enhancers to Tom and Harry so they can be beamed to safety. However, the Doctor is also taken hostage, and his mobile emitter is disengaged. He becomes integrated into the Fair Haven matrix and reveals the truth about Voyager. Insisting on seeing the ship and Janeway for himself, Sullivan uses the mobile emitter to beam to the bridge.

Although what he sees is beyond his comprehension, Sullivan understands that Voyager is a starship of explorers who mean no harm to Fair Haven. He returns with Janeway to ask the townsfolk to accept the Voyager crew as friends, pointing out none of their magic was used to hurt anyone—in fact, it was meant to help. They agree, and Janeway decides not to erase their memories of the past few days. If the Voyager crew can accept new species, maybe the people of Fair Haven can too.



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CAST

CAPTAIN KATHRYN JANEWAY
CHAKOTAY
B'ELANNA TORRES
TOM PARIS
NEELIX
THE DOCTOR
TUVOK
SEVEN OF NINE
HARRY KIM

KATE MULGREW
ROBERT BELTRAN
ROXANN DAWSON
ROBERT DUNCAN MCNEILL
ETHAN PHILLIPS
ROBERT PICARDO
TIM RUSS
JERI RYAN
GARRETT WANG

GUEST STARRING

SEAMUS
MILO
DOC FITZGERALD
MAGGIE
GRACE

RICHARD RIEHLE
IAN ABERCROMBIE
IAN PATRICK WILLIAMS
HENRIETTE IVANANS
DUFFIE MCINTIRE

AND SPECIAL GUEST STAR

MICHAEL

FINTAN MCKEOWN

Written by:

BRYAN FULLER

Directed by:

DAVID LIVINGSTON

HIGHLIGHT LISTING

STAR TREK: VOYAGER: "Spirit Folk"—The Voyager crew makes first contact with a holodeck program.

ADVERTISING HEADLINE

PERCEPTION OR REALITY?
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