

Women at Warp Episode 64: Are You There, Women? It's Me, Internet.

Grace: Hi and welcome to Women at Warp, a Roddenberry Star Trek podcast. Join us as our crew of four women Star Trek fans boldly go on our biweekly mission to explore our favorite franchise. My name is Grace and thanks for tuning in. With us this week we have the whole dang crew; we've got the amazing Andi.

Andi: Hello.

Grace: The sensational Sue.

Sue: Hi everybody.

Grace: And jingoistic Jarrah.

All: *laughter*

Jarrah: Hopefully not too much. Go Canada. Canada's the best, except for our long legacy of indigenous genocide. Other than that, we have a super-hot prime minister, you guys... and also doughnuts.

Grace: Timmy Horton's take me away.

Grace: Today we're going to be answering some listener questions but we have a little bit of housekeeping to do first. Our show is entirely supported by our patrons on Patreon. If you'd like to become a patron you can do so for as little as a dollar a month and get awesome rewards, from thanks on social media up to silly watch-along commentaries. Visit us at www.patreon.com/womenatwarp. You can also support us by leaving a rating or review on Apple podcasts or wherever you get your podcasts. And now onto our questions. Much as Aristotle said 'the unexamined life is not worth living', we believe the unexamined Star Trek episode is not worth watching. Thank you all listeners for keeping us on our toes and for helping us remember what we might have missed. So to start out, we've got a quick comment from Willow via Facebook. "Love your insights as always. Just curious are there things you *do* like about Enterprise?".

Sue: Y'all get called out.

Jarrah: Yes, and I thought that it made sense to include in the same question a related question that we had from Mayan on via Twitter who said "Dear @Womenatwarp, I've never watched Enterprise. As a woman and a Trekkie, I worry. Should I?". So, yeah we're like let's take the bull by the horns and do this question first.

Grace: Might as well, we're jumping full on, feet first into our pit full of mansplaining sharks.

Sue: So I will take the bullet, I guess. There are things that I like about Enterprise, but in general they tended to be overarching things and when you break it down into like episode by episode there are just littler things that make me cringe. Examples of that: I really like the uniforms, I know they're not our standard, you know, Star Trek uniforms and our primary colors but they're super-practical and they make a ton of sense...

Grace: And they they do look like they could be a really, really early on version of the Starfleet uniforms like that early functional version...

Sue: Right, but they're so much more practical than anything else you see.

Jarrah: So many pockets...

Grace: Right?

Sue: And pants! Pants for everyone.

Sue: Because if you're crawling around Jeffries tubes you want something covering your legs, right?

Grace: And your ass.

Sue: That too.

Grace: You are literally leaving your ass uncovered otherwise.

Sue: I like a lot of, especially in the later seasons, the more developed longer storylines when they break them up and do them over a few episodes. Specifically, I really like when they get into the Vulcan storylines and I actually I think I'm one of the few people who really enjoys the Xindi arc. I find the Xindi and the way that their races and cultures are set up to be... I think is really interesting and that's a culture that I want to know more about.

Grace: They definitely raise a lot of questions. Not in the sense just that "Well hey that raises more questions than it answers" but I did like what they were starting to get through with the Xindi and I for one really like the amount of build on Andorian culture that we got to see. I thought it was really cool that we got to see that sort of first generation Star Trek alien species yet creatively built on some more...

Jarrah: Shran, Shran, Shran, Shran.

Grace: Shran as hell. Yes.

Grace: And also just a really big fan of any time we get to see an old species of alien get built on rather than just kind of tossing in a new half-baked species. And again, Shran. Shran.

Sue: I would say I even enjoy the introduction and the conflict with the Makos because there's even some you know we always joke about how it's a military organization but it's not a military organization, Starfleet that is, and we actually get to see them sort of struggle with those distinctions and come to terms with having commandos basically on the bridge of a starship. So there are bigger things that I think are really interesting, but there are also some issues.

Jarrah: Yeah, I would say I agree. I mean I would definitely highlight the costumes I also really like a few of the other episodes later on where they brought back some other previous Star Trek cultures in new ways. I really love the episode "Judgment" [Star Trek: Enterprise S02E19] that has J.G. Hertzler and Scott Bakula in Rura Penthe and sort of talking about the cultural history of the Klingon Empire and thought that was super cool. I liked the Borg episode. So there are definitely I would say some standout episodes. I think that overall you know the challenge though is it feels like, and if you read like the fifty year mission in some of the other behind the scenes books it feels like the writers were, and when I say the writers I mean primarily Rick Berman were, basically just like "phew, we're done checking all the diversity boxes, we don't have to try that hard any more". Yeah, and you can see that filtered down even to the background scenes where you'll see like a whole engineering team that's like five white people and four of them are men.

Grace: Yeah.

Jarrah: And if you start to stack it up against Voyager, you know Voyager had a lot of uneven storytelling too and uneven characters and underutilised characters but it just felt more like a future that I still would like to live in.

Grace: More like a future that isn't just for, you know, the white boys.

Jarrah: Yeah. So I mean I would say it's worth giving Enterprise a try. I would say you know if you start at the very beginning, you might get discouraged, a lot of people get discouraged in the first season like you might if you started watching the first season of Next Generation right out of nowhere.

Grace: There's Next Generation bad and then there's then there's Enterprise bad though.

Jarrah: Well it's definitely less campy funny bad, but I'm sure you can find lists of like the best Enterprise episodes so you could go through and cherry pick or you could start like near the end of Season Two and watch what pretty much everyone agrees is the best part of Enterprise and then go back once you are ready or into the characters

Grace: Actually Wired has a pretty good binge watching guide for it if you want to look it up on their website [<https://www.wired.com/2015/07/binge-guide-star-trek-enterprise/>].

Jarrah: Oh cool.

Jarrah: We'll put that in the show notes too.

Andi: Or you could be like me and be forced to suffer through all of the episodes and also tweet them.

Sue: Hey, you brought this upon yourself.

Andi: It's true... I signed up for it, but I don't know that I'm super looking forward to it. I am trying to keep an open mind.

Sue: You've got a ways to go yet.

Grace: Yeah. For further extension you can be like me and just skip ahead to any episode that's listed in Jeffrey Combs IMDB listing [<http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0001062/>].

Jarrah: I should just say I really liked Ensign Cutler as well, it was like tragic that the actor has passed away and that the character doesn't stay around for that long but I think that she was a character who had the potential of being stereotype busting and fine and that I liked the episodes that she appeared in.

Grace: We've got another question from Brian via Facebook and it's pretty recent one "Not sure if any of the hosts are Whovians, but if so what are your thoughts on the Doctor becoming a woman next regeneration?"

Andi: I don't think they can be summed up in words so much as pterodactyl screeching.

Andi: I kind of I kind of flipped out and like just screeched a lot. So that was my initial reaction.

Sue: I did not expect it to make me as emotional as it did.

Andi: Me neither. I was watching the like trailer thing or whatever, and I was like 'cool, cool, cool' and I knew before the trailer because I saw it on Twitter before I saw, I wasn't expecting for that gut punch and then I just started crying and I was like "Why are you crying you big weirdo?. Like you knew this was coming.' but it really does. It's kind of visceral edgy. It's very exciting.

Sue: I didn't even get it from the trailer as much as I got it from scrolling through my news feed afterwards and seeing so many of my women cosplay friends saying like "I can finally really be the Doctor." Not that it was ever a problem to genderbend the Doctor. I don't think I know anybody who got much flack for that. But there's something different about it somehow. You know that the fact that you're not genderbending at the fact that you're not changing the character and you can be screen accurate, and that's what struck me really but I think that Jodie Whittaker is going to be phenomenal. I think she's a fantastic actress. Yes it's still a white person.

Grace: Yeah. That doesn't mean all of our problems are solved. It just means...

Sue: Not at all. Hopefully there will be more roles for women of color for people of color.

Andi: I would love it if that companion was also a woman of color.

Sue: For sure.

Jarrah: Yeah, I mean I think Bill blew it out of the park this last season and you know really clearly demonstrated that you don't need to have a woman companion or you know in her case a queer woman of color companion who likes sticks into this mold. She was able to have you know incredible depth and humor and make you really feel for her but still have a strong relationship with the Doctor that wasn't just like fawning over him.

Andi: Yeah, I haven't seen all of Bill yet. I've only seen her first episode because full disclosure Steven Moffat makes me bananas and so I stopped watching Doctor Who which I would never have thought had happened and kind of just on the backburner like "I'll catch up someday." and I've only seen her first episode where she was quite charming and she came out with her her peace sign earrings and I was just like heart eyes. But I do hope that they can do better, for her and for any other people of color in the Tardis in general than they did for Martha who still makes me sad because she was such a leap forward.

Grace: She was so underserved as a character.

Andi: Yeah, in the both the show and the fandom just treated her terribly and so I'm hoping that they can continue to make strides in that area.

Sue: Yeah I absolutely adored Bill.

Sue: No spoilers. I feel a lot of the ways that you do Andi, and I think that like the underlying reason for so much excitement is because we know we're also getting a new showrunner. Not only are we getting a woman Doctor after we're getting a new showrunner a show runner who has worked with us before and I am psyched.

Jarrah: Totally I mean but like to give him credit I will say that Steven Moffat ended the season, again no spoilers, but like really I thought it really well and I think he ran the season far better than most of his previous efforts on Doctor Who also drives me bananas like Sherlock and stuff. But I you know there would be episodes where I would see he wrote it and cringe and then I was actually like really happily surprised by the way this past season went so I'm glad still that there's going to be a change there needs to be a change by it. I think that the passing season is definitely worth watching even if you're frustrated with the Moff. Grand Moff Stephen.

Grace: Remember kids if anyone's giving you grief saying "Oh well, now the Doctor is just a woman." throw some pedantry in their face and say "No. Joanna Lumley, bitches. Curse of Fatal Death." look it up.

Andi: Yeah I mean it's definitely possible in canon, that's just silly. That's totally nitpicky crap. I mean there's a million lines on that for ages.

Sue: Forever like it's been it's been leading up to this. They showed us River regenerating in different races, they showed us the I think that one Time Lord guard, in the 50th anniversary I think it was it was a white guy who regenerated into a black woman.

Jarrah: You know the the Master in to Missy. So I mean they were laying the groundwork for this to be.

Jarrah: But actual people changed genders in real life so you didn't even have to like show that aliens could do it.

Grace: It's not sci-fi, y'all.

Jarrah: It's actually more believable than a lot of stuff on the show

Sue: for sure.

Jarrah: It was interesting to me because I actually ran across a piece this past week about the death threats that they got when they cast Captain Janeway and you know realizing like well you know we weren't on the Internet in the same way as today. And so you know I'm sure that the volume was a lot less but you still had that same kind of like I will say like this fanboy/fan bro outrage at life feeling. You know "Women are taking over my turf and ruining everything." so Voyager laid the groundwork. Yeah.

Andi: Can I say to you that that same like gut punch that I got when Jodie was like "Hey, I'm here." is the same overwhelming super excited feeling I got watching Holtzman in Ghostbusters just destroy a whole bunch of ghosts and I just literally got when I was watching Wonder Woman in the very beginning with the Amazons fighting on the beach and I would, just like that scene like it just hits you. And you know we talk so much about representation on this show and I know that it means a lot to me but it still sometimes surprises me how emotional I get when I get to see things like that. And I just hope though where you know keep going at it. I mean I just I just saw the Wrinkle in Time trailer and got choked up and Black Panther is coming. I'm just really excited. I think this is just such a good old time to be in sci-fi because it finally feels like we're making some progress and it's slow and it's painful but I mean we just gotta keep going.

Sue: I cried at Ghostbusters you guys.

Andi: I did too. She licked her gun and I started crying. I'm not looking like I just was like "it's so beautiful."

Sue: I saw a comedic scientific action hero who is shaped like me. Yeah. Yeah that's never happened before.

Grace: Yeah. And you can now get action figures.

Sue: Yes. Which I have I think all of them that they made.

Grace: Jarrah - Do you want to read our next e-mail from Anthony.

Jarrah: Sure. So Anthony says "I just recently discovered your podcast and I'm loving it and while I consider myself to have a pretty feminist worldview your show has brought up some ideas I may have taken for granted and/or glossed over in Trek. All that to say my wife and I will be heading to Atlanta for Dragoncon this year from Ottawa, Canada" Woo shout out to Ottawa "for our two year belated honeymoon." Also very cool honeymoon. Back to Anthony. "I'm very much hoping your crew will be there and presenting a panel. At the rate I am listening to your show. I should just about be caught up by August." So I'm going to turn the answer over to Sue.

Grace: Our Dragoncon expert.

Sue: Woooo Dragoncon!

Grace: *sings* Sue's DragonCon cooorneeeer.

Sue: I can do that segment all year long. Yes, at least one of us, I will be a Dragoncon. I have been talking with the people who are running the Trek track at Dragoncon. I have no firm information yet cause one thing about Dragoncon is that the schedule is incredibly fluid and a panel is subject to change basically until it is over. But as far as I know I am hoping that there will either be a panel titled Women at Warp as it has been I think the last two years or Women of Star Trek that that I'll be on, so, that that is the hope. If/when there is more settled slash public information it will be here on the podcast.

Jarrah: Awesome. Are you going to be on the app this year.

Sue: I am going to be on the app this year I am officially an attending professional this year so you can search for me and it will give you my full panel schedule.

Jarrah: Me and Grace are also going to be at Star Trek Las Vegas in August. And so I guess like not too long after this episode comes out. So that's super exciting. And we will share with you our itinerary. We're still sort of figuring out the you know the meet ups and all the various network things but it looks like we're going to be sharing a table in the vendor's room with Priority One, our sister podcast on the Roddenberry network. So come look for us there and keep an eye on social media for more on our schedules.

Grace: And just for more craziness in general.

Jarrah: Yeah, generally you know.

Grace: OK while we still have Sue's attention do you want to read our next comment from Facebook?

Sue: Sure. So Murray wrote "I'd love to hear what everyone's thoughts are about Wonder Woman especially as the ending is Star Trek-eque. In my opinion it's been done better in Trek and elsewhere, of the alien seeing the quote "good in humanity". I'm sure there's a bunch of eps across the series that deal with this too. I know you don't cover other topics but an episode of the alien's perspective, Q was another whole bag, would be cool to see where it works best or worst."

Grace: Hmmm, I haven't thought about that. It does kind of have an old school Trek ending doesn't it. Like "Oh, these humans they can learn."

Jarrah: It's kind of like a Doctor Who ending that way.

Grace: It's a pretty old school sci-fi ending really.

Jarrah: Yeah. Like the powerful alien realizes the humans are worth protecting even though they're sometimes stupid and kill each other

Grace: Because sometimes they look like Chris Pine.

All: *laughter*

Grace: Sometimes...

Andi: I liked Wonder Woman. I wish that there had been a little less focus on the dudes and a little more focus on Diana. But overall I thought it was well done and well made and it's certainly got legs. And it's certainly shown that women can carry a comic book movie. I mean I don't think we ever have to like ever have to hear about Supergirl and Catwoman ever again.

Jarrah: Yeah.

Andi: So suck it. Basically what I have to say about Wonder Woman is like. I personally had some issues with the with the movie but overall like there were several moments as I said earlier like the Amazons on the beach the No Man's Land sequence like I was sitting there like "yes! finally!". And I would like to point out that my Mom who has not seen a movie in years, I mean we're talking like at least a solid five years, went out of her way and asked me to take her to woman because she was so excited. So I mean that right there. I'm really hoping hoping that these numbers that Wonder Woman is putting up and that the you know strides Patti Jenkins has made will finally get some more investment in big blockbuster women's stories. That's my hope.

Grace: I was really stoked by the movie I had. Again, it's by no means a perfect movie but it was it was really cool to get a big blockbuster summer flick that was not only led by women but focused on a woman character it was so cool. There was one thing that really still does kind of kind of chaps my butt a little bit at the very end because I'm one of those weirdos who has to read the credits looking through all of the comics professionals thanked in the making of the movie it's kind of a sausage fest which didn't feel quite right you know.

Jarrah: Were there like specific women who were very like me who were notably left out who had written several... you know...

Grace: *cough* Gail Simone *cough*

Jarrah: Yeah that's what I thought it's like Gail Simone was totally left out so they were basically just like "all the men who ever wrote Wonder Woman, thanks."

Grace: yeah what the Hell guys.

Andi: And it's interesting because Gail Simone loved it.

Grace: Yeah. Yeah. What's up. There was a lot to like there. I just think that that was a bit of a missed opportunity there. When they could have really highlighted some of the incredible talents. Who aren't guys who have worked with Wonder Woman in the past instead of just you know the same D.C. dude line up.

Jarrah: Yeah I will say I loved Wonder Woman. I think that it started to weaken though for me after the No Man's Land scene when they get to the village and everything after that was kind of to me it just started to me feel like a little bit more cheesy and not as much fun and I think that DC still struggles with figuring out they've definitely

figured out now how to inject humor but they still haven't super figured out how to have fun. And so I think that that you know the inspiring parts really carried the beginning part of the movie. And there was a lot of really funny scenes I really liked how you know even though Diana is naive in leaving Paradise Island she's not ever shown as not competent. We're needing Steve Trevor to rescue her like she's just like "I'm going to do it my way." and I really like that. So even though you know there could be some poking fun at her it wasn't in a way that was insulting or demeaning.

Grace: She isn't the butt of the joke there.

Andi: If anything our society was the butt of the joke. You're like look how stupid it is that they would sideline her or treat her like this.

Jarrah: Yeah that's true.

Grace: I will say I agree that it got a little cheesy but I thought that was kind of part of the charm that it really leaned into the camp aspect.

Andi: And the sincerity.

Grace: Yeah. Whereas with a lot of the DC movies of late the big problem we've had is they're trying so hard to be the opposite of camp that it gets ridiculous. And surprise it gets to not even be fun camp, it just gets silly. But Wonder Woman I thought kind of embrace that. Was this like "Well we're going to have a single woman running against an army now and it's going to be great!" and I really appreciated that.

Andi: Bringing it back to Star Trek and Marie's point about alien perspective. I absolutely was thinking about this a lot today because I was thinking about this in regards to DS9 'cos I finally saw The Way of the Warrior [Star Trek Deep Space Nine S04E01] which has the root beer conversation between Garrick and Quark and it really highlighted for me how much I love that about DS9 like that alien perspective on the Federation and that outsider perspective because especially in TOS and TNG. I mean there are other episodes where they kind of examined the Federation and Starfleet and humanity in general. But it really kind of gotten to like this foundational "Starfleet is good". You know what I mean like "What they're doing is right" and I'm not even saying I disagree but it is fun to explore that from like a perspective of "Ugh, Starfleet." you know. I think that that would be something that would be cool to see and one reason why I love having alien characters be regulars on the shows because that's something you can't do in any other genre and why not embrace that.

Jarrah: Yeah that would be cool. We can probably fill an episode with that because we have to do a Q episode on its own but there's certainly you know the ways that the Klingons look at the Federation. Vulcans look at the Federation on Enterprise or Starfleet and there is I think one of my favorite exchanges is another one of Deep Space Nine where Nog and Jake are talking and Jake is trying to borrow money from Nog and Nog is like "Why don't your people have money?" and he's like "We're above money" and he's like "Oh you just need to borrow mine". The question is like how how would you actually make this work. And I want to believe that is possible but it's so good to kind of you know poke a little bit at that you know shiny exterior a little bit.

Andi: Yeah the Ferengi in general are good for that because in it we hold them in such contempt. So there's another Quark moment where he's "You think you're better than us but you're not." and I actually think that's that's a pretty cool perspective and especially coming from Quark and frankly it really makes you go wow. Like "humans used to be a lot worse than us and we didn't oh we didn't we're not like you we're better than you" and Sisko goes "whoa man" and it rocks his world and you have to say and think. I mean the Ferengi are not great but neither are humans. Maybe is time to get off our high horse you know so I think that idea of the alien

perspective is really useful in genre fiction and something that Star Trek should absolutely embrace often. It's where some of the richest storytelling in Star Trek comes from.

Grace: Andi, do you want to take our next Facebook comment?

Andi: Sure. Daniel from Facebook regarding our sexual agency episode "Great episode, but I have an issue with something. There's a point, almost a throwaway line about how B'elanna made holodeck hunks in one episode. The response was to the effect of "good for her, she knows what she wants." indicating that show's sexual agency; however I doubt that if you were to look at any number of scenes involving bikini models example Quark in If Wishes Were Horses [Star Trek Deep Space Nine S01E16] or any Risa episode you'd say the same thing. It would be seen as objectifying women while I'm aware of the longstanding cultural bias of catering to men's appetites and not women's, objectifying men and calling it women's sexual agency seems problematic. Am I misunderstanding how you are interpreting scenes such as these."

Jarrah: OK well there's a couple of different issues here. So after this episode on sexual agency we talked a bit about like holodeck fantasy people and where do you draw the line. And it's a little bit different than B'elanna's case because she's creating these like hunks for this you know party sort of like luau party thing and clearly there are holographic men and women and part of the thing is I think isn't it that she sees like the women that Paris and Kim have created and she's like uh uh.

Grace: I think something like that.

Jarrah: So that's a little bit different than like in the Barclay episode we talked about how you know where it starts to get particularly squicky is when people create holograms of people who actually exist because it would feel super gross and violating your privacy to know that people were making sexbots of you basically when the Starfleet computer has all your personality traits and your voice and your physical specs down so it would be eerily similar. So I would say that you know putting the question of objectification aside is one of the reasons this wouldn't bother me as much is because they're not real people but maybe that increases the problem because then they're literally objects.

Andi: I think a lot of it does have to do with agency and the problem with hologram people is they have none. So for me it's always a little bit gross. But at the same time is it different than what we could do with a computer now and make animated characters.

Jarrah: I said because this is basically a party where you're there with your crew members it could have that effect. So just because the bar has already been set with having women in bikinis doesn't necessarily mean it's cool to have men in bikinis. It is just, it depends on the society and how you're treating those images and whether those images reinforce a negative existing view that's there. So I would say just judging by the way things are on Voyager you definitely have in those early seasons like Kim and Harry the way they talk about the Delaney sisters is a little bit you know making maybe not treating the women as full humans and and the same with the holodeck babes. But you don't you don't really see any examples of the women treating men like that. So to say that creating a couple of guys in boxers would lead to mass objectification of men or reinforce that it's harder because there isn't I don't think that same objectification happening to begin with.

Sue: I think a lot of times when we see this sort of thing on, in shows or in in our stories it's in actuality the women characters aren't necessarily doing it because they want that there, but more to make the men feel uncomfortable. Like a turnabout is fair play aspect like "Do you see what this feels like now?" is I think what we get. A lot of the time I could see B'elanna taking that action. I could also see B'elanna actually wanting them there. We don't know what that motivation is supposed to be or if it's just supposed to be a joke. You know did the writers even think past that.

Andi: Well in The Way of the Warrior there is a holodeck scene where Dax is trying to get Kira to loosen up and they have some Hottie McHottie's in there and then also apparently they go into Arthurian legend and try to mac on Lancelot which Kira does not understand. So I think there are examples of women doing that in this kind of the same way. I don't know what it is for me as the line I would draw is the real person. I really just see why it's a little bit creepier because they are so lifelike and because if you're talking Voyager you're also getting into "Well the Doctor is kind of a person." but for me it's it's like when when Barclay did it to Troi or when Geordi did it to Leah Brahms; that to me is over the line because they're real people and not only are they real people they're real people you'd interact with in a professional setting.

Jarrah: Also dabo girls.

Andi: Or versus Dax and and Kira getting their mac on in Arthurian legend like that to me is not nearly as creepy.

Jarrah: Yeah. So then the dabo girls is also another topic so I'll try not to go too deep into this because there are also a you know a type of sex worker by the way that Quark treats them as a boss to his workers is you know easier to parse.

Jarrah: And I think that would also make that problematic because they're not just playing like fictions of someone, a figment of someone's imagination, they're his employees and same with the women on Risa who are bikini models. There's also some pretty cute dudes on Risa but that would be another thing too is it's like you know there is a degree though that those people have agency for being in that situation. So gosh this is complicated. Yeah. No no real people holograms.

Jarrah: Let's go with that.

Andi: I imagine that if we are talking realistically if we got holodeck technology not only would it be real people would be celebrities, it would be, I mean you would get it would get way out of control real fast. I can tell you that. I mean like just fanfic alone. It's like if you take peruse some fanfic the amount of real person fanfiction that is out there is huge. And I have always found it super gross but any in your mileage may vary.

Sue: To take it back to the question I think that whether something is objectification or not is not in the creation of the holodeck characters but in the treatment of those characters once they have become part of your program.

Andi: that's a good point and actually because I just saw this in The Way of the Warrior [Star Trek Deep Space Nine S04E01] at one point Dax asks them to leave because she thinks Kira's being rude to them and Kira goes "You think I'm being mean or hurting their feelings?" Dax goes "Go wait outside. Wait outside."

Andi: And there, that's an interesting point Sue, really the heart of the matter.

Jarrah: Good call.

Andi: I mean, if we're talking too, Barclay also uses a Troi program for like therapeutic purposes like just a conversation like "Is that creepy?" you know.

Andi: So there are a lot of layers there, but real talk if I had a holodeck would be gross.

Grace: All right. Jarrah, do you want to take on our next e-mail?

Jarrah: Sure. Janet wrote us an e-mail saying "I don't remember if Jarrah or Sue said this in the episode Best Male Allies [<https://www.womenatwarp.com/episode-35-best-male-allies/>] but it was something about how Trip is dismissive of T'Pol's culture even when they're together. At first I thought that was ridiculous. He was a gentleman and took her wishes into account in breaking the ice and at home, more like her mom's wish, but still her decision. I'm also a shy introvert and ashamed I didn't notice Trip pressuring her to go on a date or at the very least enabling Archer's bad behavior because I ship him with T'Pol. I thought it was cool they were dating even though it wasn't romantic. It's very difficult to deal with because Trip is my favorite Enterprise character. I believe people didn't notice this type of behavior from Trip because he's the most popular Enterprise character. See the Trek BBS poll. He and T'Pol are also a popular couple. Do you see any other instances where fans give Trip a pass. They would never give to other characters?"

Sue: Not among us.

Jarrah: I felt that that was that was interesting. Just this acknowledgement too of how important like shipper identity is in fan communities and this sense that you could be betraying the people in your community if you acknowledge you know maybe that the Janeway/Chakotay relationship is a little problematic or you know maybe, I can ship Spock and McCoy as well as Spock and Uhura or Spock and Kirk.

Grace: You can have multiple ships. That's called an armada.

Andi: I mean I can't speak to Trip and T'Pol because I haven't seen them yet but the most interesting thing from that comment to me is the idea that we give passes to our favorite characters even if they're proud of their behavior is terrible. And we definitely do that, everyone does that. Like right off the top of my head I'm thinking like Tyrion from Game of Thrones, he has done some serious crap but everyone still loves Tyrion you know like it's it's just kind of your natural mind set if you like the character you're going to make excuses for their behavior even if it's terrible. I'm also of the opinion that you can like characters that are terrible people you can still love them as characters, and in fact some of the characters ever written are terrible people. So there is that.

Sue: Well I think it's really interesting what shipping communities have become. Because I haven't been active in in Star Trek fanfic communities in a really long time; longer than I want to admit. Like I when I was I don't remember this "Like well you're the shipper and I'm the shipper and therefore we hate each other."

Grace: The shipping wars!

Sue: Crossover was so common but you'd see also patterns like a lot of Picard/Crusher shippers or Roslin/Adama shippers are Janeway/Chakotay. You know there's a lot of...

Grace: They have types, they have types.

Sue: But yeah but they're so much infighting now that even when I'm on the periphery of it I'm like "What. Happened."

Jarrah: Yeah I mean going back to the original question, so then I was like "This is a really interesting question." so let's look at Trip in a bit more detail and you know overall, I think that other than the stuff around women he's pretty good.

Jarrah: Like the other issues we've complained about before or like the bro-yness in episodes like Two Days and Two Nights [Star Trek Enterprise S01E25] and Shuttlepod One [Star Trek Enterprise S01E16] is another good example of that. And that just sort of I mean that would be like treating women as objects like "Let's go lie

to these women to get them to sleep with us because they're hot." and "You know they might have multiple eyes but at least they're not dudes."

Jarrah: And certainly in that in the early episodes the you know the dinners they have with Archer and Trip and T'Pol are often Archer and Trip or just the interaction is kind of ganging up on T'Pol to change. But overall like I think when we see him as an engineer and supervising his team as a team leader, I think that he's pretty positive. Basically all the stuff that I can think of where I had issues with him has to do with him and T'Pol, all the other occasions of that would be there is a couple times where he questions her command decisions to a point that would have I think been really unacceptable on almost any of the other ships like Archer's kidnapped and she's in charge, and she says "We're going to leave." or basically you know "Prepare to leave." and he gets super upset and is basically ready to take over the ship and she's like "I said *prepare* to leave. I didn't say we were actually *leaving*." And there's a couple of occasions like that where he's basically ready to wrest control of the ship from her before allowing her to make her case.

Jarrah: So yeah, I can I can see that there's some compelling aspects of their relationship. For me it's just that that's the worst part of his character is how he relates to women.

Jarrah: Everything else I'd be happy to work underneath him.

Grace: In addition to some pretty great questions we get on a regular basis every now and then we get a really intense comment that we just have to look into a little more. Who wants to share?

Sue: I will take this. So we've got some awesome emails from Kathy Langley about our fanfic episode and multiple multi-page emails with so much research and that I think she had done a lot of it before but she wrote as by way of introduction she wrote "Being known as a fanosaur, I've always been interested in features of Finnish history and your podcast discussion was fascinating, and I have to laugh when I hear how frustrating is to research an area that's not readily available on line. Welcome to the world I grew up in." and later one of her emails she writes "I will have to say I was a little disappointed that a discussion of pre-Internet fandom did not include more on Gen fanzines" meaning general fanzines, as in not slash. "After all the earlier Zines were only Gen, and even after Kirk/Spock appeared it in no way dominated the Zine fandom." that is 100 percent accurate. There are a tonne more Gen fanzines, we were also you know trying to cover close to you know 1970 ish to 1995 ish in one episode so, I think we tried to hit a lot of the the highlights and or the big changes.

Sue: You guys correct me if I'm using incorrect verbiage here but I think now and the reason why we probably seemed to focus a lot on the slash fic is that that's the idea of fanfic that a lot of people have in their heads.

Jarrah: I think it's also the most maybe one of the most surprising aspect of early fanfic because you know we have an assumption that I think is not wholly correct that you know people in the 1970s were more well I mean certainly there was more risk writing about homosexuality and so it is I think challenging to some of our assumptions to show that there was such an active and passionate group of people writing slash fiction going back decades.

Grace: My favorite is the assumption that before our generation people just weren't as pervy. Wrong.

Jarrah: Not true.

Sue: Along those lines on another part of Kathy's email says "There was a point of comment about the quote divide in fandom regarding sexual affection that it was a black and white issue and fans were either for it or against it, particularly slash fiction." Yes there was a fierce divide between the Kirk/Spock and the anti-Kirk/Spock fans and a 'lot of dissent' doesn't begin to cover it. However there were in fact fans who could

take it or leave it. Fans for example who could read Kirk/Spock and not be offended by it but without endorsing the concept at all.

Jarrah: Yep, that totally makes sense. I mean I think that goes to what you're saying too about the community. You know certainly the community I used to be more of an active part in as well with different fandoms. There were a lot of you know people were like "I could never read that pairing." but you know maybe you don't you weren't angry at people for writing it and then there would be people that you were like "Well, you know I ship these two characters but occasionally this one character this other character so if you're writing stuff about that I'm cool with it." or "I'm just going to read it because this a good story."

Grace: What I always loved about that attitude of "I would never read that." is the fact that it's like "Dude, no one's asking you to."

Sue: OK so don't.

Grace: It's not a signed reading, bro.

Sue: Yeah we definitely in any conversation I think tend to focus on the pro and con. While I think there are always people in the middle who are just like "What's the big deal?".

Andi: You know I have read some seriously unusual ships. There are all sorts of fandoms that I would never ever ever have thought to ship together but people can make it work, just got to keep an open mind. I will say that the most disappointing thing about Kirk/Spock is that they don't call them Spork.

Jarrah: Yes.

Sue: Oh my goodness.

Jarrah: We're going to do a whole episode on ships at some point too and then maybe we can talk about maybe some of the ones that are like "Whoa that really doesn't float your boat." but for me it's like I remember one time coming across like a Kira/Dukat fanfiction. I'm like "No no no no no no no."

Grace: Sometimes you see a description it sends your eyes to Hell.

Jarrah: Yeah, but you know I'm sure we could talk about more articulately like some things would appeal to us individually or not.

Sue: If we're going to quickly go down this rabbit hole I've got to tell you that there was one writer back in the day who wrote Riker/Crusher.

Grace: That's unusual.

Sue: It was interesting and I didn't hate it as much as I thought I would.

Andi: Yeah man, rare pairs can be really really interesting and all that, and the thing that I love about rare pair of writers is they are writing it for themselves most of the time because literally nobody is sitting there going "Where's my sweet, sweet Riker/Crusher fic?". So half the time the rare pair people start a new ship that nobody thought to like if you get a good fic under that pairing you can start a whole like cascade of writing for it, it's pretty amazing. I've seen that happen in Dragon Age fanfiction. I don't read Star Trek fan fiction because I'm afraid of spoilers so I don't read it and I'm looking forward to eventually getting into it. But that is such a cool

thing about like just the weirdest pairings. They were like “Say what?!” and then you read it and it's amazing. And then other people are like “You know what, I see that.” and then they start writing other fic. It's pretty cool. Fanfic in general is just my favorite thing, man.

Grace: You know what I really like to think that in the same way some people hunt for rare books or rare collectibles that we're going to read to a point where there's people who are just like “Come and see my collection of weird-ass rare pairing fics.”

Sue: I think that's kind of happening with fanzines though, like, but the Riker/Crusher writer started with a fic that was these two characters dealing with the aftermath of The Host [Star Trek The Next Generation S04E23].

Andi: That makes sense.

Sue: Right because the show never did, and then just kind of continued but my favorite *current* Star Trek writer because I still read the fic even if I don't participate in the communities, right, brace yourselves... Janeway/Crusher.

Andi: Oh nice. I can see that.

Sue: And I love it. And for the longest time it was just her writing this pairing and as you were just saying like a small but active community has built up around it and there are several people writing this pairing now and it's awesome. It's awesome because you've got these like two, at this point in time older, super-competent scientist ladies in this relationship together and it's super great. They also have a cat named da Vinci.

Andi: Ah, fic is the best. I can't wait until we do another fanfic episode, it's going to be bananas.

Grace: Best believe we are and by the way I am totally right now calling it “Raiders of the Crack Pairing.” There's going to be a warehouse full of them someday in the future it's going to be great. Of course that means you're going to find one some day that's so bad it melts your face off but still.

Jarrah: Yeah I mean so, definitely, thanks to Kathy for the letter and she copied Erica too so you know that's we're all looped in and hopefully you know Erica will be done with her research at some point and we can hopefully share some of her results with you maybe on our blog or social media and that will be supercool.

Andi: I'm hoping that Erica eventually writes a book because I think that not only is that book something that I would agree walk over broken glass to read, I think Erica is the perfect person to write it. God I can't wait to read that book. In the meantime you can just read Riker/Crusher fanfic or even better Janeway/Crusher fanfic.

Jarrah: We also included actually several resources in the show notes for the fanfiction episode so if you head back to that episode on our website you can see the books and other resources we reference there.

Sue: And maybe then we do part two, we'll link to some of our favorites.

Andi: The problem is is I don't have any Star Trek fic rec's. I have one million for Yuri On Ice and Dragon Age so. We'll get there we'll get there.

Sue: So many of mine are so old that I think the places that they were all hosted are gone now.

Jarrah: Angelfire, all Angelfire.

Sue: Live Journal, Angelfire, Trekaverse when it still existed, ASC archives.

Grace: Praise be to the Way Back Machine.

Sue: There was one that was called like the Picard/Crushers story archive. Man, I miss that website.

Jarrah: Yeah I used to frequent the J/C story archive for sure.

Grace: The Jesus Christ story archive?

Jarrah: Janeway/Chakotay. Jesus made only occasional appearance most of the time he was kind of scandalised.

Grace: I feel like Jesus would be down with it. I mean he's a hip dude. He's with it.

Grace: So once again thanks to everyone who's written into us and all of our supportive listeners and fans. Where can supportive and interested fans find you on the internet, Jarrah?

Jarrah: Oh well you can find me on Twitter @JarrahPenguin that's Jarrahpenguin or on Tumblr at trekkiefeminist.tumblr.com so I bought the domain.

Grace: And what about you, Andi?

Andi: Easiest place to find me is on Twitter @FirstTimeTrek where I'm live tweeting during my first time through Star Trek.

Grace: And you, Sue?

Sue: You can find me on Twitter @spaltor that's spaltor and I would be more than happy to share some of my favorite fanfics with you.

Grace: And again, I'm Grace, and you can find me on Twitter @BonecrusherJenk

Jarrah: And if you'd like to contact our show and possibly be featured in a future mailbag episode you can e-mail us at crew@womenatwarp.com or you can visit our Facebook or our Twitter @womenatwarp or any other ways that I'm forgetting guys.

Grace: Smoke signals.

Jarrah: Or you can go to our website womenatwarp.com and leave comments there.

Andi: Pigeons.

Jarrah: Yep, yes. Fair warning though. Our cat will eat the carrier pigeon so we won't actually be able to respond to your message.

Grace: Not right away.

Jarrah: All of our cats are basically waiting by windows ready to eat birds at all times.

Sue: And for more podcasty goodness from the Roddenberry network visit podcasts.rodtenberry.com.

Grace: Thanks so much for joining us.