

Episode 139: O Captain, My Captain (Janeway)

SUE:

Hi and welcome to Women at Warp: A Roddenberry Star Trek podcast. Join us as a 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. With me today are crew members Jarrah.

JARRAH:

Hello!

SUE:

and Grace.

GRACE:

Ayyy!

SUE:

And our guest Char.

CHAR:

Hello!

SUE:

Char is back with us, I think, for the first time since we talked about Year Of Hell. Right?

CHAR:

It's been a long time and it's very good to be back. So thanks for having me.

SUE:

Absolutely. You are one of our go-to's when it comes to Voyager and Janeway.

CHAR:

I am always down to talk Voyager and Janeway.

SUE:

Do you want to give a short introduction of yourself?

CHAR:

Sure I can do that. Well, speaking of Voyager if you know who I am it's probably because I hosted a podcast about Voyager for four years called To The Journey-

CREW:

To the journey!

CHAR:

Nice. My co-host Tristan Riddell and I, we did one hundred ninety episodes and four years of that show and when we started feeling like we were broken records we decided to wrap it up and go on to other things but I still love Voyager. I'm still down to talk about it all the time. Lot of love for that show. It's the one that I watched from start to finish from beginning to end as it aired. That was my first Star Trek series where I did that. So it has a very specific nostalgic place in my heart.

SUE:

Awesome. So if you hadn't gotten the point we're going to be talking about Voyager and Janeway.

GRACE:

mock astonishment What?!

CHAR:

No way!

SUE:

This is another one in our O Captain My Captain series, where we talk about our captain's love interests and Janeway is actually the last one we're getting to, of shows that have finished airing. So for the rest of the series I'll just quickly run down we talked about Kirk in episode six, Picard and 26, Archer in 63, and Sisko in 105. We also talk about, specifically about Mosaic the book about Janeway's life before Voyager and her relationships that appear in that book in Episode 30. And Janeway as a whole as a character in episode 10. So there's lots of background coming into this one. But before we jump into this as our main topic today we do want to remind you about our Patreon. Our show was made possible 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 some awesome rewards from thanks on social media up to silly watchalong commentaries or special non-trek podcast episodes. Lately we've been opening our watchalongs to all of our patrons while many of us are in self-quarantine and it's been a lot of fun I think for a lot of people. So come and join us on Patreon. You can visit us at [Patreon.com/womenatwarp](https://www.patreon.com/womenatwarp). That's P A T R E O N dot com slash women at warp.. You can also support us by leaving a rating or review on Apple podcasts or wherever you get your podcasts.

JARRAH:

Can I ask Char a question?

CHAR:

Yeah.

JARRAH:

So when we do watchalongs we have decided for the period of quarantine that we're only doing ridiculous episodes so which Voyager episode should we do for a watchalong?

CHAR:

Are there any specific criteria to define ridiculous?

GRACE:

Keep it wacky!

JARRAH:

Like, not stressful. So we did like Move Along Home, we did Masks.

CHAR:

OK. OK. I would nominate maybe Elogium?

JARRAH:

You know I think we did an episode on Elogium. But what about maybe like a Captain Proton one?

CHAR:

Oh absolutely!

GRACE:

Bride Of Chaotica! That could be a fun one.

CHAR:

Yes definitely. That's good lighthearted fun.

JARRAH:

mock embarrassment Oh we forgot Chaotica on this list of Captain Janeways love interests.

crew laughs

GRACE:

Also I feel like that's a watchalong episode that I could justify dressing up for.

CHAR:

Heck yeah.

GRACE:

I mean I don't think people would see it but I think people would *feel* it in my performance.

JARRAH:

You're going to dress as a box robot?

GRACE:

Oh I was thinking more Arachnia the Spider Queen. Who else would I be? *crew laughs*
offended Jarrah, do you think I'm a box robot?

JARRAH:

No that's just the only costume I have the capability of making from the stuff and in my house.
crew laughs

GRACE:

Get crafty. This is the time to get crafty.

JARRAH:

I will be the box.

GRACE:

Aw!

SUE:

I fully believe that Grace can make a very accurate Bride of Chaotica Arachnia costume with the stuff in her house. *laughs*

GRACE:

I mean what do you expect? Really. I mean those are my *pajamas* practically. *crew laughs*

CHAR:

Oh here's another one, here's another nomination is Tinker Tenor Doctor Spy. *crew 'ooh's*
Your only cosplay option really is the ECH.

SUE:

Yeah.

JARRAH:

Yeah.

GRACE:

I can make that work.

JARRAH:

Oh man, I pretty much have that costume.

CHAR:

laughs There you go. Done!

SUE:

So be on the lookout for some of those coming up. *all laugh* All right but let's jump into this. We are going to structure this one kind of like we structured the discussion when we talked about Picard's love interests. In that we will go through chronologically sort of like the one-off characters, and then come back to people that you see more often that are our regular ships with Captain Janeway. So very first to introduce the whole thing with Janeway unlike with our other captains, there is another discussion that is a sexist discussion about whether she should even be in a relationship. We saw a lot of comments come back to us when we put our questions out on social media about how Janeway should not be involved with a member of her crew or should not be involved with anybody because it undermines her rank as captain and someone even said it *lowers* her. This was *never* a concern in the comments with any of our other captains. So let's start here!

GRACE:

Oh boy.

JARRAH:

I would say that like, I have some consideration for the argument that a captain shouldn't necessarily be in relationships with people that report to them. That said we have talked about love interests for almost every other captain of people who report to them. And that argument almost never came up except for, you know, when it was raised in the context of the show like with Nella Daren. Sorry Sue.

SUE:

laughing I can hear her name. It's fine.

JARRAH:

But like when the show acknowledges that this is a conflict for the captain. But it's almost never acknowledges it as a potential consent issue for the person who is the subordinate in that relationship. That said I think like, having an argument that like this lowers her and stuff is not accurate and especially not from our perspective of today whereas we could understand in nineteen ninety five with all the pressure that was on this character how like that double standard existed.

SUE:

I can see that there might be an argument that the *audience* would view this captain differently but to imply that a member of the crew would is something I just don't agree with.

CHAR:

Same here. Yeah. I also really do not like the fact that in Voyager itself Janeway says she cannot be involved with any members of her crew because the Starfleet manual says so. Oh really since when? Apparently since Picard and Lieutenant Daren because that didn't seem to be too much of an issue for them now did it?

GRACE:

Yeah. Is this like the Prime Directive where it only really applies for when the plot calls for it this week or what?

CHAR:

Yeah. So it's one thing to have Janeway say "Look I don't want to get involved with anybody on the ship because the responsibility is too great" or whatever it's her choice, as opposed to throwing the book out and saying "Nope can't do it!"

GRACE:

I really like, dislike the usage of the term "lowering her" too. As if Janeway as a woman in command by having romantic and sexual relationships, that idea of *that* lowering her is pretty messed up in terms of again it's an expectation we don't have male characters. And also the idea that having relationships is a lowering thing of specifically a woman in authority is value that smacks really sexist of me in terms of- so we have female archetype, and we have female characters, and we have female people. And the idea that these people have to be held to this archetypal standard which means they don't have actual relationships with anyone is kind of ridiculous.

CHAR:

It is. Yeah.

SUE:

There were also a handful of comments that said Janeway shouldn't have relationships because she's a mother to her crew.

GRACE:

Yeah that's another big part of that: the fact that Janeway as a character and as the first woman lead in Star Trek has all of these different archetypes she's meant to fill. And we see it happen a lot with her characterisation changing depending on who's writing the episode or what the plot is. It can be pretty inconsistent. And I think this is a really good example of it being like there's an unwritten standard that it doesn't seem like the writers can fully agree on for her.

CHAR:

I think this is the mid to late 90s talking hardcore, because I think the writers struggled with this issue in that they didn't really know how they wanted to write a woman character in this sense. I mean is she less of a woman by not having relationships? Is she too soft if she does?

GRACE:

Is she a sex symbol? Is she our virgin queen? What is she?

CHAR:

Or is she a mother? And in which case, if you see mother having sex that's gross. Then what actually? And then there's this stereo- well that's not a stereotype but it was a mindset of the 90s. I remember my own mother wanting to be this person: the superwoman. Where women were having careers, and they were having kids, and they were in relationships, and they were trying to have it all. And you know in some ways I feel like maybe that was a missed opportunity for Janeway to relate to *that* segment of an audience for these women who were trying to do this and be successful in all aspects of their lives but instead they kind of wanted to write her as just kind of this machine.

GRACE:

Yeah there's also a writing trope that I like to bring up a lot when we're discussing female characters in roles of authority and there's this kind of unspoken rule in terms of your single female character and that is that she either can be successful in her job or successful in her romantic life. And apparently you can only be one or the other if years and years of rom coms and primetime TV are to be believed.

CHAR:

That's true. That's a good point.

JARRAH:

Also I think tied to this idea that if a woman is in a heterosexual relationship that somehow like, her desires or like goals in life are supposed to be subordinate to the man's. And that like you know, you see this with, until very recently, discussions of like "Well you know you couldn't expect a guy to be the first husband."

GRACE:

Exactly yeah like that. Her being in a role of control would put whoever she is in a relationship with in the underdogs situation.

JARRAH:

Yeah and it used to be until very recently that when you were like canvassing voters that you would basically just be told to assume that if you talk to the man of the house or you know, remember like those telemarketing calls for like the man of the house or survey calls that they represented the opinions of everyone in the house. So that's why it doesn't lower a guy to have a relationship because they retain their will. But like a woman in a heterosexual relationship loses her free will.

GRACE:

And again, the fact that we've got a sort of shallow dating pool for Janeway to choose from here.

JARRAH:

laughs And in more ways than one.

GRACE:

This is going to pain me to say, but there probably would be this idea that if she was in a relationship he would also be demeaned by having you know his love interest be in a higher role of authority than him.

CHAR:

Totally.

SUE:

And what Char said a little bit earlier like it's gross to see mom having sex *Grace laughs* or to think of mom having sex.

CHAR:

It would *definitely* be gross to see mom having sex. *crew laughs*

SUE:

But that was Kate Mulgrew's reasoning as well. And she's quoted in the 50 Year Mission as saying "I'm the one who said 'No sex! No sex!' the young male demographic was our biggest strongest demographic. 18 to 30 year old men were not going to like it." And she goes on to describe how you know she was in her childbearing years and had children of her own. And she thought their main demographic would be grossed out by Captain Janeway having relationships.

GRACE:

Aw Kate, don't sell yourself short.

SUE:

And that was her main reasoning for saying that she did not want Janeway in relationships.

CHAR:

You know *sigh* I struggle with this a lot. I understand her reasoning, why she went there, and especially in the context of the time. I do wonder if today if they were making Voyager if her answer would be different and if her character would be written differently. I would hope so.

GRACE:

You gotta wonder.

SUE:

Yeah I would certainly hope so.

CHAR:

But I don't know, watching the show I feel like "Yeah OK. It's sci-fi. A lot of men do watch this show." but a lot of women watched Voyager too and so we're just going to completely ignore them?

SUE:

Yeah I would actually like to see those demographics that they were talking about.

CHAR:

Me too, because I have a feeling more women were watching Voyager than men 18 to 30.

GRACE:

You've always got to wonder about the perceived demographic versus the actual demographic.

SUE:

Especially with Star Trek.

GRACE:

Especially with Star Trek for sure. I really do want to believe that some of our attitudes about older women and- well she's not even that much older than what we consider a standard Woman on TV at this point. But just the idea of women in quote their childbearing years and sexuality. I *want* to believe we've evolved since then. But again I would be guessing at this point that they would allow her a little more free reign if Voyager was made today.

SUE:

There's one other quote from Mulgrew directly that I want to bring up where she said "I begged Berman to explore her loneliness throughout the course of the series, and he touched on it but not to the level I wanted him to."

GRACE:

Interesting.

JARRAH:

Yeah. And that's interesting because you know there's a positive spin we saw from some commenters too which was basically just like "I really like that Janeway never needed a love

interest.” Carroll says “there were some here and there, but the show focused more on how she came to decisions and ran the ship. More problem solving and less romantic entanglements. There’s no problem with romance of course but I like that it wasn’t a part of her worth as a woman and a leader.” And likewise, I don’t think that any character should have to be depicted with a sexuality or should have to be- have you know a certain amount of sex or love in a show. That like all humans are individually different on these metrics. But I think that the rest of the show told us she’s straight and she enjoys sex. But it was so very occasional and so very infrequent compared to the male captains and the narratives around it were so much different.

GRACE:

And we can at least be grateful that the character’s arc isn’t dependent on her romantic arc, which I think I see a lot in a lot of female led shows. A lot of this idea of by the time they get the end they get the man and that’s their happy ending. But no Janeway has got other shit to deal with here.

SUE:

laughing She’s a little busy.

GRACE:

Yeah. She’s a scientist. She’s in Starfleet. She’s got bigger fish to fry. Which isn’t to say she isn’t allowed to have love interests if she doesn’t want them; it’s just that’s not the primary arc of the character.

CHAR:

Yeah, it makes perfect sense that romance is maybe not a high priority for her.

SUE:

And on *that* note, let’s talk about some of these guys.

GRACE:

girly gossip voice Let’s do it! *crew laughs*

SUE:

So we will start with Mark Johnson, her fiancée at the start of the show.

GRACE:

Mr. whitebread! *crew laughs*

SUE.

Yeah. I mean Voyager, at least to me, heavily implies that Janeway is staying loyal to a monogamous relationship with Mark for the first four years of the show. At least until she gets her “Dear Jane” letter *laughs* “Dear Janeway” letter in Hunters in season 4.

SPEAKER: F13

GRACE:

It would be pretty amazing though, if she like was like “Ah I guess I'm never seeing him again. at least not for 70 years.” and then she gets a letter like “My darling! I've been waiting for you. I've been loyal!” *Sue laughs* but she's like “Oooh. Not comfortable.”

SUE:

laughing *Instead* he's been courting somebody else. *crew snickers*

GRACE:

But you know, I just would like to see that vice versa. Because *screw* Odysseus.

JARRAH:

She's like “But do I have to tell him about all of the times I've been making out with Lord Burleigh in the holodeck? *crew laughs*

CHAR:

But is it cheating if it's a hologram? Let's have that debate.

GRACE:

I mean Tuvok got to tap that, so why not Janeway?

CHAR:

Exactly!

SUE:

Grace, you just made an allusion to Odysseus and we have a really great comment from Ben on Facebook.

GRACE:

Yeah I was hoping we could get to that. Ben on Facebook says “But when looking at Voyager as a reflection of The Odyssey, Janeway begins as a combination of Odysseus and Penelope. She is smart and capable, but also remains chaste to her lost lover (Mark). Although thousands of years later, it is interesting that when the male lover is the one waiting at home, he gets to move on - yet Penelope is never allowed that chance. Just something I think about when discussing Janeway's romances.” And I absolutely agree with that. And I absolutely have a lot of opinions on the fact that when you're looking at the original subject matter of the Odyssey they make a really really big show of “Yeeeah Odysseus is out there! He's getting it. He's hooking up with Circe.” And then as soon as he gets home to his wife who's been literally having to fend off guys trying to get at her he's like “But you are loyal to me right?” And that's kind of the “Wow screw you” moment.

CHAR:

Totally. What *is* interesting is that Janeway and Mark both did kind of hang on for a good while. He *did* move on eventually, but I always felt that Mark was a nice convenient excuse for Janeway, the longer things went. Well, Mark is safe. Mark is a very safe option for her.

GRACE:

He's non-threatening whitebread man who has her dog.

JARRAH:

He's like a comfy sweater.

CHAR:

Yes seriously, he's *responsible*. *Grace cackles* But no, he'll take care of the dog. He's got a nice steady job that keeps him at home. He's reliable. Not a whole lot of excitement there, but probably a nice grounding steady force when she's out doing Starfleet exciting adventure on the seat of your pants kind of things.

GRACE:

Well also, think about what I was saying earlier about that dynamic of "woman character can have a successful romantic life or a successful career." If we have it just kind of, that box ticked of "Oh yeah she's got a nice guy waiting for her back home." then we can focus on her career and maintain that sort of dichotomy.

JARRAH:

Knowing that Mark is waiting for you at home is like knowing that you're going to have to make dinner soon and you have a can of soup in the cupboard. *crew laughs*

CHAR:

laughing So unfulfilling.

GRACE:

It's like waking up and remembering that you've got a cold cup of tea on your desk that you can drink as soon as you're out of bed. *laughs*

SUE:

gobsmacked What did Mark ever *do to* you? *Grace loses it laughing*

GRACE:

It's not what he did *to* us. It's that he never did anything *for* us. *Sue laughs*

JARRAH:

So I have to admit that my opinion is largely shaped by partly the book Mosaic, which we talked about in our book club, where it felt sort of like just it was a lot of bad relationships. But when I first watched this as a kid I was just like “He's so *old* *crew laughs* and he wears sweaters. Like she's my idol, why is she like waiting for this?”

GRACE:

She can do better. That's the big thing, *laughing* she could do better.

JARRAH:

Yeah. That was like my idea as a kid although I will say that our listener, Curator on A03 on Twitter, and I had a lovely chat before this show and she raised a really good point that the scene in Caretaker where she's chatting with Mark is like really the only scene that we have of her before she gets flung into the delta quadrant and is basically put under incredible stress for the entire rest of the series. So that's like the only kind of authentic relationship-y scene that she has where you really get to see where we get to see her at ease that's like separate from all of this like stress and power dynamics and, you know, all of the thoughts about “What are the implications” that she has to deal with the rest of the series.

CHAR:

That's a really good point.

SUE:

I also like the comment we got on Twitter from user Eukaryot who wrote “I really liked the idea of her starting the series already knowing whom she loved, already having given her heart and for that love to be strong enough to last.”

GRACE:

It's a nice idea though. Yeah.

CHAR:

Had they been going on only a couple of years that would have been really sweet.

GRACE:

Would have been.

CHAR:

Would have been. And then they could have reunited, been happily ever after. Cool whatever that's not how it went.

GRACE:

Happily ever after with Janeway living with the trauma of seven years in the delta quadrant with Neelix. *crew laughs*

SUE:

On the flip side having that relationship like in their back pocket was an excuse for the writers. So I mean there are definitely points on either side of that but-

CHAR:

Moving on from Mark.

GRACE:

Easily *laughs* easily done.

SUE:

Bye Mark. The next one we really get to, and there's like "Is this anything?" it would be Lord Burleigh from the Janeway holodeck program.

GRACE:

fancy old-timey voice Lord Burleigh.

CHAR:

Well this- OK. Wait. There are things to unpack here because this explores Janeway's loneliness, right? This guy puts the moves on her, and ultimately it's really just about her desire to be back with Mark because she *does* miss him.

GRACE:

Or the desire just to be *with* a partner.

CHAR:

Right. To be with anybody probably.

JARRAH:

Even if he's basically a cut rate Mr Rochester. *crew laughs*

SUE:

It is *very* Jane Eyre.

GRACE:

I appreciate Lord Burleigh in that he sort of sets in motion what we get to see happen later with Fairhaven and the follow up to that. We feel like that little seed is planted here at least. Which is all I can really say about Lord Burleigh as a character.

SUE:

Yeah I mean, in the holodeck program I mean I would even say it's less of a program and more of a holo-novel right? That's how she refers to it. It's literally a self insert here. *Grace laughs* She is playing the part of this character whom Lord Burleigh is in love with. He's not in love with Janeway and Janeway is not in love with him.

CHAR:

Yeah. True.

GRACE:

I'll take any excuse though to make fun of the Byronic hero though. *Sue giggles* Screw them.

JARRAH:

You know, I hate to really rag on it because I know that this is one of those things that people toss out as like an example "Oh Janeway, like you know look at her and her like silly period holo-novels." kind of thing.

GRACE:

Like Dixon Hill *isn't* any sillier than this.

JARRAH:

Yeah exactly. And like very worth pointing out that it's partly dismissed because it's considered like a feminine silly thing even though, like you said, like all the holodeck things are silly. But yeah, also we did miss one on the list which is Gathroal Labin from Prime Factors.

CHAR:

Oh creepy guy? *crew laughs*

JARRAH:

Yeah.

CHAR:

Oh screw him. Ew. No. *crew laughs*

JARRAH:

Yeah. *Don't* screw him. That's my recommendation.

GRACE:

Tell him to go to screw himself.

CHAR:

Yeah. Thank you Harry for cutting it at that *very* important moment.

GRACE:

Thank you Harry.

CHAR:

Yeah Harry does not get enough credit for anything.

GRACE:

That said, can we do a Patreon exclusive episode where we examine all the love interests of Harry Kim.

SUE:

Oh. Poor guy.

GRACE:

And opening music can just be *sad trombone noise*

CHAR:

Oh let's see who do we have? Libby, a cow. *Sue laughs*

GRACE:

Maggie, yeah.

CHAR:

Girl he got the space S.T.D. from. *crew laughs* It's not a good list.

JARRAH:

Seven.

GRACE:

The girls on that planet and where they convince him that he is actually from there.

CHAR:

Oh right. He's got a great track record.

GRACE:

Exactly. That's why I'm thinking this is something we should do.

JARRAH:

One is the Delaney twins that doesn't really like him. *crew laughs* Yeah. But the Prime Factors creepy guy is notable for, as Curator pointed out to me, that in this episode Seska kind of slut shames Janeway behind her back for being so infatuated with the Secarian magistrate she can't think straight.

CHAR:

Like Seska has any room to talk!

GRACE:

Pot, kettle, black. Uh, Seska why don't you clean up your own house before you start judging other people's hmm?

SUE:

All right. So do we move on?

CHAR:

Please. I still have creepy guy in my head. Let's move on.

GRACE:

Cleanse the palate, cleanse the palate.

CHAR:

Pass the brain bleach please.

SUE:

It only gets creepier. We move on to everyone's favorite omnipotent being.

MULTIPLE CREW MEMBERS SIMULTANEOUSLY:

Q.

GRACE:

I will say that I love the character dynamic between Q and Janeway and the fact that he is trying to constantly be like "Omnipotent being! Check me out! Look how fabulous I am!" and she's just not impressed.

SUE:

Right. So like for me, this is not like a real romantic relationship.

GRACE:

Oh heck no.

SUE:

Right? Nor a love interest in any way. This is totally like Q being "This annoys her, so I'm going to keep it up." That's all this is. *laughs*

SUE:

Yes this is him wanting someone he cannot have.

GRACE:

Yeah, this is him just being a pain in the ass by nature.

SUE:

But does he even? See I don't think that he *does* want her. I think he wants to annoy her.

GRACE:

laughing He's still looking for his new Picard.

JARRAH:

Yeah. This is very Q. I guess the difference is, you know, he never suggested that Picard should carry his baby.

GRACE:

You and I are reading different fanfics. *crew laughs* *with reassurance* That was a joke. That was a joke!

SUE:

No, I've read that one.

GRACE:

laughing Yeah. *dejected* Then you know it wasn't a joke. *crew laughs*

CHAR:

There's fanfic for everybody out there.

GRACE:

It's true. There's a lid for every pot.

JARRAH:

I don't know. When I was little I really liked this episode and I thought it was really funny. Now I'm just like "Can we not have a civil war thing like that is entirely about white people?"

GRACE:

Yeah, civil war. A little oddly specific for, you know, thousands of years in the future. Also the whole fact that it's all about a guy who a woman is *not* interested in, trying to put on this pretense of romance and stuff like "Let's have a baby!" That's uncomfortable. It's uncomfortable that it's also played comedically.

JARRAH:

Also, does he just like- is this the second woman he's ever met after Vash?

GRACE:

You got to wonder.

JARRAH:
and he's just like "OK Vash is out."

GRACE:
Oh he met Beverly and turned her into a dog.

JARRAH:
Right.

SUE:
He's met Yar.

JARRAH:
Right. OK.

GRACE:
He doesn't have a *great* track record.

JARRAH:
Yeah that's true. And Janeway, Janeway does have the qualities that he mentions, you know, she's smart. I actually like more annoyed about her having to have Q2 dumped on her than I am about The Q And The Grey stuff.

CHAR:
Well it is not really that much of a surprise. Q is not exactly the most responsible person.

GRACE:
God no. That's part of what I think makes him and his relationship with Suzy Plakson Q like work. From what we see of it like "Oh these two disasters they're just gonna be dramatic together for all time."

CHAR:
And then of course they have to have a kid.

GRACE:
Of course their kid is double disaster. And that's why I'm fond of the chap. *crew laughs* I'm fond of that family. What can I say?

SUE:
Shall we jump to season 5 and talk about counterpoint?

GRACE:

Oh hell yes.

SUE:

This is Kashyk, or as I like to call him Wookiee planet. *crew laughs* If he had two more y's in his name.

GRACE:

That's a sick deep cut right there.

SUE:

No. I mean I've been watching a lot of Voyager this weekend and not only is this guy basically named Kashyyyk even though they pronounce it Kashyk, there is another episode I watched doing my research where they meet up with a ship called The Bothan *Grace giggles* and I was like "What is happening?"

CHAR:

Persistence of Vision.

SUE:

Yes.

GRACE:

There's a lot of crossover.

SUE:

What is happening Voyager?

JARRAH:

I mean, he always just makes me think of the serial Kashi. *Sue laughs* Except for he's a lot less good for you.

GRACE:

He's good for you but *sexy voice* so bad.

JARRAH:

Exactly.

SUE:

So I think, maybe I could be wrong here, but I think Counterpoint is in general like a really well regarded episode.

GRACE:

It's so good. It's one of those episodes where reading the description and like the vague impression of what I was getting going into it I was like "Oh this is gonna- this- I'm not usually into any romantic intrigue plots" but this just blew me out of f**king seat. I mean, I didn't know if my chair had a back because I was on the *edge* of it. I got so into this episode the first time I watched it I'm pretty sure people heard me yelling from the other room. And I *laughing* I still get fired up about this one.

SUE:

And it's the first time that Janeway's not had the Mark excuse.

JARRAH:

Also like that kiss they have is like *pause* significant Star Trek kiss.

GRACE:

Yes.

CHAR:

Very dramatic.

GRACE:

So dramatic.

JARRAH:

Yeah, I feel like it's generally regarded as one of the best Voyager episodes, and certainly one of the best Janeway episodes. And it's a real game of cat and mouse and the actors I think both have chemistry. But, at least the first time you watch it, like- I feel genuinely you don't know what to expect.

GRACE:

You are expecting the unexpected and it delivers.

SUE:

Yeah. They both like, quadruple-cross each other.

GRACE:

It's amazing. I love it.

CHAR:

It is great, it really is. I had no idea who was using whom for what the first time I watched this episode. It went back and forth and back and forth and every time I thought I had the story figured out it took a turn and completely subverted all my expectations. That's why it's a good story.

SUE:

So we had a comment from Linz on Facebook who wrote "I feel like they both used their romantic attraction to get what they wanted from each other. Which I'm not saying is a bad thing but it was never a serious relationship." How do we feel about that? Was it? Was there real feelings?

CHAR:

It was a means to an end. I agree with that.

GRACE:

Well even if it wasn't, a relationship not being serious doesn't necessarily mean it isn't intense. It can be shallow and still be incredibly, you know, passionate.

SUE:

But I think the point of the comment is that there were no real feelings there which I'm not sure I believe.

GRACE:

I don't think I believe that either. Yeah. It was quick and dirty emotion-wise.

JARRAH:

It sort of reminds me of The Enterprise Incident and I think you could you could say the same there about Spock but clearly like there *was something* there and it wouldn't have worked if it was totally acting.

GRACE:

Yeah exactly.

JARRAH

At least that's how I read it as. Like at minimum they have the hots for each other. For their brains and their bodies.

GRACE:

They got brain boners for each other.

SUE:

Anybody have anything else on the Wookiee.

GRACE:

Just *whew*!

SUE:

laughing Oh sorry. I will stop doing that now, because we're not going to stop talking about *him* now, and visit Fairhaven. Michael Sullivan.

CHAR:

Oh boy. Here we go.

GRACE:

Fairhaven? What a fair haven!

SUE:

We all know this one. Janeway, you know, falls in love with the bartender and then changes him to be exactly what she wants and then leaves him behind. I think the thing that annoys me the most is that she is intrigued and interested in him first and then she goes and like makes him smarter. And of all the modifications that she makes to this program, like she changes his height she-yes she deletes the wife

GRACE:

Sinister Janeway voice "Delete the wife."

SUE:

But the thing that annoys me the most is that she gives him a better education. Quote a better education and like for some reason that sticks in my craw.

GRACE:

'S a little classist there Janeway.

CHAR:

So "Delete the wife" doesn't top the list? *crew laughs*

GRACE:

"Delete the wife" is a great moment.

SUE:

I mean, "Delete the wife" is terrible. Don't get me wrong *all laugh* but I feel like, very offended that she felt the need to be like "You know what? He needs to be smarter for me."

GRACE:

Well isn't that kind of how initial attraction works? You're intrigued by what you see there and then you, or at least from a lot of relationships that I've seen play out, you are attracted by what you see there *initially* and then the more you discover the more you're like "Oh OK. Caveat. Caveat. OK, let's see if I can change you a little bit to make you the thing I'm looking for here. Yadda-yadda. Compromise."

SUE:

I would be the wrong person to ask about how attraction works. *all laugh*

GRACE:

I'm just saying, relationships *can* work like that. And that's not always for the best, but it is sometimes just how they go.

JARRAH:

I think that it had some good concepts. Yeah I mean, maybe the just the stereotype-y Irish town was not the best part. Well it was not the best concept?

GRACE:

Noooo, I would not argue *for* it.

JARRAH:

I like what you're saying Grace, about that idea as like a device to explore how we expect to change or change others in relationships. I think it just maybe got- yeah it was a little bit easy to laugh at. Oh, Amanda sent us a clip of Kate Mulgrew from the DVD material talking about her relationship where she calls it "Slightly untenable" *crew laughs* That's the nicest way to describe it.

GRACE:

Also, looking at the initial plot of this episode I think we can probably take a minute and look at the fact that we have- there's this archetype of the bossy woman in media and if she gets a nice guy boyfriend she will try and change him to what she wants. I think we see that pop up a lot. I gotta question whether this plot, even if I'm talking about the relationship dynamic that we talked about earlier, if it kind of plays into that stereotype of Janeway being the bossy woman who will try to change a guy she's in a long term relationship with.

CHAR:

Maybe, but then why wasn't she working on Mark? He seemed malleable.

GRACE:

Is there a Mark holodeck program out there that we don't want to know about?

CHAR:

You know that would be interesting, if this was not her first time out with the holodeck.

GRACE:

This isn't her first rodeo, so we got to wonder you know?

CHAR:

OK that got me thinking, the very idea that she would maybe have a romance with a holodeck character. I don't think it's too far out of line because by season six she has got to be a little lonely and let's be honest. OK. I don't wanna be crass

GRACE:

Do it.

CHAR:

But basically Michael Sullivan is just a really fancy sex toy.

GRACE:

I'm not going to shame her for that. I really am not.

CHAR:

No, no, I think that's very healthy and this is one of the few options she is actually giving herself. So bravo for exploring it. It's just the thing is it's not a real relationship.

GRACE:

No but it can be like a security blanket relationship. *laughs*

SUE:

This episode brings up a lot of questions about the holodeck and holograms. Right? Because I mean, like when Tuvok goes through Pon Farr he eventually winds up going to the holodeck. And like fine. Great. Good for you. But like the doctor is even encouraging Janeway like "So what? He's a hologram. Go for it!" but he's not a sentient hologram like the doctor is.

CHAR:

Right. This is- he's not on the same level as the doctor.

SUE:

Right. Even though the doctor is still encouraging it. If he were on a level of the doctor then "Delete the wife" would be even more egregious than it already is. Right?

GRACE:

You've also got to wonder if these characters have the potential to evolve further, like Moriarty style. If they could become fully realized lifeform given the chance.

SUE:

But also when she realizes that she has the complete control and can charge him any way she wants in the blink of an eye, that's when she walks away.

CHAR:

Interesting isn't it?

JARRAH:

So that's interesting, but I think there's also something maybe to be said about how, you know, those impulses to like really try to change people that *that* could be associated too with knowing that it can't end up being a long term relationship with another sentient being. And she- at least all the scenes we see it's like "Oh I want him to read poetry to me. I want to dance." Like presumably there are sexy times too, but you know maybe she is really emphasizing the fact that he still isn't perfect enough because she knows that it ultimately can't succeed and she's like looking for reasons that it's not ideal.

CHAR:

Is it too good to be true?

JARRAH:

Nope. *all laugh*

CHAR:

Well that's kind of what I got was the fact that she can customize this guy to be anything that she wants him to be. And yet it's not fulfilling.

GRACE:

Well what's that old Twilight Zone episode with the guy getting everything he wants and then realizing "Oh shit I'm in hell!" Kind of like that.

SUE:

But this is a question that Star Trek comes back to often which is, are holodeck relationships real? I think where we end up often is like, you *experience* them as real. Your feelings about them are real.

GRACE:

They can be real to you.

SUE:

Right. So what makes them therefore not real? I mean we had this with Minuet. We've had this a few other times. We just keep asking that question with Irish Sea sides now apparently.

GRACE:

I would really love it if we could share this quote from the Linz on Facebook about this episode saying "The whole episode with the hologram boyfriend made me think Janeway is Queer even more. She literally had a hand made boyfriend she could change into anything she wanted and even he wasn't good enough for her. Reminds me of me as a young adult attempting to date men and wondering why it never worked out. And then i dated a woman and it was so much better!" and I appreciate that from hearing a lot of people's queer experiences in terms of "Oh

no, they were perfectly nice guys I was dating there was just always *something* wrong with them and then I dated a woman was like 'oh that's what was wrong'." I appreciate that a lot.

CHAR:

And sadly in the 90s Star Trek was still too afraid to explore sexuality like that.

GRACE:

*disappointed*I know.

JARRAH:

Well we'll get into that more in a minute, but let's maybe finish with the one offs and talk about Jaffin from workforce.

CHAR:

Oh you mean Mark 2.0? *Grace laughs*

JARRAH:

Yeah. I mean, that's actually a good point that I meant to raise which is also that she never- we never see her with someone who's like younger than her or really really close to the same age as her. And this would also be another Hollywood double standard at work where it is very common to see leading men in relationships with younger women. Not very common the other way around that women are often judged as cougars for trying it.

GRACE:

bummed out Double standards Ahoy.

JARRAH:

But Jaffin seems like an okay dude.

GRACE:

Yeah he seems all right.

CHAR:

'I guess' tone He's fine.

SUE:

There is another question here about "since this is not her, since she doesn't have her memories, Is this really Janeway?"

GRACE:

That is a good question. So you've got to wonder how much their relationship dynamic would work if she *did* have her memories. And if by that token they were actually in a relationship at all.

SUE:

I mean, after the fact she seems to remember her experiences with him to the point that she invites him to join the crew. With the caveat that well "But if you're a crew member we can't have a relationship." So Janeway seems to think it would have been reasonable to want to carry on with him.

GRACE:

Wouldn't that be great though if she just made up the whole "Oh yeah as Captain I can't be in a relationship. You're welcome to come on board *as a friend* though." just to be like "Yeah I like you but I don't *like* you."

SUE:

We're getting a little too mirror universe there. *Grace laughs*

JARRAH:

I mean, I would argue that she doesn't know what she's getting into when she gets into that relationship, that she doesn't know who she really is. So therefore it isn't really her. I definitely agree that it seems like she has some very strong feelings for him by the end of it. But to be fair, the best mental health professional she has available to help her with all these things is The Doctor. So I don't know that she also has like a lot of really good friend or expert guidance to deal with these types of situations.

GRACE:

She's also as the highest ranking member of the ship, she probably doesn't have a lot of people who she can like go to and be like "Hey can I confide in you and not have you judge me in any way shape or form?"

JARRAH:

Like I would probably go through a major crisis if I found out that I was like engaged to a guy and not knowing who I was the entire time. That would be traumatic for you.

SUE:

Voyager really needed a counselor.

CHAR:

Re: that.

GRACE:

They sent Barclay into this ship and they should have sent Troi.

SUE:

So I think it's time.

GRACE:

It's time? For the big'uns?

SUE:

I think it's time to get to our ships.

CHAR:

Oh boy! Here we go!

SUE:

And we shall begin with a big one and end with a big one. And there are two little ones in between. But we're going to start with Chakotay.

CHAR:

Okay.

GRACE:

Chuckles.

JARRAH:

It definitely felt like this was the most popular among our listeners who were shouting out their ships. Certainly this was my first- among my first ships. I was like Janeway/Chakotay and Sailor Moon/Tuxedo Mask. *all laugh* First two ships.

GRACE:

And never the twain shall meet.

CHAR:

Janeway and Chakotay. That was one of my very first relationships too. It was Janeway and Chakotay and I was also discovering the internet for the first time and discovered what fanfic was and that only emphasized that a whole lot more.

SUE:

I was firmly entrenched elsewhere. Shall we say. *all laugh* I would say that, correct me if I am wrong because there are bigger J.C. shippers here than me, but I would say that some of the key episodes for this ship that people point to are of course Resolutions, Hunters, Timeless, Coda, Basics, Shattered yeah?

CHAR:

Those are big ones. Timeless has a very good scene too.

JARRAH:

Yeah. I mean, there's so many good moments. There's like, you know, even The 37s where they're like "everyone's going to leave us. It's just going to be the two of us like here." I mean the shippers know all the scenes.

CHAR:

Yes, there was a website back in the day that reviewed each and every one of them in detail.

GRACE:

Oh my gosh. God bless the Internet.

SUE:

I love shippers *so much*. But OK, so thoughts on Janeway and Chakotay? I will go first and take the burden of saying this one wasn't for me, but I see the appeal.

GRACE:

Fair.

CHAR:

Fair.

SUE:

Anyone else?

CHAR:

Well I *did* ship them. I shipped them *hard*. I was picking up what they were laying down. And I think what it really boils down to, I saw what a lot of other people saw even before Resolution aired, and that was the chemistry between Kate Mulgrew and Robert Beltran. There is something there. They got on screen and it just really kind of made the mind wonder "What if?" It doesn't hurt that Janeway is a little touchy feely too. Now she touches all of her crew members but it's especially special when she touches Chakotay.

JARRAH:

whispered Yes. **all laugh**

GRACE:

Special special special.

CHAR:

Are you reading fanfic right now? *laughs*

SUE:

The most fun part about this is now I get to hear what I sound like. *all laugh*

CHAR:

Reading the scenes in your head. I get it. Yeah. And then I mean, Jeri Taylor, she was getting a lot of notes from people writing in and saying "Hey these two are- What do you think about this?" And she wrote Resolutions as kind of an answer for a lot of the women writing in and saying "Hey look, I'm into this." And then of course they go back and forth and toy with this idea for a long time. And so it ultimately kind of bugs me that they never figured it out. We needed kind of a definitive cutoff point where maybe they'd been- maybe they flirted a little bit back and forth with one another. But we needed to have a definitive moment, I would say in Hunters after Janeway gets her dear Jane letter, that she needs to confront Chakotay. He's in the ready room with her where suddenly she is freed from the shackles *crew laughs* of the relationship that she does not have waiting for her back home.

GRACE:

terrible Janeway voice "Well Chuck I'm single and ready to mingle."

CHAR:

laughing Essentially. That's what she could have said like *nasal voice* "Okay baby let's go." *Grace cracks-up* But she *didn't* and he basically kind of backs down says "Hey look you know what? We've got all the time in the world. I'm ready whenever you are." No no no no no no no. You're sitting down. Let's have this talk where if she does not want to have a relationship because of Command or whatever personal reasons she has. Fine. But make that definition. Put it out there. Because they just let it kind of float away in the ether and then it's just kind of "huh?"

GRACE:

We didn't even get a resolution in Resolutions. But can we- but can we talk about Resolutions for a minute here? Because that is the episode that made me believe "Oh I can see it from the shipping perspective!" that was the one that made me believe. And even though it's temporary. And even though it's very circumstantial- but that really does make you ask well isn't any relationship that forms on Voyager like just a bigger version of this? Of the two people being stuck together trope? And we've got a quote here from Curator on A03's article Is Resolution's Romantic, if I could share that. The quote is "Two people were forced together, forced to confront things, and then dumped back into the lives they had mourned. Whether Janeway and Chakotay fell in love or had a few charged moments or anything in between, no one deserves

such cruelty of circumstance. This is not romance. It's removal of choices. And isn't that essentially what we're seeing with any relationships that are currently forming on Voyager? Just on a bigger scale because they're all stuck together?

CHAR:

Yeah, it's just an even more narrow version of that. Yeah I totally agree. I feel that Chakotay did fall in love with Janeway on the planet, whereas Janeway definitely a lot slower to warm. She had other priorities. And then when the storm destroys all of her research equipment and she has no choice but to accept their life there not knowing that Voyager is eventually going to rescue. *That's* when she starts to see what's right in front of her.

GRACE:

Yeah. And it does always make me think of those stories that you hear from grandparents of something like "Oh well I'd barely met him. But we chose to marry and then I learned to love him." sort of thing. And the idea that- that's not a great way to start your relationship. Pretty dated, but at the same time there are people who can learn to like each other and that *can* be the basis for a relationship?

CHAR:

Sure. And yeah they had a good working relationship, it didn't necessarily mean that "Oh they were primed for a romance" buuuut yeah.

GRACE:

But if they had stayed on that planet together, if Voyager had come back in five years there would have been like 20 babies running around that campsite. *Sue laughs* That is my firm belief.

CHAR:

I think Janeway would have embraced this life that she never knew she could have.

SUE:

I think that one of the things that makes this such a popular ship, especially like for when it aired mid 90s, is that it like upends traditional gender roles.

GRACE:

Yes, because she's definitely the one in authority there.

SUE:

Right, and she also has a lot of traditionally masculine traits. Like she's no nonsense, she's authoritative, she is all about science as a scientist. And Chakotay is much more sensitive and spiritual and, like not in a bad way, but soft.

CHAR:

Yeah but no, that's why they complement each other so well.

GRACE:

Both as leaders and as crewmen and possibly romantic partners.

CHAR:

Yes in all aspects.

JARRAH:

Yeah totally. And I got my academic research ones on for this one and dug up an article by V Somogyi in the Journal of American And Comparative Culture called Complexity Of Desire: Janeway Chakotay FanFiction. Which does argue that the fact that they have these nontraditional gender traits challenges the standard unequal heterosexual romance and also says that "Janeway is powerful and she outranks Chakotay, a fact which fanfic writers and their characters rarely forget. Though Janeway is often rendered vulnerable by external forces or by her acceptance of her own emotions the fanfic reader can be almost certain that she won't quit her job, end up serving under Chakotay, or take his name." So I thought that was interesting and certainly reflected what I was interested in when I was going after J.C. fanfiction. Like I really liked that generally she didn't have to give up her science, and her career, and her just being a badass woman in charge, and her independence but that he was there to just have her back no matter what.

GRACE:

If anything he'd be there being like "Go! Go fight. I'll hold your purse."

JARRAH:

Yeah I mean, and certainly there are episodes- or there are fics that, you know, play more on like damsel in distress kind of tropes. Or like, you know, Curator and I were talking about like you know dealing with the problem by like having her be injured or something else that she can't command anymore. And like that *maybe not* so ideal but I think like that was what attracted me to the relationship was the fact that seemed to be able to be a bit more equal.

CHAR:

Yeah honestly, if they had gone this route and if they would have handled it properly having a relationship with Chakotay would have just been one facet of Janeway's life. She had all these other things going on. And this is just a fulfillment in another area, which is not a bad thing; it doesn't make her weaker. It just makes her a more well-rounded person. Now the question was *laughs* and I could kind of understand why maybe Mulgrew didn't want them to go down this path because I would not have trusted these writers to handle it properly either.

JARRAH:

We also had a lot of shout outs on social for the Kirsten Beyer novels *Char cheers* and the J.C. relationship Char did you want to talk about that at all?

CHAR:

I will just say that if you are a Janeway and Chakotay relationshipper reading Kirsten Beyers novels starting with Full Circle and going onward is a very good idea. You will not be disappointed.

JARRAH:

Nice. I will say like, from a now thirty four year old perspective the- you know the shine on the relationship is somewhat tarnished. But for me it's more that it's hard to watch the way that they mishandled the race issue because of their bogus Indigenous contsultant and that so many of those early episodes like even Resolutions has the whole "I'll tell you a legend of my people"

GRACE:

"A vague vague legend."

JARRAH:

Yeah. Like the chemistry was there without any of that stuff, so the fact that it's there and a lot of the episodes- that those references are there just like means that you kind of have to take some cringing. But there are also many lovely scenes throughout at least the first four seasons- five seasons that don't have that kind of dynamic.

SUE:

This discussion of whether it could be handled correctly it just- I ,straying a little bit here so I apologize, but it makes me appreciate Battlestar Galactica all the more because a sci-fi show finally did a relationship between two main characters that lasted and was great.

CHAR:

Yeah. Also Sheridan and Delenn on Babylon 5.

GRACE:

It *can* be done, just carefully.

SUE:

So moving on from Chakotay. There were two other pairings that got a few shout outs and not a whole lot of explanation from people. But we had a few people mention Janeway and Paris?

GRACE:

Lizard baby daddy. *Char laughs*

SUE:

No not just as not just from Threshold. Like people- there are several people who legitimately ship Janeway and Paris.

GRACE:

OK. OK. More power to you.

SUE:

And a few shout-outs for Janeway B'Elanna too.

JARRAH:

Janeway Paris definitely reminds me of when I wrote fanfiction about C.J. and Josh on the West Wing. *crew laughs*

CHAR:

Well I always found it a little strange to pair Janeway with Paris, Tom Paris, because Tom's dad Owen wasn't he Janeway's mentor at the academy or something like that? It's just a little too incestuously small of a world *Grace makes a distinct 'not feelin it' noise* so I don't know about that.

GRACE:

Kind of a rebellious *bratty teen voice* "You control me Dad. I'm going to sleep with your mentor Daaaaaaaaadand." *crew laughs*

JARRAH:

Your mentee, who's still older than me.

SUE:

All right. So we've come to our other big fan ship and that is Seven of Nine.

JARRAH:

The big one. Yes yes.

CHAR:

A *lot* of fanfic on this one.

GRACE:

This one people go whole hog for.

SUE:

I asked a friend of mine who is like an OG J Seven shipper from like, when the show was airing and she told me that the biggest episodes that this part of the fandom looks towards are Dark Frontier and Hope And Fear. So I just want to mention that as some examples of that ship. Yeah. This has a very big following I think it- also a lot of people point to it. A lot of the queer Star Trek community points to this ship as well. Thoughts?

CHAR:

Well I always saw Janeway and Seven having more of a contentious mother daughter relationship so I never totally went- I did not go the queer route with this because Seven in my opinion was a teenager mentally. And so for her to have a romance with Janeway was not appropriate. I could make the same argument for Chakotay but that's another thing. Just- yeah- that's what it reminded me of, was just kind of a rebellious teenager coming into her own and Janeway is trying to keep her grounded in more of a motherly role.

SUE:

I feel the same way. I feel like Seven is essentially an adolescent during the run of Voyager. And so I was never personally fully onboard with it. We also had some Facebook comments who also said it felt weird and pointed out it felt like grooming. *noises of discomfort* So that is one side of the debate. There are lots of people who really really like it.

GRACE:

There's definitely interesting character chemistry there in both of their dynamics and the fact that *pause* not to say infantilized Seven but she is rebellious. She's kind of a rebellious child of the situation. But at the same time she's looking to this caring mentor figure even with that big with that age difference there, there is- that dynamic is dependent on their chemistry which they definitely have in terms of interaction.

SUE:

Jarrah it looks like you did some additional real research as well.

JARRAH:

I did. I wanted to reference an article called Resistance Is Not Futile: Liberating Captain Janeway from the Masculine Feminine Dualism of Leadership in the Journal of Gender Work and Organization from 2004 by Michele A. Bowring, and the author does a textual analysis of these slash fiction series Just Between by GL Dart which apparently has like at least by 2001 had about 50 parts and was, you know, had received fan fiction awards and had numerous numerous positive reviews. And this was really interesting, and so the author gets into, you know, why J7 is appealing and using this particular story as as a case study and says "Where the television Janeway found herself bouncing between the two sides of a number of dualisms, such as weak-strong, controlled-emotional, intuitive-logical, nurturing-needing to be nurtured, and demanding-given, Just Between's Janeway is able to easily be any one of these as the situation requires." and she points out that you know there was this idea that Janeway couldn't

have a relationship because this would compromise her or make her a weaker leader. But in the Just Between fanfiction the author writes that “Her relationship with Seven makes her more human, brings her into closer contact with the crew, and ultimately helps her be a better leader. Seven insists that she play, that she connect with others, and she allows herself to step out of the rigid role that she has defined for herself and do what she needs to do in order to heal.” So I thought that was interesting and I could totally see that working. Like that is certain like a dynamic that I could envision in my head. Even though I like, generally also saw them kind of in more of a mother daughter role. I think it's really interesting to find out why these ships appeal to different people and the dynamics that people inscribe on these relationships in fanfiction, and think that is a pretty neat one.

CHAR:

Yeah that's a really good point. Even though I didn't see that with Janeway and Seven, I can see just how generally that's why it would be beneficial for Janeway to have a relationship.

JARRAH:

Yeah. I think that Seven pushes Janeway, and actually in another article I read by Aviva Dove-Viebahn she talks about how to Chakotay and Seven both are really necessary to Janeway's leadership style. That they both challenge her, and support her, and that it's because of both of them that she's able to do what she does. And she says that “Chakotay and Seven are notably the closest Janeway has to love interests among the crew. Not only do Seven and Chakotay remain Janeway's confidantes and her most ardent challengers when she steps off the beaten path, but they end up romantically involved with each other...further cementing the bond between the three characters and perhaps allowing Janeway a sort of circuitous sexuality without endangering the tenuous representation of her gender hybridity and feminist authority.”

GRACE:

Huh? What?

SUE:

So we had a comment that, I did not put in the outline, but I remember very strongly that said that this person was convinced that Chakotay and Seven got together because they were both crushing on Janeway. *crew laughs*

JARRAH:

Yeah, would be laypersons depict-

GRACE:

Ooooooh! OK. OK.

JARRAH:

Basically it's like “She couldn't be with either of them because it would have been too threatening to this like gender structure that they had established. Therefore they got together”

which Kate Mulgrew apparently has taken credit for in some interviews, that idea, and that way at least they both have someone. And, you know, she can sort of like live vicariously through both of them.

CHAR:

She's happy if they're happy. That's about as close to buying that relationship as I think I can get. *crew laughs* I'm not a Chakotay Seven fan.

SUE:

That's not one of the relationships we're picking apart today.

GRACE:

Save it for another time.

JARRAH:

We talked about that a fair amount in our last episode on unpopular onions. But now that we've seen queer Seven, could I imagine- or like could we imagine Seven Janeway better like if we imagined it being Seven of the now?

GRACE:

I could.

CHAR:

With Janeway in the twenty- In Picard era. Hmm. Maybe? Maybe. I don't know though, I don't think those two would last. Janeway has got completely different priorities from Seven.

JARRAH:

Yeah I think you're right. I think now Seven is too rogue-y I agree and she's far too used to working on her own. She's left Starfleet behind. I have a feeling Janeway is still somehow involved with Starfleet. So Janeway is not gonna be running around with seven on Ranger missions.

SUE:

Janeway is far too by the book.

CHAR:

Yeah that too.

GRACE:

Maybe they hold a torch for each other? But it's a small one.

CHAR:

Yeah there's probably, I don't know, some sort of thoughts and feelings there, regard for one another but in romantic sense not built to last.No no no.

SUE:

All right. So then we are going to wrap up for today. Char, where can people find you on the interwebs?

CHAR:

Well the best place to find me is on Twitter where my handle is ohtheprofanity and I'm always game to talk Voyager, or Star Trek, or Babylon 5, relationships, fanfic you name it.

SUE

Awesome. Jarrah?

JARRAH:

I'm on Twitter @JARRAHPenguin and I'm also at Trekkie feminist dot com.

SUE:

Grace?

GRACE:

You can find me on Twitter @Bonecrusherjenk that's B O N E C R U S H E R J E N K and for the next couple of days up in my room seeing if I can build myself a Spider Queen costume.
crew laughs

SUE:

Awesome. And I'm Sue. You can find me on Twitter @Spaltor. That's S P A L T O R. And to learn more about our show or contact us you can visit womenatwarp.com or find us on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram, @womenatwarp. You can also send us an email at crew@womenatwarp.com. And for more from the Roddenberry podcast network visit podcasts.Roddenberry.com. Thanks so much for listening.