

Women at Warp Episode 99: Jadzia, My Beloved Old Friend

Terry Farrell: Hi this is Terry Farrell and you are listening to Women at Warp.

begin W@W * introduction theme music by the Double Clicks*

Jarrah: 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 bi-weekly mission to explore our favorite franchise. My name's Jarrah and thanks for tuning in. Today with us we have crew members, Grace.

Grace: Hey everybody.

Jarrah: And Sue.

Sue: Hello.

Jarrah: And we also have a special guest, Sarah Gulde.

Sarah: Hi everyone.

Jarrah: Welcome Sarah.

Sarah: Hi, thanks for having me today.

Jarrah: Well thanks for joining us. Before we get started, can you tell our audience a little bit just about who you are and how you got interested in Star Trek.

Sarah: Sure. Well I started watching Star Trek in 1987 when TNG came on the air, but Deep Space Nine is my favorite, and I've been going to Star Trek Las Vegas the last couple of years and that's where I got to know you folks.

Jarrah: Awesome. So before we get into our main topic which is DS9 related 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 one dollar a month and get awesome rewards from thanks on social media, up to silly watch along commentaries. Visit patreon.com/womenatwarp you can also support us by leaving a rating or review on Apple podcasts or wherever you get your podcasts. We have one item at least that I know of of other housekeeping which is that we are picking our next book club selection. If you have ideas for our book club which what we should read hop on over to our Goodreads group just search under the groups Women at Warp on [goodreads.com](https://www.goodreads.com), but for our next book we will be doing the book Letters to Star Trek by Susan Sackett [Letters to Star Trek edited by Susan Sackett], well compiled by Susan Sackett who was the secretary for Gene Roddenberry and it is unfortunately not available as an e-book but used copies are pretty easy to come by on the interwebs so I hope you can join us for that discussion. Any other housekeeping?

Sue: I think we're all out of cons for the time being.

Jarrah: Well let's get right into our main topic then which is the character Jadzia Dax from Deep Space Nine played by the lovely and amazing Terry Farrell. So let's let's start out with maybe some discussion of first impressions and then we'll look a little bit at the background of the character and a little bit of some of the highlights. We had a lot of great comments from our listeners on Facebook and Twitter this week so we'll share some of those. But first of all anyone would like to start with a first impression of Jadzia Dax.

Sarah: Well she was so zen when she first appeared.

Jarrah: Did you watch right from the beginning, Sarah?

Sarah: Yeah, I did yeah. So she was really zen in the first couple episodes and she finally got more of an exuberant personality as time went on.

Jarrah: Mm hmm.

Grace: It's none too shabby, honestly. I remember I watched a lot of Star Trek out of order initially so I hadn't seen the first Trill episode on TNG, so when she shows up and she's just this beautiful, graceful, kind of charismatic lady who this weird crumb bum doctor is hitting on and then her friend is like, "Yeah, he doesn't know you you're like a 400 year old old guy, does he?" and she's like "Nope!". I was just like "Oh my God, that's great, I love it.". What an intro, that that scene alone just is such a great introduction to the character of her being totally zen about how weird her life pretty much is and just rolling with it and being like "Yep, it is what it is.".

Sue: When the show first started airing, Jadzia was definitely the character that I was drawn to the most probably because science officer for me. But it was interesting to see how she changed and how they decided to change her character over the years. I was reading some stuff in The Fifty-Year Mission [The Fifty-Year Mission: The Complete, Uncensored, Unauthorized Oral History of Star Trek: The First 25 Years by Edward Gross and Mark A. Altman] the compilation of quotes about the series, or the franchise that Terry Farrell was a Star Trek fan from the time she was a little kid and would play Star Trek outside with her friends.

Grace: Awwwww.

Sue: So and I know right. So she had this idea of like Spock as the science officer. So you can kind of infer that that's where some of that zen attitude came in Season 1 and notably the producers told her we're gonna make you a little more roguish next year and that's when all of the stuff with the Klingons started.

Grace: You gotta admit, roguish and zen is kind of a fun combo for a character, right?

Jarrah: Yeah, I mean it definitely had some challenges, a lot of the stuff I was reading sort of talked about how she changed around the time that Ira Steven Behr took over from being like science Dax to action Dax, or like Robert Hewitt Wolfe talks about it in Fifty-Year Mission [The Fifty-Year Mission: The Complete, Uncensored, Unauthorized Oral History of Star Trek: The First 25 Years by Edward Gross and Mark A. Altman] says "she's much more fun as the lovable rogue than she is as the zen master scientist" which is interesting because we've talked about lovable rogues and none of us thought of like Dax in that list.

Grace: None of us are really that fond of most of the characters they try to do loveable rogue with honestly that's kind of the track record, isn't it?

Jarrah: She is no outrageous Okona.

Grace: She's no Harry Mudd. Thank God.

Jarrah: But yeah like I started watching around Season 4 so, or Season 5 even so I missed all of the beginning until more recently and then going back it is kind of you can kind of see the struggle for it, she almost feels like Troi in some of the ways that they wrote for Troi where it's like "Hmmm we don't really know what to do with her this episode, but it's like make her fall in love with a guy on a planet that disappears." and stuff like that, there's like some weird episodes in the beginning there that she actually even though she's like the supposedly the main actor doesn't actually have a lot to do but it is cool to see her doing science it just seems like there's something missing until later on.

Sarah: Well she definitely does have a lot in common with Troi in the sense that one of her main strengths interpersonal-wise is that she is she's really people smart, she's really good at interacting with people and knowing what they're about, and that's a skill that Troi was definitely supposed to have but that they seem to struggle with a little bit every now and then writing wise.

Jarrah: Mm hmm yeah, in the the What We Left Behind [What We Left Behind: Looking Back At Deep Space Nine] the Deep Space Nine documentary there's a part where Terry Farrell is interviewed and says "My character wasn't clearly defined. I remember Rick Berman telling me I needed to be more like Yoda and then coming up another week and telling me I needed to be more like Grace Kelly." and but basically also says that it was really hard as a young quote nice girl from Iowa to channel a 300 year old androgynous alien.

Grace: I love the idea of somehow mashing together Grace Kelly and Yoda though "I raised in the Hamptons I was".

Sue: Well they also gave her a lot of contradictions and I think that you know a Trill is the character that can get away with that possibly the most but one week we'd see her strong and kick ass and you know fighting for the rights of the oppressed and then the next week we'd see her in this sort of like problematic one of the boys tropes sort of like excusing the misogyny of the Ferengi you know "once you get to know them it's fine." so and it's hard to reconcile that week to week.

Sarah: I love though that she did have a lot of contradictions because it makes me feel better that someone her age still doesn't have everything figured out.

Jarrah: Mm hmm. Yes.

Grace: That's so comforting to see.

Jarrah: I do have to mention in the background while we talk about the background that they there's a lot of comments in The Fifty-Year Mission [The Fifty-Year Mission: The Complete, Uncensored, Unauthorized Oral History of Star Trek: The First 25 Years by Edward Gross and Mark A. Altman] and in Captain's Logs [Captain's Logs: The Unauthorized Complete Trek Voyages by Edward Gross and Mark A. Altman] where Rick Berman and Michael Piller talk about how hard it was to cast the role and because

of the duality of it being like you know, a young woman but with all of this experience inside of her, and there's this you know quote from Rick Berman "It's the most difficult role to cast is always a beautiful girl. Beautiful women are so few and far between and to find one who can act and doesn't want to bypass television to go into the movies is very difficult since there are so very few of them. Fortunately we found Terry." and obviously they were very preoccupied with how she looked because they changed the whole look of Trills because they thought that they didn't show off how attractive she was enough.

Sue: Right.

Jarrah: So, just worth noting.

Sarah: As far as the early iterations of the character, I remember reading somewhere at one point Dax as a character was in talks to be the species that Melora is, that is able to like get up and float around the room if they have the gravity turned off but that was too expensive for them to do.

Jarrah: Mm hmm.

Sarah: I think that was just a rumor I heard somewhere but that would have made for a pretty interesting albeit really expensive character concept right there.

Sue: Yeah I've heard that as well.

Sarah: Yeah.

Jarrah: Well then they kind of gave the face bumps to Melora.

Sarah: Yeah.

Jarrah: So let's um let's talk about some early episodes like pre... we'll talk pre-Worf, I feel like we can kind of divide Dax or like maybe pre-Blood Oath [Star Trek: Deep Space Nine S02 E19 "Blood Oath"] at least. Although they're certainly a few episodes at post Blood Oath [Star Trek: Deep Space Nine S02 E19 "Blood Oath"], pre-Worf that are you know go back into the way that Dax was before. Do we have any comments on some of those those early episodes? Anyone that people want to single out?

Sue: Well I mean Dax [Star Trek: Deep Space Nine S01 E08 "Dax"] itself is so early on.

Jarrah: It's like the second or third first 10 episodes.

Sue: And it tries to give us more about the Trill because all we've had before this point is The Host in TNG [Star Trek: The Next Generation S04 E23 "The Host"].

Jarrah: Mm hmm.

Sue: And it's just it's such a confusing culture that they present to us with again so many contradictions that it draws us in but we want to know more. But it does also lay the groundwork for later on about how did these joined beings deal with relationships when they change hosts or deal with past acts or deal with just any sort of history of theirs. So it feels like the symbiont has is forced to start over, as it were every time they change hosts or maybe it's not a force to start over maybe it's a get to start over, I don't know.

Sarah: There are just a lot of inconsistencies in Trill culture from the get go kind of though aren't there. But that said, a lot of Deep Space Nine's strength as a sort of storytelling as a series comes from the fact that it starts out with complicated characters and then lets them kind of evolve over time, like changes their initial concepts. One of my favorite examples being Dr. Bashir starting out is kind of a tool box and then rather than the writer saying "What's wrong with the audience, why don't they like Bashir?" saying "We need to change Bashir." and adjusting the character as needed and giving them extra dimension and growth but which we definitely got see with the character of Dax, but the more they try and add on to Trill culture the more just kind of convoluted it gets.

Sue: It feels like they just didn't spend a lot of time fleshing out like what are the role of hosts and symbionts in society.

Grace: That's it, right there.

Sarah: 'Cos like Dax, the episode Dax [Star Trek: Deep Space Nine S01 E08 "Dax"] asks the question but it never answers it, it just kind of gives them an out at the end of it and where they don't have to answer the question is Dax responsible for her previous host's crimes. It weirded me out later on, I was thinking about the episode Blood Oath [Star Trek: Deep Space Nine S02 E19 "Blood Oath"] where she runs off with the Klingons commit some crimes.

Grace: Let's go and do crime with Klingons.

Sarah: Yeah and I like you know they go on and on about how symbionts are such an important cultural resource but then she has an amazing amount of freedom to run off and do whatever she wants and put that symbiont in danger.

Sue: That's a great point.

Jarrah: Yeah.

Sarah: I think it could have been interesting to explore what limits they might place on her that she would push up against.

Grace: Yeah that's a really good point.

Sue: That comes back around in Rejoined [Star Trek: Deep Space Nine S04 E06 "Rejoined"] then too, because if two symbionts are shunned, or two Trill are shunned for getting back together with their former hosts new hosts, it's complicated. If that's true in that society then they are willing to shun, to exile two symbionts because they broke this taboo.

Jarrah: Yeah, and I mean just before we started recording I just watched Equilibrium [Star Trek: Deep Space Nine S03 E04 "Equilibrium"] which I think is actually one of the stronger early Dax episodes at least at the beginning, and which is the one where she starts surfacing the repressed memories of the host that was a killer. That's the one where they basically find out that the Trill society is lying to the people about how many people could actually be joined because there aren't enough symbionts to go around, and so they've invented this elaborate system of control to make people feel like if you're not good enough, you wouldn't be able to be joined with the symbiont anyway.

Grace: Ok, so what we establish here is that being a joined Trill, awesome. Being a member of Trill society, really messed up. They don't really seem to have it together for a species that has that much collective generational-spanning knowledge.

Jarrah: Well it's really interesting, you know, that for in some ways they're almost like a little bit like the Changelings like sending the symbionts in different people all around the galaxy and like each new host has to prove that they're going to bring something to it. It's sort of like a way of exploring and broadening but then when you actually examine Trill society they have all these weird insular rules.

Grace: What is their deal?

Jarrah: Yeah it's interesting, and I mean there's so many episodes that have to do with like the role of symbiosis, like there's the one where the person tries to come and steal the symbiont, there's Playing God [Star Trek: Deep Space Nine S02 E17 "Playing God"] where she's coaching the initiate and trying to figure out how hard on him she should be, and some of them are more successful episodes than others, but we actually do find out like a fair amount about symbiosis and Trill society through the first few seasons of DS9.

Sarah: And then they just get tired of it I guess.

Jarrah: I gotta say like in the first in those first like three seasons I don't know if anyone would disagree with me but I think Meridian [Star Trek: Deep Space Nine S03 E08 "Meridian"] has got to be the worst episode of both.

Grace: Yes it is so boring.

Jarrah: Oh man you don't just fall in love with the dude because he asks so far your spots go down.

Grace: Dude. Also you don't just ask people that.

Jarrah: Yeah. I mean there was a woman who was involved in the story writing but it feels like an episode that was written by dudes trying to figure out how women fall in love with dudes.

Grace: "This is how women enjoy their romance, yes?"

Jarrah: Yes. It's like oh "Please come climb this tree with me. Are you scared of heights?"

Grace: "We have written this episode for the feeeee-ales."

Jarrah: "You want to kiss me now. Yes."

Grace: "Our love cannot be. It must be this way for sake of formula."

Jarrah: But yeah I mean luckily we have some some good, uh Blood Oath [Star Trek: Deep Space Nine S02 E19 "Blood Oath"] is really good, so there's Rejoined [Star Trek: Deep Space Nine S04 E06 "Rejoined"]. Obviously we've talked a lot about both of those episodes but did anyone want to throw out some some highlights from those or other episodes pre, pre-Worf time?

Sue: I mean Facets [Star Trek: Deep Space Nine S03 E25 "Facets"] it's was just fun to see all the actors get to play those different parts.

Grace: Oh yeah.

Jarrah: Yeah, someone on our Twitter, sorry I can't find the name right offhand but highlighted was like all when, when Quark is like brushing her hair. Although also pointed out that she has to give him oo-max to talk him into it.

Sue: Yeah.

Grace: In front of all of their friends also.

Sarah: Oo-max in and of itself he's got such a weird thing with it story wise.

Jarrah: Yeah I think we may have talked about it a bit in a mailbag episode but it is it is weird.

Sue: It does sound like something we would start talking about a lot.

Jarrah: So enter Worf and the Defiant and Ira Steven Behr kind of taking over more of the actual show running of Deep Space Nine.

Grace: Please, please take us there.

Jarrah: Although actually before we get to that I think there's a couple little points to maybe discuss, so sorry, don't enter Worf yet. Backup a step.

Grace: Put him away.

Jarrah: So pre-Worf if we get Mirror Dax, Mirror Jadzia.

Grace: Pre-Worf and pre-warp go together.

Jarrah: Yes, we also get Jadzia as Dr. Honey Bear in the Bond episodes.

Sue: Oh my gosh.

Jarrah: Yeah, any thought on either of those representations?

Grace: It looks like she was just having fun playing a Bond girl like Terry Farrell was having fun with that it looked like that. I think it's just the whole episode wasn't it.

Jarrah: Yeah I think Mirror Jadzia is unfortunate though and we've talked about this bit in our mirror universe episodes, but in addition to the fact that prime Sisko sleeps with her under false pretenses.

Sarah: Messed up.

Jarrah: She also pretty much doesn't get to do anything other than punch him once so she's kind of like left behind on the missions and she doesn't really get to show up again or make much of an impression.

Grace: So what an under-utilized character to have fun with in the mirror universe, right?

Jarrah: Yeah.

Grace: You think she'd be the one that they would get like insanely creative with.

Sarah: Eight lifetimes of crime.

Grace: Exactly yeah.

Jarrah: Like what are the Trill like in the mirror universe? We really don't know.

Sarah: It would have been really fun to explore and it's just such a missed opportunity.

Jarrah: But also we did get to see from very early on Dax being pretty openly sexual which was kind of awesome and we had a comment from listener Stephanie. Grace, do you want to read that one?

Grace: Let me just bring it up real quick, Stephanie says "I really enjoyed how Dax loved being a beautiful, playful woman and embraced sexuality and had fun with it. Somehow, her portrayal was very unique, she didn't use it to dominate e.g. Intendant Kira but just enjoyed it. It was refreshing." Which is definitely a fair point. We don't get to see a lot of women who are just openly sexual without getting you know the slut shaming treatment, she just enjoys sex and enjoys relationships with other people which is rad as hell.

Jarrah: Yeah, like I watched Playing God [Star Trek: Deep Space Nine S02 E17 "Playing God"] the one with the initiate, where he is basically like super judging her for like wrestling with this alien dude and then probably sleeping with him, and playing tongo with the Ferengi and basically says like "You're a terrible example of the values of a ideal host." and it kind of seems like she got some of that stuff from Curzon or from some of the previous hosts that like before she was joined she wasn't like that, but she doesn't apologize for it and there's really no reason that she should have to and it's kind of awesome.

Sue: We also see Jadzia being one of the most open minded of the Deep Space Nine crew like consistently, and the one that always comes back to mind for me is Rules of Acquisition [Star Trek: Deep Space Nine S02 E07 "Rule of Acquisition"] with Pel.

Grace: Yes.

Sue: Where you know she's sitting with Pel and she says "I know your secret, you're in love with Worf." and it doesn't even occur to her that you know Pell is in boy drag. Right. This is actually a woman and this is a hetero crush but she's just like that.

Grace: Either way Dax is just so there for it.

Sue: Either way, she's like "You're in love with Quark and it doesn't matter what your gender is, you're in love with Quark." and to finally have a character on screen but also still in the 90s who was just like "Yeah, whatever." it was kind of lovely.

Grace: Absolutely.

Grace: And so much with Dax we get that whole recurrent thing of masculine traits in a female character and vice versa and just being like "Yeah I'm all these things mixed together. That's just how I am and that's that's part of my existence." and that's really cool, and we have had a lot of people, multiple people before say that with Dax they really see sort of a gender fluid, transgender character represented there and that that has meant a lot to a lot of people. But one thing I also if I can bring it back a little bit early Dax to talking about them using her as a means to bring her into this kind of boys club thing and act as someone excusing their sort of problematic behavior, a few years back I want to say it was Autostraddle that put out an article about various depictions of trans women on TV throughout the years and how there's this recurrent theme with early quote unquote positive portrayals of them being brought in to be like "No I'm a woman. But I'm just one of the guys and I'm gonna be here and just laugh at all of the jokes you make about my existence." which is very complicated and that's the happy ending we get in this story and going back and looking at some of those sort of Dax episodes of being like "Oh when I was a woman." or "When I was a man." sort of situations, I can't help but be reminded of that a little bit.

Sue: Mm hmm.

Grace: For good or for bad.

Jarrah: Yeah. One of the nicest comments I think we had on our Facebook was from Lydia who said that "My favorite thing about Dax is how she makes my trans friends feel seen, loved, accepted and in a way represented." and we had a nice article on our blog too by Elissa Harris about how Dax helped her while she was transitioning gender.

Sarah: I think that's one of the nice things about Star Trek in general is how even when they didn't intend their characters to be representative of certain groups of people, certain groups of people feel represented by them and that's the most important thing.

Jarrah: Mm hmm.

Grace: Yeah.

Jarrah: All right. Now we enter Worf. Let's talk Jadzia and Worf.

Sue: I really dig Jadzia and Worf, I just, I mean we see Worf, you know we know Worf from Next Gen and is like "Human women can't handle Klingon men." and you know he says that a few times. But I, we get this relationship with Dax, where she doesn't have to like make herself more feminine, she can retain those masculine qualities that we've seen her have, and it's no big thing. I don't know if it's because she's with the Klingon, maybe that's what's going through the writer's heads, but we don't see her change for this relationship and that's what I really love about it.

Sarah: Now if anything we see Worf kind of have to change for it which is interesting, because we've got this character who you know has lived a bunch of lifetimes, and feels no judgment, feels no pressure to

conform to a certain way versus this character who's the born again Klingon who's kind of got a stick of his up his butt and that makes them quite the pair and that makes a lot of their relationship just in and of itself interesting.

Grace: It's like Dharma and Greg in spaaaaace, but not terrible.

Jarrah: Are you a fan of Worf and Jadzia, Sarah?

Sarah: Yeah I kind of like how the episode Let He Who Is Without Sin [Star Trek: Deep Space Nine S05 E07 "Let He Who Is Without Sin"] you kind of see Worf needs a Jadzia in his life.

Jarrah: Oh man, yeah, because otherwise he's gonna go off with the No Fun Police.

Grace: Worf is the No Fun Police, let's be honest here.

Jarrah: Yeah. We had a tweet from @LaTraviata who said "I also really appreciate how uncompromisingly she stands up for herself and takes no bullshit especially during the rougher patches of her relationship with Worf. Don't get me wrong, I love the two of them together, but he had some major control issues and the way she called them out on it while always steering him toward better communication set such a positive example for me as I tried to navigate the dating world myself."

Grace: Oh totally.

Jarrah: Yeah and that's I mean that's in that episode where she says "You have to accept there are some things you can't control and one of them is me." because he's being super jealous about her having sexy sculpture time with Vanessa Williams.

Grace: And who wouldn't, honestly?

Jarrah: Oh Worf. I also watched recently The Sword of Kahless [Star Trek: Deep Space Nine S04 E09 "The Sword of Kahless"] the one where they go off with Kor.

Grace: The Raiders of the Lost Ark episode.

Sarah: Klingons of the Lost Ark.

Jarrah: And then it's also sort of like The Ring because the thing corrupts you if you hold it and Kor and Worf start basically being willing to kill each other because they think each of them would be the better ruler of the empire, and man if Dax had not been there they would have been in trouble because she was just basically the one being like "You guys are both being... this is nonsense, I've had enough of your toxic masculinity."

Grace: Oh Dax.

Sue: Shortly after they got married on the show, I was at a convention that had Terry Farrell and Michael Dorn together on stage and they loved it. You know they loved working together, they loved bantering in person, they loved playing to the crowd together and it was just, I don't remember any specifics because

it was 20 some years ago but I remember how much fun we were having and how much fun they were having at the same time.

Jarrah: And I was at Star Trek Las Vegas I think, when was the 25th anniversary of DS9 was it three years ago? Oh sorry, the 20th, so then five years ago. Wow. OK. Anyway I was at the convention where Michael Westmore did her makeup and then she got into the Klingon wedding dress and she was like crying, and everyone in the audience was crying and it was so beautiful. Sue do you want to read the comment we had from Justin on the relationship? It's under Looking For Par'Mach In All The Wrong Places. [Star Trek: Deep Space Nine S05 E03 "Looking For Par'Mach In All The Wrong Places"].

Sue: Yes. So Justin wrote "I liked the fact that she pursued Worf and not the other way around. Far too often in fiction the strong dominant man courts the passive and rather weak woman Jadzia knew what she wanted and she went to after it." Word.

Grace: And I love it and Dax is the perfect character to have kind of subvert that idea that even in the future when we're supposedly past racism, sexism and all these social ills the guy still has to make the first move, because that's ridiculous, and Dax would absolutely know that.

Jarrah: Yeah and it's nice that like we've got Dax and Kira like two women who are both super strong and go after what they want.

Sue: Yeah.

Sarah: I think it's a great set up for the rest of the relationship when you know just when Worf is trying to be all traditional and court a Klingon women, Dax is like "No."

Sue: Yeah

Sarah: I think she does a lot of that and it shows, like kind of disrupts his habit of just falling into traditional Klingon ways and not thinking for himself.

Grace: She really does as a character kind of force him to say "But why do you need to do this. What are you trying to prove here?"

Sue: "And why don't you smell like lilac?"

Grace: "Come on, babe. Let's go hunt some targs together - as a couple."

Jarrah: Do you think Worf smells good?

Sue: I mean that's that the whole scene. The next time he walks in say "Is that lilac?"

Jarrah: Ok, ok, forgot that one.

Sarah: Does this mean we ought to set up our head canon of what Worf actually smells like.

Sue: Yes.

Grace: I am going to guess it's that really ineffective but totally marketed as macho cologne, you know like the kind of the cowboy on the bottle.

Sue: Oh boy.

Jarrah: See I think he's gonna be using some pretty great hair products.

Grace: No doubt.

Jarrah: Those generally smell good.

Grace: Yeah.

Jarrah: Let He Who Is Without Sin, [Star Trek" Deep Space Nine S05 E07 "Let He Who Is Without Sin"] oh sorry, not that You Are Cordially Invited [Star Trek: Deep Space Nine S06 E07 "You Are Cordially Invited"] is an interesting episode where she's dealing with Martok's wife and other than Sisko like yelling at her about how she needs to be more compromising because she's had more experience than Worf, I really dig that episode.

Sue: Yeah.

Grace: It's also got one of the most fun bachelorette parties I've ever seen on TV.

Jarrah: Oh my gosh, that dance is amazing.

Grace: Just that party looks amazing.

Jarrah: But like if dancing was that, I could do it.

Grace: Who say it isn't?

Sarah: I keep trying to get Aron to do the Ferengi dance with me, he won't do it.

Jarrah: Yes. OK. Campaign to make Aron Eisenberg do the Ferengi dance with people. We'd like maybe like donate for a cause or something maybe you can get him to do that. That would be awesome.

Sue: I have a new project.

Jarrah: So before we get to like sort of the end of Dax because that aside let's focus on some more of the highlights that other people raised or that we haven't talked about yet. One that I would throw out there would be Trials and Tribble-ations [Star Trek: Deep Space Nine S05 E06 "Trials and Tribble-ations"].

Grace: Oh my gosh, you also know that Terry Farrell loved doing that as an original series fan.

Jarrah: So cute.

Grace: She got to crush on Spock was some pretty funny foreshadowing there.

Jarrah: Yeah, and McCoy “He had the hands of a surgeon.” That was definitely I think a really fun moment for her, which is probably why they made like three action figures of Trials and Tribble-ations [Star Trek: Deep Space Nine S05 E06 “Trials and Tribble-ations”] Dax. I have all of them.

Grace: But also she looked fantastic.

Jarrah: So any other highlights that people want to raise and maybe we can read some of these other listener comments?

Sarah: if I can bring would just kind of one up and one of the things I always kind of liked about Dax is that she always had this kind of mischievous attitude to her. There's always this kind of twinkle in her eyes that super fun and I think one of my favorite things about getting to meet Terry Farrell at Star Trek Las Vegas was getting to chat her up and be like “That's just Terry. That's Terry bringing that, that isn't the character.” that's what she injects into the character and it was so cool to get to see that in action and realize that.

Jarrah: Yes, she's a really warm and open person and just lovely to spend time with.

Grace: Oh my God, she's hilarious.

Sue: She always seems like she's having fun at the conventions, like not all the actors do but she does.

Grace: Yeah we've got still we're always gonna have that great memory of the time we were all walking down the hallway together when it was the entire crew and me trying to get people's attention like “It's Terry Farrell! That's Terry Farrell!” She walks by and then I can't remember, was it Sue or Andi who realized it right when she went by and we went *gasping noise* so hard that she turned around and just started cracking up.

Jarrah: And then we were wearing our A Woman's Place Is On The Bridge shirt and she asked if she could take a photo of us wearing the shirts and she made it her cover on Twitter and that was like my highlight of my life.

Grace: That was like my ultimate FOMO of my life but I missed out on that photo op.

Sue: The overall impression I've always gotten from Dax is that she understands the gravity of a situation like she's not going to blow something off that's important, but she also knows that not to take life too seriously, that the things that are huge stressors for the other members of the crew she's just like “I've seen worse. It'll be fine. Everything always works out in the end.”, and that I mean the impression is that that comes with the 300, 400 years of experience but it's a nice thing to see that, you know your science officer and someone who is so composed all the time is also like rarely the one who is in the panicky worried state when something goes wrong.

Grace: Unless you're Scottie. Because engineering is a science.

Jarrah: Yeah. I mean she has that quote in You Are Cordially Invited [Star Trek: Deep Space Nine S06 E07 “You Are Cordially Invited”] about how she still leads with her heart, and you can see that throughout the entire series even from the very beginning when they were struggling a little bit with how to write her and she was struggling a bit with how to play it. You can see examples of where she's just like “Well this

is what feels right so I'm gonna go for it.”. We had a comment from Murray who said “Maybe my favorite moment is in The Quickening [Star Trek: Deep Space Nine S04 E24 “The Quickening”] when she tells off Bashir for his arrogance in assuming that since he can't cure the disease, no one can. It's hard to imagine it working in the mouth of another character, since Jadzia often had this big sister-ish quality, able to much-needed advice without seeming cruel.”

Sarah: That's true.

Grace: And she's such a perfect foil in that episode which is pretty much deconstructing an entire Star Trek trope there of being like “We can just wander into any situation and assume that we are the ones who can fix it.” which is which is definitely a troublesome trope, and Bashir is a good character to play that with and then Dax is the perfect character to be the one to bring it down to earth and again bring in that whole “I have seen some pretty horrible things before. This is not great but I am not going to lose my cool over it.”.

Jarrah: Mmm hmm. One thing we haven't talked a lot about is her relationship with Kira and we had a good comment from Leanna, Sue did you maybe want to read that?

Sue: Sure: Leanna wrote “I would also be remiss if I didn't mention my love for Jadzia in “The Siege.” [Star Trek: Deep Space Nine S02 E03 “The Siege”] She and Kira get some hilarious dialogue while trying to get the Bajoran raider to fly. “Seat of the pants technology,” the discussion about eating palukoo. Later she shows up disguised as a Bajoran vedek and cracks a joke about wanting to keep the nose. You have to love a woman who can joke in the middle of a coup.”.

Grace: Yeah I friendship her and Kira so hard I just love the the dynamic.

Sue: I like the scenes where they're just like chatting in a turbo lift about like a date with Captain Bodega or something.

Jarrah: Or whether you've ever had a moment of perfect clarity.

Sarah: I think it was just nice being in my teenage years and seeing a healthy female friendship.

Grace: I know. They've got such a healthy female friendship, it's great. There's no rivalry.

Jarrah: I wish they got to go on more missions because that episode was that those scenes in The Siege [Star Trek: Deep Space Nine S02 E03 “The Siege”] are really fun and I wish we'd got to see more of them doing missions together. There were a couple more examples but it would have just been so awesome.

Sue: And just the fact that they both tended to be in Ops meant we got them together so much more than we ever did with Crusher and Troi on Next Gen.

Jarrah: And they also you know went off in the holodeck and Camelot-ed it up and she's always basically trying to get Kira to be a little bit less serious. She's almost like playing like a Guinan role to Kira's Ro.

Grace: She is her old cool, older sister.

Sarah: And I do still love the bit of her being like “I was playing a married woman” “You were Guinevere and he was Lancelot; it's romantic.”

Sarah: I talked to Nana Visitor once about their friendship and the things she said was that she wished there had been more of it, and instead they tended to focus on Bashir and Garak and their friendship.

Jarrah: And Bashir and O'Brien. Yeah we had a couple comments along those lines like “If only they had developed that as much as they developed Bashir and O'Brien.” But we can... that's what we have fanfiction and things for.

Sarah: I would just see this weird cultural lower prioritizing of female friendships, I guess.

Jarrah: Chris also pointed out that it was cool to see Jadzia to be the captain of the Defiant while Sisko was assigned as the admiral's adjutant during the war. He says “You could tell she was ready to step in and be the captain of the ship without a moment's hesitation and the crew accepted her as captain and leader. Even as Jadzia was a scientist by specialty, she was a natural leader when needed.” Very true.

Sue: Absolutely.

Jarrah: I always liked getting to see Kira or Dax in that captain's chair. All right well we will end on a happy note I promise. But we have to get through the Change of Heart [Star Trek: Deep Space Nine S06 E16 “Change of Heart”] and while your Change of Heart isn't the same but Tears of the Prophets [Star Trek: Deep Space Nine S06 E26 “Tears of the Prophets”] sorry guys, and then we'll maybe finish up by looking at, again some more of just the overall thoughts about why Dax is awesome and maybe also like how she could have been brought back.

Grace: There are ways that could've happened.

Jarrah: All right, at the very end of Terry Farrell's time in the show we had, well we had a Change of Heart [Star Trek: Deep Space Nine S06 E16 “Change of Heart”], the episode where Worf has to decide whether he's going to save her life or not. That was an interesting one more I guess a Worf conflict episode.

Grace: They just can't stop throwing women in for Worf to have conflict over.

Jarrah: Oh man, poor Worf. Yeah, and then of course Tears of the Prophets [Star Trek: Deep Space Nine S06 E26 “Tears of the Prophets”]. They've decided they want to have a baby. She's decided she wants to go pray that they can have a baby, because it's hard because their genes and stuff are all alien. And then she gets killed by Gul Dukat and says that their baby would have been so beautiful.

Grace: Why would you do this to us as an audience?

Sue: It's just the biggest complaint that I always hear about this is that it's such a meaningless death.

Jarrah: Yeah. I mean slightly better than Yar and the mud monster, but not by much.

Grace: It's just such a freakin Red Shirt death, man. It's ridiculous for this character that they've put so much time and energy into showing us as meaningful and having meaning to the audience and to the other characters to just - they did or dirty. They totally did her dirty.

Sarah: So just question just popped my mind. If she was leaving the show anyways how would you like to see her leave?

Grace: Fly off in a space RV with Worf made out of gold saying "Well, I'm off to be queen of Trill."

Jarrah: Well I mean she had wanted to do fewer episodes and in The Fifty-Year Mission [The Fifty-Year Mission: The Complete, Uncensored, Unauthorized Oral History of Star Trek: The First 25 Years by Edward Gross and Mark A. Altman] Terry Farrell says that "The problems with my leaving were with Rick Berman in my opinion. He's just very misogynistic." and she talks about how he would comment on your bra size not being voluptuous which I will say that this entire thing is very interesting in a #metoo era to look at.

Grace: Oh yeah.

Jarrah: And how this might have happened differently but he talks or Terry Farrell talks about an incident where he would compare her breasts with his secretary's breasts and that she had to get a fitting for a mastectomy bra to make her breasts look bigger and that she just basically felt awful and she asked for fewer episodes and they refused and you know to be fair Rick Berman says that's all this is "100 percent untrue" except for you know that, yes of course the studio wouldn't give her fewer episodes, she's a star and she has to be in all of them. So I mean I would have liked to see her in if she was just going to be in fewer episodes, I think that could have been accommodated. There was a lot of stuff going on in season seven and she didn't have to be in all the episodes.

Sarah: She could have just been dealing with the pregnancy.

Grace: Yes!

Jarrah: Yeah, and even though you know because she was so developed before this and could've been more developed but like she was she had a lot of depth and power and a lot of resonance with fans. You can't really call it a fridging but it's almost fridging because it's Dukat who's like Sisko's nemesis and it has massive repercussions for mostly Sisko and Worf, and that's like the only purpose in the plot after she dies is to drive the angst of Sisko and Worf.

Sarah: So she could've at least died saving the station or saving Bajor or something.

Grace: Right? They did her dirty.

Jarrah: Yeah, praying about her baby is sad and way to go that didn't let her have any agency. Or maybe like the pregnancy could have conflicted with the symbiont and there could have been like a medical... well I don't know that that would have been much better, but you know... something.

Grace: We're not the writers here. They're the writers. This is their shop.

Jarrah: Yeah. I mean yeah. So very disappointing and upsetting that that happened and it was I think a lot of us were very sad about it. But thoughts on how she could have been brought back. Maybe? I mean it is a sci-fi show so...

Grace: She ends up in one of those Weyoun cloning stations and then she has to mentor Ezri as the next keeper of the Dax symbiont. See? It could have been a whole thing.

Jarra: Yeah, I mean I thought like at least she could have been a hologram you could have brought her, like maybe they memorialize her at Vic's.

Sarah: Why didn't she get to be Vic. That would've been awesome.

Sue: This is assuming that Terry would have come back.

Jarra: Oh yeah, no I just mean like if things had been good or if there had been like a season eight.

Grace: This is our 'what if' situation here.

Sarah: So maybe like Sisko comes back after season eight and brings Dax with him, or brings Jadzia in with him.

Grace: Yes, yes.

Jarra: That would be awesome. Yeah, I mean she could have also been like among the prophets that Sisko sees and stuff.

Grace: Yeah they can bring back Sisko's dead wife every time they need to but they couldn't bring back Terry Farrell, I call bullshit.

Sue: If Jadzia were with the prophets but we know that Dax is now in Ezri would the Jadzia that came back with Sisko in this hypothetical eighth season be the same character?

Jarra: Oh good question. I mean the prophets are basically magic so it could go either way.

Grace: We're not going to question their god magic; questioning that leads to getting Nurse Ratched all up in your biz.

Jarra: That is a really good question though. I mean obviously we're just thinking of hypotheticals that would have been happier than what actually happened. But yeah.

Grace: We're allowed to dream.

Jarra: All right, well we have a couple more listener comments of just overall Dax awesomeness then maybe we'll do some final thoughts. Does anyone have anything they want to add before we move into that.

Sue: Well I have a question for Sarah.

Sarah: Ok.

Sue: I know that back when they were recording fan interviews for What We Left Behind [What We Left Behind: Looking Back At Deep Space Nine] that you spoke at Star Trek Las Vegas about what Dax

meant to you and and also that Terry Farrell was in the room I was wondering if you'd share that story for us on the podcast.

Sarah: Sure. Well actually I was really late to show up for the confessional tapings and they actually extended it because there was nothing in the theatre afterwards, so I got lucky and I got in and because I was late I did not realize Terry Farrell was sitting right in front of me while we taped it, which is good because I probably would have been too nervous to say anything. So I talked about how the show was really important for me to be seeing during my teenage years because it had characters like Jadzia, who did all of these things that she wanted to do regardless of gender roles, and she had these so many different relationships on the station this is all more than I got to go to in the confessional, but like her relationship with Sisko was so different than her relationship with Kira, than it was with Quark and so on and so I still haven't seen the documentary yet so I don't know how it turned out but afterwards my friends pointed her out to me said "She's right there and she watched you walk past her." I got to go back and shake her hand. She was really sweet, it was a really great experience. I can't wait to see how the documentary turns out.

Jarrah: Yeah, I haven't seen it either. I just watched that clip on the backers video vault, so there's some clips available there but the full video isn't out yet. I'm looking forward to it. Grace did you want to read the comment from Julia under the general listener comments.

Grace: I'd love to. And Julia says "I love the way her character, and Trills in general, is such a creative metaphor for the kind of confidence, self embodiment, and agency that comes from a society that encourages women to trust themselves and their experiences."

Jarrah: Well said.

Grace: Yeah.

Jarrah: Tiffany says "I love her passion for science how she's always capable and doesn't hesitate to state her point as a woman in engineering myself. Those aren't the easiest things to accomplish." So I think that Jadzia Dax meant a lot to a lot of fans and still does and it is where we were very lucky to have her even for the six seasons. And you know wish that it could have ended differently, but we'll look back at those episodes that she was in mostly very fondly. Yeah. Any final thoughts from you. Grace?

Grace: Dax Dax Dax Dax Dax, if we could have a character like Dax on every sci fi show even just a fraction of the level of fully realized character there that we don't get usually see with women characters, much less characters that you could consider genderfluid or transgender we would live in such a different pop culture world right now. And I think about that a lot that this character came up at the 90s and it's still just so one of a kind.

Sue: Just so we're all aware 2018 is the year that the Dax symbiont is born. So happy birthday, Dax. But also I keep thinking about the the meme that's now going around with the screen cap of Jadzia meeting up with one of the Klingons in Blood Oath [Star Trek: Deep Space Nine S02 E19 "Blood Oath"] who says "Curzon, my old friend." and she says "My name's Jadzia now." and he says "Well, Jadzia, my old friend." and the caption is if this drunk Klingon can accept that his old friend is a woman now, then you can use your friends correct pronouns, friends or family members correct pronouns.

Grace: Respect pronouns; it's important.

Sue: And it's just it feels so right to me that like that has become part of this character's legacy because it's what she was all about.

Jarrah: Agreed.

Sue: Any final thoughts from you Sarah?

Sarah: Jadzia has been my favorite Star Trek character and then I think regardless of problems and how she was written, it's so wonderful to have a character on TV who was smart and talented and did what she wanted, but still had her flaws too. And yes, I love that Terry Farrell really embraced the character, loved playing her and loved what she stood for in the LGBT community. So yeah, I'm just so glad she was a part of our Star Trek experience.

Jarrah: Me too.

Sue: Me three.

Jarrah: Yeah. And like I said we we have done full episodes on Rejoined [Star Trek: Deep Space Nine S04 E06 "Rejoined"] and on Blood Oath [Star Trek: Deep Space Nine S02 E19 "Blood Oath"], so if you know if you feel like those were the most awesome episodes which they're pretty awesome and we didn't get super in-depth because we've already covered them but you should go back and take a listen to those episodes for more Dax love for two of her, I think, her best episodes. So without further ado, Grace where can people find you elsewhere on the Internet?

Grace: You can find me on Twitter @bonecrusherjenk and probably in a dumpster somewhere, and Sue?

Sue: You can find me on Twitter @spaltor.

Jarrah: And thanks again so much to Sarah for joining us. Where can people find you elsewhere on the Internet.

Sarah: You can find me on Twitter [@sarahmiyoko](#)

Jarrah: Awesome, and I'm Jarrah and you can find me on Twitter @JarrahPenguin or in a pool with a bunch of slugs that carry people's memories. Thanks so much for joining us today, if you'd like to reach us we always love to hear from you at crew@womenatwarp.com or you can comment on Facebook or Twitter @womenatwarp or Instagram @womenatwarp or on our website womenatwarp.com and for more from the Roddenberry podcast network please visit podcasts.rodnenberry.com thanks so much for listening.

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