

Women at Warp – Episode 102 – Minor Characters

[WAW intro plays]

Grace: 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 Grace and thanks for tuning in. With us this week we have Jarrah.

Jarrah: Hello!

Grace: And we have Sue.

Sue: Hi everybody.

Grace: Before we get to our main topic, we have a little bit of housekeeping to do first. Our show is entirely supported by our patrons on Patreon. If you'd like to become a patron you can do so for as little as a dollar a month and get awesome rewards. From thanks on social media, to silly watch along commentaries. Visit us at www.patreon.com/womenatwarp. You can also support us by leaving a rating or review on Apple Podcasts or wherever you get your podcasts. Now we've got a minor main topic today I'd say, wouldn't you?

Jarrah: Absolutely. But before we get into it, I just have one other piece of housekeeping, which is to remind you that we are always looking for writers for our **Women at Warp** blog. So, it's a New Year. Happy New Year, listeners! And so why not add to your resolutions, "I resolved to write something for the **Women at Warp** blog."

Grace: I resolve to as well.

Jarrah: Yeah. And so, if you visit www.womenatwarp.com and click on "contribute" you'll find all the information about our submission guidelines. You don't have to have any experience blogging, we're just interested in people from diverse perspectives sharing thoughts around the themes that we explore on our show.

Sue: Yay!

Grace & Jarrah in unison: Yay!

Grace: So, our topic today is: Favorite Minor Characters! Now, Jarrah, how are we defining a minor character for this?

Jarrah: Well, you know, we want this to be a fun episode, so we're not going to be too strict about it, but I think in our minds we were thinking about characters who are not really the focus of the episode. So, for example, if you're taking the episode—I'm just going to just randomly—*In Theory*, where Data dates, you would not choose the main love interest character in that

episode, because she is really like the main guest star in that episode. So, it wouldn't be someone that you would immediately pick out as a really, you know, top tier guest star in an episode or a recurring guest star, like Kai Wynn, but more of the people that you mention and you're like, "Oh, yeah! That person was awesome!" Andy sadly could not join us tonight, but on her list is Sonya Gomez from **The Next Generation**.

So, those types of people and we have lots of great listener suggestions. And we've come up with some suggestions ourselves and we just kind of want to celebrate some of our favorites. They don't all have to be women, but I think just, you know, because that's partly who we're looking for, as well as people of color, when we're watching, that there are a lot of great characters on our list who don't necessarily get all the celebration they're due.

Grace: All right, so, starting through with our picks, Sue, do you want to share one of your picks with us?

Sue: Well, I think maybe we should start with Sonya Gomez.

Jarraah: Sure!

Grace: All right! [laughing] Who is she again?

Sue: She is the engineer who, in her introduction, spills hot chocolate on Captain Picard.

Grace: Oh, no! Such shenanigans!

Sue: [amused] Is there any better introduction in all of **Star Trek**?

Jarraah: And Geordi is kind of embarrassed by her, which is funny because Geordi is not really the most socially competent person on the Enterprise. [laughs]

Grace: Yeah, kind of the pot calling the kettle black there, Geordi.

Jarraah: Yeah. Yeah, he uh, he throws a bit of shade at Sonya Gomez and Barclay and some other people for someone that [laughing] doesn't necessarily have all the best skills himself.

Grace: Judge not lest ye be judged, La Forge.

[laughter]

Sue: But really, who is carrying around hot beverages in Main Engineering?

Grace: I guess she is. She uh, she needs that cocoa to go go.

Sue: It seems like a bad idea to me and I speak from experience, because not long ago I dumped hot chocolate all over my desk at work and I was late for my stand-up call, so. [laughs]

Grace: But with Sonya's case, is it a bad idea or an endearing character trait?

Jarrah: I mean, I really like her, but I can see if we were doing a super critical analysis you could be like, "Well..." You know, we don't see a lot of female engineers, especially by that point in the Starfleet history or **Star Trek** history. Is it great that we have this woman of color engineer, who is not necessarily the most professional person, that we deal with?

Sue: They kind of play her off like a ditz

Jarrah: Yeah, but I like that she is super opinionated.

Sue: Yes.

Grace: Gutsy and opinionated is a very fun combination to be, let me tell you.

Jarrah: She also talks about how excited she is to be on the Enterprise. And I like that she—

Grace: We can all identify with that.

Jarrah: Yeah, we kind of talk about how Barclay is a bit of a mixed bag, as like a sort of depiction of awkward male fans. And I think a lot of us can relate to awkward Sonya Gomez being just like, "I really want to be here on the Enterprise! Oh my gosh!" And then spilling hot chocolate on Captain Picard.

Grace: Like you do.

Jarrah: Yeah.

Grace: All right. So, now do we want to go into one of Sue's picks?

Sue: Oh, all right. How about I just come right out of left field and say M'Ress.

Grace: Ooh. Kind of a dark horse, there. Or, a orange cat.

Sue: [laughs] Right?

Grace: Please. Please, elaborate for us.

Sue: So, if the name is unfamiliar to anyone M'Ress is the Caitian [pronounces "kay-shun"]—is that how they say it? —on The Animated Series. She is a bridge officer, but we don't ever really get a lot of her background, any stories where she is the focus character, and I just I want to

know more. One of the things that I do love so much about The Animated Series, though, is that you know, it costs the same to draw a human or a totally non-humanoid alien, so they could do things “believably” [laughs] much more easily and much more cost-effectively than they ever could on the live action show. So, there is some really just fantastical visuals in The Animated Series and the fact that they could have a Caitian regularly on the show is just one of the things I love about TAS.

Jarrah: Yeah, definitely.

Grace: There's a lot to love there.

Jarrah: Yeah, and actually, we didn't get a whole lot of suggestions for TAS, but I was thinking, almost because there were so few episodes too, there's just a lot of interesting characters that we only get to see a little bit of. And that was another criteria we were considering is, just who makes you curious to learn more about them? I don't know if—I would say you could count her a minor character because she's one of several, but there's the woman who's the hunter in the episode where Kirk is with that group of different aliens that all have to go and they get in the fight with the Kzinti—.

Sue: *The Jihad?*

Jarrah: Yes, yes. Right. I blocked the title of the episode from my brain, but.

Sue: Well, it was 50 years ago, well, 40 years ago.

Jarrah: Yeah, but there were some cool women characters in The Animated Series and definitely ones that I would totally read a novel about them. I have the M'Ress Christmas ornament on my tree right now with the Arex one and I love it.

Grace: Is she going to have a Meow-rry Little Christmas? [laughter] There, I've made the worst pun possible for the show and it can only go uphill from here.

[Jarrah laughs]

Sue: But honestly, Majel Barrett regularly purring [all laughing] into her microphone. It's just so good.

Jarrah: Yes. 100 percent.

Grace: What a job. What a job! Jarrah, do we want to go into one of your picks now?

Jarrah: Sure. One of the ones that I picked was Lupaza who's one of Kira's friends from **Deep Space Nine**. And she is in the episodes *Shakaar* and *The Darkness and the Light*. And in *Shakaar* we learned that she was kind of like Shakaar's second-in-command in the Resistance

and Kira was considered too young and Shakaar thought she was too young to fight, but Lupaza saw the promise in Kira and helped bring her into the Resistance and make sure she was ready. And then she shows up again, sadly, very briefly in *The Darkness and the Light*, because that is a devastating episode.

Grace: Oh, man that episode.

Jarrah: But her and her partner/spouse Furel, and they hang out with Kira, and they're clearly good friends. And it's just really cool to see this woman who's been through the same things Kira has, who's sort of a bit of a mentor figure, who seems like she's really confident and sure of herself and just kind of happy. And has kind of come to terms with the past and, you know, will reminisce with them like a war buddy, but I just I really like her as a character and I think I would have rather seen more stuff about her than Shakaar.

Sue: Mm hmm.

Grace: Shakaar is pretty mayonnaise, if I may say so. Yeah. Mayonnaise love interest.

Sue: That's the kind of thing, the kind of relationship and interaction, that I wish we had gotten in Tasha Yar's story.

Jarrah & Grace in unison: Yes.

Sue: Because we heard so many terrible things about her experiences and where she came from, but we always saw her dealing with that alone. And here we have Kira with the opportunity to commiserate, and to share, and to just be with somebody who knows what she went through and that's really valuable.

Grace: Yeah.

Jarrah: Mm hmm. Yeah, Shakaar was better when he was a Scottish ghost candle.

[laughter]

Grace: Well, who isn't, really?

Jarrah: What about you, Grace? Who do you have on your list?

Grace: Well, one of my picks is going to be a weird one, because I'm not sure really sure how they pronounced it whether it was "pair-in" or "puh-rin," but either way she [Perrin] is Sarek's new wife in the **TNG** episode *Sarek* and I've got a lot of questions there and that makes me want to know the answers to them, clearly.

Jarrah: I think it was “pair-in,” but I haven't watched that episode in a while. But what kind of questions?

Grace: Well, basically just in concept as a character you have a lot of, “Well what's the story there?” going of—.

Jarrah: Why does he keep marrying human women?

Grace: Yeah, does he love her for her, or for her sexy rounded ears? [laughter] And she would definitely go into this relationship knowing, “Oh, yeah, Sarek. He had a long-term relationship with a human woman, it was a huge taboo, and they had a kid, and the kid is like this big hero now. Oh, theirs was just a love story for the ages! Aw, she dead now. Have fun wife two!” Like is there a second Mrs. de Winter dynamic there? I gotta know.

Jarrah: [laughs] She also has this you know, massive Vulcan-style necklace and a headband and it seems like she's wearing Vulcan garb, so. Also how is this happening where—is it like an expectation that if you marry Sarek you're going to dress like a good Vulcan woman? Because I think I feel like Amanda in **The Original Series** looked more stylish and maybe it's just that we didn't have you know, an expectation of what Vulcan women looked like in *Journey to Babel*, but I feel like Amanda's outfit in that—when I say stylish, I just mean more there's more flair to it.

Grace: Worst case scenario Perrin is just kind of a Vulcan chaser and—.

Jarrah: Maybe she's just really into it.

Grace: Yeah. This is as close as she's gonna get to being Vulcan.

Sue: We also see more casual wear in **TNG** than we ever really did in **TOS**. So, I think we have an idea of the range.

Grace: We do. And that just makes what she's wearing look a little more, “Whoa, girl. Tone it down.”

Jarrah: I think that she does a lot with not very much screen time in *Sarek*, but I guess my question is, is she really necessary? Because I feel like it's kind of sad that Sarek has all this pride and he can't share what he's going through with anyone who's really close to him. So, it kind of puts her at a disadvantage, because Picard ends up being so much more important in the grand scheme of things.

Grace: Yeah, she is kind of just a vehicle character for the story, which is unfortunate, but again, in concept I have so many questions and would like to see what could have been done there.

Grace: Also, does she get along with her stepson who's way older than her probably? [Sue laughs] How weird is that at dinner?

Jarrah: I mean, I feel like Spock, at this point, you have to go find him undercover on Romulus.

Grace: There's a search for Spock to get him to come to family game night.

Jarrah: Yeah. So, I feel like he has not always been the person who was the first to organize the family reunion.

Grace: [chuckles] He'll show up. He won't RSVP, but he will show up.

Jarrah: Yeah, definitely. Should we just like, maybe in-between our rounds, list some people that our listeners suggested on Facebook?

Grace: Yeah, let's do that.

Sue: That's a great idea.

Jarrah: Okay. Well, I'm going to just pick one that was suggested by several people including Chris and Ruby and Julie who is Tal Celes from the **Voyager** episode *The Good Shepherd*. I feel like we talked about her in maybe the Janeway episode a bit, but she's the one—this is the episode where Janeway is sort of literally—well, not literally shepherding, they're not sheep—figuratively shepherding these crew members who are sort of like the *Lower Decks* crew and they just basically have been underperforming and Tal Celes is the Bajoran and who's kind of just in the wrong job. She just isn't really good at the engineering-y astrometrics-y stuff, but I like this suggestion. I think Ruby said, "I love the realism of her struggles and also her friendship with Billy. It was refreshing to see an opposite gender friendship that had zero romantic hints attached."

Grace: Always good. Always positive to see more platonic friendship.

Jarrah: Yeah, and I think when we talked about this episode I mean, I know it's certainly not my favorite episode and I dislike how I think she comes across as maybe not—they all come across as less than competent. That said, I think the actress did a really good job and it did definitely make me want to see more of her. And I think if she had turned up in more than that episode, then that would have helped with that idea. That we just got to see her this one time and she wasn't necessarily the strongest or a character who had an obvious important role to play on the mission.

Grace: Another one that we got recommended to us on Facebook, that I was actually considering for my list, was Captain Lisa Cusack from the **DS9** episode *The Sound of Her Voice*.

Jarrah: Yes!

Grace: And this is a neat episode in the sense that this entire character is pretty much carried by vocal performance. And I'm afraid the actress's name is escaping me right now, but until I saw this episode, I only knew her for scattered **Mad TV** skits and she just acts the crap out of this, using only her voice. And it's really fantastic.

Jarrah: Debra Wilson.

Grace: Yes! We get to meet this character, who is stuck and pretty much just talking to whoever she can to keep from going, you know, stir and all that and we get this really interesting picture of a character who's funny, who's brave, who's smart and it's sad that we don't get to, if you'll forgive the pun, see more of her.

[laughter and mild groaning]

Jarrah: I love that episode. It is one that always makes me cry. I know we missed her when we did our women captains episode and a lot of listeners e-mailed us and we went, "Oh, no, no, no!" It's really neat to hear about that last mission. And I guess sort of like someone like you know, Philippa Georgiou, makes you want to know about their early days in Starfleet and how they joined the Academy, and how they rose to the rank of captain, because she just seems like someone with such tremendous courage, and empathy, and determination that you want to know how they got to where they are.

Grace: Yeah. The episode, the plot, really wouldn't carry if it was any less of an interesting character it would have just been like, "Okay, they're just talking to a lady on the phone the whole episode. That's it." But, no. She's interesting, she makes the characters question themselves and the dynamics they have with other characters, and it's a good episode.

Sue: Yeah. And I almost put Georgiou, for example, on my list, even though we see her over and over again in **Discovery** and it looks like she's going to be playing a bigger part in season two. She wasn't really the focus of anything in season one.

Grace: Except for revenge!!

Sue: But I don't think I'm alone in saying that I want to know so much more about Philippa Georgiou.

Jarrah: Absolutely. We do have several other **Discovery** people that were shouted out.

Sue: Basically, the entire bridge crew.

Grace: Yeah.

Jarrah: And actually, I was wondering, Sue, because you have read *Desperate Hours*, the David Mack novel—

Sue: Mm hmm.

Jarrah: —and Jonathan shouted out Lieutenant Jira Nirwani and said, “Have we ever seen a crew member wear a full helmet VR headgear before? I want to know what the deal is with that. I feel like I would just get an epic headache.” [Sue laughs] So, Jira Nirwani is the one that people have called Ensign Daft Punk a lot on the Internet.

Grace: Yeah!!

Jarrah: And apparently, she is given a bit of background in that novel, but I know it's been a while so, I don't mean to put you on the spot. Do you remember anything about that?

Sue: Yeah, it's been like a year, but there isn't a whole lot. It's just a little bit of explanation that she wasn't the android that we were promised we would get, but that it was a VR helmet and it was to help with spatial positioning so, it's part of I think navigation and tactical. So that it helps you better aim and well, navigate. But it is definitely something that, you know, she can take off. And I don't remember if there was anything about the length of the time she would wear it, or if it would be for the entire shift. I feel vaguely like there might have been something but I can't say for sure.

Jarrah: Okay. I don't know maybe it's easier to wear it for the entire shift. I feel like it's got to be one of those things like zero-g training and stuff that I would never get through, but you evidently have to in Starfleet.

[Sue laughs]

Grace: Maybe it's like one of those things where if you're wearing a pair of really uncomfortable shoes, if you take them off for five minutes it'll just be worse after you have to put them back on. So, you just leave the helmet on.

Jarrah: Or maybe they can just give you a hypospray for the disorientation when you take it off.

Sue: Right? As long as she's got fans in there.

Jarrah: Yeah.

Grace: And as long as she's able to rock it harder, faster, better, stronger.

[Jarrah laughs as Grace makes beat noises]

Jarrah: Yeah. I actually made a **Deep Space Nine** fan video to that when I was in University.

[Sue laughs]

Grace: That song's the shit.

Jarrah: On Windows Movie Maker.

[Sue laughs again]

Grace: Aw, old school!

Jarrah: Yep, not even as old school as some of the stuff we've covered. [Grace laughing] Yeah, feels like a long time ago.

Grace: All right. We've also got a person on the Facebook picks that comes up in your picks, Sue. Do you want to go into that character?

Sue: Yeah, so, Kate and Cheyenne suggested this character as well, but on my list is Nurse, or Doctor, depending on the episode, Alyssa Ogawa. Also, Ensign or Lieutenant depending on the episode.

[laughter]

Jarrah: Yes.

Grace: Gotta love inconsistency.

Jarrah: Was she a lieutenant and then did she go back to being an ensign in *Lower Decks*, or? Oh, wait, she gets promoted in *Lower Decks*.

Sue: No, she got a promotion in *Lower Decks*.

Jarrah: Okay, okay.

Grace: Good for her!

Sue: Because remember Ensign Powell or Lieutenant Powell will have to deal with Lieutenant Ogawa, now. Why do I know every word of that episode?

Grace: 'Cause.

Sue: But we see Alyssa a lot as a nurse. She is a nurse. She's only, as far as I know, she's only a doctor in, I think, in *Future Imperfect* when Riker is in the fake reality. And then maybe in the future in *All Good Things*.

Jarrah: Okay. And on **Star Trek Timelines**.

Grace: Ayy!

Sue: Well either that's her or her future imperfect character, isn't it?

[laughter]

Jarrah: Yeah. There is both a Nurse Ogawa and a CMO Ogawa on **Star Trek Timelines**.

Grace: There is a whole shower of Ogawa's.

[laughter]

Sue: I like it whenever we see consistency in the crew and we see the same people in the background all the time. That's why one of the reasons I like Sonya Gomez, it's one of the reasons I like Alyssa Ogawa. And we see them being needed, and useful, and in little instances those characters do grow. We do see Alyssa get promoted, we see her get engaged, we see her start a family. So, it reminds you, especially with **Next Gen**, that there is just other life going on, on the ship. It is a family ship and that's something they didn't pay attention to as much as they maybe could have. But we do get those little reminders now and then.

Jarrah: Yeah, absolutely. I mean, another example of that was, just before the show, we were talking about Lieutenant Jae who is played by Tracy Cocco.

Grace: Tracy Cocco!

Jarrah: Yes, and I, just out of curiosity, looked up—she doesn't actually officially have a name in the script, but the actress said that Jonathan Frakes, in an episode he was directing, just started calling her Lieutenant Jae and they spelled it J-A-E and that kind of stuck. And that's in the novels. And she was in 62 episodes and three out of the four **Next Generation** movies. So, even though you might not immediately think of her when listing off bridge crew, really actually important influence in **TNG** and had some kind of like badass action scenes, and also a really great haircut.

Grace: I really can't argue with that powerful of a—what do you call that haircut? Just the intense angle of it.

Jarrah: It was almost like a faux hawk with more hair and gel? [laughter] I'm bad at describing that, but.

Grace: It was an extra faux hawk.

Sue: Yes.

Jarrah: Yeah.

Grace: A faux-real hawk. Got it, there we go. All right. Jarrah, do you want to share another one of your picks with us?

Jarrah: Sure. I got a shout out, taking a step away from **TNG**, again, because there's a lot of **TNG** ones, but I wanted to cast the net a bit wider. Elizabeth Cutler from **Enterprise** and she may not have ended up being a minor character. Sadly, the actress, Kellie Waymire, passed away after only a few episodes. And she was definitely a recurring guest star. But I feel like, because we didn't get to see more of her, we can still celebrate her in this episode and I just really liked that she was someone who was competent and had personality. There's sort of this thing where she's trying to decide whether Phlox is interested in her. But she's also a rad scientist and she's shown really early on having a lot of skill and just really like that about her. And I wish that, you know, sadly it's a tragedy that she passed away so young, because it would've been great to have more of her on **Enterprise**.

Grace: Yeah. What I'm vaguely remembering of the character, I would have liked to see more, or see at least what they could have done with her as a part of the ensemble on **Enterprise**.

Jarrah: Yeah, she gets to go on a couple of away missions, but one of the things we've talked about with **Enterprise** before is it very rarely passes the Bechdel/Wallace Test because Hoshi and T'Pol are almost never interacting with each other. And I feel like just having, even a recurring guest star character like that more often, would have probably, significantly increased the number of episodes that pass that test.

Grace: Probably, yeah.

Sue: It certainly would have been a step in the right direction.

Grace: There were many steps to take in the right direction that were un-stepped. [Sue laughs]

Jarrah: And it was just kind of nice to see because we had T'Pol, who's very much an "other" and Hoshi who is a human, but very afraid early on, and to have Cutler, who's more like on the same level as Mayweather, Reed, and Trip, where she's someone who is part of the Starfleet crew, she's a human, she's jazzed to be out in space. She's just sort of trying to figure it out as she goes along. And so, she's a little confused about the alien customs, but she still has sort of the same ideals and could be just sort of a, more of a member of that group with the main crew.

Grace: Yeah. Just honestly, again, I've said it a million times, but just more. More ladies getting to do things on **Enterprise**, please.

Jarrah: Yeah, there's a lot of episodes that if you watch like, "Oh, look at this, five engineers in this scene. All white men, yay!"

[Sue laughs]

Grace: "Well, golly they sure are the standard. Or so they have repeatedly told me."

Jarrah: Yeah.

Sue: Well, Grace who else is on your list?

Grace: Well, I know this is kind of cheating, because she's pretty central in the episode, but I went with Pel from the **DS9** episode *Rules of Acquisition*. She is the Ferengi lady who goes undercover as a guy Ferengi so that she can get in with Quark and "get in" with Quark. [laughter] And she apparently, really, has this major head for business, but because she's a woman Ferengi—what are they called again? —the Ferengi Commerce Authority won't let her participate in anything and we keep getting alluded to how back on Ferenginar there's all these really weird, nonsensical, bass-ackwards rules for women there.

And when you take the fact that we have this character, who's just got natural business acumen to an undeniable degree, where even the Nagus has to say, "Damn, she's good," and all of these standards for the culture that she's supposed to be coming from. Again, there's so many questions that that raises.

Jarrah: Mm hmm.

Grace: And the fact that they just kind of pack her off to another quadrant and say, "Oh, yeah, she's fine now. She's having a great time." And then we come back to this whole Ferengi women's lib plot with Moogie that keeps coming up and they don't—they have this prime character that they could also bring in and include somehow, and that felt like an opportunity wasted.

Jarrah: Mm hmm. I mean we all love Pel so, I'm never going to stop Pel from being on the list.

Grace: I would fight for Pel to keep her on my list.

Jarrah: Even if the list was like "Elder Vulcans of **Star Trek**" I'd be like, "I don't care, Pel. Pel."

Sue: [laughs] Pel, Pel, Pel!

Grace: Yeah, why not? Get Pel in there! Why not Pel? Why not Pel?

Sue: I've always wanted to see more of Pel.

Jarrah: And if you love Pel, or if you don't remember who Pel is, you should go and listen to our *Ferengi Feminist Revolution* episode, which was like one of our very first episodes and we

talked a lot about her. And Grace did an amazing audio reenactment of what might be one of Pel's future Ferengi romance novels.

[Sue laughs]

Grace: Yeah. Over the course of podcasting about **Star Trek**, it's pretty ridiculous how often Pel has come up among people just being like, "Oh man, that character was great and we never saw her again."

Jarraah: Mm hmm. Yep.

Sue: Mm hmm.

Grace: I love that she just gets that reaction across the board.

Jarraah: Pel for Grand Nagus 2020!

Grace: She's the Grand Nagus of our hearts.

Sue: We had a few more suggestions like that on social media, like Commander Shelby, who again I would say that she is definitely one of the focus characters of *Best of Both Worlds*. But I want to mention that we did do a whole episode just on her. That's episode 58, *The Right Choice for Your Job*.

Jarraah: Yes.

Grace: It's amazing how people really love Shelby, though. And she's supposed to be someone you don't really like, but we've done an episode on her, we keep getting her brought up, we've got a friend who dresses in drag as her. It's wild. I love that.

Sue: Another one that came up a few times was Tora Ziyal, who, again, I would say for me, is not so much a secondary character, as somebody who some pretty major plot points revolve around. And we do have plans to do an episode just on her, in the future. And fun fact: I named my Rebel Legion and Sabre Guild Star Wars Jedi character Tora Ziyal.

Jarraah: Nice.

Sue: And nobody got it.

Grace: Hey now, you're not supposed to mix the Trek and Wars.

Sue: The back of my Sith trading card says, "Today is a good day to die," in Sith common.

Jarraah: Ha, ha!

[Sue giggling]

Grace: Do you think there's a hair salon that has a sign that says, "Today is a good day to dye?"

Sue: If there were, I would go to it.

Jarrah: Yes!

Grace: I want that to be real.

Jarrah: One of the ones that I liked from Twitter was Carrie's suggestion of Lieutenant Stadi who is the navigator in **Voyager** who dies in the first episode. And she said, "I'd like to believe there's an AU, an alternate universe, where she survived and stayed at the helm instead of Paris." And I second that. And Paris could still be on there, but maybe we could lose all of those early episodes where him and Neelix are just stupidly fighting over Kes, and just skip ahead to the part where he has some maturity and is having an adult relationship with Torres.

Sue: She is also the only character who kind of said the name of our podcast on **Star Trek**.

Jarrah: Yes!

Grace: Oh, yeah!

Jarrah: Yeah, 'cause she has that line, "Do you always fly at women at warp speed, Mr. Paris?" So, whenever anyone mentions that in a blog post, it comes up in our Google alerts because it says "women at warp."

[laughter]

Grace: And it has regularly happened where if we're trying to look up any tweets about us it comes up.

Jarrah: **Voyager** did really well on the Bechdel/Wallace Test, but it was it was cool to see that they had this badass woman pilot, but I mean it could have been cool also to see her in Paris be on the same ship and be competitive about piloting.

Grace: That would have been interesting to see. We get one episode where they're in the Grand Prix Delta Flyer races and he gets to be competitive with another lady, but could have done more.

Jarrah: Yeah, I mean, it would've been hard because you know, a lot of his purpose on the show is to be a prodigy pilot, but.

Grace: I guess! They keep telling us it, but I don't believe it. Can I just say one of my favorite requests that we got on Twitter? And our first nonfemale of the episode: the Klingon restaurant owner on **DS9**.

Sue: The Singin' Kling'n?

Grace: Yeah!

Jarrah: Assuming I correctly identified that from the photo that Carlos posted, because he just posted the photos. And I'm like, "Okay, I might be a fake geek girl here but I'm pretty sure—"

Grace: Look, even if that's not the intended character, that's the character I wanna talk about right now.

Sue: Yeah! But seriously, shout out to Ken Ray for the Singin' Kling'n.

[laughter]

Sue: I think it was Ken. It might have been John.

Grace: That sounds like it would be a musical, doesn't it? [Jarrah laughing] Like a really early Gilbert and Sullivan.

Jarrah: Yes, absolutely. And I mean, we see him in a few episodes and it's kind of awesome. I mean, I don't really want to eat food that moves, but I feel like he makes it an authentic experience that makes you want to try it.

Grace: It is a fine quality dining experience on the promenade.

Jarrah: Yes.

Sue: It also helps to break down the idea of like the Klingon monoculture, right?

Grace: Yes, which is definitely good, because the more you look at Klingon culture as being monoculture, the less it makes sense.

Sue: Right, because we get so much of the "honor and battle and glory" and stuff with Worf, but we see in *Suspicious*, we get the Klingon scientist. And here we get the Klingon chef and it's just those little glimpses at the different aspects of these cultures just make the world a richer place.

Grace: Which, honestly, isn't that what we all want out of life and out of **Star Trek**? A richer place and more singing Klingons that serve us gagh.

Sue: Definitely.

Jarrah: Yes, definitely.

Grace: And I don't know about you guys, but this is a thing I hate in real life, but love in fictional media: whenever there's someone being sung to at a restaurant. [Sue laughs] Again, it's just like purgatory when it happens to you in real life, you're just gritting your teeth waiting for it to be over like, "What did I do to deserve this? Did I make too much eye contact?" But on TV it's always gold.

Jarrah: Yeah.

Grace: All right, Sue, do you want to give us another one of your picks?

Sue: Yeah. This is another one that came up a lot on our social media. Mark and David, in particular, also mentioned Erika Hernandez.

Grace: Yes.

Jarrah: Mm hmm!

Sue: The only Latinx captain shown in **Star Trek**. Again, another time where they could have given us so much more of her in **Enterprise** and didn't. [laughs]

Grace: Do better, guys. Do better.

Jarrah: Yeah, I feel like she is the major guest star in *Home*, but because she is very much like an "Archer's love interest" in that, I almost kind of consider—because we only got to see her a couple times after that, and she was in a much more minor role, at least in terms of—I mean, she's captaining the Warp Five ship so, that's awesome. You can't say that she isn't given an important post, but she just doesn't have the scenes and a lot of her scenes are just about Trip and whether Trip should be on her ship or not.

Sue: It feels like she exists in the story to remind us that there is another Warp Five ship. That's all.

Jarrah: Yes. Yeah, and it's sad because she is awesome. And the episode where they're in battle together is really great. And it would have been really cool to see them do more things together. Instead it's just like, "Oh and they disappear." Wah, wah.

Grace: Oh, potential missed, thy name is **Enterprise**.

Jarrah: Go read the *Destiny* books if you want more of what might have happened after.

Grace: Jarrah can you give us another one of your picks?

Jarrah: Sure. So, I picked Dara, who is Michelle Forbes character that she played before Ensign Ro, where she is the daughter, in *Half a Life*, of Timicin. So that's when Lwaxana is marrying, or she's with the guy, Timicin, he's the scientist, but his people have ritual suicide and Dara comes to convince him that he needs to go through with the ritual suicide, even though he's decided he's going to go off with Lwaxana and continue his work and all that stuff. And even though Michelle Forbes has a pretty hilarious hairdo in that episode—.

Grace: Oh, my gosh. It kind of looks like antlers bunched onto her head.

Jarrah: Yeah but like, you don't care, because she is just selling that role. She is giving so much heart into that just couple of scenes, that you would hire her to do all roles on **Star Trek** ever for the rest of **Star Trek**.

Grace: And think of what walking into that role must have been like, they're like, "Okay, we need you to be really sad that your dad doesn't want to commit suicide, and go." Could you imagine how just going, "Yeah I can do that!" How much finesse does that take?

Jarrah: Yeah. You see him so happy with Lwaxana, but then she comes and she basically has one scene where you have to believe that she has persuaded him to change his mind and kill himself. And she does it and you can see why they wanted to bring her on for more after that. I just think it's a really powerful, small role that would be like yes, you absolutely do want to see more of, if not this character, then this actress.

Grace & Sue: Mm hmm!

Grace: Most definitely. Sue, you've got another one you want to cover. Do you want to give us that one?

Sue: Oh, I just had an honorable mention which is Nurse Lanel in **TNG's** *First Contact*. She wants to get with Riker.

[laughter]

Grace: Get in line, sugar!

Sue: She's also on my list because I'm in love with Bebe Neuwirth.

Grace: Who isn't?

Sue: [laughing] That is my sole reason and I admit to it.

Grace: That's pretty much the only reason you need.

Jarrah: I debated that one too because it's problematic. We've talked about that before, in other episodes, that he's in a position where he can't really reveal himself, so she's able to coerce him into sex.

Grace: Also, she's got those creepy mitten hands but.

Jarrah: Uh huh. But she's Bebe Neuwirth and you know, not to minimize the problematic aspects, she's just fun to watch.

Sue: Yeah, but it's just so over the top. I just, I love it. [laughs]

Grace: So very. The top is no longer in sight. [Sue laughing] We're beyond the top.

Jarrah: Also, Aaron had mentioned Mirasta Yale from that same episode, who's played by Carolyn Seymour, who also played Toreth, who was also mentioned. But I would say I think Toreth is more of a prominent character in *Face of the Enemy* than Mirasta Yale is in *First Contact*. But I love that she is this principled scientist who is, you know, working with the Enterprise crew and at the end of the day, will put science over staying with her own people. She just can't abide by, you know, continuing to live in ignorance. She was a good actress.

Grace: I do love also that she gets this one line of, "Well, I'd hate for my people to be judged by our popular culture." [Sue laughs] I just always appreciate that coming from a sci-fi character on a TV show.

Jarrah: You know, before we get to your last pick, Grace, we haven't really actually mentioned anyone from **The Original Series**, yet.

Grace: Right. We've got a good one from **The Original Series** too, on here.

Sue: Number One?

Grace: Number One! Suggested by Allison and by all of our hearts.

Jarrah: And it's only a minor character, I think, if you consider *The Menagerie* and don't consider what *The Cage* was setting up for. But absolutely in just looking at **The Original Series**, a minor character with a major impact.

Sue: Well, and it appears that she is also going to be a minor character in **Discovery** season two.

Jarrah: Mm hmm!

Grace: Yay! Rebecca Romijn!

Sue: [laughs] I would love for her to have a much larger part. I'm very excited to see Number One on **Discovery**. But what it was implied, from a lot of you know panels and articles and stuff this fall, is that she was only there for a few episodes, so.

Grace: I'll take it, still! I'll still take it.

Sue: Yes, same. [laughs]

Jarrah: We also had two people on Twitter, Anjata and Robert, shout out Samuel T. Cogley, who is the anti-technology lawyer in **The Original Series**.

Grace: [laughing] Oh, gosh.

Sue: Oh, wow. [laughs]

Jarrah: Yeah. I mean, definitely a memorable character. There's a lot of guest stars in **The Original Series**.

Grace: That's the one that's played by the guy from *The House on Haunted Hill*, isn't it?

Jarrah: Ooh, I believe you are correct.

Grace: It's a "lady" name, I remember that much.

Jarrah: He is played by Elisha Cook Jr.

Grace: Yep, that's it! That's it!

Jarrah: Yeah. And he's in the episode *Court Martial* and actually, I almost put Ariel Shaw, who's the prosecutor in *Court Martial* on my list, as well.

Grace: It's a good episode.

Jarrah: Yeah. And I mean, there's a lot of guest stars in this one, so I think any of them could be on our list, but I think both of them—I can see why Cogley got mentioned. He's got this really penetrating stare and he, Elisha Cook Jr, really conveys this passion for his beliefs and I think it's really strong, whereas Ariel Shaw, I think, is strong because she contrasts a lot of Kirk's other love interests in that she's someone who's very professional. She is someone who has a job where she's a little bit in power over him, at this point at least, and I think they're both interesting characters.

Grace: No doubt, no doubt. And one, who I know we got recommended by multiple people and who really, really, really did not get the fair shake character-wise that she should have, was

Samantha Wildman, who ended up playing second fiddle to her baby. So very odd because wasn't she—she was named after someone, wasn't she? If the story I'm remembering is correct, Samantha Wildman is named for someone who, I think, I believe, gave someone an organ transplant that saved their life.

Jarrah: I believe you are right. We talked about this in our episode about eulogium, I think. And yes, so, she was named after a little girl who died in an accident and whose organs were subsequently donated to the wife of writer Jimmy Diggs. The girl's parents told Diggs that she liked animals so Diggs made Wildman a xenobiologist.

Sue: That's so sweet.

Grace: It's so weird that you'd put all that effort and tribute in and then just kind of like, “Nope, side. Side. She's on the side now.”

Jarrah: Yeah, actually, the last episode that she appears in, at least the actress filmed scenes for, was *Once Upon a Time* and that's the one with the young Naomi, if I'm not incorrect. Oh, no, that's the one with an older one. Sorry, it's *Mortal Coil* that I was mixing that up with, but still, there's several Naomi episodes after that.

Sue: Mm hmm.

Jarrah: And then Naomi is just kind of hanging out with everyone else.

Grace: There's more Naomi than there is of Samantha, which is a little odd.

Sue: Yeah. Well, they went to create the big sister relationship with Seven, so that the child would teach the “other” how to be human. You know, like we saw with **Next Gen** several times.

Jarrah: Yeah. Mm hmm.

Sue: Yeah. And I guess Seven doesn't need to pick her up from her mom at all, ever. [laughs]

Jarrah: Mm hmm. I mean, I don't think there's anything wrong with having her hang out with Seven. But surely, there were some xenobiology opportunities.

Grace: Especially, you know, when people get turned into giant newts and what have you. [Sue laughs] You would really think that would come up more.

Jarrah: Yeah and we don't really see her, except in the context of, “Oh, she gets pregnant. Oh, she's pregnant. Oh, she has a baby. Oh, she's Naomi's mom.” So, even though we know she's a xenobiologist, I don't really remember seeing her do xenobiology. But I may be wrong. But I think it would have been cool to see more.

Grace: Yeah. It definitely would have, again, especially if they're traveling through uncharted space. There's all kinds of weird critters out there. They even come up specifically in the plot.

Sue: Yeah, you'd think she would be specifically useful on Voyager.

Grace: More useful than Neelix. [Sue laughs]

Jarrah: Well. [chuckles]

Grace: I said it.

Jarrah: She had a kid just so that two other characters could be better. [laughs] Also, she had a kid, and then technically took another kid from a parallel universe, because that kid died.

Grace: Oh, goodness.

Jarrah: Okay!

Grace: Another case for, "The more you look into it the less water it holds."

Jarrah: Okay, so, another character that was shouted out was Noss, though, from the episode *Gravity*, who is played by Lori Petty.

Grace: Aw, yeah.

Jarrah: Who was also in *A League of Her Own*.

Grace: *Tank Girl!*

Jarrah: And I remember when as a kid I was just like, "It's the person from *A League of Her Own!*"

[Sue laughs]

Grace: [loud and distorted] IT'S KIT! [normal] The Rockford Peaches made it to space!

Jarrah: I was so excited, but she's like super badass in that episode.

Grace: And let's establish Lori Petty does a pretty damn good job of selling gibberish as alien speak. Not easy to do!

Jarrah: Yeah. This one she's sort of rescued by Tuvok and Paris, but she also is very much helping them. And she is romantic towards Tuvok, but he is not necessarily super into her, which is sad.

Grace: And she gets that classic line, "I hate logic!"

Jarrah: But then he mind-melds with her to help her understand and debatable how much consent there was, because I don't think she could really understand what she was getting into, but it was, I think, in a way that was well-intentioned and well received in the episode, because he just didn't know any other way to explain to her.

Grace: And after that, you've really got a, "If you don't know me by now," moment.

Jarrah: Yeah. So, thanks to Avi for that suggestion. Grace, you had another one on your list, though.

Grace: I do. And I think it's the ultimate pick. So, I'd kind of, if possible, I'd like to save it for the end.

Jarrah: We can go through some more of the listener suggestions.

Grace: Yes, because I think this is the pick, here.

Sue: Really.

Grace: Really, yes.

Sue: I think you've got a really strong contender in Morn.

Grace: Yeah, let's go with Morn!

Jarrah: Yes!

[Sue laughing]

Jarrah: Morn was a good suggestion, for sure.

Grace: Morn does get an entire episode based around him, though.

Jarrah: Yeah, but he's not in it until the very end.

[Sue laughs]

Jarrah: That is such a fun episode, though.

Grace: He's like Harry Lime in *The Third Man*.

Jarrah: I love how whenever they talk to people, the people always talk about how chatty he is. Ah, that part's fun.

Sue: Mm hmm!

Grace: Just all of the things that are implied about Morn that we never actually see.

Sue: I often assume that people know the trivia that I know, but do we think everyone knows the story of Morn and his name?

Grace: Just give it to the people. Give the people what they need.

[Sue laughs]

Jarrah: Yes.

Sue: In case there is anyone out there who hasn't heard the story, this is a reference to *Cheers* and how the character of Norm would walk into the bar and everybody would yell, "Norm!" So, they created their alien barfly and switched the consonants at the end of the name and they got Morn. And that's one of my favorite things ever.

Grace: Quark's is truly where everybody knows your name, but you probably want them to forget it. But they know. [whispers menacingly] They know.

Jarrah: Also, just in terms of the sheer number of people who suggested her, Robin Lefler, was suggested by Carla, Rick, David, and Robert.

Grace: People love Lefler.

Jarrah: Yeah, I mean, I would say closer to a guest star and very memorable.

Sue: Definitely a guest star. That was a big deal when that episode aired.

Jarrah: Yeah.

Grace: Also, let's all just take a moment for Ashley Judd [sighs dreamily], the rom-com queen.

Jarrah: We also had **Discovery** shout-outs for—oh, wait. Okay, now I'm looking at the numbers. Tied four people: Patrick, Rasheed, Maribel, and Doug all suggested Keyla Detmer from **Discovery**.

Grace: Ooh.

Jarrah: I think that is a good suggestion, 'cause we get to see how she isn't super a fan of Burnham, especially after the first two-parter. And then she's got, sort of, a cybernetic implant, possibly as a result of her injury—probably as a result of her injury. And we don't really see a lot more about how she's dealing with this whole thing. She just sort of, kind of, seems to be skeptical and deals with it, but she is a character that I think, you know, you want to know more about her.

Sue: You know, I never made that connection before but it makes total sense.

Grace: Oh, really? Yeah.

Sue: Well, just because she and, I think, Airiam, both are described as like augmented humans.

Jarrah: Yep.

Sue: And my brain was like, "Oh, okay. That's by choice." But like, "Oh, wait. Maybe it wasn't by choice."

Jarrah: Yeah.

Grace: Ah. Well, she's also got like half of her hair missing now, too.

Jarrah: Oh, right. Yes.

Sue: But I mean, kick ass.

Jarrah: Although, that could just be awesome haircut.

Grace: What she lost in motor function in her face, she gained an excellent hair.

Jarrah: Mm hmm!

Grace: Her loss is TV's gain.

Jarrah: Yeah. And we had some other shout-outs for bridge crew on **Discovery**, as well for Airiam and for Lieutenant Owosekun. And I think we would agree. Like you said, Sue, everyone on the bridge of **Discovery** we could know more about.

Grace: Hell yeah.

Sue: Yeah. And we're being told that we will. So, fingers crossed.

Grace: We'd better w—we better will!

[laughter]

Grace: [mock anger] We better will or I'm gonna just—I'm just [grunts] anger! Rage! Articulation of words will be made [Sue and Jarrah laughing] if my satisfactions are not met!

Sue: Well, okay! [laughs] We did have a suggestion for Kamala from *The Perfect Mate* from Danica who wrote, “she gained an enhanced sense of duty from her bond with Picard. How did that shape her arranged marriage and diplomacy? Did she ever encounter Picard again?” I think they're interesting questions. I definitely would call her, you know, a focused character, a main character, in that episode.

Grace: But that said, she is a character where you, kind of, really do leave the episode going, “I wonder what happened to her.”

Sue: Yeah, absolutely.

Jarrah: Mm hmm!

Grace: “What's she up to now?” Famke Janssen, what you doing in space?

Jarrah: Going back to the subject of people of color who play, sort of, recurring background characters, we had Maribel suggest, “I would like to know more about Ayala,” who is a Maquis who served under Chakotay and then he became a security officer. And he shows up a fair number of times. He's there in *Caretaker*, same actor, same role. The actor is Tarik Ergin. [some different pronunciation attempts and an embarrassed apology] But he also comes back with *End Game*. So, he's there for the whole time and really, we don't learn that much about him. But he is a security officer. He guards Species 8472. You often, I think I see him guarding characters. He walks around a lot with the big phaser rifle. He had 124 appearances, so.

Sue: Wow.

Jarrah: Yeah. He was never specifically credited for playing Ayala and was only credited as “Security Guard” in *Fury* and “Tactical N.D.” in *Renaissance Man*. So, he was addressed by that name three times and he worked in engineering a couple of times, but was mostly a security person and he was on the bridge a couple times. So, that's just another example of someone who you're like, “That actor is doing an awesome job. That's a person of color character in a very largely white cast that I would like to know more about.”

Grace: It's one of those cases where you see someone and go, “You! Yes, you! Keep doing it. I dig it.”

Jarrah: Yes. Well, we're getting close to an hour so, I don't know if there's anyone else from the listener comments we definitely want to shout out here, before we get to your Coup de Grâce, Coup de Grace, as it were. [laughs]

Grace: I'm waiting for it. I'm all here for it.

Jarrah: Anyone else you want to shout-out from listener comments, Sue?

Sue: Very, very quickly. Some Dr. Selar goodness. Mentioning Dr. Selar brings up pretty much every character that Suzie Plakson has played.

Grace: [laughs] True.

Sue: Which we have an episode on, so. [laughs] There's that, but yes. And another episode that we did was Admiral Nechayev. Wait, did she get her own or is she in our Admirals episode?

Jarrah: No, we have not. But we have interviewed the actress who played Admiral Nechayev. Natalia Nogulich. [she botches the pronunciation a few times and there is laughter] Oh my gosh, I am so tired. We have interviewed the actress who played her, Natalia Nogulich.

Grace: She showed us some of her homemade knitwear.

Jarrah: Yes. And she is a great character.

Sue: We didn't give her her own episode?

Jarrah: Not yet.

Sue: Okay.

Jarrah: We have plans for a women admirals episode.

Sue: That's right.

Jarrah: We also had Rachel Garrett, who, I think despite being a captain of the Enterprise, you can still count as a minor character because it's *Yesterday's Enterprise* and there's a lot of other stuff going on.

Sue: Excellent point.

Grace: Which really says something about the episode is that, "Oh yeah. Captain is totally the second fiddle here."

Jarrah: We talked about her in our women captains episode and we were all big fans. Also, Sariel Rager.

Grace: I want it to be "rage-er." I want it to be "rage-er" so bad.

Jarrah: I feel like we talked about her before on the podcast and I mispronounced it. So, now I'm second guessing myself. But both Patricia and Avi suggested her. Avi said, "Iconic navigation!" referring to the episode *Schisms*, or sorry not *Schisms*, *Relics*. And, "I liked how Picard trusted her expertise so he didn't feel the need to direct her."

Grace: We also got Helen Noel.

Jarrah: Helen Noel. Yeah, Ann and Bryana both suggested her. She's on the borderline between a guest star and a minor character, but I like her. Scientist, love interest. What more can I say?

Grace: Yeah.

Sue: Mm hmm. Is it Kejal? [pronounces kay-juul]

Grace: It's "kee-juul" like "Kegel." That's my assumption.

Jarrah: [laughs] I thought it was like "kay-ahl" It's been a long time since I've—I haven't watched that episode super recently.

Grace: Cajole!

Sue: Well, the Cardassian hologram from **Voyager's** *Flesh and Blood*.

Jarrah: Oh! Right, right, right! Yes.

Grace: That's a good episode. Yeah.

Jarrah: Okay, I can't pronounce the name, but I did watch that episode fairly recently and yeah, he's cool. I mean, that's the one where the holograms that they gave to the Hirogen, that some of them have become sentient and they're trying to figure out whether they need to emancipate them from the Hirogen that are killing them or not.

Grace: Which, generally speaking is usually a good idea, emancipation.

Jarrah: Yeah, yeah. That one's a weird episode and we also talked about that semi-recently on the podcast, because that's an episode where the messages are a little bit mixed. We also had Rianna Mayweather who is Travis's mom and I think definitely an underrated character. I would have liked to see more. Especially—you know, her husband dies. They've both been in charge of this boomer ship and Rianna's clearly got strength. But the whole episode really focuses around Travis and his brother and it would have been cool to see Rianna have some more scenes and some more autonomy.

Sue: There's also, Talus the Andorian from **Star Trek Enterprise**.

Grace: Yes! That's more Suzie Plakson isn't it?

Sue & Jarrah: No, that's Tara.

Grace: Ah!

Jarrah: Talus is played by Molly Brink. This is the tactical officer under Shran.

Grace: Yeah, the one of the great Farrah Fawcett hair.

Jarrah: Yes.

Sue: Mm hmm. Also mentioned were Enabran Tain and Lieutenant Palmer in **TOS**.

Jarrah: Also, Enabran Tain's housekeeper.

[Sue laughs]

Grace: Oh my god, she's the best.

Jarrah: Yes. Not mentioned, but I'm just adding that right now.

Grace: No let's add her. We're adding her now.

Sue: Also, not on the list, but, I mean, Kevin Riley.

[laughter]

Jarrah: Yes. Actually, a few people did suggest Kevin Riley. Yes. Yep. Definitely memorable.

Grace: Excellent singer, inadvertent feminist.

Jarrah: Yeah. Who doesn't want him on their crew?

Grace: People who don't like music, I guess. [Jarrah laughs] People with very low patience.

Sue: Well, Grace, why don't you bring us home?

Grace: We've come to it: the ultimate underutilized minor character that never got due. I am of course talking about from the episode *Collective*—can I get a drumroll?

[Jarrah and Sue make drumroll sounds]

Grace: The Borg baby. [Sue and Jarrah laugh] The Borg baby that shows up is a catalyst for so much drama and then [whispers dramatically] disappears. What happened to that baby, Janeway?! You guys had a Borg baby! The kids move onto your ship, but what happened to the baby?? [laughter] Was it just too dark to say, "Oh, yeah. That baby didn't make it." Maybe it turned more Borg. What happened?!

Jarrah: Maybe it grew so fast the baby was the youngest child. [laughs]

Sue: [amused] We have precedent.

Grace: I just, I want answers. I want answers on that frickin' puppet baby. [laughing]

Jarrah: It is pretty great.

Sue: Did you say Muppet Baby?

Grace: I said puppet baby. But yeah, it's kind of like a robot Muppet, isn't it?

Sue: [singing to the tune of *Muppet Babies*] Borg'd up baby. [laughs]

Grace: [laughs] Did they keep it in stasis until they got back to Earth? I mean, what happened there? I don't need an entire plot! I just want something to go off of! That's all I want!

Jarrah: Yeah, the baby in the maturation chamber.

Sue: Oh my gosh.

Grace: Yeah. You got to admit that it was creepy as hell and awesome.

Jarrah: It was both of those things.

[Sue laughs]

Grace: We get how many [inaudible] plots and no Borg baby payoff? [laughter] It's not fair.

Jarrah: Yep. Agreed. I'm curious. I don't. I don't know the answers. If anyone has any Borg baby fanfiction, send it our way.

Grace: Anyone just has answers for me so I can sleep at night, finally. It's been so long. The creepy little baby came from that maturation chamber and it entered into my mind. Forever. For good. [whispers] For the collective.

Jarrah: Maybe our New Year's resolution can just be: think not on the Borg baby.

Grace: It's like the star child from *2001 A Space Odyssey*. There's no getting rid of it. You know it's there somewhere, you just don't know how. And that's my curse. That's my curse in life. And I've shared it with all of you.

Jarrah: All right.

Grace: As we're finishing up, where can people find you online, Jarrah?

Jarrah: You can find me on Twitter @jarrahpenguin.

Grace: And where can people find you, Sue?

Sue: You can find me on Twitter @spaltor.

Grace: You can find me on Twitter @BoneCrusherJenk. If you'd like to contact us you can do so by emailing crew@womenatwarp.com or on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram @womenatwarp. And for more from the Roddenberry Podcast Network, visit podcasts.rodnenberry.com.

Jarrah: Thanks so much and [begins singing Auld Lang Syne] should auld acquaintance [Grace joins] be forgot and never brought to mind.

Grace: [continues tune] And they won't tell us what happened to a MacGuffin baby any time.

[Sue laughing]

Jarrah: [continues tune] For Borg baby time, my dear. [laughter] For Borg baby time. We'll take a cup of kindness yet, for Borg baby time.

Grace: [sings] Borg lang syne!

Sue: [whispers] I don't know what's happening.

Grace: [screams into the mic] WHAT HAPPENED TO THE BABY?!

[WAW outro plays]