

Audio Clip: Hi this is Denise Crosby and you're listening to Women At Warp.

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Sue: 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 Sue, and thanks for tuning in. Today here with me our crew members Andi.

Andi: Hello.

Sue: And Jarrah.

Jarrah: I'm here for your job. Get used to it.

Sue: Oh no.

Andi: Sue's like you can have it. Whatever.

Sue: The job of podcasting.

Sue: So today, if that wasn't enough of a hint, we will be talking about Lieutenant Commander Shelby. But first we have our housekeeping. As I mentioned at the very beginning of the show, Women At Warp is now a Roddenberry Star Trek podcast. We are part of the new Roddenberry podcast network along with Mission Log and the Priority One podcast.

Jarrah: It's pretty exciting. So welcome to new listeners who may have discovered us through Roddenberry and for our listeners who have been with us for a long time. Rest assured that you can expect the same format, content and viewpoints that we've always put together. It's a good move that will hopefully help all three of our podcasts reach a new audience and we're excited that we're, you know, part of this partnership with two podcasts that we respect a lot.

Sue: And we will all be maintaining as usual our own social media websites and Patreon so we will remain mostly independent in that way but linked together through the network. So we're really looking forward to what's going to come of this.

Jarrah: Yeah, for sure and speaking of Patreon, and if you would like to support our podcast you can visit [patreon.com/womenatwarp](https://patreon.com/womenatwarp) and pledge a small monthly donation that helps us do things like pay for our audio hosting and equipment and getting to conventions and doing convention reporting and in exchange you get access to exclusive patron only content, so head on over to [patreon.com/womenatwarp](https://patreon.com/womenatwarp) and support us if you can and thanks to everyone who's already a patron.

Sue: And if you'd like to support us but spend zero dollars we would appreciate iTunes ratings and reviews. Ratings and reviews in iTunes are what help push the show up in rankings and help other people discover new podcasts. So if you have a few minutes please head on over to iTunes give us a rating and/or a review. And then finally our last bit of housekeeping is the Women At Warp book club and we have just selected our next book club pick which is the Worlds of Star Trek: Deep Space Nine Book One by Una McCormack which has been recommended to us by several listeners. So we're excited to get into that and discuss a little bit more about the different cultures that we see in Deep Space Nine.

Jarrah: Yeah, it's got two parts by two different women authors. The first is you know McCormick's look at Cardassia and the second is Heather Jarman's look at Andor so it's pretty exciting. Join us over as Goodreads [<https://www.goodreads.com/group/show/161753-women-at-warp-book-club>] and just search Women At Warp in the groups and you will find us and can join the discussion.

Sue: Alright then let's get on to Lieutenant Commander Elizabeth Shelby. We see her in only two episodes Best of Both Worlds Parts 1 and 2 [Star Trek: The Next Generation S03E26 & S04E01] but I think it's fair to say has made a pretty big impact on people. A lot of people saying this their favorite character or at least a very influential character.

Andi: Yes she's kind of like Ro in the sense that Ro is only in eight episodes but it's but feels like she's in the whole show. Shelby is in two episodes and feels like she's in like at least more than two. She makes a bigger impact than two episodes would suggest.

Jarrah: Yeah and there was a possibility that she might have gone on longer because you know for people who aren't familiar with what was happening behind the scenes at the time this the episode that she enters in is Best of Both Worlds Part One [Star Trek: The Next Generation S03E26] where at the end, **spoilers**, Picard becomes a Borg and part of that was they didn't know if Patrick Stewart was going to be on for the next season. So a lot of what happened in the first episode was written without knowing what was going to happen in the second episode. Basically they put it away and said "Okay well let's see if we get Patrick Stewart back and then we'll write the second one after we film the first one." So Elizabeth Dennehy who played Shelby said that you know she didn't know if she was going to be a love interest for Riker, she didn't know she was going to be the first officer in the rest of the series or really what was going to be happening. So you can in some ways I think that adds because they had to put in a lot of kind of different ways of interpreting her character but she really had to make a huge impact right off the bat.

Andi: They had to set her up in case they needed to use her more.

Andi: You know I don't like the idea of them being a love interest. I really liked their combative professional relationship and pushing each other to be better that to me is way better.

Sue: And this idea that they didn't know what they were going to end up doing with her. They didn't have one course for this character sort of forced them to give her a lot more depth.

Andi: Yeah.

Sue: You know, anyway they eventually decided to go if they were going to continue to use this character they had to have some hint to it in the first few episodes. So there were so many different pieces to her right from the very beginning.

Andi: The thing that I like most about her introduction is that they make a point of explaining to us in numerous ways that this is one competent woman.

Jarrah: Yes. The thing I don't like about her introduction is a creepy old admiral Hanson. He's basically like, he starts out good he's like "You know I've learned to let her have a wide latitude. Basically, she's super awesome, she's super intelligent, she's an expert on the Borg." and then he goes "Keep your eye

on her, Jean-Luc she's one very impressive young lady." which is a little condescending but OK, and then Picard goes "You seem rather taken with her JP." and Hanson goes "Just an old man's fantasy."

Sue: So gross.

Jarrah: Creepy old dude. Stop ogling your subordinate women. Gross.

Sue: Word.

Jarrah: It kind of reminded me of in Code of Honor [Star Trek: The Next Generation S01E04] where Picard has to point out like three times that Yar is hot. It makes it harder, this also makes you really glad she didn't end up with Riker because when just like the way we're trained in our culture, when you start off seeing a woman as like a sexual or a love interest for one of the key male character, it becomes the main thing you define them by and it's harder for you to see how kickass and competent and expert they are, so I'm glad that they didn't reinforce it really after creepy Admiral Hanson died.

Andi: I love how creepy Admiral Hanson Time sounds like a really, really terrible children's show.

Sue: There is though in part two, it just feels like such an awkward scene because you know Picard is with the Borg. They don't have him back yet and Shelby is essentially gunning for, to be officially named as first officer for this point in time and Riker gets his flirty smile on and he's like "You really are ambitious aren't you?" and I'm like "This is not the time to be flirting."

Andi: I don't think Riker can turn that off, Sue I think that that's just his go to move.

Jarrah: There are way more important things going on. I don't know it feels a little weird and inappropriate. I think it was meant to kind of indicate a shift that once he was in the captain's chair he appreciated how important it was to be challenged whereas when he was in the first officer's position in episode one [Best of Both Worlds Star Trek: The Next Generation S03E26] he saw her as...

Andi: A threat.

Jarrah: Pressuring him and threatening his position, and pressuring him somewhere he wasn't really ready to go.

Sue: No I think you're right. I just... the way it's shot...

Andi: I think it just Frakes' face. He's got that twinkle in his eye, I don't know, like he just always has that vibe. To me it just read like fond and I think it was a necessary moment for both of them kind of like "Okay, we're going to put this kind of weird competition behind us and work together now." and I appreciated that.

Sue: But if we jump back to the first episode, the weird competition doesn't really start until she outright says that she's looking for a job.

Andi: Which I appreciate to be honest. No backstabbing here. Just I'm going to look you right in the eye and be like "Bro, your job. I want it."

Sue: Yeah. I mean they're just chatting like this "Come come play poker with us, this is what we do on this ship." and then like "I want this job." he's like "What job?" "Your job, weirdo."

Jarrah: Well clearly Admiral Hanson has wanted this to happen and I don't want to speculate why but he super-respects her, he thinks that she'd be a great addition, he thinks Riker's passed up too many commands, so obviously he's been feeding her "This is just what's going to happen and we're going to go there and I'm going to sell you to Picard." like metaphorically, *very* metaphorically "I'm going to pitch you a good first officer." So you can see where she would have that idea and then she comes out really bluntly and says it and then she does like another like fair number of things to kind of irk Riker like she leaves early on in away mission with Data against his orders and doesn't tell him and Geordi and then I think we probably the time when the audience is probably least sympathetic with her is when she goes behind Riker's back. Riker assures her he'll take her perspective to the captain and she doesn't believe him and goes straight to the captain herself. But overall most of the time she's right and later on Riker is forced to admit that she has had you know some great ideas on things.

Andi: The way she plays that, it makes me feel like she has had this issue in the past and she's expecting Riker to react similarly. I don't know if I'm reading too much into it but as someone who has strong opinions and it really bothers me when people don't agree with me I can be sympathetic to her like she is worried that her perspective is not going to be seen and that people could... that could end badly for all of them. And I get that, you know it's just we know Riker, so it's and you know you're kind of automatically as an audience member set up to be on his side because you know "Hey we've been sailing around with him and his awesome space beard for a long time now." and you know we are naturally inclined to be on his side in any sort of competition with some outsider.

Sue: Right. And she's certainly in the position where she is an expert and everyone is telling us that she's an expert but people aren't listening to her and I mean I don't know about you two but I've certainly been in that position professionally from time to time where it is my job to know about this thing. You were asking me about it and then you're not taking my advice.

Andi: Yes! O yes!

Sue: And it's frustrating. It's very frustrating.

Jarrah: Yeah, and I've also had that feeling that someone is going to misrepresent your opinion to a superior.

Sue: Absolutely. For sure.

Jarrah: So I also got her side on that even though like you said we know Riker and we know that he would have you know probably honestly represented her opinion to the captain, besides the captain didn't agree with her anyway. But I totally get why like someone would feel... would not 100 percent trust that their opinion was going to be represented fairly and it's a life or death situation.

Andi: Because you know when people didn't listen to me in my professional experience it was more along the lines of "Maybe that sewer won't be put in correctly." not along the lines of the human race might go extinct. So the stakes are a bit higher for her than they are for me.

Jarrah: Well and I kind of think that it was Picard's job to correct her in that situation and he kind of did, he said "You know I absolutely agree with *you*, number one." rather than Riker's to them like take her into the turbolift and tell her she's going to snap her back so hard she would think she was a cadet or something.

Sue: That was very uncomfortable.

Jarrah: Yeah it was like, that is I don't know how you would do that but whatever that is that's like seems like kind of a big threat for what happened.

Andi: I think what's happening with Riker is that she's hitting on all his insecurities and so that makes him maybe react in a way you know stronger than he might have if he was feeling more his easygoing self and I actually really like they use Shelby as kind of like this mirror for Riker or for him to take a moment and you know "What do you want, Will Riker?" like "What are your plans? You need to re-evaluate what you want from your career and your life." and I think it's they have such a cool dynamic, I really dig it.

Jarrah: Yeah. And I also like that they repeatedly remind us that Riker used to be like how Shelby is behaving like Picard mentions it and then later Riker agrees that this is how he used to be and he kind of misses that part of himself. I think it works well with his character arc but it also helps to counter this sort of the gender double standard you get around like quote unquote ambitious women and that is generally less positive to be seen as an ambitious woman versus an ambitious man like women are just supposed to be pleasant and wait for someone to hand them the place.

Sue: And I kept waiting for that to crop up when I was re-watching this and it really never does.

Andi: You know it kind of reminds me of Lower Decks in some ways. There are a lot of the same dynamics at play in Lower Decks [Star Trek: The Next Generation S07E15] Riker being a little bit standoffish to someone who is very similar to him and then also in that case you have Sito not really fighting for her position not kind of falling into that whole ambitious woman thing whereas here we have Shelby who makes no excuse for her ambition and really she shouldn't be.

Jarrah: There's a cool interview at StarTrek.com

[<http://www.startrek.com/article/where-are-they-now-tng-guest-star-elizabeth-dennehy#sthash.QkWNvm9D.dpuf>] with Elizabeth Dennehy who was asked "What did you like about playing Shelby?" and she said "I liked that she didn't let the protocol get in the way of doing the job. She didn't care about diplomacy. She saw what she had to do and wasn't going to let anyone stop her from solving the problem that she was brought on board to solve. Some people come up to me at conventions and say, "Oh, you were such a bitch." I couldn't play her like that. I had to see her side, and her side was, "You have a problem and I'm here to solve it." And... she was right. So I always look at Shelby as the kid in school who got straight A's, had her arm in the air and was saying, "Pick me, pick me!" She knew all the answers and didn't care if people resented her for it."

Andi: She's Hermione.

Jarrah: Kind of, yeah and I mean it's important because so much like girls are trained to try to like rein in their overt skills and intelligence to not threaten men and I mean even me when I was in high school I would talk to my mom about having problems you know finding a boyfriend and she'd be like "Oh, you're just too smart." and she meant that as a compliment but the way that my high school brain took that was I should be less smart. And those messages are like over and over in society too. So it was cool to see

Shelby be smart “I want your job. I deserve your job. I'm going to get it. I'm solving your problem.” and most of the time she's like pretty justified.

Andi: She's a refreshing character.

Jarrah: She probably could have cared more about diplomacy.

Sue: Well it's interesting to see. I mean we see her break protocol and we see the admiral say to give her a wide latitude kind of let her do what she wants and yet in text and when we get to her character in the novels she's described so often as being by the book and I don't know why that is. I think that maybe her rigidity is not the right word but her own like conviction maybe makes people assume that by the book is the right thing because she's sure of what she wants to do. But she is definitely not by the book. She would she wouldn't be in the position she is in when we meet her if she was.

Jarrah: No, for sure and she certainly like the part where she justifies why she went down to the planet early and she's just like “We have this window of opportunity, Data was available. I just took him, what's the big deal?” and “Besides, here we have this report with all this useful information and I could have probably kind of woken up Riker first but...” the point is like she's you know she's doing things as a as a problem solver like she says.

Andi: I think one of the reasons why I like her is because she has kind of the same sort of straightforwardness and to purports problem solving that I have which is like “Here's the problem. Make the plan. Execute the plan.” just very one, two, three about it and I dig it. I like her. I think she's fun to watch and I think she brings out great things in our regular characters.

Sue: And she doesn't want to deal with all the paperwork and red tape to fix the problem she just wants to go do it.

Andi: In this first episode I also want to bring up both Guinan and Troi because they both have several scenes where they're, especially Troi, I think is doing her job, I guess being extremely useful in her professional capacity when she's advising Riker and he's like “Is this? Oh my.” and she's I love the way she is repeating his questions back to him and forcing him to answer them first for himself, but it's very much “How do *you* feel?” and it made me laugh but it was like so nicely done and she's got such a great relationship with him then. It was it was cool to see that aspect in this episode and they took the time to do that. I liked that.

Jarrah: In part two, Guinan and has an important role where she just you know encourage Riker to not cling to his past ideas and what he's learned from Picard but to kind of come into his own and assume the captain's chair and to come up with new creative ideas to defeat the Borg.

Sue: Troi is also really instrumental in that, when I think at the prompting, if you will, of Shelby is ready to go over to the Borg ship and lead the away team and get him back and just like she reminded him that he is older and wiser and more seasoned, which he hated, reminds him that he is now the captain and he's responsible for everybody on that ship. And that's not his place anymore. And it just reflects what he's going through, you know emotionally internally in his career and the immediate situation that they're facing on the ship.

Jarrah: And then Shelby has to lead the way team and she does a great job.

Andi: I'd also like to point out that we finally see Crusher be a bad ass. They give her a phaser instead of a flower pot and she goes buck wild with it. It's great.

Jarrah: Instead of a Scottish sex candle. Oh wait, that was later.

Sue: So was the pot.

Jarrah: But yeah Crusher has a lot of good stuff in both both episodes. So, episode two, Shelby, well I guess Shelby comes back in episode one that she got sort of a compliment in episode two about how she's done a great job leading the away team. Then there's a bit of a sort of hiccup moment where Hanson sort of accuses her of implying that Picard is helping the Borg voluntarily somehow. I don't think that was really what was intended. Like I think what we see from her is she's maybe, she's very very confident and yet not very diplomatic and maybe doesn't always think about the exact words that come out of her mouth and like trying to be the most sensitive all the time. But certainly she's not the only person on the ship who has that issue. So, it's one of those, you know, trying to get us to stretch our ideas of what's acceptable for a woman in Starfleet, I guess.

Andi: Especially a woman in command.

Jarrah: Yeah and then she's like in engineering doing all this technobabble and knowing all the stuff that's going on that's pretty cool. She's you know detecting Borg footprints she's realigning phasers. So she's clearly got a lot of skills.

Andi: I like how when everything hits the fan she runs up to Data and is like "Try this!" like this ability to think outside the box and also the confidence to implement her plans. It's just it's really cool to see.

Sue: And you know is a bit of a precursor to what we see in Janeway. I feel like that was very Janeway where "This isn't working. Kabam. Why don't you try this?" You know and it's also very different from what we see on TNG because I mean Picard has a science background but in archaeology. So when his engineers come to him and say "This isn't working, captain." he's like "Well figure it out." there is no there is no advice, just "Figure it out."

Jarrah: Yeah exactly. Yeah she's very hands on.

Sue: Yeah and we find out in some of the books a little bit more of her backstory and before she became sort of in the command track and the Borg specialists she was a chief engineer on the USS Yosemite. That she does have that engineering background and it makes total sense.

Jarrah: Yeah for sure. I guess I also wanted to or I guess I want to ask so you know we only see for these two episodes she has a major presence. But obviously like 90 percent of it is demonstrating her competence and gunning for Riker's job like really the only time we see are not doing that is the poker scene and even then she's like beating Riker at poker. But that was kind of fun. So I was like trying to think about you know how we would imagine. I still feel though we got enough of Shelby to imagine that she's someone that would have a social life just even maybe from the poker scene alone that we know that she hangs out with fellow crew members and has fun with people. She's not so career oriented that she can't think of anything else.

Andi: Yeah I do think it's funny that they used poker because first of all poker has such a deeper meaning for Next Generation especially but also poker is such that like a traditionally masculine sort of game. So I always find it very fun to watch the women play and play well we get to see Troi and Crusher do that occasionally and Troi is actually doing the dealing in this game which is nice to see you but there's just something about her bluffing Riker out in poker that is just too perfect. And his reaction to it is pretty great.

Jarrah: And also we just got an epic Wesley facepalm where he folds and then Geordi's like "That was really dumb." he's just like "Oooooohhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh..." does the facepalm that has become a gif or a jif, however you like to say it, that will live on memorialised on the internet forever when you search Star Trek facepalm.

Sue: What is he doing there. He's an acting ensign at the senior staff poker game.

Jarrah: I feel like they cast him in the episode and they just felt like they wanted to get their money's worth. So they have him do a facepalm in the poker scene and then later they order him to maybe kill everyone on the ship including himself and he hesitates and then.

Andi: He does come up with the idea of the deflector dish though so he's there for multiple reasons. Baseballing and deflector dishing and stuff. I always love seeing episodes with Will Wheaton in them because he's just too adorable to me and I know that a lot of people have issues with the character of Wesley Crusher and I get that but I also just love him and I just think he's too cute and Wesley epically biffing it in poker just makes sense to me. I would never think Wesley would be good at poker.

Jarrah: Yeah I mean I guess it's good to see something he's not good at once in awhile.

Sue: I guess, makes him more real. We were talking before about the uncertainty of what was going to happen in season four and if Shelby was going to stick around and it keeps coming back to me that it would have been such a departure for The Next Generation because yeah we have two really competent women on the show but as we've said over and over again and they're both in these caretaking roles and the nurturing mothering and if just imagine the addition of Shelby in this really confident leadership role it would have changed the show entirely and sort of makes me wonder how things would have been different if Yar had stuck around.

Andi: I do think it could have worked just based on these two episodes as much as it would of hurt a lot to lose Patrick Stewart, I could totally watch a show with Captain Riker and First Officer Shelby.

Jarrah: Especially if they didn't get involved.

Andi: Yes. No, no making out.

Jarrah: And maybe we should talk a bit about that because why do we all think that's a bad idea.

Andi: Because I like their relationship the way it is.

Sue: And because also it's it's such a trope.

Andi: Yeah.

Jarrah: Yeah.

Andi: Especially with them starting out fighting.

Sue: Yeah just like the Ro thing. They do it again with Ro.

Jarah: Yeah, and she reminds him of himself which is a little weird.

Sue: "But let me date girl-me."

Andi: So my mind went so to a wrong place was like picturing her with a beard. I'm not going to go further into that. Maybe I'll write that fanfic someday.

Jarrah: Thomas Riker could date her.

Sue: Maybe it's me projecting but I always get disappointed when this totally kick ass woman character is introduced and she's ambitious and driven and super smart and that's all acknowledged and then something happens and she just becomes the love interest and it becomes such a huge part of her character and I'm always like "Why?". We realize that is a part of life for many people but that's not the only part of it neither is your career but it just it happens so frequently in TV all the time and just stop, stop it.

Jarrah: And like you say it like subsumes everything else about the woman just the way our society views them it's how we see in obituaries where you get this you know Nobel prize winning woman whose first line in their obituary is "wife of so-and-so who made an amazing meatloaf."

Sue: No, no. Stop it.

Jarrah: And like those are maybe important things but you know maybe the international media that wrote that should focus more on the thing that was key to them like would of for a male obituary. So it's like this different, there is a bit of a standard where it's like a man can have a wife but still be seen as that their professional role or like have you know have a romantic interest but a woman when she's in a position especially when the guy is her superior it's like that's the most important thing about her.

Andi: I also think that there's something to that trope where it's especially if you start with a contentious relationship or an ambitious woman it's like a way to tame her almost.

Sue: Yes.

Andi: So I think that's one reason why I reject that so much for the idea of Shelby and Riker hooking up just makes me go "Blech."

Jarrah: And then also you can imagine like what would happen if things went wrong and he's her captain. So I mean there's the whole superior officer thing that's been visited in a few episodes although rarely between captain and first officer except maybe Voyager. That's for another episode but with you know just imagine things went sour and from what I see there's still little bit of a boys club in Starfleet. The fact that you know Hanson and Picard can have kind of this like little weird conversation about Shelby at the beginning to me indicates that we know Riker's a good guy but if he wasn't and if he wanted to kind of like

sabotage your career going forward he could have done that because he's her captain. So it's just not probably a smart idea anyway for them to really let that happen.

Andi: I mean that's kind of why I was weirded out by him and Ro for similar reasons I was just like "But why. But why?".

Jarrah: I will say that, so it just occurred to me that I haven't really had the same qualms with Troi being Riker's first officer in the Titan novels but maybe that's because it seems like such a huge step up for Troi compared to what she got in the series and there is a lot of discussion about the possible conflicts and awkwardness of serving directly underneath your spouse. So anyway just I was just thinking about that I'm like well maybe it's maybe there's occasions where it would not bother me as much as this but this this bothers me.

Andi: The other thing with Riker and Troi is that they've proven that they can survive the end of their relationship and also that they can handle each other dating other people and all of the kind of pitfalls. They've already proven themselves in that way.

Sue: There's 20 plus years of history of them serving on the same ship and the same thing goes for Picard and Crusher in the relaunch novels.

Jarrah: Yep that's true.

Andi: By the way, Sue when Crusher sees Borgified Picard, I thought of you and I was like "Oh my God! Jean-Luc."

Sue: It's so sad.

Andi: Can you imagine though having to leave your boy behind like that, see him in that way and then have to be like "Alright. Bye." that would be so awful.

Sue: That's always kind of bothered me about this episode and not just her but that entire away team. I feel like when they come back and they go in they talk to Riker about what happened over there that they should all be more upset.

Andi & Jarrah: Yeah.

Andi: I mean there's professional and then there's unrealistic.

Jarrah: Right.

Sue: And I think that is handled, I know we're not talking about it, but I think it's handled way better in Chain of Command [Star Trek: The Next Generation S06E10 & S06E11]. Yes, where they similarly ended up leaving him behind but like there's actual emotion there for someone you care about.

Andi: So I have to ask you when you first watched this did you watch it live.

Sue: Yes.

Andi: And you were just as much of a shipper at that point I imagine if not more so.

Sue: I would say yes but also very young.

Andi: I was just wondering because if I was a Picard/Crusher shipper and I saw that, and then I had to wait three months to find out what happened I would lose my mind.

Sue: I mean when was this? 1990? '91? I was under 10. So as much as I would have loved them together I would have understood less at 10, or under 10. What I can remember is my brother who is 13 years older than me had a viewing party The Best of Both Worlds Part One and Part Two and he printed out a banner that he hung in our living room that said "Go Borg".

Jarrah: Oh man.

Sue: That is my one significant memory really from watching this episode live.

Andi: Okay, Sue's brother. That's a weird way to go but ok.

Jarrah: I was five and it scared the crap out of me and I had nightmares all summer about the Borg and I was really happy that they saved Picard.

Sue: See my brother is also the kind of guy when we played like Star Trek board games, he would turn to people and say "Do you want to be the good guys or the Federation?" so it was his sense of humor.

Andi: I was an adult and I was First Time Trekking it in late 2014 or something and I completely lost it and just like cried into my couch. Gerry was upset. It was a whole thing and it was also one of the most highly anticipated First Time Treks people asked me to. It was one of the only episodes I've ever scheduled so people could be there specifically instead of just being like "Oh, I feel like it today." it was on a schedule and people have been waiting for it for a *long* time and I think my reaction lived up to what they wanted because I freaked out and I was just like "But he's a Borg! Whhhhhyyyyyyyyyy?!"

Sue: So when you have a bunch of people looking forward to you watching a particular episode do you find that it puts more pressure on you to react strongly to that episode.

Andi: Yes.

Sue: Or are you just like "What is it that they want me to see?" the whole time.

Andi: Yes. But luckily for the most part my followers don't tell me whether or not they think I'll like it or not. Sometimes they will, in that case it was more like "We just can't wait to see how you react." that could be good or bad because they were also really exciting for me to see Sub Rosa [Star Trek: The Next Generation S07E14] so I mean it really depends. And I mean like when I was doing DS9 they were like "We can't wait till you get to Move Along Home." [Star Trek: Deep Space Nine S10E01]. One thing that I've noticed and this has always been interesting about the First Time Trekking is that sometimes people expect me to react and I don't because there are some things in fandom that get like super built up and I wasn't there for the hype of it. I wasn't there you know when it was airing and I just don't react in the same way that they expect me to. So that's happened a couple of times too. But yeah people were really

excited for Best of Both Worlds and I'd have to say that if I had to like rate the top five most intense watch is number one would be Wrath of Khan [Star Trek: The Wrath of Khan] and Best of Both Worlds would definitely be up there.

Jarrah: I'm still recovering from Wrath of Khan. So should we talk a bit about the non canon appearances of Shelby because she made such a big impression. She's been in a lot of them.

Sue: Oh my. Yes. The books.

Jarrah: I'm going to preface this by saying yeah it's been a really long time since I read these books but like the the New Frontier books I think are the ones that feature her the most and they're by Peter David and I remember I was working at the library in my hometown at the time so I would have been in junior high school/ high school and I saw Shelby sitting in the captain's chair on the front of one of them and I was like "I have to read this!". I remember at the time I read a few of them that I was I wanted more Shelby and so I eventually stopped reading them and switched back to Voyager novels as I was more into Voyager at that point. But it's cool that she was in more stuff.

Sue: Well there were a lot of New Frontier books and they give her a lot of background so like that's where the information about the USS Yosemite comes from. Apparently in a video game real quick though it for some reason mentions that Kirk slept with her great great great grandmother, her great great great great aunt, no it gets better, and her great great grandmother. So like several generations of her family for some reason.

Jarrah: Is Kirk a Scottish ghost candle too?

Andi: I would love it if there was some iteration of Kirk that was an orgasm candle.

Jarrah: Yeah and when he he seduces you and he's just like I guess *[note for those reading, Jarrah is doing a very passable impersonation of William Shatner's Kirk 'Every. Word. Is. It's. Own. Sentence.']* "Elizabeth. I. Have. Loved. Your. Ancestors. For. So."

Andi: Oh my God, somebody write that fanfic. Seriously though, why. Why? Why make it so he banged her whole family?

Sue: No, *just* her great great great grandmother, the sister and the daughter.

Jarrah: Wait, and this was in one of the New Frontiers books?

Sue: No it's from one of the video games.

Andi: Which video game?

Sue: Ohhhhh, I closed the window. Like Shipbuilder or something. I'll find it. Hold on.

Jarrah: So random.

Sue: So random and weird. If you look at the character on Memory Beta [\[http://memory-beta.wikia.com/wiki/Main\\_Page\]](http://memory-beta.wikia.com/wiki/Main_Page) which is the Memory Alpha

[\[http://memory-alpha.wikia.com/wiki/Portal:Main\]](http://memory-alpha.wikia.com/wiki/Portal:Main) but for the video games and the books and the non-canon stuff it is the first line under her family. James T. Kirk slept with her great great great grandmother, her great great great great aunt, and her great great grandmother. Oh and I was wrong it's not a video game it's from the New Frontiers novel Being Human [Star Trek: New Frontiers #12 Being Human by Peter David].

Jarrah: OK. Well maybe someone else can read that and let us know if it has more stuff.

Andi: Now you know what has to happen and it has to be a book club. We have to find out why this happened.

Sue: It leads me into the point that a lot of the stuff we learn about Shelby from the New Frontiers books feels very soap opera-y. So we learned that at the Academy she was dating this guy and then broke up with him and then was dating Mackenzie Calhoun who was the captain that they focus on in these books and then they were engaged and then they broke up. Right, and then she went off and did her stuff at the Yorktown and studied the Borg and after Best of Both Worlds was transferred to Starfleet Headquarters where she sort of oversaw the rebuilding of the fleet which somehow only took a year and then I guess Mackenzie Calhoun, it's such a silly name, I'm sorry. But it is. Yeah.

Jarrah: That actually was part of the reason I switched.

Andi: Because you couldn't read Mackenzie Calhoun over and over and over again.

Jarrah: I couldn't take it that seriously, sorry.

Sue: But he sort of comes back into her life and she's serving under him on this ship.

Jarrah: Like she's in she's a commander on a ship and the captain gets killed I think and Mackenzie Calhoun gets brought in as the new captain and which kind of sucks given that she was probably ready for a command of her own by that point.

Sue: Yes, she was first officer on the USS Chekov which is a fun nod.

Jarrah: Yes.

Sue: And then gets in a battle with the Borg and a doomsday machine and the ship is damaged and then Calhoun saves her and the ship and she winds up under his command. And then there's another battle where the ship is destroyed and everybody escapes except for Calhoun. So they assume he's dead and then after when she believes he's dead she admits that she really did still have feelings for him and then she's given command of another ship but finds that her quote 'by the book style' doesn't work with them anymore for some reason. And they're building another Excalibur and at its naming ceremony Calhoun shows back up. *Surprise*, he had been marooned on a planet that he escaped from and at the ceremony he proposes to her. So she punches him in the face.

Andi: OK let me just say that these books sound amazing and I can't wait to read them, and second of all every time you say Mackenzie Calhoun all I can picture is Tom Selleck and I don't know why but that's what I picture. I picture Tom Selleck in his Hawaiian shirt. Like that's what I'm picturing. With a luxurious mustache.

Jarrah: And a bomber jacket.

Andi: Bomber jacket, yeah, aviators.

Sue: Definitely.

Andi: Totally.

Sue: Yeah. So she punches him in the face and then accepts his proposal like you do.

Jarrah: OK. Now I'm shipping Shelby and Tom Selleck.

Sue: But you guys, no, it gets so much better. Their wedding is performed on the bridge of the Excalibur by Captain Picard.

Andi: Not Captain Kirk? Captain Kirk's ghost candle?

Jarrah: Her third cousin had the illegitimate child of Captain Kirk, the third great great great grandchild of Captain Kirk. Oh my gosh.

Sue: But didn't they get different commands? So it's better I guess.

Andi: I really want to read these books now so that's going to happen.

Jarrah: Yeah I mean I would give them another shot. Like I said I was 10 or 12 or something 13 when I started reading them I would totally give them another shot, especially if someone can vouch for that Kirk one. There's also a lot of fan productions and fanfic there's a fan production called Star Trek: Hidden Frontier [<http://www.hiddenfrontier.net/>] which is an L.A. based fan club made actually seven seasons of half an hour episodes and you can see the seventh season on YouTube. Their costumes and makeup are fairly decent and then it's like the backgrounds are almost all green screened and there's there's a lot of heart in it and Shelby is the captain. So you know it says something that this you know fan club decided we're going to make a whole series about Shelby like seven seasons with Shelby as a captain is kind of cool.

Andi: Yeah, absolutely.

Sue: And there are a few books that are outside of the New Frontiers realm and debatably a little bit closer to canon. She does appear in the novelization of All Good Things [Star Trek: The Next Generation S07 E25 & 26] as the future captain of the Yorktown where she was previously chief engineer according to New Frontiers. So as far forward as 2395 she's captaining a ship.

Andi: Anybody who watches Best of Both Worlds and doesn't know that she becomes a captain is wrong.

Sue: Well I think it's a little bit surprising that she would *still* be a captain in the future that he sees.

Andi: I feel like it would have been cool if in 7th season DS9 she becomes a shady Admiral.

Sue: Admiral Shelby shows up.

Andi: Yeah, *bad-miral* Shelby.

Sue: She does eventually become an admiral in the New Frontiers books, I think. Or maybe that was a different time line. Also, she briefly shows up in the Destiny series in the TNG relaunch books during the Borg crisis. So even though she's not a big part of that timeline in those novels which are debatably considered canon now, depending on who you talk to, who they did recognize that she is still a Borg expert and they brought her in during that last series.

Jarrah: I did not remember that.

Sue: I mean it's very brief like she joins a conference by Skype essentially like over subspace.

Andi: Here's another fanfic prompt for anybody who's looking for one. Admiral Shelby and Admiral Nechayev kicking ass together.

Sue: Buddy cops!

Andi: Yes!

Jarrah: There is another fanfic series that was a long running serialized one called USS Sutherland where Shelby becomes the captain of the USS Sutherland after previously serving on the unfortunately named USS Malcolm Reed, which makes me so bitter. Where is my USS Uhura? I can't believe Malcolm Reed got a ship.

Sue: Reed alert.

Jarrah: But in this series she is best friends with Jadzia Dax because she was friends with Jadzia before she became linked or, what's the word...

Sue: Joined.

Jarrah: Joined. Thank you. And in this series according to the Starfleet Extended Universe Wiki [[http://stexpanded.wikia.com/wiki/Main\\_Page](http://stexpanded.wikia.com/wiki/Main_Page)] she is "a sexually adventurous individual who avoids serious romantic entanglements preferring as a rule a brief casual sexual relationships to long term commitments" and one of those is with Erika Benteen who we talked about that are women captains episode. She's in Deep Space Nine where they're on Earth and she's working at Starfleet Academy and she's played by the actress who played Leah Brahms. So apparently they had a thing as well as you know she in the series she was also sleeping with men.

Sue: See I find that way more believable than the New Frontiers thing about like "I love him! No I don't! Yes I do!"

Jarrah: Yeah. I believe by her being more like kind of almost like early Riker opportunistic a bit for sure. "Hey I want to get off." That's cool. And I mean in some ways it's cool because you we talked about this a bit in the Janeway episode is there's this there's this pressure that's a lot less now than it was but certainly at the time TNG up through Voyager was made this idea that like if you want to respect a woman

in command you have to be morally upright and that includes staying away from romantic and/or sexual entanglements and you don't get to see the woman captain who is able to be like Kirk and sleep with three generations of some woman's family. Or you know or just like the Kirk we actually saw in the show gets to kiss a woman on every planet that you would there would be more aspersions cast on a woman in authority that you wouldn't be able to follow them if they were to take that kind of action which is obviously a semi ridiculous double standard. So it kind of would have been cool to see Shelby if she had been returning and the show be able to pursue more like casual relationships.

Andi: Yeah definitely. I do you want to say though that what we see in Best of Both Worlds, I like the end where her and Riker are cool with each other and she's going off to conquer the world and Riker has you know taken a look at himself and his priorities and knows what he wants which is to stay on the Enterprise and I just I love this whole arc with them. I love where she starts and I love where she ends and the journey in between.

Jarrah: Agreed for sure.

Sue: But we get some listener comments including from Luke who sort of was like our impetus to bring up this episode now.

Andi: Yeah, he kept tweeting us like "Do Shelby! I want to to hear a Shelby episode. We were like "wink".

Sue: @LukeEMoy: "I love this character--she's smart and full of drive and thank god doesn't become a romantic interest for Riker!!"

Jarrah: We also had a comment from @heavymetalsusan: "As a child w confused ideas abt feminism, I didn't like her. Today I see my hero: an overqualified woman who's DONE putting up w men's shit." We're allowed to say shit on this show, right?

Sue: It's our show.

Jarrah: But I thought that was interesting because I actually remember really liking Shelby as a child but I can see how that is one of those views that could have changed over time for someone for sure. But then I was thinking I was like "Do I like...". Yeah. I think I actually really liked her.

Sue: Yeah. I feel like I remember fans not liking her. In general but there's very little evidence to support that.

Jarrah: Yeah I found niche comments like very small pockets of people on message boards saying some pretty mean things about Shelby but it was a very very small number of people I know and by and large the people I was seeing were saying more like "it would have been great to see her come back" "she would have made a great first officer" "she made a really big impact in just these two episodes" and I think we all agree.

Sue: But as a young girl in the late eighties/early nineties she was definitely not what we were being taught to be, but what we *should* have been taught to be. That's weird sentence structure. But you know what I mean.

Jarrah: Yes, but I think that overall they made really good choices with her like they didn't decide to have, you know, Riker come to her quarters to confront her and she's in a negligee or something. She always gets to maintain her professional demeanor and you get to see that she's someone who probably has some fun too. So that was cool. So even though this was an episode review should we still give a rating for the episode given that we're probably not going to do a whole separate episode on Best of Both Worlds?

Sue: I mean do we *need* to rate this episode?

Andi: Isn't it ten out of ten all around always?

Jarrah: Yeah but ten out of ten what?

Andi: I don't know, Jarrah. Ten out of ten awesomeness? I love this episode.

Sue: Ten out of ten sleep commands.

Jarrah: Yes.

Sue: That's my favorite command.

Jarrah: Ten out of ten Wesley facepalms. It's just how epic that facepalm is that makes it so good. It's the best Wesley facepalm.

Sue: Ten out of ten beating Riker at poker.

Jarrah: Man there are some great moments in this episode.

Sue: There are but I think that just about wraps it up for us today. Jarrah, where can people find you on the internet?

Jarrah: You can find me on Twitter @JarrahPenguin or on Tumblr at [trekkiefeminist.tumblr.com](http://trekkiefeminist.tumblr.com)

Sue. Andi?

Andi: And the easiest place to find me is @FirstTimeTrek where I tweet through my first time watching all Star Trek and I am finishing up Season 3 of DS9 right now.

Sue: Fantastic, and I'm Sue you can find me on Twitter @spaltor and if you'd like to reach out to the show you can reach us on Twitter @womenatwarp on Facebook [facebook.com/womanatwarp](https://www.facebook.com/womanatwarp) or on our website and blog [womenatwarp.com](http://womenatwarp.com) or on Patreon on [patreon.com/womenatwarp](https://www.patreon.com/womenatwarp)

Jarrah: Or by e-mail [crew@womenatwarp.com](mailto:crew@womenatwarp.com)

Sue: Thanks so much for joining us and we'll talk to you next time.