

[WAW intro music plays]

Sue: Hi and welcome to Women at Warp, a Roddenberry Star Trek podcast. Join us as our crew of four women Star Trek fans boldly go on our biweekly mission to explore our favorite franchise. My name is Sue and thanks for tuning in. The whole crew is here tonight. We have Andi.

Andi: Hello.

Sue: Jarrah.

Jarrah: Hello!

Sue: And Grace.

Grace: I have your ganglia.

[Sue laughs]

Jarrah: Uh oh!

Sue: We talked about the first nine episodes in our podcast, Episode 73 Disco Fever, along with the amazing Davette See from Black Girl Nerds. So, if you haven't listened to that yet, check it out. Also, if you haven't guessed we'll be sharing spoilers for season one. Spoilers. Spoilers!

Grace: Spoilers!

Sue: No complaining. Spoilers!

Grace: Spoilies!

Jarrah: I really loved the part where we learned that Lorca was Rey's father.

[Sue laughs hard]

Grace: I know! It came out of nowhere, just crossing the franchises like that.

Jarrah: Yeah.

Grace: Bold move, bold move.

Jarrah: Yeah it was pretty, pretty badass.

Sue: Amazing. So, as usual we have a little bit of housekeeping to do. First of all, our show is entirely supported by our patrons on Patreon. If you'd like to become a patron you can do so for as little as one dollar per month and get awesome rewards, from thanks on social media to our silly watch along commentaries. And if you would like to support us on Patreon you can visit us at patreon.com/womenatwarp.

Andi: [with sarcasm] I would just like to say that our watch-along commentaries are not silly. They are incisive, okay?

Sue: [laughing] Alright. You can also support us by leaving a rating or review on Facebook or Apple Podcasts or wherever you get your podcasts, including, now Spotify. So, few more quick things: Grace you're going to be at Emerald City Comic Con coming up!

Grace: Hell, yeah, I am! I will be around for the entirety of the convention and I hope to see some fans there. We're hoping to plan a meet up, TBA, but it's going to be great.

Sue: And that is March 1st – 4th.

Grace: That is correct.

Sue: And then at the end of that month I'm going to be at Awesome Con in Washington D.C., that's March 30th through April 1st, and I'm going to be part of a Star Trek Discovery panel.

[celebratory exclamations all around]

Sue: How appropriate. So, if you'll be at Awesome Con you can check that out, too.

Jarrah: Awesome.

[deeply amused laughter at Jarrah's terrible pun]

Sue: All right, let's talk about Discovery for us.

Grace: [exaggerated] Oh my god you guys! Oh my god. [normal] Is that not how you start every discussion about a show that everyone's watching at the same time? [exaggerated] Oh my god you guys!

Jarrah: This is, actually, my first time being able to watch a Star Trek, really, along with other fans because even the ones that I watched before, that were airing, I was either a little kid, and so I could talk about it with my family, or a high schooler who did not tell people she watched Star Trek.

[laughter]

Sue: Or it was Enterprise. [laughs]

Jarrah: Yeah this is the first one that I can actually go to work and be like, "Hey, have you watched it yet?" "No, have you watched it yet? Okay!" and then recap with my coworkers every week what people thought and it's been kind of cool!

Grace: This is, for a full generation of Star Trek fans, their first time having a "water cooler show" that they can actually get psyched up for week after week.

Jarrah: Yes.

Grace: It's wild!

Jarrah: Exactly.

Sue: So, going into the second half of season one, we basically had a bunch of fan theories. We didn't really know where we were. We assumed Mirror Universe. There was the fan theory that Lorca was Mirror Lorca. There was the fan theory that Tyler was Voq. And, I mean, check, check, check. Right?

[Grace laughs]

Grace: So, we got to deal with a lot of people being like, "I was right! I was right! All arguments are put aside based on me being right!"

[Sue laughs]

Jarrah: Yeah, I mean, I have to admit I did not believe the Lorca Theory. So, I was proven wrong on that.

Grace: Yeah. I thought for sure that was just a totally left field theory and then [laughing] it all came together.

Sue: Oh, I was all in on the Lorca Theory. And right before the second half premiere. I re-watched the first half in a day, like you do, and there were just the little things that stuck out. Even, you know, half a second with the Gorgamander where he says this line, "Weren't they hunted to extinction?" and everybody on the bridge looks at him like, "What? No." It's just tiny little bits.

Jarrah: I thought that he was going to be the example of what drives Starfleet to abandon its principles, but it turns out that there is something that will drive people to that, but it took another nine episodes.

Grace: One thing that I do have to wonder, about the Lorca thing is, does this mean that fortune cookies are way more sinister in the Mirror Universe? Or is this his way of trying to make himself more wholesome and approachable?

Sue: I think it's all his reliance on fate.

Jarrah: Yeah, the whole like, "Destiny is everything!"

Grace: Oh, damn! I was trying to make a joke and you made it a serious thing [laughing] damnit!

[Sue laughs]

Jarrah: But what would Mirror fortune cookies say, Grace?

Grace: "Trust no one." They just all say "Trust no one."

[Jarrah laughs]

Sue: "Help me I'm trapped in a fortune cookie factory."

[Jarrah continues laughing]

Grace: "You're lucky numbers are 6 6 6 and 6." "Do you like Chinese food? Fill out our survey!"

Jarrah: [laughs] "Quick, stab him in the back while he's not looking!" So, we start off the second part of the season in the Mirror Universe and I think that first episode, despite the significant event that we will talk about that is awful, was still my favorite of the Mirror episodes because it at least had a combination of the dark intensity of Discovery, but it also still had some injections of humor. Captain Killy, and Lorca doing the Scottish accent when he's pretending to be an engineer, and then the Mirror Universe the rest of the time was just straight-up dark the whole time. And I don't mind dark, but it could have used a laugh or two.

Sue: Mary Wiseman is an absolute treasure.

[all agree]

Jarrah: Yeah, she's so great.

Andi: There's that scene she has where she's looking at herself and trying to get her persona together. It's like, "Oh, yeah. The Mirror Universe is supposed to remind you that this is you." There is a part of you that can do this. [all agreeing] And be this person. Yeah, I think it was cool to have a character as sunny and optimistic as Tilly. She has those qualities, the qualities of ruthlessness and ambition are there in her.

Grace: She just also has to remind herself to say hell instead of heck.

[Sue laughs]

Andi: But, yeah, I thought that was well done.

Jarrah: I think that Discovery did a better job than, certainly, Deep Space Nine at portraying that aspect of the universe and really challenging people to think about how far removed are they really from their Mirror counterparts.

Grace: Yeah, it gives you an actual darker version of the characters and not just the moustache twirlingly [laughing] evil versions of them.

Sue: This is definitely the time for me that the Mirror Universe has felt the most real, the most tangible, and I think that comes back, again, in the finale when Georgiou is talking to Tilly. And Tilly says, "I'm not that person," and Georgiou says, "Are you sure?"

Jarrah: Yeah, well I think maybe Tilly undergoes the most significant transformation, as a result of seeing and behaving as her Mirror self, in that she becomes dramatically more confident.

Grace: Yeah, Tilly is definitely the character with the biggest arc.

Jarrah: Yeah.

Grace: I mean, I know Michael, you know, commits a mutiny, and goes to jail, and, you know, goes to the Mirror Universe and all, but we're all behind Tilly, let's be real.

Sue: [laughs] I think she certainly has the biggest arc, when it comes to the effects of the Mirror Universe.

Grace: Yeah.

Jarrah: Yeah, because Michael has this whole monologue at the beginning of one of the episodes, I think "The Wolf Inside" where she's like, "Oh, doing all this horrible stuff could really get to you." And she's you know overseeing all these executions, and sitting there looking like the world's most entitled sullen teenager on the captain's chair. [Grace snickers] I'm saying that in a good way. [laughs] And so she has this whole thing about how she needs Tyler to be her tether. But there's never really any indication that she's seriously tempted to behave like a Mirror person, ever.

Grace: She does fall into it pretty good. That's part of her concern, though.

Jarrah: Yes. I also question her not needing therapy after that, but.

Andi: Everybody on this damn ship needs therapy!

Sue: For sure.

Jarrah: Yep.

Andi: In fact, if they had had a decent therapist, so much of this could have been avoided.

Jarrah: Indeed. They have that conversation between Tyler and Burnham and where Tyler keeps just saying, "Oh, I have PTSD," not like, "I think I'm secretly Klingon," and Burnham says, "Well, in Starfleet if you have PTSD you're going to have to basically be confined for psychiatric treatment."

Grace: Not helpful, Michael.

Jarrah: "Promise me you're okay!" And he's like, "Yeah, just trust me, just trust me."

Grace: [sarcastically] Because that's totally helpful, right?

Jarrah: Yeah. I mean, it does make sense that you would, if you have someone who's having serious issues with impulse control related to a mental health issue, that maybe you would want to get treatment before letting them be able to fire ship's weapons.

Grace: I definitely would not have taken him as my second over on to the Mirror Universe ship. That seems like a really bad idea.

Andi: It bothers me because there's this idea that you're helping someone by helping them cover up their mental health problems.

Grace: Helping someone cope is one thing, but helping someone—

Sue: Conceal. Yes.

Jarrah: Yep.

Andi: Yeah. I mean, that's not what someone who loves you should be doing. They should be getting you help.

Sue: There's also this idea of pushing through, right?

Grace: Yeah.

Sue: And that is not always the healthy thing to do. I think there's something in our society that tells us that's the courageous thing to do, when you're struggling, is to just push through and you wind up doing a half-assed job of something, or not committing to it, or not being focused on it. And that's not always the right course of action. Sometimes the right course of action is to get treatment and get better. [Grace agrees] Or, I shouldn't say get better, but start to heal, maybe.

Grace: Take care of yourself.

Sue: Yes.

Andi: I mean, how many of the people on this ship made that decision? So many. Tilly covers up Stamets's shenanigans, Cornwell covers up Lorca's shenanigans, Burnham covers up Tyler's. It's just, come on guys.

Grace: The moral of this season is: don't enable people's self-destructive behavior! It's a bad idea! Just don't.

Jarrah: Should we talk more about the Tyler/Voq stuff, since we're sort of on there?

Grace: Yeah. That was the one especially where I was annoyed by the whole, "I knew it! I called it! I totally knew it!" thing. I probably brought this up before, but I was guesting on another podcast and I got really wrapped up in talking about how what happened to Tyler is shown as traumatic, not just in the torture sense, but in the sexual assault sense, where we have this really recurrent pattern in media of playing off sexual assault on male characters as, "But it's not real because it was at a dude," or, "Oh, you got beat up by a girl," or, "Ha, ha, it was funny. You got attacked." If it's sexual assault happening to a woman it's horrifying. But if it's sexual assault happening to men it's a joke and that is a really harmful thing to be constantly portraying. And I went on, pretty much, a tangent about how this felt important because this is going to be a big audience seeing this, seeing a male character, who is just kind of cracked from this whole experience that was absolutely traumatic. And also because, the times we do see the flashes of his coerced assault, it's definitely not played as being sexy it's played as scary and he's horrified by it. And that's also really important, that the rape is not sexualized. But after that a bunch of the responses I got to it was just, "Well, it's not going to matter because it's going to turn out he's a Klingon spy." So, you're basically just saying all of the things I said there were moot and that none of those matter.

Sue: Yeah, I saw a lot of people commenting on threads online that, "Well, if Tyler's really Voq, and Voq was in love with L'Rell, then this isn't really rape."

Grace: [emits a high pitched squeal of frustration and disbelief] If he was at a point where it was active coercion then it was not consensual.

Sue: Well, even so, the way that Tyler is experiencing these flashbacks is assault.

Jarrah: Yeah and, I mean, clearly Tyler didn't consent any of this and he's had his memories grafted into Voq. And he can still remember all of the trauma of that and it's Tyler experiencing that trauma. That doesn't make that any less real. And I was just really frustrated because I thought that the beginning of how it was handled was pretty sensitive, actually; [Grace agrees] having Tyler talk about how this lasting trauma was with him and how upsetting that was. But then it was like they were just trying to be clever. And I feel like you said, Grace, this is such an issue that hasn't been portrayed well in past that you need to just do it right a couple of times before you start trying to be clever with it.

Grace: Yeah, pretty much. And also, just saying the whole point is moot, just because it happened to a bad guy, is incredibly harmful and really just, really, really f---d up, let's just say it.

Andi: Also, I feel like this kind of gets at two of my biggest problems with Discovery. One, that they have terrible things happen and then kind of paper over it, or take it back [Grace agrees], or make it less, somehow. And then also this idea of just being clever. How many times were they trying to go for a really big reveal? I don't need you to be clever, guys, you know? I just want a good story with good characters and [Jarrah agrees] that's frustrating to me, that they were trying so hard for these big twists that, one, everyone saw coming, anyway. But, two, you shouldn't build your show just for payoffs.

Grace: If all you've got is payoff, you don't have a lot to build it on.

Sue: I listen to some TV review podcasts where the hosts are not as into Star Trek as we all are, so, I know.

Grace: [sarcastically] That doesn't sound like a thing!

Sue: [laughs] I know that Star Trek fans, though, were combing every line, just like I said I was earlier, looking for the twists and the turns and the clues.

Grace: We were expecting that to a degree, though, definitely.

Sue: Right.

Grace: We're a pedantic bunch.

Sue: I think that people who were watching it more casually were surprised that Lorca was from the Mirror Universe and were surprised that Tyler was Voq. And I think that, for the more casual viewer or people who might even be new to Star Trek, that it was clever to them. And it was just those of us watching it so intensely, recapping it, [laughs] that we saw a lot of it coming.

Jarrah: Sure. On the Tyler thing, though, I think that it also really kind of continued to further erase the past trauma he had been through when he ends up leaving the series, or the episode season, with L'Rell [Grace agrees]. And, basically, in order for us to kind of be okay, with that ending, we have to accept that it wasn't really assault and that L'Rell is like a semi-redeemable character.

Sue: Yeah, we don't know if what Tyler is remembering is only the surgery on Voq, or if he was tortured by L'Rell when Tyler—himself, Tyler the human—was in prison. We don't know.

Jarrah: Well, and he also, as Tyler, inflicted pretty serious violence on her that makes you question whether that is a great decision, at the end, for them to leave together.

Grace: Unless that's them intentionally being like, "And these two buckos are just going to ruin their lives together. [sing-songy] Bye!"

Jarrah: I mean, I think the message was fair, that now he's been part of both sides. [Scoffs] Man, there were some really—the line that I most rolled my eyes at was, "I can see both sides, literally." [All laughing] So, now he can go with L'Rell, who trusts him, and present The Federation's more tolerant viewpoint to the new leader of the empire. Yeah, I mean, it's just a little messed up, given that trauma that really hasn't been processed. Although, I have to say, as soon as they brought in the whole tying fisherman's knots and stuff, I was like, "Okay, he needs to be gone."

[Sue and Grace laugh]

Sue: [laughing] That was so TNG, you guys.

[Grace continues laughing]

Jarrah: Actually, it was before that. It was the episode before that when he tells Burnham that, "You're just mad because Klingons killed your parents. [Sue and Grace groan]

Sue: So angry.

Jarrah: I'm like, "I'm done with you." [laughs]

Grace: That was such a [with deep intensity] “GET OUT!” moment.

Jarrah: I love her response, though. Her response in that argument is just awesome, because everyone's pressuring her to help him recover and she basically just tells him, “Look, you got to get your own sh-t together and that work is hard.”

Sue: She doesn't owe him anything!

Jarrah: No!

Grace: We get to see our female lead just straight up reject this idea that she needs to take on the emotional labor of this guy in her life.

Jarrah: Exactly.

Grace: Which is something that we are so often told is just the de facto “right thing” for a woman character to do.

Jarrah: Or a woman person.

Grace: Yeah.

Jarrah: If only I had seen that when I was 16. [laughs]

Grace: Yeah.

Sue: All right, is everybody ready?

Jarrah: [with disappointed hesitation] Yeah, let's do it.

[Grace sighs heavily]

Sue: Let's talk about Dr. Culber. [Grace makes a sad groan] I had the good fortune of being at the After Trek taping for the second half of the season premiere. So, I happened to see this episode, I would say, a good nine hours before the rest of the world and I couldn't talk about this with anybody. And it was really upsetting.

[Jarrah sighs]

Grace: Yeah.

Jarrah: I mean, I'm definitely not going to be able to say it any better than Andi has said it in her post on our blog “A Painful Discovery” but it just really was so incredibly deflating and disheartening. And it took me like four episodes after that to, sort of, get excited again and I don't blame anyone who wasn't able to get to that point after, because this felt like such a slap in the face. And particularly when everyone, the creators and the actors, had been promoting how groundbreaking the show was by having Anthony Rapp and Wilson Cruz on Advocate, and doing all this LGBT media that week, to then go and kill off Wilson Cruz's character.

Sue: I mean, they keep saying, even now, that he's going to be back. I am, myself, really conflicted about that. I feel like you fell into this trope. I know they're arguing and saying that it's not the “bury your gays” trope. To me, it still is. That's the way I perceive it. But to then bring him back, to “magic” him back cheapens it.

Grace: Yeah.

Sue: So, I guess, stick to your guns? Although, I wish you hadn't done it in the first place.

Grace: Any way you look at it it's not great.

Sue: I'm still really frustrated about it. I'm still really upset about it and it kind of boggles my mind that the creative team, apparently, consulted with GLAAD. And GLAAD [Jarrah sighs] was like, "Yeah, go for it! This sounds good!" But then I remember that GLAAD did an entire campaign that said the A is for Ally.

Grace: Oh, good lord.

Sue: Which, no, it's not. So, [chuckles sadly] I don't know. I just. [sighs in frustration]

Jarrah: I mean, I think we all agree there was no intent to do something harmful, but clearly they thought it might be harmful if they felt they had to consult with people.

Sue: Well, and they did damage control right away.

Jarrah: [firmly] Yes.

Sue: After Trek felt like damage control. They knew. They knew.

Jarrah: Yeah, they knew that that criticism was going to come up because they were totally ready to try and, you know, be like, "Oh, don't worry, he's coming back! Don't worry, we checked with GLAAD! Don't worry, the showrunner's gay! Don't worry, Anthony Rapp and Wilson Cruz are really highly respected in the queer community," which they are. And this has nothing to do with them as actors or anything. It was just...[sighs in disgust]

Grace: When you feel like you have to do that much backpedaling maybe wonder about the forward peddling in the first place.

[Sue chuckles]

Jarrah: [sighs] I feel like we didn't get enough and maybe there never would have been a good point for it. But I feel like certainly we didn't get to see enough before it happened, to the point that it didn't only feel like "bury your gays" but then in the episode after we have ghost Cruz appearing to Stamets. It felt a bit like "fridging" to me, because we had seen so little of Culber, that then ghost Culber is coming and coaching Stamets, it felt very much like a situation where you kill off, normally it's a woman in "fridging", but a queer man of color, in order to motivate the white man partner.

Grace: Yeah.

Andi: A few other things that I want to talk about. One is that we never really get justice for him. [all agree] He never gets anything that could be considered justice.

Grace: No. The whole thing gets brushed off really quickly.

Andi: Yeah, because they're like, "Oh well, it was Voq and not Tyler so, we can't punish Tyler." I even somewhat agree with that. I don't see how you could argue that Tyler would have on that of his own volition, but there is no trial, there's nothing that can be considered justice and that's really frustrating to me.

Sue: Anthony Rapp and Shazad Latif do have a really well acted scene in the mess hall where Stamets confronts Tyler, but it's short. It's not enough.

Grace: It's too short for what they built their [Stamets and Culber] relationship up to be.

Andi: (That leads) into my other problem which is we barely get to see Stamets react to it at all.

[All agree firmly and emphatically]

Jarrah: Exactly. That's the only time and then the rest of it's just like, "Yay, mushrooms!" again.

[Grace snorts]

Sue: Yeah, I think his grieving is supposed to be that interaction in the mycelial network, but there's no processing there. There's just like, "Let me solve this mystery, let me solve this puzzle."

Jarrah: Yeah...

Grace: Yeah...

Andi: Well, we were kind of united on how we felt about it, but it should be said that there are a lot of people who didn't feel that way, and I'm talking specifically of people in the queer community, who still feel like this is excellent representation and they still feel like the show did right by them. So, just as a reminder.

Grace: We couldn't even have a happy gay couple for a single full season.

Jarrah: But yeah, I mean, of course the community is not a monolith, just like women aren't a monolith and not everyone's going to feel the same way. I just think, personally, we all felt pretty rough about it.

Grace: Yep. Asses were chapped.

Jarrah: I mean I didn't mind ghost Culber, given that the death had already happened and I felt like the "La bohème" music was a nice touch. So, you know, I agree that there was some sensitivity shown by the writers, but I just feel like not nearly enough, to just how much hope and excitement that people felt for seeing characters when they had felt so unrepresented so long in Star Trek.

Grace: Yeah.

Andi: There's another problem from a storytelling perspective and that's that after a while you stop caring [inaudible].

Jarrah: Yes.

Grace: If you end every other episode with killing off a major character it doesn't mean anything anymore.

Andi: You become numb to it. So, when Lorca got stabbed through the chest I wasn't even paying attention. I was like, "Oh, and another one bites the dust."

Grace: Yep.

Jarrah: Ugh. Yeah, I was into that but only because I was super excited for Mirror Georgiou. [all laugh] And my biggest dream now is for a spinoff called Star Trek Georgiou Kicks People in the Face and I don't even care if it's prime Georgiou or Mirror Georgiou 'cause I will just watch more of that, please.

Sue: I just wish they hadn't shown me Culber's death in every "Previously on" for 10 episodes. [laughter and agreement] I don't need to see that. I don't need to hear it anymore. I don't.

Jarrah: That is very true. Yes.

Sue: Stop it.

Jarrah: You mean the Culber thing, not the Lorca thing, right?

Sue: Yes, yes.

Jarrah: Yes. Yeah, that was a hard to have to watch it every single time.

Andi: They kept having flashbacks.

Sue: Yeah, if it wasn't in the "Previously on" it was in a flashback.

Andi: Yeah, they did the same thing with Tyler's assault. [Jarrah agrees] We saw that three separate times in the show itself.

Grace: Unnecessary. They just wanted to get all the mileage they could out of those prosthetic Klingon boobs. That's my theory anyway.

Andi: I'm so sad about it because the first half of Discovery, I was really enjoying myself. Yeah, it was a dark show, but I was still having fun. You know what I mean? [Grace agrees] And then that second half, first of all I feel like the payoffs were not worth the setups and then just everybody kept dying. And by the end I just didn't really care very much about these characters anymore, which made me really upset because I really cared about them before. And I still love Tilly, and I still love Burnham, and I still love Stamets, but it's just like, how long are we going to have them? If this kind of pace continues, by season three it will be an entirely new cast. Everyone else has been stabbed.

Grace: [laughs] It's musical chairs. Maybe that's their way of actually getting to do the anthology series they wanted.

Sue: Well, I think the way they're doing the anthology series they wanted is wrapping up the war so quickly.

Grace and Jarrah: Yeah.

Jarrah: I think, though, that one thing that we were promised, that I don't feel that we saw, is repeatedly the creators said, you know—and Grace you and I were in Vegas—you know, that we're spending so much time with the Klingons because we're going to show you both sides of the war and how this happens. And I feel like we saw a lot of Klingons, but other than, "Yo, they're racist," I don't think we really saw [Grace chuckles] the both sides in terms of being able to feel empathy.

Grace: [Amused] There wasn't a lot to sympathize with, no.

Jarrah: Yeah. So, I thought that that was a little bit unfortunate.

Grace: Aside from Mirror Voq and the fact that you really do feel the connection between Voq and L'Rell now, yeah not a lot of sympathy here. I had jealousy for their face jewelry, but.

Sue: So, correct me if I'm wrong, but the season got expanded from 13 to 15 episodes pretty late, right?

Jarrah: Oh, I think it was maybe four or five episodes in. It was before the season break, but it was significantly into the season.

Sue: So, I feel, just from a storytelling aspect, that all of what would have been season two was episode 14 and 15.

Jarrah: I totally agree.

Grace: [laughs] Yep.

Jarrah: It went so fast.

Sue: They come back from the Mirror Universe and, you know, the Klingons have won the war, is the perfect season ending cliffhanger, and then there were two more episodes [Grace laughs, Jarrah agrees] where so much happened. And I think it was in those two episodes, the time we spent on Kronos, that we really would have explored that culture more.

Grace: Were they worried they were going to get canceled or something? Seriously, draw it out some if you can.

Jarrah: Actually, I saw some comments by the writers that back this up where they always knew where the story was going to end and I feel like maybe that was the most episodes they could get to tell that story, or else they just didn't count properly, because I think it was maybe two or three episodes before the ending that it started to feel like, "Wow, what is even going on here?" Even the Mirror Universe. The stuff on Georgiou's ship, the turnaround from: Burnham gets to Georgiou's ship, Georgiou tries to have her executed, Georgiou decides not to execute her, but Lorca has taken over, but then Lorca and her are going to have a shootout. That's only two episodes, too. So, that also went massively fast.

Sue: When I was writing the recaps for the last three episodes, in my re-watch I would get to the opening credits and I'd have eight to 10 paragraphs.

Grace: [jokingly] And then they had lunch!

Sue: A lot.

Jarrah: Yeah, I would say that it definitely felt really fast. And also, I didn't totally buy L'Rell's ascension to lead the empire.

Sue: Yeah, I don't get that.

Jarrah: I felt like it was really fast and they skipped over a lot of what would have needed to happen to make that happen. She just shows them the pad and everyone laughs at her and then she's like—or sorry, she says, "I want to be your leader." Everyone laughs at her and then she holds up the pad and everyone's like, "Ooh."

But she hasn't told them what it is, we haven't seen really any of the houses' connection to Kronos, which I felt if they had had more time they could have done that more effectively and build that empathy with the Klingons.

Sue: Yeah, I feel like, not just the war, but a lot of the resolutions for all of this build up just happened too quickly.

Grace: Yeah, payoff wise this show had some issues, but I still liked a lot of things about it too.

Sue: But I mean, yeah, for the message they wanted to send that, you know, "We're Starfleet, we are not going to go into this last battle, we're not going to commit genocide," I don't think we could have had a battle at the end of the season, because that doesn't fall with those themes they wanted to push, but it still felt anticlimactic in a lot of ways.

Jarrah: I also felt that Sarek was not disturbed enough by his own willingness to commit genocide on the Klingons. We all know Sarek. He doesn't let sh-t go! [all laughing] So, um...

Grace: Nobody holds a grudge like a Vulcan! [drawn out and deep] Nobody!

Jarrah: Obviously, he's not going to be crying, but. My friend KatzeHalifornia on Twitter was saying it's like Sarek goes, "Oh, yeah, sure I just compromised my entire worldview. YOLO!"

Grace: [laughs] Jets off into the sunset.

Jarrah: He's just like, "Oh, well my daughter's back in Starfleet. That is success for me."

Grace: [jokingly] Maybe he's walking away from it and being like, "And this never happened. If you tell anyone that this is how it went down I will lie. And I will be the one they believe."

Sue: I think what they intended, and didn't really convey, is how much The Federation went through in the nine months that Discovery was gone.

Jarrah: Yes.

Sue: I think they tried. They told, but they didn't show. And The Federation is supposed to be so desperate and so afraid that this is what they would stoop to and that extreme reaction didn't really come across and that's unfortunate.

Jarrah: I definitely bought it more from Cornwell.

Sue: Yes.

Jarrah: I bought it more from Cornwell. I think that Jayne Brook was one of the outstanding supporting actors of this season as Cornwell.

Grace: Oh, totally. She should be captain there. They need someone who's got a psychology background.

[Sue laughs]

Jarrah: Yeah, and we get to see her reaction to the destruction of Starbase 1 and things, but Sarek, even if he felt justified, I think still would have been much more doubtful of himself and brooding over what he had done at the end, when he realized that he had another choice.

Sue: Yeah, and well, I was listening to Mission Log Live, on the Roddenberry Podcast Network, when they were discussing the finale episode and saying that there doesn't really seem to be an enemy. But I would disagree in that I think the enemy is supposed to be fear and desperation.

Grace: [with intrigue] Ooh.

Sue: And that's what Burnham's whole speech is about, we're not going to succumb to that. That's what makes us our Mirror counterparts.

Jarrah: Yes.

Sue: But it just, there wasn't enough time to explore that.

Jarrah: Yeah, I would agree. I think in the episode before even, or actually it's like three episodes before—a lot happened! [laughter] But, you know, as annoyed as I was about Tilly pressuring Burnham to go hang out with Tyler, she has this whole thing about, you know, “Being my Mirror-self made me realize that our biggest struggle here is that we have to find the darkness within ourselves and fight it.” And so that was, I think, another time that message was reinforced.

Andi: Speaking of Sarek not really dealing with the fact that he was apparently okay with genocide, I feel like a lot of these characters don't ever face consequences. I feel like that's something that happens over and over and over again.

Sue: [amused] In true Star Trek fashion.

Grace: [laughs] Yep! That is the most Star Trek thing they could have possibly done.

[Sue laughs]

Andi: But most of that was because of the format, because of the fact that it was so episode to episode. This is a completely arced show. Every episode is basically building to this one story so, the fact that nobody ever faced consequences is much more glaring in this format than it is with, as much as I love in TOS where they're like, “Ha, ha, ha! That was a delightful adventure. Let's leave that planet alone now.” [laughter] “It's in shambles, but we'll just fly away with one pithy quip!”

Grace: Ah, ha, ha! Not our problem!

Andi and Grace: [in an evil tone] Muah ha ha!

Andi: But let's take Saru, let's take something that happened at the beginning of this season. He completely betrayed Burnham and Tyler. [laughing] And nothing ever happened! He became captain! And I'm even kind of okay with that 'cause I was more sympathetic to Saru than I think a lot of [people]. Saru's position in that episode—this is the episode where—

Jarrah: He's high on energy lightnings, yeah.

[Andi laughs]

Grace: He finds a cheap and easy medication for his chronic anxiety. It's really great, but it's kind of messing with his personality a little.

Andi: Exactly! So, I had sympathy for why he chose to do what he did in that episode, but they got back to the ship and it was like [makes a sad trombone noise] oh, well!

Grace: [sarcastically] Well, really good at this time, Saru!

Andi: Yeah. And then, I mean, just over and over again. Tyler just wanders off into the sunset. Even, Mudd. They're like, "Here, going with your ex-wife will totally make up for the fact that you're clearly a murderer." I just. [Andi and Grace laughing] I don't get it. It's just over and over and over again, I feel like. And Burnham, everything that she was being punished for at the beginning of the show has been wiped away.

Grace: [laughing] People are very forgetful on this show.

Andi: I don't think that she should have been sentenced to life imprisonment, anyway.

Jarrah: Life forced labor.

Andi: Yeah! What was that?

Grace: Geez.

Andi: But still just no lasting consequences for anything. It's driving me nuts. Even Lorca. They had this whole build up to Lorca and then he's dead and gone in an episode and then that's it.

Sue: Or is he?

Grace: [in a sing song tone] Dun, dun, dun! [normal] Prime Lorca is probably going to show up. If Prime Lorca doesn't show up I'm going to sh-t my pants.

Sue: They made such a big deal of telling us that Prime Lorca was dead, that he's definitely not dead.

Grace: Yeah, he's gotta be.

Jarrah: Jason Isaacs on Twitter paraphrased the Monty Python "Dead Parrot" sketch and said, "I am an ex captain! No, I'm really dead."

[laughter]

Andi: Yeah, but to be fair Jason Isaacs also said that we shouldn't believe anything he says, because he has lied before.

Sue: [dramatically] But is that also a lie?!

Jarrah: If nothing else, Discovery made me attuned to the magic of Jason Isaacs on Twitter and it is the best!

Sue: He is pretty great on Twitter.

Jarrah: Yeah, he shared a video of him slow motion practicing for his fight with Michelle Yeoh and she's just kicking his ass [laughing] and he's doing so badly. He's just stumbling all over the place.

[laughter]

Grace: It was adorable.

Jarrah: I felt like, you know, we find our he's Mirror and he gets, basically, one episode and a little bit of being "out" Mirror Lorca. [laughter] And it was kind of disappointing because he's basically just like, "Rah, rah, rah! I'm super racist! Now I get stabbed." Oh and also possibly a bit of a pedophile and we should probably talk about that.

Sue: Oh, mhm.

Grace: I think that the implication there was that was when Michael was grown-up, but they do use the phrase "groomed" which really brings up some uncomfortable connotations.

Sue: Yeah, I think the language that is used, more than anything else, is the tip off.

Jarrah and Grace: Yeah.

Jarrah: There's no way they just pick that word randomly. I did have people be like, "Oh I didn't catch that." But the word is deliberately chosen. [all agreeing] But, I mean, even if she was grown-up, Georgiou says that, "He was like a father figure to you and then you grew into something more."

Grace: Which is super frickin' creepy!

Jarrah: So, even if she's an adult it's still incestuous overtones.

Grace: Mirror Universe Lorca has some serious Woody Allen vibes.

Andi: Okay, so I totally knew that Lorca was from the Mirror Universe. I knew that from a long time ago. I don't even remember the exact moment. Maybe it was when, I dunno, I saw his serial killer lair.

Grace: [snorts] He really does have a serial killer lair.

Andi: I knew this wasn't going to happen but I wanted it to. I wanted them to subvert it. I wanted him to be good.

Jarrah: Yeah.

Grace: He's just creepy, see!

Andi: I wanted him to have been exiled, from when he tried to overthrow Georgiou, because he was a good person, like Spock, like Mirror Spock. And then he was coming back to Discovery and being in our world, and being around the Starfleet, and The Federation was turning him into a better person. And then he was going to manipulate them into his universe, so he could overthrow it and take it, be the emperor, and a better person and that's what I wanted and I didn't get it. So, I'm bitter, just like every other fan out there. It didn't the way I wanted it to so now I hate everything.

[all laughing]

Grace: We, like Vulcans, never forget either.

Andi: Not really. I still think that would have been cool.

Grace: There is one thing that I kept wondering while watching through this and that is: do you think we're ever gonna get to a point where we've got enough clout in the Star Trek community that we can just, kind of out of nowhere, just show up and, hang on a second, be like "Rod! Rod, what was that?! Rod! What are you doing?!" Do you think we'll ever reach that point? 'Cause I like to think that someday we could.

[Jarrah laughs]

Andi: Well, if we were in charge of Star Trek it would be different.

Grace: It would be very different. It would be 80% holodeck adventures.

[Sue laughs]

Andi: It would be a lot gayer.

[all laughing and agreeing]

Sue: Probably a lot less dead as well.

[Grace snickers]

Jarrah: Fun fact before I forget: the episode 12 "Vaulting Ambition" which is the first one where Burnham and Lorca are on Georgiou's ship, was the only Discovery episode this season that was directed by a woman, which was by Hanelle Culpepper, and so she is also the second woman of color to direct Star Trek, along with Roxanne Dawson.

Grace: Woah. Only the second, though?

Andi: It's a full Bechdel pass for the whole season.

Jarrah: Yes.

Grace: That's true. Every episode.

Andi: And there were a handful episodes where it was really, really close. [laughing] They had killed off most of their female characters. And I remember one episode, it's literally Cornwell and Burnham talking for, maybe, two minutes and it's kind of Tyler adjacent, 'cause it's when Burnham rescues Cornwell from the Klingon ship and then blows it up. But they have enough of a conversation that it's a Bechdel pass. But still, let us appreciate that we went from a show like TOS that had 22 percent to 100 percent is no joke.

Sue: Well, and some of the conversations you counted in TOS were just two lines exchanged, right?

Jarrah: Yeah, and even in Voyager, which was like 90 something percent, I think the top season of Voyager was 95 percent so, even still not every episode passed and a lot of the episodes were just like: Janeway called engineering and said hi to B'Elanna.

Andi: Yeah, nothing like the Tilly/Burnham conversations we got.

Sue: But a full two minute conversation between Cornwell and Burnham? I mean, that's a much bigger pass than a lot of TOS.

Jarrah: Does it count as talking about a guy if they're talking about eating a Kelpien?

[mixed reactions of amusement and disgust]

Grace: Is there an addendum to the Bechdel/Wallace test that says you can talk about a man as long as you're talking about devouring them?

[Jarrah laughs]

Sue: But can we talk about poor Saru for a second?

Jarrah: Yes.

Grace: Aww, poor f---king Saru!

Sue: He finds out real quick, all of a sudden that he was food in the other universe, and his captain leading this mission wants to eat him. And then he winds up basically helping to save the universe and then Sarek's like, "We're going to go pick up your new captain."

Jarrah: Yeah, that was...

Sue: Seriously? I realize he just got his promotion from lieutenant commander to commander, maybe a year prior, because of the time jump, because it was right after the Battle at the Binary Stars, but come on. You don't think that's worthy of a promotion?

Jarrah: Yeah.

Andi: His arc and Tilly's are art my favorites because they're internal, rather than external. Especially Burnham's was very much like it kept happening to her and she was reacting to it, which is fine. That's not a bad thing. But I really enjoyed the way Saru starts off as really insecure and, I mean, remember that scene where he like googles good captains?

[all laughing]

Andi: [laughing] He's like, "How do I become a good captain?"

Sue: And then he gives them that speech when they find out about Lorca. It's so—

Grace: It's great!

Andi: Right. He has grown into his, I guess, command really, really well and that was lovely to see. I mean, there are whole episodes where, when I was doing the "Previously on" on the recap I kept making the joke, "Saru was there." And they had whole episodes where he was basically just there, but they still give—

Grace: He's polishing his platforms in the background.

Andi: Pretty much, but they made it to the end of the season and had grown so much and he had become such a great captain.

Sue: But that episode on the planet, where he betrays Tyler and Burnham, that I think is a turning point for him because he felt the relief from his anxiety. But I think that experience also helped him learn to manage it. And

after that point, just even in his physicality, even in background scenes he's a lot less jumpy and a lot less skittish about things and you see that confidence building in that character.

Jarrah: I mean, his speech in that last Mirror Universe episode was the first time I got really excited about it again, since Culber's death, and I just loved that part where he rises to the occasion and says the exact right things and it's so Star Trek-y.

Grace: Yeah, it's great! Happy to see how far he's come.

Andi: I would really like it if he stayed captain.

Grace: Yeah. I'd be up for that.

Andi: One because he earned it, and two because we haven't had an alien captain. I want an alien captain!

Grace: Yeah!

Sue: Me, too.

Andi: Especially since it's so poetic that in the Mirror Universe they were like cattle, and in our universe he's our captain. That was awesome.

Grace: Yeah.

Andi: And I really loved that moment where Georgiou's testing him and he was like, "Nah. No, no, no. I see your play and I return it. You don't scare me."

Jarrah: Yes. I liked that. I always like when people fight with words.

Andi: Oh, we do have to talk about Georgiou.

Jarrah: We do. Yes.

Andi: Because I want to talk about the fact that we have yet another bi/pan sexual evil Mirror woman. It's like only way that they can show that these women are evil is, you know, have them have an orgy.

Grace: It's the only way we're allowed to exist.

Jarrah: Well, and I thought we were going to get through the season, because that didn't happen until the last one so I thought it was going to be enough that she just like ate Kelpiens and randomly slaughtered people that she didn't trust to keep her secrets.

Grace: But, no!

Jarrah: Nope.

Andi: That whole scene, where they're in the market or whatever, that whole thing was delightful.

Jarrah: Oh, and the costumes. So sexy.

Andi: Yeah, what she brought out in Tilly and what she brought out in even Burnham, it was just so fun. It was a really fun scene. And, you know, normally I'd be all for orgy. Why not? But I'm just really sick of it also being equated with, "Look how evil she is. She's bad, guys. She's a bad girl." Okay?

Jarrah: Yeah, Bisexuality isn't the same thing as hedonism, but that is how it's portrayed in Mirror Star Trek.

Andi: I really think that they need to get a glimpse of my bisexual life, which usually is me eating sour patch kids, petting my cats, and watching Star Trek.

[laughter]

Grace: And mine accidentally seducing multiple characters in Mass Effect and then feeling bad for hurting a fictional characters feelings.

[all laughing]

Andi: That happened to me too! [laughter continues] It's like, "I'm sorry I just meant to be friendly, I don't actually want to hook up! I'm sorry! I'm sorry!"

Sue: If we just saw the occasional orgy from a Prime Universe character.

Jarrah: Yes. Well, I mean it's not even an orgy it's a threesome.

Sue: Yeah, well, yes.

Andi: If they had given me prime Georgiou having a threesome I probably would have been pumped by that, to be honest.

Sue: If we knew for a fact that prime Georgiou was pan or bi and enjoyed threesomes then I'd be less annoyed by it, but instead this is supposed to be another reason we see her as evil.

Jarrah: Yeah, we had a comment on the blog from Dave to that effect that, you know, if you only show it in the Mirror Universe, then it seems like you're saying that is a sign of promiscuity and evil, verses just something that some people do sometimes.

Grace: So, thanks for that guys! [drawn out and sarcastic] Thanks!

Andi: Those stereotypes make it, out here in the real world, quite awful. They are cited as reasons not to date bi and pan people. So, cut it out guys! Cut it out!

Grace: Cut that sh-t right the hell out. 'Cause I got no time for it.

Andi: I think I'd be less annoyed if it wasn't the millionth time I feel like I've seen it.

Grace: Yeah, probably.

Andi: In Star Trek, specifically. So, anyways, thank you for allowing me my rant.

Jarrah: Oh, for sure. I will say that other than that, I really dug Empress Georgiou. I mean, it was a little frustrating because well, I thought she was going to die and so I'm like, "Oh, great. You're going to bring her back and then kill her again?" Luckily that didn't happen. Although, also weird: people not facing consequences

situation. There's an article about all the titles that they gave her. So, when they announce her in the court as her most Imperial Majesty, Mother of the Fatherland, Overlord of Vulcan, Dominus of Kronos, Regina Andor, Emperor Philippa Georgiou Augustus Iaponius Centauris, and it was pretty awesome. And so, one of the writers was on Twitter, sort of explaining where they got the titles. The stuff about Vulcan and Kronos and stuff all make sense. They chose Mother of the Fatherland, even though they de-gendered Emperor, to be Emperor instead of Empress, but they thought Mother of the Fatherland sounded kind of cool. They picked Dominus of Kronos because Dominus is a harsher title than Emperor so, it's like we own them and said that the reason they mispronounce Kronos is out of cultural chauvinism. So, that's like this whole issue of, "But isn't it Kwonos?" It's because she thinks the Klingons are animals.

Grace: Also makes it sound like you're calling them widdle, widdle babies on Kwonos. [laughter] Wook at the widdle Kwingons!

Jarrah: So, then Augustus is because the Terrans see themselves as inheritors of the Roman Empire. So, that's why they also say Emperor and everyone takes the name Augustus, apparently. Iaponius, which is Latin for Japanese and the writer, Jordon Nardino says, "This, in my fever dream, is a title Hoshi Sato adopted when she named herself Empress, to honor her homeland." And said, "Well, then the question is, is Georgiou descended from Hoshi?" and says, "Hoshi was Empress, a hundred years later Georgiou is Emperor. Georgiou took one of Hoshi's titles as her own to connect them. So Hoshi's legacy as Empress must be good and Georgiou must either be connected to her in a chain of succession, or might at least want to create that connection." So either its symbolic or genetic, we don't know, but he does know that they do have different ethnic backgrounds so, he doesn't think it's likely Philippa's a direct descendant, like a great grandchild, but more likely it's symbolic.

Sue: We have explored everyone being related to everyone else and it's called Star Wars.

Grace: [snickers] Also, not all Asians are related.

Jarrah: Yes. Yeah. So, I thought it was good that they acknowledged that maybe she's just taking it as symbolic, because, you know, you might do if you overthrew a society and you want to create legitimacy for yourself as a monarch is to connect yourself to another monarch that was well respected.

Sue: Well, like popes do this, as well.

Jarrah: Yeah.

Grace: Kings do it.

Jarrah: Also, the costumes, I loved the Mirror costumes. I was super into them.

Grace: Oh, my gosh, they were great.

Jarrah: You know, I have a lot of empathy for the cosplayers that are having difficulty. Our Ottawa group is saying like, "Who wants to do Discovery cosplay for Ottawa Comic Con?" and there's one person who can afford to hire a seamstress [laughter] and then I'm going, "Can I wear my DISCO T-shirt?" [laughs]

Sue: [laughing] I mean, technically. And running shoes.

Jarrah: Yeah, but they looked awesome and I love them.

Sue: Agreed. I really enjoyed the look of this series quite a lot.

Jarrah: We also had a lot of Easter Eggs and we definitely won't be able to cover them all, but I thought that most of them were quite nice and fun, for Star Trek fans, without probably distracting too much, for non-Star Trek fans. Like the Ceti eels they're grilling at the end. Things like that.

Grace: Ooh, that was really cute. And I bet, delicious.

Jarrah: Yeah. [laughs]

Sue: So, one thing that I keep reading/hearing is that people wish we would know more about our secondary/background bridge crew. [Jarrah agrees]

Grace: Yeah! I want to know what their deal is.

Jarrah: I was sad they didn't get medals and named at the end.

Sue: Well, they're all standing there, aren't they?

Jarrah: Yes. So, maybe they're getting medals, but they just don't get their names called. [Sue agrees] I get that there's a time issue.

Sue: And it's all Burnham's voiceover business happening, too.

Andi: I want them to be a huge part of next season.

Sue: I love this cast, but it makes me sad that we don't have the family aspect that we do on some of the other Star Trek shows. I mean, in particular TNG, which is, I've always said it, my Star Trek, but that's something I really, really loved about that show. And I think that developed on DS9 and Voyager, as well. But we don't see it as much. We see them doing more as the season goes on, but we don't know anything about them. We don't know who they are.

Jarrah: Well, I mean, we do know who they are, but only if you read the articles.

Sue: I mean, we know their names, but we don't know them. That's what I mean. [Jarrah agrees] We knew at the end of season one where Tasha grew up, and the troubles Deanna had with her mother. We don't know anything about them, in that way.

Grace: We know things that are only story adjacent.

Jarrah: But it does make a huge difference, and similar to what Andi's saying with the Bechdel/Wallace test, is that they, clearly, made a very concerted effort to cast background and supporting actors with diversity and sometimes, like with Rekha Sharma, this didn't super pan out well. You know, they said originally they were going to cast a guy and they were always going to kill the character off. They decided to have a woman of color. It just made it seem like a bit of an unfortunate pattern. Luckily we got Mirror Landry, who then also dies. [chuckles and Sue agrees] But, you know, nice to see a little bit. But, one thing. So, in addition to our main bridge crew, which got vastly more diverse after the first several episodes, where you have Commander Airiam played by Sarah Mitich, as sort of the Cyborg type character, Oyin Oladejo as Lieutenant Owosekun [oh-woah-say-cun]? Oh, my god I need to be able to say this properly. Owosekun [oh-woah-say-coon]? Is that how you say it?

Sue: I'm not sure they've ever said it so, I don't know.

Jarrah: Okay. So, you have Oyin Oladejo as Lieutenant Owosekun, and I apologize if I mispronounce that. I don't recall us hearing it a lot. but I liked how she also had a prominent role as her Mirror counterpart. Obviously, Emily Coutts who plays Lieutenant Detmer, and she kind of starts to feel like a family member by the end, because she has a bit of a mini arc, where she sort of, I guess, forgives Burnham, and starts to back her. And Patrick Kwok Choon as Lieutenant Rhys. Oh, and also I forgot Ronnie Rowe Jr. As Lieutenant Bryce. So, there's quite a diverse bridge crew, which is awesome. But then also, the doctor that you see post-Culber is played by Raven Dauda and she plays Dr. Pollard, although, I don't think we ever hear her name. But she, you know, looks sort of like a not super-young black woman. And I thought that that was good casting, too. Again just show that it doesn't always have to be a white dude.

Grace: Yeah.

Jarrah: And apologies if I mispronounced anyone's names.

Sue: [chuckles] No, agreed. And it was noticeable, if you're looking at it, right? I don't know if that is the correct way to say it, but any time we'd see the background characters I'd look at them, look at the bridge and be like, "Oh, yes. Good. Yes."

Jarrah: I think it's noticeable, because we've noticed the lack. But I don't know if we would have been sitting there, as people who hadn't paid attention to Star Trek, feeling like this looked really different, unless maybe we, ourselves, had felt under represented before. I mean, as a white woman, I hadn't felt significantly underrepresented in the background scenes of Voyager, just say, but certainly since I've started paying attention, this seemed very apparent to me. Oh I guess we should talk about what might happen next.

Sue: Yeah, so there was quite the surprise. The distress call from the NCC 17 oh no they didn't! [all laughing] This surprised me. I don't know about y'all, but I honestly did not see this coming.

Jarrah: No, me neither. I don't have necessarily any super strong feelings about it, but I also didn't see it coming.

Grace: I'm curious to see if they're going to actually do anything with it, or if that was just them capping off the season.

Sue: I forget who it was, but I saw somebody [laughing] write in a thread like, "Watch season two open with Discovery warping away from Enterprise and saying, 'Well, that was fun.'"

Grace: [laughing] Yeah, that's my prediction.

Jarrah: I think it was Ted Sullivan, but it might have been one of the other executive producers say, "Well, you know, of course we still have to explain why Spock and Burnham don't talk," because they didn't really explain that. And basically said, "You know, we had to have them run into the Enterprise that we can finish that part of the story and maybe take them in some new directions." So, it does seem like they're going to have some interaction with that crew. I mean, it's the Pike crew.

Grace: Bring in Quinto? [whispering intensely] Bring in Quinto!

Jarrah: Yeah, I don't know if that's going to happen, but I wouldn't be upset about it.

Grace: I'm allowed to dream.

Jarrah: I care more about who they would cast as Number One, because if they don't give us Number One now, I'm going to be so disappointed.

Sue: I'm super excited about Number One. I think that's what I'm most excited about. I'm actually really nervous about Spock.

Jarrah: Yep.

Sue: If they can get Quinto, great. But I don't know how I feel about a third actor playing this character. You know?

Grace: That might be a bit much. He did have that little kid in the first of the Prime movies.

Sue: Well, okay. [laughs] The third actor playing this character as an adult.

Grace: Yeah that could be a bit much.

Jarrah: I am not super concerned about that. Certainly in season one of Discovery, I remember when we were talking about what we thought might happen. And I was super concerned about the Harry Mudd stuff. First it said he was going to be eight episodes. He was only in two and the second one was actually my favorite episode of the whole series.

Grace: It was pretty great.

Sue: That was at a time when they were just listing everyone announced for every episode.

Grace: Wait, wait, wait, wait, wait, wait guys, guys. New theory: it's going to be revealed Voq was actually Mudd all along. [all laughing] It was a Turducken disguise!

Sue: But, you know, when they said, "Trust us about Harry Mudd." I was skeptical. And, I mean, I think they did a really good job.

Grace: Yeah, they did pretty good.

Jarrah: I agree. But they actually weren't listing every episode because Sarek was listed as for one or two episodes. And so, then Michelle Yeoh, when after we saw her first two episodes, it didn't say she was going to be in more episodes on IMDB. So, I remember being really disappointed, because I love James Frain. But Sarek wasn't going to be in more episodes. And then all my expectations were kind of turned on their head. And most of them, in terms of the casting situation, were for the better. I think that, overall, the casting was very good.

Grace: Oh, yeah. Absolutely.

Sue: Yeah, they were trying to mess with us.

[Jarrah laughs]

Grace: Like they do. Like they do.

Sue: So, I wonder, for anyone who has read the two tie-in novels, do you think that if they explore how Burnham and Spock don't speak to each other, that it will relate at all to the novel written about it, that was

supposedly written with a lot of heavy input from the writers room? That was a convoluted way of asking my question. [laughs]

Jarrah: I think you're the only one who's read it, so far.

Sue: Oh, okay.

Jarrah: I've downloaded it and have not read it yet.

Sue: So, yeah. The first Discovery novel deals with that. [laughs] I don't know. I'm curious to find out, because I don't think they would tie it in so closely, they'd have the writers room participate in the writing of the novel, if they weren't going to talk about it at all. But it's an excellent book. I keep getting the two titles confused, because they're very similar so, I'm going to double check it.

Jarrah: There's Desperate Hours—

Sue: And Drastic Measures.

Jarrah: Drastic Measures. So, Desperate Hours is the first one.

Sue: Yes. That's the one by David Mack.

Jarrah: Yeah. And then the second one's by Dayton Ward. And Sue has reviewed both on our blog! But I haven't read them yet, because I don't want to be spoiled. [Sue laughs] I'm sure they're great. Yeah, I mean, and Kirsten Beyer has been working on, you know, supporting the tie in novels, as well as the tie in comics. And the comics, so far there's only a couple issues out and there's been T'Kuvma's backstory and then we've seen there's going to be Stamets's backstory, which will also feature him meeting Culber. So I guess that would be kind of bittersweet. But, I mean, so far they've been good, it just feels almost a little too soon to say. So far, they haven't said anything super significant about the actual show.

Sue: Well, then Jarrah, where can people find you on the internet?

Jarrah: You can find me on Twitter @jarrahpenguin.

Sue: And Grace?

Grace: You can find me on Twitter @bonecrusherjenk and at the mycelial causeway across the universe.

Sue: [laughs] And Andi?

Andi: Yeah, you can find me on Twitter. I'm @firsttimetrek, where I'm live tweeting through my first time through Star Trek.

Sue: And I'm Sue and you can find me on Twitter @spaltor. If you'd like to reach the show you can do so on Twitter @womeanawarp, on Facebook at facebook.com/womenatwarp, by email at crew@womenatwarp.com and you can find our blog at womenatwarp.com and more from the Roddenberry Podcast Network over at podcasts.roddeberr.com. Thanks so much for listening!

[WAW outro plays]