

## Women at Warp Episode 13: Into the Wormhole

[Women at Warp theme]

**Chase Masterson:** Hi, this is Chase Masterson. And you're listening to Women at Warp.

[overture music]

**Jarrah:** Hi. And welcome to Women at Warp. Join us as our crew of four-women *Star Trek* fans boldly go on our biweekly mission to explore our favorite franchise. My name's Jarrah. Thanks for tuning in. Today, we have our crew, Sue.

**Sue:** Hi, everybody.

**Jarrah:** Grace.

**Grace:** How's it going?

**Jarrah:** And Andi.

**Andi:** Hi.

**Jarrah:** And today, we're going to talk about Season 1 of *Deep Space Nine*, because Andi has just finished it for the first time. So, we thought it would be a good opportunity to talk about some of the characters and our first impressions of them, some episode highlights and lowlights and such. But before we get into that, we just have a bit of housekeeping.

First of all, I just wanted to remind everyone about the Women at Warp Patreon. It's a great opportunity to help us get the word out about our love for women in *Star Trek* to a wider audience. So, if you head on over to [patreon.com/womenatwarp](https://patreon.com/womenatwarp), you can support our work there. That's P-A-T-R-E-O-N dotcom slash Women at Warp. You get lots of cool, exclusive content. We're working on more. But right now, already, there is the exclusive ending to Grace's teaser for her Ferengi bodice ripper novel, *A Price Beyond Latinum*.

**Grace:** We have such sights to show you.

**Jarrah:** Yes. [Grace laughs] And thanks so much to everyone who's already supported us there. We massively appreciate the help. Let us do some things like purchase business cards, so we can help hand those out at conventions, which leads very well into the next item of housekeeping, which is telling you about convention appearances. So, by the time you hear this, Star Trek Las Vegas will already be done. But I think Sue and Andi want to tell you a bit about Dragon Con.

**Sue:** Yeah. We will both be attending Dragon Con, this year. I have been going for several years now. This is Andi's first time. But in addition to just being around the Con, I have been on panels for the last few years. But new this year, Women at Warp will have a panel on the Trek track. So, if you're around, you should come hang out with us in person.

If you're familiar with Dragon Con at all, you know that schedules change and they change often. But as of right now, we are tentatively scheduled for Sunday night at 07:00 PM in the Sheraton in the room called Athens. That is the Trek track Trek room. And yeah, I think that's it on that. Anything to add, Andi?

**Andi:** We're excited. I'm going to be wearing cosplay. It's going to be awesome.

**Sue:** Cosplay is awesome.

**Jarrah:** Awesome. We also have some feedback on a couple previous episodes. I think Sue is going to give those a read. So, the first one is from Rebecca via our website, and it's about our episode, His Name is Mudd.

**Sue:** So, Rebecca wrote, "This was a great episode. It was horrible/fascinating to hear some of the background info on the creation of the concept and character, and I enjoyed much of the discussion. I did, however, have a thought. I noticed that when discussing the *TAS, Animated Series* episode, you refer to the drug as a rape drug and you refer to Chapel as having been tricked and having been desperate and overwhelmed with her love for Spock, but never that what she did violated him.

I hated this episode for many reasons. One being that it seemed out of character for Chapel. One could also argue that she has never developed enough in *TOS* for us to know what is typical behavior for her. One being the recurrence of Mudd, and one being that she violated Spock and it's not treated as a violation. Not that a cartoon show for kids would really go into that. This got me thinking that as people, even we, as feminists, can be guilty of this. We have a double standard when looking at sexual violation.

There's a great episode of *South Park* about the double standard of how statutory rape and student-teacher relationships are treated. Please note that I am well aware of the overwhelming gendered imbalance of sexual assault victims and that any sexual assault, regardless of who the perpetrator or victim is, carries a gendered nature of power/masculinity. But I do believe that had Christine been a man and Spock been a woman, the conversation might have been different."

**Andi:** Yeah, I was really appreciative of this comment. And I think she's absolutely right. I do think that we definitely talk about how these drugs are not okay at all. But I agree we probably didn't specifically call out Chapel for what she did, and definitely we should have. It made me think of some of the other times that this actually does happen in *Star Trek*-- Well, there is definitely a double standard in the way that male victims are portrayed in our media in general. And there are a couple episodes in *Star Trek* where I think that that happens which is the one where Riker-- [crosstalk]

**Jarrah:** *First Contact*.

**Sue:** Yeah, that's the one with BeBe Neuwirth.

**Andi:** Okay. So, the episode *First Contact* with BeBe Neuwirth and Riker, if that had been flipped, ooh, that would have been bad.

**Jarrah:** Yeah. Part of the narrative that underlies this double standard is this assumption that men always want sex. And so, from what we know from Riker, we're supposed to think like, "Oh, this is funny, because of course, Riker always wants sex." But he doesn't really have the free ability to consent, because she's coercing him in that situation. It's part of the way that sexism also really hurts men, because that assumption that men always want sex is what leads to the narrative, on the other hand, that boys will be boys and it's up to women to protect themselves from men, because men just can't help themselves. Does that make sense?

**Sue:** Yeah. Also speaking of Riker, I know we have mentioned this among ourselves, but I always think about the host. Because when we first meet Trills, the symbiont is assumed to take over control of the host. So, that means that when Odan is in Riker's body, Riker can't consent to whatever he and Crusher are doing after she arrives at his quarters.

**Grace:** Yeah, that's what bothered me the most about that episode. It's violating Riker.

**Sue:** It actually happens to Riker a lot. I think that is because he is portrayed to us as such a ladies' man. So, of course, he always wants it.

**Jarrah:** There are a couple other examples of this in *Trek*. I think the worst one of all is the episode *Unexpected* from *Enterprise*, where Tripp is assaulted and gets pregnant. But the whole thing is totally played as a joke. There's all these comments that are also transphobic about how he's the first man to ever get pregnant. He basically becomes hysterical. He's freaking out about safety and eating weird things. And then at the end, the way that they get rid of the Klingons, is that he has to show the Klingons he's pregnant, which is so humiliating, the Klingons just laugh at him and leave. So, it's really awful.

It does show how the double standard that makes light of assault against men is really tied to the fact that femininity is really disparaged, because it's so humiliating for men to be feminized and to not have the power in a sexual situation. And so, it can be played as like played for laughs. I don't know. It's pretty gross.

**Grace:** Which is really disgusting when you remember that, statistically speaking, men are a lot less likely to report it if they have been sexually assaulted than a woman is.

**Jarrah:** Yeah, for sure.

**Grace:** Because for fear that they will not be taken seriously. It hurdles my blood just thinking about this episode.

**Jarrah:** So, did that cover that question for that listener comment?

**Andi:** Yeah, absolutely. I really enjoyed that feedback. So, thanks to Rebecca for bringing that up, because it definitely needed to be said.

**Sue:** Yeah, we're all about-- If we miss something, let us know. We want to know, because we want to fix it.

**Jarrah:** Yeah, for sure. Anyway, we have another comment on our *Mudd* episode from Roy. And this one was on the Babel Conference, which is the *Trek* FM listener discussion group on Facebook. So, Andi, do you want to read that one?

**Andi:** Sure. So, Roy says, "Personally, I feel that the lovable rogue archetype is one of the most hackneyed in all of fiction, especially genre fiction. It is seldom, if ever done properly. And often the times when it is done properly, the character has transcended the trope. Han Solo might be the best example of this.

In general, the lovable rogue is simply someone who is selfish and conniving, but happens to be charming. In real life, lovable rogue types tend to destroy people's lives without a second thought, as they are usually sociopaths with a good line of patter. Mudd was truly an awful person, and I can understand your dislike for the character.

My only real complaint about the episode, is that since you chose, however briefly, to include mention of other examples of the lovable rogue character in *Trek*, I think you did a disservice not mentioning the character of *TNG*, who, in my opinion, much better embodies the archetype that Akana, which is Vash. I find her deeply distasteful, and she is no better a character for *Trek* than Mudd is." So, that was from Roy about our *Mudd* episode.

**Jarrah:** Any thoughts on that?

**Andi:** I think he's right that we missed her. I didn't really think of her as a lovable rogue archetype, but now I'm thinking that that might be because she was a woman and I just didn't quite connect the two.

**Jarrah:** I totally agree. I was totally thinking mostly just looking for men in the series, and I agree that she fits that archetype pretty well.

**Sue:** I agree with anyone who thinks Vash is distasteful. [laughs]

**Andi:** I think, at some point, we're going to talk about her more in depth. We definitely are planning a Picard love interest episode, so she'll probably come up in that. She's also just a reoccurring character across different series, so she will definitely come up again. I would just like to say that I agree. I do think she fits this particular archetype and she also walks the line of being distasteful is a good way to put it.

Thanks for everybody who comments on our episodes. We really appreciate that, and all of the various forms. It's really helpful for us and it helps us bring up these things that we might not have thought of in quite the same way.

**Jarrah:** Yeah, for sure. All right, so, let's move on to our main topic. So, before we get into the specific episode highlights and lowlights of Season 1 *Deep Space Nine*, I just wanted to ask you, Andi, do you feel like *Deep Space Nine* is living up to the expectations you had going in?

**Andi:** Yes. Although I wouldn't say that I had very specific expectations, I knew that there were a handful of people that I respect their opinion, who really, really love *Deep Space Nine*. Grace being one of them. So, I was expecting it to be pretty good.

I will say that the pilot was extraordinary. It was an amazing pilot. So, like that really started the bar high. I would say that I enjoyed the first season and I expected to enjoy it. So, it definitely lived up to that.

Kira had been very hyped for me as well, especially since we talked about her in first episode for our female characters. And so, it was obviously a character that was near to dear to you guys. So, I figured that I would like her as well. And I did. So, in that case, yes, I would say I felt it lived up to expectations.

**Jarrah:** Awesome. Well, I wanted to start at the beginning with the series premiere *Emissary*. We don't have to go into the plot too much, basically. Everyone arrives on *Deep Space Nine*, turns out Sisko might be a Bajoran God [Andi laughs] or an emissary to the gods, the Prophets. That's pretty much the plot of the episode. They find a wormhole, Kira scares off some Cardassians.

But I'm interested in your impressions, first impressions of the main characters. Even if it's not from just this episode, but the first few episodes of *Deep Space Nine*. I don't know about you, Sue, but when did you watch these when they first aired?

**Sue:** Yes. I was definitely watching *Deep Space Nine*, as it aired the first time around. And for me, I think this probably is not going to be surprising. I, at the time, was immediately drawn to Dax.

**Grace:** Oh, yeah.

**Sue:** Basically, you've got a snarky lady scientist and I was all in like, "What year was this?"

**Andi:** 1993.

**Sue:** 1993. So, yeah, 10-year-old me was all about Dax.

**Grace:** Not surprising, again.

**Jarrah:** What about you, Grace?

**Grace:** I am all about the Major Kira personally. I love getting to see a character who is able to be hard headed without being called a bitch. Also, there's part of me that just really loves the fact that with the Bajoran people, there is very clearly a cultural stand in there for the Jewish people. Kira gives me a character to empathize with in a way that I have honestly not been able to with a lot of just straight up Jewish characters, because there's a lot of cultural baggage that gets thrown in there.

I think *Deep Space Nine* actually makes really good advantage of creating a new culture from scratch, so they don't have to have that level of cultural baggage with it, but be able to tell the same basic story and have analogous story told that that really hits to the home of things. It really meant a lot to me to see that. Also, I just needed to see more tough girls in my life right then.

**Jarrah:** I actually started watching *Deep Space Nine* about halfway through, because I think mistakenly listened to those people who say, "It's not real *Star Trek* because it's not on a ship." I mean, I was also eight, so I'll cut myself a little bit of slack. [chuckles] I had finished *TNG* and I didn't really get back into *Star Trek* until *Voyager* started. And then, about around Season 4, I started watching *Deep Space Nine*, because I knew Worf was on it now. And I got totally hooked.

I think that for me, Kira was the big thing that hooked me in. And then, I went back and watched the original episodes afterwards. So, now, I'm watching those episodes with a bit of a different eye, figuring how would I have thought differently, not knowing where the series was going to end up.

So, Andi, what was your first-- I'm interested in people's thoughts, starting with Andi, about Commander Sisko as the new commander. We had a comment from a listener on our Facebook page, Rakan, who said, "I love that Sisko was portrayed as so vulnerable and hurting in *Emissary*. He was angry and demoralized, yet trying to support his son, Jake. When I was a kid, I didn't appreciate the leap this characterization represented away from the "Perfect Picard." And looking back, it seems like a real risk that could have easily backfired with fans."

**Andi:** Yeah, I liked Sisko right off the bat. I was super into his character right from the beginning. I don't even know if I can really tell you why. It was something about his-- His demeanor is very calm, but he was also clearly having a lot of emotions underneath it. I really, really liked the scene where him and Picard meet.

And part of that was because it was super interesting to see an outside perspective of what happened to Picard with Locutus, because I thought that was such a great scene, because Sisko is 100% coming into it, resentful of Picard, obviously, and grieving his wife, and Picard is still dealing with the after effects of what he was forced to do. And you can see that pain in both of them. So, I just really, really loved that scene and I loved that episode right off the bat. So, I think that helped me really respond to Sisko very, very quickly.

I also really liked the way he interacted with Kira right off the bat too, because the first time they meet, Kira is like stomping around, which I'm totally cool with-- [crosstalk]

**Jarrah:** As Kira does.

**Andi:** Yeah. [laughs] I really loved the way she was like, "Well, if you don't want meet [chuckles] my opinion, then don't ask for it." Just the complete aggressive nature. I really identify with that right away. And the fact that Sisko is not intimidated, but he's also not patronizing. I think that's a--

**Jarrah:** Totally.

**Andi:** It's a really hard balance to get there. He's not intimidated by the strong woman, but he also doesn't feel the need to talk down to her, and I was really impressed with that night. So far throughout the whole first season, that has been one of my favorite things about *Deep Space Nine* is their relationship and how well I think it's portrayed.

**Grace:** Just that whole opening scene with the two of them, I was almost holding my breath like, "Oh, great. This is going to be another one of those *Taming of the Shrew* kind of things, where do just to temper down the woman's attitude and it doesn't happen. And that was such a relief, because it is so rare and it made me so happy.

**Andi:** Yeah. To me, it's like strong men don't need weak women, you know?

**Grace:** Exactly.

**Andi:** Sisko is completely secure in himself and his command. Therefore, he has no need to be threatened by a first officer that has strong opinions and expresses them.

**Grace:** That's how they sold me on Sisko. That was like the selling point for me. Up until that point, I was interested. But this was the point where I was like, "Okay, I can get behind this guy."

**Jarrah:** Yeah. We'll maybe mention that a little bit more when we talk about the Kira centered episodes. But I also really love the part in *Emissary*, where Kira totally shuts down Bashir's wide eyed, eager comments about how he's practicing frontier medicine, and she just goes like, "That wilderness is my home."

**Grace:** She is just the queen of the bitch please face also.

**Jarrah:** [chuckles] Yeah. Because I would say Bashir, not someone I super appreciated at first.

**Andi:** First season Bashir drove me nuts. I kept tweeting things like, "Beam him into space."

[laughter]

**Grace:** First season Bashir is kind of a shit. Let's just say it out loud.

**Sue:** I remember being really frustrated and questioning myself almost, because this was the first time that one of my favorite characters was not the ship's doctor, right? [Grace laughs] I hadn't watched *TOS* all the way through at that point, but I had seen enough of it to understand the character of McCoy. And clearly, Crusher is my favorite ever. But I was just so annoyed with Julian that it was almost like a crisis of identity.

[laughter]

**Sue:** Like, "I don't like the doctor. What's going on?" [laughs]

**Andi:** He's so pretentious. There's episodes where he has dates and I'm like, "This is the worst date ever." It's like-- [crosstalk]

**Jarrah:** No kidding.

**Andi:** Yeah. So, "I am like the best doctor ever. And let me tell you a little bit more about how great I am at doctoring." [Jarrah laughs] And I'm like, "Oh, my God, if I was on a date with this guy, I'd dump a glass of wine in his face and take off."

**Grace:** He's definitely the kind of dude who you can tell has had a lot of shit handed to him.

**Andi:** Yeah.

**Grace:** Which one hand makes him insufferable, but on the other hand gives him a lot of room to grow as the show progresses.

**Jarrah:** I know too many first season Bashirs.

[laughter]

**Grace:** Don't we all?

**Andi:** Some of my most popular tweets were me making fun of Bashir. The first one with Miles and Bashir are going to that planet, where apparently Miles is going to become a God. Okay, cool.

**Grace:** Everyone has one of those planets out there. [Jarrah laughs]

**Andi:** And there's this great screenshot of O'Brien's face. It's just like, "Ugh." Because he has to take Bashir down in the runabout-

[laughter]

**Andi:** -and I'm just like, "This is the face of a man who's going to be stuck in for an extended period in close quarters with Bashir." And then, two minutes later, Bashir's like, "Chief, do you not like me?" And O'Brien's face, again, is just gold. I was just having so much fun tweeting O'Brien faces. It was great.

**Jarrah:** Aww, that's hilarious.

**Grace:** Proof that O'Brien must suffer.

**Sue:** When I was on the Ready Room, a couple weeks ago, we spent a lot of time actually talking about that relationship between O'Brien and Bashir and how it's contentious at the beginning.

**Andi:** Yeah, I just finished the first season, and that's the only time they really interact in the first season is that episode.

**Grace:** Well, O'Brien can only roll his eyes so hard though.

**Andi:** [laughs] But there's this great tiny moment that I don't know if anybody else noticed but me, but I don't remember what episode it is. Bashir starts to talk and O'Brien acts like he has not talked at all and just can just talks completely over him and he was just like, "Mm." [laughs] It's so great. Especially since O'Brien is such a calm, steady character, he is not a shade thrower. He's a sincere guy.

**Jarrah:** No, that is true. I remember watching *Emissary*, and I was definitely annoyed at the part where O'Brien's basically warning Sisko about Kira by being like, "Have you worked with many Bajoran women, Sir?" And it's like, you literally worked with one now you've met another one who happens to be pretty similar and you're just like "All Bajoran women, total shrews."

[laughter]

O'Brien gets a couple of those lines throughout-- He has a line in family in the *TNG* episode where Worf's mom is late and he's like, "Well, you know women." [laughs] Oh, Brian, come on. I want to love you, but you say these things and I'm just--

**Grace:** Doesn't Starfleet have a racial sensitivity seminar or something I can send him to?

**Jarrah:** Yeah, just don't generalize, buddy.

**Andi:** But he is great. Or, at least I think he's great.

**Sue:** I know I'm jumping back a couple topics, but it's really interesting for me to hear you, guys, talk about your impressions of Sisko and that conversation with Picard. Because I, at the time, and I remember this specifically, I was a *TNG* kid and I'm still that *TNG* kid. So, that confrontation upset me to the point of like, "Picard is my hero." This argument, this confrontation was so upsetting to me.

Again, that was at that age, first time watching. I understand it differently now. But I think people who might have been like me, who might have been like *TNG* people who really, really loved it, that could have served to turn them off from *DS9*. So, I think it was a bit of a risk, especially in the very first episode to have Sisko be so clearly annoyed with and resentful of the hero of the other series that is still running.

**Jarrah:** Yeah. It reminds me of the cage where Captain Pike starts out saying, "Basically, I don't want this job anymore." I think it ended up not working in the cage. It was definitely risky. When I saw it originally, I felt similar to you, Sue, in more that I just didn't appreciate Sisko's level of grief. I was like, "Eh, whatever. Get over it."

But now, as an adult, I think I appreciate more that he had that backstory and it became very important for him and it set him up as someone who was able to be emotional and vulnerable. His relationship with Jake, which I think is super, super important and something Avery Brooks insisted on, because there are so few representations of positive black fatherhood in media.

**Andi:** Yeah. He's a great father. Again, only seeing one season, like, that's another aspect of Sisko that I really love is seeing his relationship with Jake and him drop wisdom on Jake all the time. It's fun to watch.

**Jarrah:** I like my dad, but I would also like if Sisko is my dad.

**Andi:** [laughs] I think he's a good one.



**Jarrah:** So, we've almost touched on all the characters. Odo, I guess, and Quark being the remaining ones.

**Andi:** I love Odo. I love how he manages-- He's like McCoy in the fact that he manages to be not friendly and yet likable, if that makes sense, I really like that. I just like his straightforwardness. He says exactly what he means, and sometimes that can be a bit harsh, but it's also really endearing to me, because something about the way he does it just is really cool, plus he has a bucket. Who can't love that?

**Grace:** That darn bucket.

**Sue:** It's really true though that Odo has this weird almost dichotomy, right? Because he's the outsider, so he is like the Data or the Spock, but he is also the one who just speaks the truth all the time and damn the consequences. So, he's the McCoy. So, he is both Spock and McCoy in one character in *DS9*.

**Grace:** So, in a sense, that's the ultimate dichotomy you could ask for in *Star Trek*.

**Sue:** Right.

**Grace:** Also, action figures of him come with a bucket accessory.

**Andi:** That's amazing.

**Grace:** The action bucket.

**Andi:** Is it made of Latinum?

**Grace:** I think that's a special upgrade that you have to get though.

**Jarrah:** I named my cat after him, because my cat has a really cranky looking face and needs to spend at least 10 hours a day in his liquid state.

**Grace:** [Andi laughs] How so stretchy.

**Jarrah:** And what do you think about Quark, Andi? I'm interested as someone coming from seeing the Ferengi only in *TNG* to what I think it's not fully developed transition by the end of Season 1. But there's definitely more depth to them than you got in *TNG*.

**Andi:** Yeah, I would feel like Quark could be the lovable rogue and I would be totally on board with him-- If he was just a thief, I'd be totally fine with him, because that can be funny. My problem is they also make him super creepy sexually. There's like this one episode where it's like a cold open that's just like a throwaway cold open in which he wrote into this woman that's working for him. He wrote into her contract that she was supposed to have sex with him. And I was like, "Put that dude in jail." Like, I don't understand. And then, it was just-- [crosstalk]

**Grace:** "Oh, no. You're not doing your job."

**Andi:** Yeah, it's just not addressed ever again and I'm like, "And that's not okay." And that made me really uncomfortable. And then, that brought up a lot of things, because people are treating me like, "No, no, Quark." And I'm like, "Listen, I understand that he's a funny character. He's supposed to be funny." And the fact that it's Armin Shimerman helps a lot because that dude is brilliant. But I don't find it funny when he is misogynistic. And so, that-- [crosstalk]

**Grace:** Just more of that lovable misogynistic malarkey that nobody is by.

**Andi:** I can't find that funny. The stuff that does work for me is Odo and Quark together. Like, the way they're always trying to maneuver each other, I really like that. I like the fact that they both insist they hate each other and then they spend 90% of their time hanging out. I'm pretty sure Odo spends half his day hanging out with Quark and side eyeing him. And it's pretty great.

**Sue:** They're frenemies.

**Andi:** Frenemies. Yeah. Exactly.

**Grace:** The best of frenemies. Yeah.

**Andi:** I think that's really interesting, and fun and provides a lot of really funny moments, because they're so different. But then, they have to throw in these really gross things that Quark does, and it's hard for me to forget that. So, I want to like Quark. Let me put it that way. I want to like Quark, but I can't quite get on board with him while they're still writing in these super creepy things that he does.

**Sue:** Just you wait for *Profit and Lace*.

**Grace:** No.

**Andi:** Okay. I will.

**Grace:** No.

[laughter]

**Sue:** I want a warning when you're about to tweet that episode.

**Andi:** Yeah. The really good episodes are the really bad episodes. People are always really excited for me to watch. I got a lot of people who are really excited for me to watch. Is it *Move Along Home*?

**Grace:** *Move Along Home*. Yes.

**Andi:** [chuckles] I actually ended up not hating that episode. I don't think it's good or anything, but it's also funny. I enjoy Bashir screaming for no reason and flailing around. That was pretty funny.

**Grace:** Just watching him jump around like a Muppet makes the episode [Andi laughs] in hindsight. Just Bashir in panic, that could have been the entire episode. And I think people would have gone for it.

**Jarrah:** [laughs] Yes, I would have paid to watch Bashir watch do stupid things just for an episode. [Andi laughs] So, Kira actually has several major episodes in Season 1, but Dax really only has one or two. The one that jumped into my mind is the episode named *Dax*, which is the one where she is under trial for the actions of Curzon Dax, her former host. Basically, she's refusing to defend herself. There's a question of whether the new host can be held responsible for the previous host, because it contains the symbiont. So, does anyone have any thoughts on that episode?

**Grace:** Well, first off, I found the concept a little farfetched, because I think in a culture where this is the norm, this probably would have come up before. There would probably be some precedent for it, I think. But it's one of those things where you just have to go, "Oh, okay, this is how we're seeing these people deal with it."

**Andi:** Yeah. When I was thinking about it, I was like, "Well, this trial's going to set some legal precedent for galactic law."

**Sue:** But I think what their goal, I think, is retconning what we learned in *Next Gen* about the Trill.

**Grace:** I can get behind that definitely.

**Sue:** So, there's that problem that we have with *Star Trek*, where we're talking about it both in universe and out of universe.

**Grace:** Sub-universes. They make everything fun.

**Sue:** Out of universe, I understand the reason that they need to fix how they explained the Trill previously. In universe, you're absolutely right. You'd think that by now there would be established law about who is responsible for what actions.

**Grace:** I think it'd be old hat. Yeah.

**Andi:** I thought the episode was really interesting. But I thought it was really strange that the episode is called *Dax*, and she basically spends the whole episode not speaking.

**Jarrah:** I had the exact same thought. I was looking forward to Jadzia awesomeness, but it's really about more like Sisko uncovering her past.

**Andi:** And about his friendship with Curzon.

**Grace:** It's unfortunate that through most of the first season, we only really get Dax as a supporting character, which, again, feels like a waste.

**Jarrah:** There's also this part in the very beginning of this episode, one of the many Bashir hitting on Dax scenes, where she's basically half ignoring him, working on stuff in the Replimat, and he's another act to Geno and she goes, "Oh, it'll keep me up all night." And he goes, "I can think of better ways of keeping you up, and they're more fun than drinking Klingon coffee." I'm just like, "Argh"

**Grace:** Waka-waka-waka

**Andi:** He's so thirsty.

**Jarrah:** I know.

**Andi:** Calm down. For the first half of the season, he is just like, "Ha, mana. Ha mana. Ha mana." But not just Dax. He hits on Vash. Like, he just has to hit on everybody, I guess.

**Grace:** Although watching him get shut down by Vash is sweet on multiple levels.

[laughter]

**Jarrah:** Totally. I feel like he is similar to Tom Paris in *Voyager*, except for that I can tolerate Bashir more in Season 1, because he's not successful. [laughs] Paris is equally obnoxious in Season 1 of *Voyager*, but is actually supposed to be charming and successful at this. And I'm like, "Ugh, no." So, then, Dax goes to Bashir and says-- Oh, sorry. Bashir was basically like, "Can I walk you back to your quarters?" And she says, "That's not necessary, Julian." And then, he watches her go and then whispers under his breath, "Not necessary, Julian, but not forbidden either." So, he's basically like, "Well, she said no, but it doesn't really mean no." And then, he follows her.

**Grace:** There's a rule of storytelling with Pixar that you're supposed to like people for trying. It's possible to hate them just because-- [crosstalk]

**Jarrah:** Yeah. The message is that like him following her was actually a good thing, because he comes across her attempted or the people who are attempting to abduct her and he helps fight and hailing ops is part of the reason that they don't succeed. So, I don't know, I was like bummed.

**Andi:** Except for he gets knocked right out.

**Jarrah:** I know. I was just bummed though that it ended up being a good thing that he did follow even though she clearly didn't want him to.

**Grace:** Because even on their worst days, boys being boys is always the better option, apparently.

**Jarrah:** There is a really cool hundred-year-old lady Bajoran judge in this episode though. So, I was down with that.

**Andi:** Yeah, she was awesome.

**Grace:** Oh, totally.

**Andi:** She had no patience with any of them. I loved it. She's like, "Get to the point. Let's do this. Let's get this done."

**Grace:** But you've got to love, don't you? During any courtroom kangaroo court thing, just someone being like, "Nope, don't have time for it."

**Andi:** "Make your point. Let's go."

**Grace:** "I only have so long to live."

**Jarrah:** Another episode I just wanted to mention because of this whole Bashir-Dax thing is, actually, I think this is the worst episode in first season. I think it is worse than *Move Along Home* and that's *if wishes were horses*.

**Grace:** Oh, my God. [laughs]

**Jarrah:** This is the one with Rumpelstiltskin, the baseball player, Buck Bokai and Sex Kitten Dax, because people's fantasies come to life.

**Grace:** Can I just say though for the record, this whole episode is way more fun if you mentally replace their Rumpelstiltskin with once upon a time Rumpelstiltskin.

**Andi:** [laughs]

**Jarrah:** I thought you are going to just going to say, it's way more fun if you're stoned.

**Andi:** [laughs]

**Grace:** Well, obviously.

**Andi:** I really didn't need to see what Bashir looks like when he's having a sex dream about Dax. Like, that was not necessary for my brain.

**Jarrah:** Yeah. And this episode is also just-- It was totally unsatisfying. It's basically like these aliens turn into your dreams, and then they refuse to tell anyone why or who they are the end. [chuckles] But also, we get to see Quark's fantasy women as well as Bashir's fantasy women. So, you have two of the main male characters. Their main dream is totally submissive sex kittens.

**Grace:** Wow. That's really gross.

**Jarrah:** We really don't get to see that much of what's in Dax and Kira's imagination. The only thing we get to see is Dax imagines this spatial anomaly that doesn't exist, and Kira imagines a corridor bursting into flames. But those are really minor points in the episode, so I was disappointed.

**Grace:** Would anyone else have really loved to have Kira's fantasy be a Swedish swimsuit team of dudes or something, [Andi laughs] just carrying her around on a palanquin?

**Andi:** [laughs] I also found it really interesting that Bashir's version of Dax doesn't know how to science. I think that's the sexiest thing about Dax.

**Grace:** Yeah. You really agree with Dax in the sense of like, "Really? That's what you want?"

**Sue:** That's really disappointing.

**Jarrah:** Yeah, it's really disappointing. There's actually this scene where I think they're supposed to address that it's problematic where you have the Sex Kitten Dax and normal Prime Dax arguing, and Sex Kitten Dax basically is like, "Oh, you're a cold fish who doesn't appreciate him."

**Grace:** There are a lot of words I would use to describe Dax. Cold fish is not one of them.

**Jarrah:** No, it's not accurate at all. And real Dax is like, "Is this what you want, Jolene? You just want someone who's submissive." So, I liked that she got to say that, but I felt like the message was like, there's only two ways for women to be. They can be dumb and sexually available, or they can be smart and frigid.

**Andi:** I do want to point out though for Bashir, is that he, at the very least, realizes something is wrong and backs off.

**Grace:** So, yay.

**Andi:** Yeah. When he wakes up and Dax is all over him, he is really thrown. This is out of character for her, and he backs off right away. And that is good.

**Jarrah:** Mm-hmm. Yeah, that's true. So, C+ Bashir?

[laughter]

**Sue:** Yeah. They could have very easily gone for the humor later of, like, they did have sex, and then the Dax's meet and he's like, "Wait a minute." You're not like, "I can definitely see that happening, and I would not be surprised if it were considered when they were writing the episode. But I'm glad it was not what happened."

**Jarrah:** Yeah, I also just thought that the Rumpelstiltskin thing. Rumpelstiltskin basically makes Keiko and Molly a damsel in distress situation to try to get O'Brien to do things. And I was like, "Keiko could totally beat the crap out of Rumpelstiltskin." [Andi laughs] Like, I cannot buy this at all that she's just sitting there being like, "Oh, my baby."

**Grace:** At the very least, she could throw a plant at him or something, [Andi laughs] because we established in *TNG* that pot fu is a thing.

**Jarrah:** Yeah. But overall I think Season 1 of *Deep Space Nine*, like that one and maybe *Move Along Home* are I think the only episodes that reach the level of awful that is a lot of Season 1 of *TNG*. So, I thought that it was pretty impressive in terms of just general quality. There were a lot more standout episodes than there were terrible episodes.

**Andi:** Yeah. Overall, I think it's a good season.

**Grace:** That's definitely really good for a first season of just about any show, especially a *Star Trek* series.

**Jarrah:** Yeah. But we have a few more to talk about. So, there were a few Kira centric episodes. We don't need to necessarily talk about all of them, but I'm wondering if there are particularly ones that jump out at you, Andi, is having watched them the most recently.

**Andi:** Yeah. As I said, I really liked Kira right off the bat and I like the backstory they have for her as a freedom fighter that's now in peacetime and finding out that, "Hey, everything's not perfect now. The goal was met, but the problems didn't all disappear." I thought that was a really resonant story and I think timeless. So, I really enjoyed just like her overall arc. And every time it was Kira centered episode, it fit in with that. Right off the bat, we get Kira episode with the, what is it called, past prologue, which is-- [crosstalk]

**Jarrah:** Yeah, which I was super disappointed, did not involve time travel. But it was about a guy from her past, Tantalus.

**Andi:** Yeah. That one right off the bat is like her having to deal with the fact that things are more complicated than she thought they would be and her learning from that. And then, the next one that really stands out for me along this arc is the one where they go with Kai Opaka through the wormhole battle lines.

**Jarrah:** Yeah, that's battle lines.

**Andi:** Yeah.

**Grace:** Oh, Kai Opaka, we hardly knew ye.

**Andi:** Yeah, she's great. The role she feels for Kira in that episode where she's helping Kira forgive herself is, I think, just beautiful and beautifully acted and really hit me right in the feels. So, I really liked that episode. She also gets the one with the Bajoran farmer that won't leave, and she really has to confront her new allegiance as a government official type person, even though that's not necessarily how she would have liked to see herself.

**Jarrah:** Yeah, that's a really tough episode. That one's progress. I know that the writer originally wanted the main farmer, I think his name Mullibok, to be more of a villain, like less likable, less sympathetic. Because at the end, you really do sympathize with him. And then, you also struggle with her over this choice. But I think that it's good that it was more nuanced. It wasn't so, you know, this guy is actually stalling progress, but he's also clinging on to this way of life, because that's all he knows.

**Andi:** Yeah, I think there's this moment where Kira puts her uniform back on and she turns this corner, and I think that's a really nuanced episode that I really enjoyed. I think it has a lot of real-world parallels. So, the whole allegory of the Cardassian-Bajoran conflict really resonates with me, because I feel like it could be a stand in for so many real-life conflicts. Palestine and Israel was the first one I thought of when I saw *Ensign Ro*, simply because of the camps and the refugee camps that they go to. But it's being deepened in *Deep Space Nine*.

You can also see aspects of colonialism, so old school Britain, India and then also any really stateless nation, the Kurds-- You could see the Kurds in that. My background is actually international relations. So, this stuff is super interesting to me. I like that it's not portrayed simply. They portray it as being a very complicated conflict. I like that immensely. I think that's one reason why I like Kira so much, is because she is the character in which they explore that most in depth.

**Jarrah:** Yeah, for sure. And then, of course, the big Kira episode in Season 1, which is commonly rated in the top 10 of all *Deep Space Nine* episodes. I think Cinefantastique magazine actually rated this the number one *DS9* episode of all time is *Duet*. And that one was made-- It's a bottle show. It's entirely on the station, basically, because they had no money. Some of the bottle shows we've seen in the other *Star Trek* series ended up being a really great show. You just watched this tonight, Andi, so what did you think?

**Grace:** And the rest of us watched you reacting to it tonight.

**Andi:** I cried a lot. [laughs] It's a beautiful episode. It's beautiful, because this is a good example about what I mean about how they're really portraying the nuance, is that we've been set up to absolutely hate the Cardassians. And for good reason. They've done terrible things. But then, they also took the risk of showing the damage that does to the oppressor. It takes a piece of your soul.

And just watching Kira go through this amazing arc throughout this episode where she has to go from, like, this deep need for vengeance, not justice, vengeance, and then coming out the other side with this amazing forgiveness. It's beautiful. I have to say, the acting was incredible. I was basically almost in tears throughout the whole thing. And then, at the end when, the climax happens and you find out that this guy is just like, he wants to die because he's so guilt stricken and he's crying, oh, right in the feels, man. Heartbroken.

**Grace:** Yeah. And speaking of political analogies, this one is really one of the ones that drives home the whole Jewish oppression in Nazi Germany analogy. I think I heard somewhere even that the story is based off of a story from the Holocaust.

**Andi:** Yeah. It's very clearly like the war crimes of the regular soldiers that were at these Nazi death camps and how they allowed such horrible things to happen without doing anything. And it's like, they're not monsters. We want them to be monsters, but they were regular people that were doing monstrous things.

**Grace:** It would be easier for them to be monsters. That's what Kira is going through. It'd be easier just to hate this person and to keep wanting revenge, but it's so much more complicated than that.

**Andi:** Yeah, it's really well done.

**Grace:** It's incredible. It blows me away.

**Andi:** A lot of people were very excited for me to see that episode, and I certainly understood why after I finished it.

**Jarrah:** Yeah. I think this is also my favorite Kira-Sisko exchange. Sisko is a tough decision, because he has to protect due process for this guy, but he also, wants to, Kira, achieve justice for her people and honor the experience that he can't possibly understand that she went through.

He originally says, "Basically, you're too close to be objective." She gets to really passionately argue, "You're right. I'm not objective. But I'm your first officer and I give you my word I will conduct myself accordingly. You once said we were friends. I'm asking you now as a friend, please let me conduct this investigation. I owe it to them." And He goes, "You mean the victims?" And she goes, "That's right. The ones who moved too slowly and never moved again. I'm asking for all the Bajorans who can't ask, let a Bajoran do this."

I think that's really valid, that it goes to principles of restorative justice that why would you have this guy who is there to talk about these crimes he committed against Bajorans? Why would you have him go to a Federation judge to talk about what he did? Why wouldn't you let the people that he actually committed crimes against have a say in what justice means?

**Grace:** And this episode really epitomizes one of the things that I love so much about Major Kira being that she is part of this injured party of the Bajoran people, but she does not, for one second want to play the victim or let herself be seen as a victim. She is someone who is very much taking not only things in their own hands but is trying to take things not necessarily with stride but just trying to roll with the punches as horrible as they are and come to terms with the things that have happened to her.

**Jarrah:** Yeah. There's also quite a nice Dax-Kira scene where Kira unburdens herself about the difficult decision she's making and Dax gives her advice. I think that shows just how much potential there was for that to be a really strong female friendship. I think it does, to some extent, pay off later. And that's an awesome thing.

**Andi:** Good episode.

**Jarrah:** Awesome. All right. Well, the last episode I want to talk about is the season finale, *In The Hands of the Prophets*. This is two characters that we haven't really touched on yet. Is this her first episode Vedek Winn?

**Andi:** Yes. This is the first time I see her. I did recognize her as Nurse Ratched. I did recognize her. [Jarrah laughs] But, yeah, that was the first episode with Winn.

**Grace:** Ooh, she's great.

**Jarrah:** And this is the one where Winn comes to the station to protest Keiko O'Brien's school for not teaching that the wormhole aliens are Prophets. I think Keiko's most significant episode in Season 1, and Keiko is a character who gets maligned quite a bit and we're going to do an episode talking specifically about her and other characters like that. One of our



Facebook commenters noted that she felt she was written like a harpy on *Deep Space Nine*. But I think this episode is actually really good for her.

**Andi:** Absolutely. Yeah, one of the first things that happens is, Winn comes into her classroom and is like, "Why aren't you teaching this?" And she's like, "Aren't you going to teach Bajoran beliefs?" And Keiko says, "No, I don't teach Bajoran spiritual beliefs. That's your job." And she is like, "Wow." These are two different jobs that they're doing, right? One is a spiritual leader, one is a teacher.

I think one of the reasons why I like this episode so much is because this is obviously something that comes up in our society all the time, where we draw the line on religious liberty and how much do we allow religion to have a place in our public institutions. But I really like that line for her.

And then, later on, they also have a conflict where Winn is trying to manipulate her into softening her stance, and she's like, "No, my responsibility is to expose my students to knowledge, not to hide it. So, the answer is no."

I just really enjoyed these moments with her. Like, she was very much whether or not you agree with her, which I think that this whole issue is something that can be debated. Whether or not you agree with her, she sticks with her principles really strongly and in a really admirable way. She respects their right to believe what they want to believe. She just doesn't think that it has a place in her classroom. I think that's a valid position to take.

**Jarrah:** Yeah. She's basically willing to say, "I will acknowledge that that's Bajorans call them prophets, but I'm not going to teach kids that is fact, because we don't know. If I start doing this, then where do I draw the line, and what happens when we have to discuss these other things, like evolution and the creation of the universe and Vedek Winn--" Sorry, spoiler goes. [laughs] Well, we'll deal with that when we come to it. It's obvious, you can't build an education system based on making exceptions.

**Andi:** I think that it's interesting that they use Kira to show the Bajoran position more than Winn, because Winn is right from the bat like-- .

**Grace:** He's the extremist party.

**Andi:** Yeah. Kira, she's on the same side almost, but also in a much more reasonable place. I think it's like this goes two ways. So, their point is that they're teaching Bajorans, they should teach Bajoran spiritual beliefs. But it's not just Bajorans in that class. So, if you start teaching one religion over another religion in a school, that's just a huge can of worms.

**Jarrah:** Yeah. I really appreciate the part where-- I definitely side with Keiko on this issue too, but I agree it that you have to at least try to empathize with the other side. Sisko does a really great job of that when he's talking to Jake, because Jake just goes like, "Well, it's stupid. Why is she trying to shut down the school? Why are they being so stupid?" He says it's not stupid, that their faith is their only thing that has kept them together and helped them survive the occupation. So, you can really put yourself in those shoes and understand why you would feel defensive to have your up-and-coming generation potentially have that faith eroded.

**Andi:** Because I just tweeted this episode, I actually have his exact line in front of me and it's a beautiful one. It's a matter of interpretation. It may not be what you believe, but that doesn't make it wrong. And that's basically my philosophy when it comes to religion, like, what is truth for one person does not necessarily make it truth for another. You have the right to believe whatever you believe, but you don't have the right to enforce them on other people.

**Jarrah:** Totally.

**Sue:** It's interesting, because you're saying your background is international relationship, not in the terms of studying but in the terms of how I grew up. This is my background. I was raised by two parents who both went and studied theology in college. My dad is actually a doctor of theology.

**Grace:** Wow.

**Sue:** Yeah. So, religion was a big part of my upbringing. I actually, personally, I prefer the word faith, because religion has a lot of weird trappings around it. But I think the issue that is happening both in *DS9* and when we draw parallels to our own world, is that people see science and faith as being diametrically opposed to one another. But you can have both.

**Andi:** Yeah, I think that's what Kira's position is because Kira takes the position that-- Keiko is saying that science is science, and that it's not philosophy. It's something different than that. But Kira points out that like, "If you separate them, that is a philosophy."

**Jarrah:** Yeah. You're still making a choice to separate them.

**Andi:** Yeah, absolutely.

**Sue:** Right. And you can have both, you can keep them separate or you can bring them together. I'll be straight up honest and open. I consider myself a person of faith, and I consider myself a person very, very interested in science and astronomy and cosmology. And for me, I can bring those two things together, and I feel like I get more meaning out of both from that.

Some people want to keep them separate and some people want only one. But the most important part of this, is that you can do any of those things. They don't have to oppose one another. They can work together and do so beautifully.

**Andi:** Well said, Sue.

**Jarrah:** I think also another lesson is, don't set bombs and try to set up murderers like Winn does.

**Andi:** Yeah. I was like, "Oh, man."

**Grace:** Yeah, those are just generally dick-ish-- [crosstalk]

**Sue:** Yeah, that's not good.

**Andi:** She creeped me out right from the beginning. I was trying to figure out if it was, because she plays such an infamous villain in the past. But I don't think that was it. She does a really good job of being really calm and yet menacing. So, right off the bat, I was like, "Dude, I'm scared of this woman, but I can't tell-- Nothing she's saying is scary, but her whole vibe is just off."

I was really wary of her right off the bat. But then, when it turns out that she set this up and is a literal murderer, she sets up people's murders, I'm sitting there like, "Whoa, I thought she was creepy. I didn't know she was a stone-cold killer."

**Sue:** She's one of those really, really intense religious leaders, where their followers are more worshipping their leader than their God they propose to follow.

**Grace:** And that's what Winn is really all about.

**Andi:** And the thing is too, is she's the leader that is super dangerous, because she thinks that she is right. You know what I mean? It's like, she thinks she's-- [crosstalk]

**Grace:** She believes in absolutes.

**Andi:** Exactly. She thinks that what she's doing is completely justified. That's one reason why she's so dangerous, I would say. I was really surprised by her in a good way. I think she was a really cool antagonist. And I thought it was really nice to have-- [crosstalk]

**Grace:** Oh, just you wait.

**Andi:** Yeah. [chuckles] It was really nice to have three of the women characters playing such important roles in the central conflict. But there, it's like a completely organic conflict. Like, they're coming at it from three different ways and it makes complete sense. I always like it when that happens, because I think it's rare that we have women in conflict in a believable and nuanced way. So, I really enjoyed this episode as well.

**Jarrah:** Totally. I have a quote from Louise Fletcher, who said, "Winn wanted power, and she was ambitious. She was a Margaret Thatcher in space, which, by the way, my favorite Winn comparison now. Or, as I used to say, I was the pope in space. People would say, "Oh, you're doing *Star Trek*. Who are you playing?" I'd say, "I think the pope in space, except she's like ancient pope from the old days when popes were ruthless and powerful and exerted their powers and fought wars and did all kinds of naughty things." So, I really liked that.

**Sue:** I thought the space pope was reptilian.

[laughter]

**Jarrah:** I do wish we hadn't seen whether she was behind the killing. I think it would have been really cool if there was a suspicion of that. Because Kira finds out without seeing that scene where we see Leila, the O'Brien's assistant, who turns out to be trying to assassinate Bareil. Basically, this is a scene where she's talking to Winn about like, "I can't escape anymore." And Winn is like, "You got to kill him anyway. If you die, that's your path."

I don't think we needed that scene. I think it would have been cool if we just saw Kira basically accusing her, and we were left to wonder whether it was really her or not. And then that could have been developed more later on with a bit more mystery at the beginning.

**Grace:** There was really potential for ambiguity there. Yeah.

**Jarrah:** Yeah. But anyway, I still enjoy it.

**Grace:** This led to the more bombastic ending, if you'll pardon the pun.

**Jarrah:** Oh, yes, the Sisko, "No."

**Andi:** I screenshotted that immediately.

[laughter]

**Grace:** Of course. When you get a no like that, you got to save her for posterity. It belongs to the ages.

**Andi:** Yeah. Jarrah tweeted me and was like, "Why couldn't O'Brien just have told Odo? Odo was right there." And I was like, "But then I wouldn't have gotten to screenshot that, Jarrah. Think of the big picture."

**Jarrah:** [laughs] The screenshot was the only good part coming out. I didn't really enjoy that ending, but overall, it was a solid episode. Andi, any final thoughts?

**Andi:** Just that I'm really excited to keep going, I'm really, really enjoying *Deep Space Nine* and I'm very excited to see what's coming up, especially since I've heard many good things about the mid seasons, especially. So, if it started off this good, I'm excited to see it get even better.

**Jarrah:** Cool. And Sue or Grace?

**Grace:** I'm excited to watch you keep going. [Andi laughs] Just look over your shoulder being like, "Oh, here it comes."

[laughter]

**Sue:** Yeah, pretty much. *DS9* is so, so different from anything that's come before. So, I'm excited to watch you watch it.

**Andi:** I'm glad to hear it.

**Jarrah:** One other thing I just wanted to say briefly is *DS9* gets a reputation as being darker and grittier than the other *Trek*. I thought that Season 1 was actually full of a lot of really very Trekkie and moments in terms of the philosophy, and that it actually rang very true for me to how I see *Star Trek*.

You have *Emissary* right off the bat where Sisko is explaining to the prophets or the wormhole aliens that we're explorers. But it's not just about exploring the galaxy, it's exploring our own potential as human beings. So, there's all of these messages throughout Season 1 that I think really fall well in that Czech tradition. And then, ending with that discussion *In The Hands of the Prophets* about empathizing and understanding that just because you don't agree with something doesn't mean it's wrong and things like that. I thought that there were a lot of really nice moments.

I also just wanted to mention that if you have not yet already done so, head on over to iTunes, and please give us a rating and review. It helps other people find us and know if this show is something that's right for them. So, we would love if you would take a couple minutes to do that. So, Andi, where can people find you elsewhere on the interwebs?

**Andi:** Well, you can watch my further tweeting of *DS9*, [@firsttimetrek](#). I'm super excited to start Season 2.

**Jarrah:** And Sue, how about you? Where can you be found?

**Sue:** More blogs and podcasts from me can be found over at [anomaly podcast.com](#). And is Grace back?

**Grace:** People can find me on Twitter, [@bonecrusherjenk](#).

**Jarrah:** Brilliant. And my name is Jarrah Hodge. And you can find me at *trekifeminist.tumblr.com*. Or, I'm also on Twitter, *@jarrahpenguin*. Thanks so much for listening.

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