

Women at Warp Episode 10: Coffee. Black.

audio clip from Star Trek :Voyager – Bride of Chaotica! (S5E12)

Neelix: Uh, sorry, Captain. We lost two more replicators this morning.

Janeway: Listen to me very carefully because I'm only going to say this once: Coffee. Black.

Neelix: Yes, ma'am

end clip

Sue: 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 is Sue and thanks for tuning in.

Jarrah: Hi, I'm Jarrah.

Grace: And I'm Grace.

Sue: Today we have with us our special guest Kayla, who you may know from season two of King of the Nerds.

Kayla: Hello!

Jarrah/Grace: Yay!

Jarrah: So cool.

Sue: And our main topic today is: Why we love Captain Kathryn Janeway. Before we get there, we have a few things to talk about. First of all, Women at Warp is now on Patreon. So if you're out there and you would like to support us and throw us a couple of bucks every month, that would be awesome, and it helps us to continue to improve our podcast quality, our equipment, and even helps us get out to conventions. So that would be awesome. And you can find us at <http://patreon.com/womenatwarp>.

Grace: We're the first thing you find if you look for "women" on Patreon.

Jarrah: Seriously?

Grace: Seriously. Look up the word "women" and we're the first thing that comes up.

Jarrah: Yeah, it would be awesome if you would consider supporting us. We love doing what we're doing and we are keeping volunteering our time but this helps offset some of our costs and expand our audience and what we're able to do to get feminist analysis out into the Star Trek fandom. So again that's <http://patreon.com/womenatwarp>.

Sue: Awesome. And we have a piece of mail - it's a little bit long - as a response to our Feminist Ferengi Revolution episode.

Grace: Oooo.

Jarrah: So, this is a message from Claire: "Dear crew of the Women at Warp podcast. Listening to your recent podcast on feminism and Ferengi in Star Trek, I thought I'd share some of my own personal experiences with the episode "Profit and Lace." I first saw the episode back when I was a very young teen still deeply in the dark about my own personal identity. Growing up in virtual ignorance of concepts like transgenderism or non-binary identities, I tended to try and hoard anything, which challenged the very heteronormative model of the world I'd been raised in. I remember seeing this episode and being so enraptured by the concept of such an easy transition between men and women and that it was a main character - and not a CSI victim of the week - that virtually every other aspect of the episode fell away. Roll on 8 years personal growth and soul searching, I decided to join the Post Atomic Horror Podcast in their rewatching the episode. As a queer transwoman, I have

been very fortunate to have avoided falling prey to many of the dangers that trans people face. However, seeing issues which personal friends and other members of the trans community have unfortunately been subjected to reduced to jokes and comedy left me close to an emotional breakdown. To me, Star Trek has always been an escape from the ugliness of the world, but to have that escape making the pain I, my friends, and others have suffered felt like the ultimate betrayal. I'll close out by saying I am absolutely adoring the podcast. I love the appearances all you guys had on All Things Trek and so glad you now have a podcast of your own. Looking forward to listening to you guys for a long time to come. Yours sincerely, Claire."

Grace: Thank you so much for sharing that with us, Claire.

Jarrah: Absolutely. And if you want to send us your comments on any of our episodes or just general thoughts on women in Star Trek feel free to email us at crew@womenatwarp.com.

Grace: We love getting fanmail.

Sue: So, okay. I think if we're ready to start talking about Janeway...

Grace: Oh, are we ready. Are we ready!

Sue: Are we ready! Why don't we start by, I guess our first impressions our first experiences with Voyager? And I will actually throw that over to Kayla, our guest.

Jarrah: We sort of did introduce Kayla but, Kayla, do you have anything else you want to say about how awesome you are?

Kayla: Um....

Grace: Tell us!

Sue: Yeah, there is that.

Kayla: Well, as you said, I guess my claim to fame – quote/unquote - would be I was on the season two of King of the Nerds and I think it became kind of obvious I was a big Janeway fan, if you watched the show.

Grace: We sussed it out.

Kayla: I think I quoted her almost every episode. But my actual background is I have a master's degree in Space Studies. I did my thesis on human exploration of Mars. And I've... just that... pretty much my entire life study space exploration and wanting to be on a star ship out in space, so.

Grace: Yeah.

Jarrah: Amazing!

Kayla: Me in a nutshell. So I started out with Star Trek extremely young. Like, my mom says I was probably around 2 and she'd trying to get me to watch Barney or Sesame Street. But I would always turn the channel over and watch the Picard on Star Trek: The Next Generation. My whole life, all I remember is... is Star Trek. I remember going to see Generations in the theater, and all the Next Generation movies in the theater. The whales were always my favorite as a little girl - loved the "save the whales" story.

Grace: Awww.

Kayla: But I remember when Voyager came out. I knew, going into it, there was the hype of the female captain. I was interested. There's a new Star Trek. I didn't really take to Deep Space Nine. That first episode, in Caretaker, I'm sitting on the floor watching it on, like, a little 13 inch TV in the back room and I just... The moment that we see Chakotay beam aboard Voyager and he sees Paris and he starts going after Paris, you know, running his mouth. And Janeway intercepts him and just gets up in his face and makes the comment about, "I expect you to treat members of my crew the same way you want me to treat members of yours." I was sold. That's my captain. I like her. And then the next couple of episodes she established herself very strongly as a knowledgeable scientist who actually knows her stuff. That was just signed, sealed, and delivered at that

point for me.

Jarrah: I had a really similar experience when I first started watching, I think I was 9 or 10 when it first aired and probably my mom had given me the heads up that, "Hey, there's gonna be a new Star Trek and there's gonna be a woman captain" - or it could've been my dad, my dad is the bigger Trekkie - and all summer I was waiting for that and it totally delivered. I remember canceling plans with friends so I could be at home and watch Voyager. Yeah, Captain Janeway was just so amazing. I used to have her poster in my bedroom and if I was ever feeling bad, I could -

Grace: Awwww

Jarrah: This is really embarrassing, but I'd imagine, like, she was giving me advice.

Grace: Ooooh, that's so sweet!

Sue: That's the - so cute!

Jarrah: Cause even though, um, and I wanted to be her, but at that age I probably felt more similar to Kes, being I was really precocious and kind of naïve, and I love how Janeway really helped her through those experiences.

Kayla: Yes.

Sue: Grace?

Grace: For me it probably started when I was about 11 years old. I had just moved, so I was in a new place where I didn't know a lot of people. I had a mom who traveled for work a lot. So I was just left home alone a lot. So I would just kind of have the TV on in the background keep me company and it was cool, though, because at one point it was just like, "Oh, there's this show and it's just a bunch of people but there's a woman bossing them all around. That's pretty cool." And that's just how it kind of started with me, at least with Voyager. It was something to put on in the background to be like, "See, here's a lady who's in charge. No one's telling her what to do. Well, they are, but she's not letting them."

Kayla: Was Voyager your first Trek?

Grace: It wasn't, actually. Next Generation was my first Trek. But I was on kind of a Trek-hiatus at that point, and that was what kind of brought me back in.

Kayla: Okay.

Jarrah: Yeah, me too. I grew to love Deep Space Nine but, at that point, I don't think I was quite maybe old enough to appreciate the politics of it. And Voyager brought me back into Trek in a way that was really perfect. And Janeway showed that it's okay to not have everyone like you all the time...

Grace: Yeah.

Jarrah: But you need to show leadership and then people will support and respect you because of the leadership you show and the concern that you show for other people.

Grace: Although come to think of it, but I remember specifically being babysat at a younger age and having a friend of my dad who was really into Star Trek be like, "Oh, come check this out, honey. There's a lady and she's got ears like butterfly wings." And that was my introduction to Kes, and I was like, "No, what's the with lady with the big hair? I want to know her deal."

Jarrah: I was so mad that I could never make that button happen. I could never copy that bun.

Sue: That's what those hair doughnuts are for.

Grace: Yeah.

Sue: But it makes me really sad, Grace, that you were being babysat during Voyager because I was definitely babysitting during Voyager.

laughter

Grace: I can't help it. I'm still a wee one, I guess.

Sue: But Voyager hit, for me, at a really important time, I think, because I was just about to enter middle school and that is a time when girls, or women, just start losing interest in the STEM fields. And there was Janeway - and B'Elanna to kind of a lesser degree, because Janeway was in charge - and they were just sciencing together, like, every week and that was so important.

Kayla: Yes.

Sue: And that's why I stayed in my AP science classes and that's why I wound up studying freakin' chaotic theory in college. So, I mean, I don't even think I realized it until later when I looked back on it because I still, you know, identify Crusher as my favorite character. But it's Janeway who possibly had the most influence on some of the choices that I made in terms of my education.

Kayla: I could definitely kind of reflect that, cause at age 9 when I'm watching it, I'm not thinking, "Oh, she's good at science. I'm gonna be good science." But when I'm in college, looking at, "I'm doing quantum mechanics class, now. What a... you know, I'm doing what Janeway did." You definitely see were that was. As being more of an engineer, you'd think that I would be more into, like, B'Elanna or Scotty, but because there's more science presence, you know, I did stick more to the sciences, as well. And that was a huge part for me is, you watch Picard and, except for archeology, he doesn't know anything. He just sits there and has Data or Geordi do whatever and same with Sisko, same with Kirk.

Grace: He leaves the science to the little people.

Kayla: Yeah, like, they rely on their team to do it, and with Janeway, constantly she's running circles around Paris. Paris is sitting there going, "Wait, what?" She's the one who's on charge of it. And then you see her even showing Naomi, like, how to look into things and stuff, and I'm like, "That's awesome. I like that."

Jarrah: Yeah there's actually a scene in The Original Series, in, I think, "This Side of Paradise" where Kirk can't do anything with the ship because he's the only person on the ship and he basically just sits there doing his Captain's Log about how he's stuck and can't do anything. Janeway would never let that happen. Like, in "Year of Hell," she is doing so much stuff by herself and really, like you said, taking things into her own hands, showing other people these ideas that she's having. It's so cool

Grace: Captain's Log. I don't have any quantifiable life skills.

Kayla: Well, not to keep pooping on Kirk a little but here, but in the movies, he had to have Scotty rig the entire Enterprise to basically work skeleton off of one console just for him when he was going to go run off with McCoy to save Spock. So yeah, he definitely needed things handed to him a little bit.

Jarrah: If Captain Kirk takes off his shirt and no one is there to see it, is he still studly?

Grace: The question for the ages, really.

Sue: I don't know where to take that.

Grace: Take it wherever you need.

Sue: Ooooh. I was sitting on a Dragon Con panel last year, and she came up as an example of role models for young girls and somebody from the audience piped up right away. And he said, "I don't like Janeway because she never showed the vulnerability that Kirk and Picard showed throughout their series."

Grace: Oh, really?

Sue: And I'm just... I immediately was like, "Wait a minute. This was 1995" - and Kate Mulgrew mentions this in Born with Teeth, as well - that the whole idea of being a woman who has a career and a family was still kind of new in 1995.

Grace: Yeah

Sue: And she was doing that in her real life as well as playing the captain on this starship. And there were so many Star Trek fans that were already skeptical of this woman in this spaceship named after a minivan, which I heard a lot.

Grace: Maybe that's why they thought she was supposed to be a mom-ish figure, because she was driving a giant space minivan.

Kayla: The minivan came out after the show did, actually.

Grace: Okay, thanks for clarifying.

Sue: I love that that's something that you looked up.

Grace: I love the mental image of, of soccer moms going out of their way to buy a Voyager, now. Just so like, "Oh, no reason. I just want to drive."

Kayla: Kate Mulgrew voiced the commercial for the minivan and it came out after Voyager.

Sue: Oh I didn't even realize that.

Grace: That makes it even better.

Sue: That's amazing.

Kayla: The name Voyager actually comes from the spacecraft Voyager. That was the first spacecraft to go outside of the solar system which actually reached the heliosphere about the same time Voyager came out on the TV, so.

Sue: Love it. But if Janeway had broken down when they got stuck in the Delta Quadrant in the first few episodes - If that had happened, there goes half of the fan base that was already questioning her.

Grace: Right.

Kayla: Mmhmm.

Sue: Just before even seeing anything. So, I don't buy it. And there's, she shows plenty of vulnerability throughout that series.

Jarra: Should we go into the other complaints, then, since we're kind of already on this topic?

Grace: Yeah go for it.

Jarra: So, most of these are just quotes from forums. There are some though that are actually commentators or people writing blog posts. So these are some of the most common lines that were also just, I thought, super sexist, to, like, to dislike Captain Janeway. So this was on a thing about who is the worst captain, so this commenter says, "Easily Janeway. Who the F loses a starship on a shakedown cruise? Pfft. A woman, that's who." So, like, you seriously will see this on forums. It's pretty ridiculous.

Grace: Yeah.

Jarra: And like you said, I don't think it's a majority, but it's pretty appalling that Star Trek fans would not know better.

Kayla: Just respond with, "Who the F leaves on a shakedown cruise before Tuesday, when everything's supposed to be installed? Enterprise B, that's who."

Jarrah: There's also a lot of comments about her hair and her voice.

Grace: Always with the hair. My...

Jarrah: Yeah, and it's really similar to what we see with women in other positions of authority, particularly in politics, that there's a tendency to critique their appearance rather than what, their actual actions are or what they stand for. A lot of people call it "politically correct" like in a bad way.

Grace: Oh, boy.

Jarrah: Like "they're only doing the political correct thing."

Grace: How dare they, really? Like you have stooped to a low by trying to make everyone feel included.

Jarrah: Ugh, yeah. Um, and then they're like, "Oh, and now we've checked the box and now we can do Enterprise." But, anyway, uh, another story. So, um.

Grace: Oh boy.

Jarrah: People critiqued her weight.

Grace: Really? Really?

Jarrah: Yeah really.

Sue: Of course. She's a woman on the television. Of course they're critiquing her weight.

Jarrah: And, you know, talking about people saying she's not vulnerable. I saw someone who said, "Did anyone else notice that she is neurotic at times? Some days she's in a bad mood and she overreacts." Some people complained that she was cold and never showed any emotion. Some people complained she was overly emotional. One person said, "It seemed like she knew too much science."

Grace: Wow. It's almost as if a female character can only be one thing at a time.

Jarrah: Yeah. There's a... a blogger at Big Freaking Robot who wrote a thing saying she was basically too feminine and said "She's at least interested in prancing around in frilly dresses on the holodeck as she is in leading her crew."

Sue: There's nothing wrong with that.

Jarrah: Nope. Said she was "everyone's mother, never really a captain that had to make the hard calls like Kirk and Picard."

Kayla: Oh my God.

Grace: Oh, really?

Jarrah: Except for all the time. And finally another person saying she was too masculine: "I understand there's a certain talent for acting like you're always in command of the situation, but whereas Picard and Kirk pulled that off perfectly, Janeway just seemed like she was being arrogant." So...

Grace: Charming. So, when a guy does it, it's okay. When a woman does it, it's arrogance.

Kayla: Mmhmm.

Jarrah: Yeah, it's like "uppity women" basically. I saw someone also calling her the "mother-slash-bitch" as a trope. That she couldn't, she was always either the mother or the bitch.

Grace: It's like a switch, you can only go one of the two?

Sue: There's a third, but yeah, it's terrible.

Jarrah: It's just, there's still, even with people who don't think they're being sexist, there is an undercurrent of sexism because you're applying standards that you wouldn't apply to the male captains.

Grace: Absolutely.

Jarrah: One of the most common critiques I hear is that she's inconsistent. I think that is something that is, occurs in every single other series. And if you look at, like, first-season Picard or first-season Sisko or Kirk.

Grace: Yeah.

Jarrah: Ever. Like, they're, all of them have elements of inconsistency.

Grace: Mmhmm.

Jarrah: It plays into stereotypes of women being, you know, flighty and irrational and, you know, hysterical. Every month, her womb starts to wander and then she's ordering Chakotay to do crazy things.

Sue: But people are inconsistent. In day to day life.

Grace: It's part of what makes them people.

Sue: Like, if I'm faced with the same situation now that I was five years ago, I might do something completely different.

Jarrah: That is very true.

Sue: People change and they're inconsistent. If I'm faced with the same situation tomorrow that I was today, I might do something different.

Jarrah: Yeah.

Sue: So, I mean, it's a ridiculous thing. There's being true to the character – yeah, I can see the character doing that - and then there is not acting exactly the same way in the same situation. Those are two different things.

Jarrah: Yeah, like, it would be inconsistent if, you know, suddenly she didn't know any science and had to look things up in a remedial science textbook.

Grace: (fake cough) Uhura!

Sue: Shall we return to the positive?

Grace: Yeah!

Jarrah: Yes, let's do that.

Sue: How about our favorite Janeway moments? We got a lot of comments on our Facebook page, which is awesome. Thank you, everybody. But let's, let's start with the people who are talking live. Same order?

Kayla: I have to pick one?

Jarrah: How about we go around and we'll each pick one to start with and then keep going around until we're done, or until we run out of time.

Kayla: Oh boy. I guess one that comes up a lot when I think about favorite Janeway episodes, per se - It's not a very strong episode in terms of Star Trek in general, and it's a first season episode, so you know, it's even

worse. But I always really enjoyed The 37s. The story is pretty stupid but just seeing Amelia Earhart standing next to Captain Janeway just always puts a smile in my heart.

Grace: It makes the heart go a flutter.

Kayla: Yeah. Was it Sharon Lawrence?

Jarrah: Lawrence, yeah.

Kayla: Who did it. And they didn't even have the character herself dead-on with who Amelia Earhart was, but it was just fun to see the two together and sitting there admiring the Voyager and I'm like "Yeah."

Jarrah: Yeah, that's a lovely moment at the end where Janeway says basically she's going to let people stay if they want to stay. And everyone decides to stay with her on Voyager and it's just so, like, "the feels!"

Kayla: It's one of the first, like, Janeway/Chakotay moments and stuff. Yes.

Jarrah: And when I was a kid and I saw that episode, I just, I was on a super Amelia Earhart kick. I went and read, like, everything in the library that I could about her. So it just also like really spun off that interest in other important women barrier-breakers in history.

Kayla: Yeah.

Jarrah: So one of the ones that I think we have to talk about, and I know that, that Kayla, you also have thoughts on this one, is Counterpoint. I think that's widely cited as probably the best Janeway episode. And it's also Kate Mulgrew's favorite episode.

Kayla: Yes.

Jarrah: She calls it "a story about the woman underneath the scientist" and that's the one, for anyone who doesn't remember, where they're smuggling telepaths through this area of space and there's this inspector, Kashyk, who, he's sort of playing this game with Janeway. You're not sure who's telling the truth about what. And there's a bit of romantic, sexual tension and it's just so great. We had a few people on Facebook bring this up, too, including Jo who said that she thinks "this episode really shows the fundamental conflict between the captain and the woman that Janeway struggles with throughout the whole series. She was attracted to Kashyk and wanted to trust him, even offered him a place on Voyager, which she said was genuine even after his deception was revealed. But she had to put the safety of the crew and the telepaths he rescued above her own feelings." And I just love, though, how she - you don't really see it coming. I mean you know they have to get out of the situation, but how she outmaneuvers him and it's really great.

Grace: Yeah, that is genuinely one of my favorite Janeway moments of the entire series, where we just get this moment where he's like, "Oh well, I guess it's just business. Sorry fell for that." And she's just like, "Oh, well, I'm sorry that you're a jerk who fell for it. Bazing! We outdid ya, loser." It makes me so happy.

Kayla: And you know, she does it at her own expense, too. That's the thing, that it...

Grace: Definitely.

Kayla: She is falling for this guy and this is really one of the first times that she has a chance, too. Because as Kate Mulgrew, as the Captain, Janeway, everyone agreed, that she shouldn't really be in a relationship with Chakotay because it does undermine her authority and it would turn off a large portion of the demographic. So this is the first time you see her actually having a chance with someone that's not a hologram to really explore in a relationship. And, ultimately, she has to keep her shields up. She can't let herself fall for it. You know, it probably was upsetting to have to, you know, say goodbye at the end the way that they did. But she never let her own feeling, her own emotion not, blind her to her crew and to what could happen and she had that ace in the hole the entire time and she was ready to pull it up to protect her crew and to protect the telepaths and all of that. It's an amazing episode, to see that.

Sue: Grace, did you have another one?

Grace: That was honestly my main one, but personal favorite here: Bride of Chaotica

Sue: I love that.

Grace: For obvious reasons. But I just love the fact that we see Janeway have to be put in a situation where she's like, "Are you kidding me? Really? Fine, I'll do it." But she's just game for what the situation is throwing at her and she goes with it. She does it with aplomb and it's just so fun to watch. Not just Kate Mulgrew perform, but her character would be like, "Okay, this is what I'm doing now. Um, Ah ha ha ha? Evil, right? Is this right?"

Kayla: Yes.

Grace: I feel like it could have easily been made this really precious thing but she, she does it with a level of dignity that just makes it hysterically funny and just fun to watch.

Kayla: Another episode that I've always enjoyed – When people are like, "She was never vulnerable enough," I always bring up the one called Night, where it starts out with her in this extreme depression, she's not leaving her quarters, Chakotay and her are pretty much fighting. And that one always, just the way - Star Trek: Voyager dealt a lot with mental health and several different kinds. You know, suicide was in, came up in what? Three different episodes? And so it -

Grace: Yeah, it came up a lot.

Kayla: Yeah, you had Quinn, you had Moral Coil with Neelix, you had Extreme Risk with B'Elanna. So, to me, just, you know, I'm a teenager at that point. I'm, you know, 14, 15 and I'm, "She can do it, I can do it. I can get through this stuff, too."

Grace: Yeah.

Kayla: And yeah, that really showed her vulnerability in that case. And again, she puts everything aside to save her crew, because you don't see her until that last moment when all of a sudden she comes in with a big ol' plasma rifle, and is like, "Alright, I got this boys. I got this."

Grace: "Yep, I'm back."

Kayla: Yeah.

Grace: Can I bring up another one?

Sue: Sure.

Grace: Resistance, which I think is a very good one –

Jarrah: Oh, yes.

Grace: - to use as an example for anyone who said she was unemotional or cold –

Kayla: Yes.

Grace: - because the majority of that episode just relies on her empathy as a character and her inability to just kind of leave this guy in the dust when she meets someone who thinks that she is his estranged daughter. She's got to humor him to some degree, but has to get her job done. And it's such a beautiful performance between her and Joel Grey, I think.

Kayla: Yeah, Caylem.

Grace: It haunted me. It really did.

Kayla: That was the character Caylem and at the very end when he, he's finally passing away and dying, she just went with it like, "I was, I'm your daughter." And let him have that moment of happiness and stuff.

Grace: It's such an empathetic episode, also. And I, I really don't understand how someone can watch that one and think of her as a cold character. It, it's ridiculous. Unless they skipped that episode entirely.

Sue: One that I really love is The Void. The, they, when they get pulled in to this place with no stars, nobody thinks they can get out. And basically the ships are all going at each other for supplies. And she's just sticks to her principles and she you can see how determined she is. And they - more than once, I think - have the opportunity to take things that aren't theirs, but that would help them. And even Tuvok says, "The logical thing to do would be to take what we need" and she's like, "But that's not the right thing to do."

Grace: Yeah.

Sue: So she, she sticks to it and she gets people to work with her because she's willing to help them. And I think there's compassion in that as well as, as holding to your principles and being determined to get through everything. Plus that's a season 7 episode. They're halfway through season 7. They have been through everything –

Grace: Yeah.

Sue: - and they're still really far from home. And she is still not giving in, yeah.

Grace: Sticking to her guns, yeah.

Jarra: Yeah, I think that's also a, probably a good lead in to another one that we should talk about, which is Equinox, because that's another episode that I see get cited a lot as an example of Janeway not being a good captain. But I sort of see it more like Janeway's version of In The Pale Moonlight, where, you know, she's confronted with this situation. It does get into this idea that, you know, when do you put your principles on the line? To what extent do you stick to your guns to chase down this, this captain that's gone rogue? So she's confronted with a bad situation. I'm not saying I support all of the decisions that she made, but I think at the end the message is very clear that she realizes that she went too far when she and Chakotay are, you know, hanging the plaque back up and she basically admits he could have mutinied. I think that is actually really powerful and I think it's important that our heroes and our role models show there's the potential for them to stray because it sets an example that makes us realize we're all fallible.

Grace: Also, it's what separates an unattainable character from just a character. Someone who you can identify with, someone who feels human - not to be species-ist or anything, of course.

Kayla: I always saw Equinox as Janeway's Best of Both Worlds.

Grace: Yeah.

Kayla: Because you see, in the episode after when Picard goes back to France then he has his meltdown with his brother at the vineyard stuff. I feel that those are comparable because you, you're seeing Janeway have a fight with Chakotay, you're seeing that moment where Chakotay is like, "I don't know if I can continue to support you, you're about to kill someone in cold blood and let those organisms come and attack him. The whole thing with the plaque falling off a wall, you know, the symbolism of all that. You see her, you see her cross the line. She shows an ugly side. She shows a very ugly side of what she could do, and how bad she can make a situation by not holding to certain principles and by being too pig headed. You know, it's one of those, she learned her lesson from it. And you see later on that she, she remembers some of those lessons and she deals with them maybe differently, because it was a learning point.

Grace: Yeah,

Kayla: But then you have, um, Ram...sey? Ramsey? Oh no, what's the name of the other character?

Jarra: Ransom.

Kayla: Ransom, that's it.

Jarra: Captain Ransom.

Kayla: Yeah, and how he chose completely opposite, Good and Evil, kind of conflict. It's a very interesting episode that I think really dived into show she *can* not follow the right lines, that she won't stray too far and come back. Which is, I think we see that happen in Good Shepherd, where she realizes again that - this is another season 7 episode, towards the very end - when she's like, "I need to bring some of these crew members that I've kind of let slip through the cracks come back." And now it was her turn to kind of be the Chakotay and that and like, "Hey, let's bring you back."

Jarrah: And she does had a lot with Seven of Nine, and she spends a lot of time helping Seven become more human and sort of goes from being sort of a strict mother figure to more of a caring mother figure to more of a friend. And that's really cool to watch. It's a bit later on, but one of my favorite Janeway/Seven episodes is The Omega Directive, and how she brings Seven of Nine in on this, and they worked together. And Janeway's really grave in this episode and she's very devoted to The Omega Directive by Starfleet but also realizes that she can't do it alone and, and I really like how she, throughout the series, is so willing to listen to other people's advice. Unlike Archer. But in Parallax, which is the second episode of the series and is one of my favorite episodes, that's when B'Elanna is really struggling with her self-confidence and Janeway tells her that she had this recommendation from this professor at the Academy and she says that some professors like people who contradict them. That's not the exact quote but basically she says that she values people who question her decisions. So that's really cool and that's I think a sign of, of confidence and leadership.

Kayla: That was one of those episodes where Janeway and B'Elanna just go into science mode and the boys are sitting around the conference table going, "Duhhh."

Grace: I just love seeing them in science mode.

Jarrah: Yeah definitely. I'm actually, I just dug up this quote from Kate Mulgrew from 1995, so back during those early seasons, and she talks about Janeway's leadership style and she says that "leadership style command has to embrace, but it has to be firm. She's warm, compassionate, very strong. She can be fierce if necessary. She can be abrupt if absolutely necessary. And there will be no nonsense about who is in charge when she's in command. However, she's open to suggestions. The writers are already very attuned to that many, you'll see Janeway change a thought or an opinion in mid-sentence because she understands that B'Elanna has an angle on a situation that she missed, or Chakotay says something that makes great sense and she changes her thinking. There's a wonderful flexibility in this tower of strength."

28:50 Grace: Well said. It's always great to see that, well from what I've gathered, Kate Mulgrew went into this whole thing with a very firm idea of who this character was and what she wanted to put into and get out of this character. Which is funny, as opposed to, sometimes you hear about other, you know, actors going into a sci-fi thing and just being like, "I dunno, they're just, they're a dude in space." I really like that level of, I want to say commitment to the character, commitment to the role, and commitment as an actor.

Kayla: I think that's what has, over the years, has propelled by my love of Janeway into also a stronger, deeper respect for Kate Mulgrew the actor. Because every time I've seen her, every time I've talked to her, she is always genuinely interested in the fact that she did this role, she understood the impact that it would, would have on people and the, the fact that she inspires young women to get into science and stuff and she's always very excited to meet people who have gone into all these studies because, you know, she knows the impact that that has even though she went into acting. She still respects that. But when you talk to some of the other, other characters, I mean, even in - I believe it was The Captains with William Shatner, who was like, "Uh, people used to say that me and I could care less." And, you know, he's in his 70s before he finally understood the impact that that actually was having on people. And for Kate Mulgrew to understand that from, just, from all aspects but including the fact that it was a female thing, that's really made me love Kate Mulgrew the actor and made me respect her more.

Grace: Yeah.

Jarrah: Yes. And you have a super awesome video of chatting with her at a convention and we're going to post that in the show notes, so people should definitely go take a look at that.

Kayla: Yes. I've had a few run-ins with her over the years. And they're, they're always amazing.

Sue: And she talks about, in *Born with Teeth*, she talks about the audition process for Janeway. She says she essentially blew the first audition because there was some personal stuff going on.

Kayla: She was in love!

Sue: Yes, she was in love. It was, it's very intense. But after the original actor left the position, she decided she wanted to go back after it. And she's talking about reading this script, this really heavy, like, technobabble script and about deciding that if "I'm going to do this I have to go all in" and making that commitment. And she was really prepared and went after it. Kate Mulgrew is fantastic. I think that just doing that role changed her, too, and not only, like, the role of women in science fiction. Because I have seen her a few times on stage, actually, since then and she's, just, she fascinates me in whatever she does. But she played Katharine Hepburn in a one woman show and I could see aspects of Kathryn Janeway in there.

Grace: She's got voice definitely

Sue: I could - People complain about her voice. I could listen to her all day long. So, they're wrong.

Grace: Yeah.

Kayla: Well, have you guys seen those videos Geneviève "Bourgeois"?

Jarra: Bujold.

Kayla: Thank you. Who was the first Janeway. You know, she quit about a day and a half in or something like that. And there's video clips out there. There's one where she's with Tuvok and they're in the Ready Room and I'm just listening to it and, oh my gosh, there's no energy. Had she stayed on for the show, that show would not, like...

Grace: Good grief.

Jarra: We can post that clip in the show notes as well. I've definitely seen the clip and it's really hard to imagine it working after you've seen the vitality that Kate Mulgrew brings to the role and the sense of command and I mean it's, it's pretty clear that original actress Geneviève Bujold just wasn't into it. She's not actually a bad actress, it just was not a good role for her.

Kayla: There would have been no question that there would be no Janeway/Chakotay had she stayed on board. There would have been nothing for the shippers.

Jarra: I was definitely a Janeway/Chakotay shipper when I was younger. I kind of grew out of that, although I appreciate episodes like resolutions and I appreciate his sort of unwavering support for her. I think that was also important for me to see that you could be a woman supported by a man to be in charge. It didn't take away from him in any way. It was just, he was there supporting her.

Kayla: I never got fully into the Janeway and Chakotay shipping. I could see where it would be awesome, like, as just a fan. But it was actually Kate Mulgrew, herself, who was kind of explaining at one time about why she didn't want it why she insisted that it not happen. That totally changed my opinion of it and I was like, "You know, Kate Mulgrew is right. This would have changed how you respect her, it would have changed the input of everyone watching. All the people, there would just be more reason why people would disregard Janeway. You know, "Well, she's sleeping with her CO" and stuff. So I totally can see where, why you would want Janeway/Chakotay, but I can totally see why it didn't happen. And one thing that has bugged me since meeting Robert Beltran was seeing how much disregard he has for the role of Chakotay and how much he hated it, and...

Grace: Yeah.

Jarra: Yep.

Kayla: Just, I don't understand. As a young girl, like 15 years old, watching him be so respectful and honoring this woman leader so much, that I admired the Chakotay character because it's like, "See, men can give you

respect.” And I, I just, I wish he would look at the fact that he did this role not as “he didn’t have enough strengths, he wasn’t written right” or whatever. As “you taught a whole generation of young women that they can be treated right.” Have some...

Grace: And you taught a whole generation of young men that they can respect women without compromising a sense of masculinity.

Kayla: Yeah.

Jarrah: Yeah, and not just...

Kayla: ‘Cause he still walked away with Seven of Nine. C’mon.

Jarrah: Ugh. Let’s not get too much into that.

Kayla: I know, I know.

Jarrah: But it wasn’t just Chakotay, either. I think Paris is another good example where, I mean, he starts off as someone who is, like, making racist jokes and a sexist comments, and –

Grace: Hitting on everyone.

Jarrah: - hitting on everything that moves. And he undergoes a personal transformation, but all along, he has respect for Janeway. And not once does he or anyone else on the ship draw attention to her gender related to her role as a captain. It’s only ever mentioned by, like, aliens that they’re interacting with.

Sue: And that cute little scene with Harry Kim in Caretaker.

Jarrah: Right, yes.

Kayla: “Ma’am’ will do in a pinch.”

Jarrah: Do we want to read out a couple of other of the comments from Facebook people?

Sue: Yeah, I just got distracted thinking about Tom’s racist comments in Caretaker, because I watched that this morning. It’s upsetting.

Jarrah: Yeah, ugh. But actually one of our Facebook people mentioned this. So this is Brittany, who’s one of our listeners, and she mentioned that Caretaker was one of her favorite Janeway episodes. She says, “I think you see generally how she’s going to approach ethical and moral dilemmas with this episode, and it sets up the guilt that she expresses throughout the run of the show and it shows her resolve.” So, I agree with that. I’m, more soft of talked about it made a pretty good impression on most of us when we first saw it.

Grace: Yeah. Good introduction to a character.

Kayla: We should probably talk about Tuvix, because I think that is the most controversial moment of all of Star Trek, probably, is the Tuvix moment. What do you do with Tuvix? And I know that gets brought up a lot by people who hate Janeway. I know people who were watching Star Trek Voyager, loved Janeway, love Janeway, and that episode came and he was just livid and outraged and called Janeway the “bitch” word and all this stuff and never would watch the rest of Star Trek Voyager. Because of that.

Grace: Very emotional episode, and everyone seems to have their own opinion on it.

Sue: Allison posted on the Facebook conversation, “Watching her have to decide between Tuvix and Tuvok and Neelix was heart wrenching for me. But it really established her as a leader and demonstrated just how much pressure she has on her as the captain.”

Grace: It’s definitely a “you gotta do what you gotta do.”

Kayla: It was.

Jarrah: I don't see this as, you know, something that dooms the character. But I really don't agree with the decision, but I still really, really like that episode. Tuvix gets to say a lot of things that make his case very strongly. And I think it's important that, you know, for a show about an ethical dilemma, that you really do get to hear both sides. When it's kind of, you know, Tuvix's case versus Kes. So I don't agree with the decision. I don't really think it was justified, especially once The Doctor said he couldn't actually do it, because it was doing harm. But I I don't think that it is a reason to write off the character. I understand why she did it. And I think some people argue that, well, she just did it because she wanted Tuvok back because Tuvok's her best friend, I don't think that actually bears out in the episode. I don't think that she did it for, you know, personal, selfish reasons.

Kayla: No. I agree with the decision, personally. The fact that she did it herself, and that she didn't just order someone else to do it, that she took the responsibility and weight on herself and had to do it herself. And you can see just how emotional it was to have to do that. But I agree with the decision. I thought she had really no choice. And had they figured out how to do it without getting to know Tuvix, it wouldn't have even been an issue. There's so many more people that are involved and affected by that, in general. You had Kes, you had these two individual crewmembers who, you know, they, they've, in a sense, lost their lives. I don't... I agree with it. I would rather Neelix and Tuvok back.

Grace: Everyone is just so stunned by having to think about that episode again.

Jarrah: Yeah I mean I think it's a good sign when we don't all agree on something.

Grace: I think Janeway would be proud.

Jarrah: Yeah. I mean, obviously you know that Tuvok and Neelix have to come back. You can't just like kill off your two main characters.

Sue: I just think it's interesting that this is such an early episode. You know, this is a season 2 episode and it's a big question that comes up and it is polarizing in a lot of cases. And it's kind of a production risk to put that so early in the run because, I mean, they were committed, I'm pretty sure, to 7 seasons right from the beginning. And this is season 2.

Kayla: Well, I don't think they expected it to be as polarizing as it was, and I've always wondered: If more people had like Neelix better – like, a lot people called Neelix the Jar-Jar of Star Trek – if more people had liked him, would the decision, and would that episode be as controversial?

Jarrah: That's a good point.

Kayla: If it was Deep Space Nine and it was Worf and O'Brien, would, and now you're having to separate those two, would it have been such a bad, controversial moment?

Grace: I'm trying to imagine what that would've looked like.

Jarrah: Yeah, I really want to see the Worf/O'Brien transporter accident.

Kayla: But those are characters that were more loved. Like, Neelix gets a lot of hate.

Jarrah: Yeah. Yeah, I mean, I definitely know that part of me was like, "Oh, Kes, you'd be so much better off with Tuvix. He's so much more respectful."

Grace: Yep.

Kayla: I've always felt that part of that was just because people don't like the Neelix character. And, had it been Paris and Kim, how would you have reacted differently?

Grace: The character design wouldn't have been as cool.

Jarra: Yeah, it would have been like, it's Paris, who can play the clarinet. Because we don't, like, know anything about Kim at that point.

Sue: Do you know anything about Kim seven years later? Not really.

Jarrah: Okay, it would be Paris, Paris who can play the clarinet, and is slightly worse at hitting on people.

Kayla: How many times throughout the show do we see Janeway making one woman stands for her crew, and taking, you know, doing things in which she's stepping up to the plate herself and doing what needs to be done to save the crew? And then how many times do you see that with the other characters? Sisko – I know we see it a lot with Kirk, but with Sisko and with Picard. Do we see that as much?

Grace: I kind of want to do a tally of it now.

Kayla: Cause, you have Sacred Ground, where Kes is, she steps into the wrong area of that religious cavern of the people and Janeway has to go through that whole ritual, and her disbelief of spiritual faith versus science faith and all of that, and go through that whole episode. And you have Tuvix, where she, she takes the plunge. You have Year of Hell, where, you know, time's up and she slams her ship into the Kremlin. So like, it makes me wonder how many times, cause do we see Picard actually ever -

Grace: Yeah.

Jarrah: Isn't it in Night, at the very end, where she basically, where she volunteers to stay behind? And close the vortex so that Voyager can escape, and the whole crew stands up and says, "No, we're not going to lose you." But she takes those stands so often and same in Resolutions, where she and Chakotay ordered them not contact the Vidiians. There's so many episodes, I don't even think we can even name them all right now. And I think it happens occasionally in the other series. I definitely know, you know, there's times when Picard offers himself as a hostage in exchange for Data in First Contact and things like that. But Janeway, it's like it's second nature. It's a given that she will sacrifice herself for her crew if she has to.

Sue: I've said this before, but I think Picard's character in the series versus the movies is completely different. And he does do that in the movies, but he doesn't really do it in the series. He finds himself in situations. But he doesn't put himself up, his crew does. But he's not, for the most part, the one doing it himself.

Grace: What we're seeing here is king of the big difference between someone who's a boss and someone who's a leader. Janeway's the one who's, you know, in the trenches helping her crew out, rather than just giving them orders.

Kayla: Yeah, same with the sciences. She's in there, she's in there getting dirty in the warp core. How many times you see her with grease on her face and such? Do you ever see that with Picard?

Grace: It's kind of her signature look, yeah.

Sue: I think Picard was down in Engineering, like, once, where he was actually talking to them about how to fix something and that was in a flashback to the first episode in the last episode.

Kayla: Yeah

Sue: The whole, like, "burning the midnight oil" scene that doesn't make any sense. Like, that's the only time I remember Picard actually talking engineering to his engineering staff.

Kayla: Yeah, I mean you see going to Engineering to get the coffee split on him.

Sue: Right. Wasn't it hot chocolate?

Kayla: Or he makes – oh, was it hot chocolate? I don't know –the smiley face in the explosion of the warp core.

Jarrah: Do you guys have a favorite Janeway quote?

Grace: "There's coffee in that nebula." I identify with it just so much. I really do.

Jarrah: I definitely didn't when I was 9, but I've certainly taken after the caffeine aspect of Janeway more recently.

Kayla: I would have to say it was in The Thaw, which is just a creepy, creepy episode, where she says that "Fear exists for one purpose: to be conquered." And that's another thing. How many other Starfleet captains ever actually beat Fear itself? C'mon! She outthought Fear. And beat it down.

Grace: Well, now I'm wishing we'd talked about that episode, too.

Kayla: Yeah, that's probably one of my top quotes.

Jarrah: That's a great one. I really like in Random Thoughts when she says, "I dread the day when everyone on this ship agrees with me." I think that, even though I didn't become a scientist, that really started me on the path of becoming a skeptic and being more willing to think through conventional wisdom. And I guess a feminist because part of that was thinking through conventional wisdom around gender and gender roles.

Sue: Grace stole my quote.

Grace: Sorry. I can't help it if I picked the best one. We both, we're both on the same page there.

Sue: I'm trying to remember who said, "Get the cheese to sickbay." I don't think it was Janeway.

Jarrah: She also – well, I mean I like the "At ease before your sprain something" to Kim.

Kayla: "Mr. Kim, we're Starfleet officers. Weird is part of the job."

Sue: Yeah, that too.

Jarrah: That's a good one.

Grace: We could just do an entire episode devoted to our favorite one-liners, couldn't we?

Kayla: Yeah.

Jarrah: I'm wondering we want to talk briefly about Endgame? It's also another controversial one.

Grace: Yeah.

Jarrah: So that's the series finale. Does no one want to talk about?

Grace: No. I always try and avoid it in a watch-through, cause like, no, then I have to acknowledge that it's done. Which I'm just not comfortable doing.

Jarrah: Okay.

Kayla: It was just done so poorly.

Jarrah: It was.

Sue: I remember the buildup. There was, like, a party in my living room for Endgame because there was so much hype around it. And then it just kind of fizzled. And it was really disappointing.

Jarrah: So, I mean, this is the one where you have Janeway from the future, who comes back, and she convinces Janeway to change things so that Seven of Nine doesn't die, because then Chakotay is going to be brokenhearted, and Tuvok's gonna die of Vulcan dementia and all this bad stuff. And there's a lot that doesn't totally make sense about it, but people like blame Janeway for the decision. But like are you blaming Future Janeway or are you blaming Present Janeway or are you blaming the Janeway that's created in the new reality because she changes things? And I don't really get it.

Kayla: Yeah, that as just piss poor writing.

Sue: I blame All Good Things, because I think they were trying to recreate it.

Grace: Ugh, yeah.

Jarrah: And they wanted to bring back the Borg and that, like, they brought back Alice Krige as the Borg Queen and she hadn't been the Borg Queen previously in Voyager and, I mean, that was a good call, I guess. And she's obviously great as the Borg Queen, but, yeah. It doesn't really do justice all the awesomeness that came before.

Grace: Yeah.

Jarrah: And then she gets to be an admiral in the later movies. And some people really hate that, too. But I –

Grace: What's to hate? What's to hate about her being an admiral?

Jarrah: I know! Like, some people go like, "I can't believe she's an admiral and Picard's still a captain."

Sue: Because Picard still wants to be a captain.

Jarrah: Exactly! Like, I wouldn't want to still be captain after I've spent a lot of time in the Delta Quadrant dealing with all that shit, like –

Grace: No.

Jarrah: By all means, be an admiral. Be an awesome admiral.

Sue: Is there – Did anybody ever count, like after Caretaker, after the original death of so many people on her crew, how many people did they lose, like, from that point on until they got home?

Kayla: I never have. I'm sure it's out there somewhere.

Janeway: It's a really low, whatever it is. And that's ridiculous. She got that far without losing tons of crew members, which you know Kirk would have.

Grace: She's the Ernest Shackleton of deep space.

Sue: Of course she's an admiral.

Kayla: Well, I didn't like it, not just because, you know, "Oh, she got there before Picard" or anything like that, but just, almost with the Kirk thing. Where it was like Kirk telling Picard, "Just don't do it. Don't do it. Because they'll take you out of a starship." So, for me, I always just hate it because, "Awww, that' means I can't see her in a starship in a movie" or something like that. Like, for me, it was just more of a personal "that' sad." I liked, I wanted to see more journeys of Janeway.

Grace: Yeah, the further adventures of Captain Janeway.

Jarrah: But I did get a count on how many crewmembers. So, Voyager's original comment was 141 with five confirmed dead after being pulled through the Array. Then, a couple episodes later, they gave the tally as 152, so that was –

Grace: With the addition of the Maquis.

Jarrah: And others. Okay, so conclusion: Voyager returns home 147 crew members including Icheb, Seven of Nine, Naomi Wildman, and Miral Paris, 30 Maquis, and 113 Starfleet crewmembers.

Grace: Not bad.

Jarrah: I will post all of that data in the show notes as well.

Sue: She has a better track record than Laura Roslin in BSG. Anybody have any quick last thoughts?

Grace: Janeway for president! Wooh!

Kayla: WWJD – What would Janeway do?

Grace: Yeah.

Sue: And that'll do it for us today. Kayla, where can everybody find you elsewhere on the interwebs?

Kayla: Best place to find me would be on Twitter, and it's @On2Mars_Kayla.

Sue: Awesome. Jarrah?

Jarrah: You can find me at <http://trekkiefeminist.tumblr.com>.

Grace: And you can find me on Twitter at @bonecrusherjenk.

Sue: And I'm Sue and you can find more from me over at <http://anomaly podcast.com>. Thanks so much, everybody, and we'll talk to you soon.

audio clip from Star Trek :Voyager – State of Flux (S1E11)

Janeway: You know, I'm really easy to get along with, most of the time. But I don't like bullies, and I don't like threats. And I don't like you, Culluh. You can try and stop us from getting to the truth, but I promise you , if you do, I will respond with all the 'unique technologies' at my command. Janeway out.