

Episode 108: Deanna Troi, Goddess of Empathy

JARRAH:

Hi and welcome to Women At Warp. Are 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's Jarrah. Thanks for tuning in. Today with us we have Andi.

ANDI:

Hello.

JARRAH:

And we have a very special guest, Michele Specht.

MICHELE:

Hi guys.

JARRAH:

It's so great to have you with us. We asked Michele on because I mean she's fabulous for one thing *Michele laughs* but also today's topic is Counselor Troi

MICHELE:

Woot woot!

JARRAH:

And Michele played, in my opinion, maybe one of the most effective Trek counselors. Dr. McKenna on Star Trek Continues. So welcome Michele.

MICHELE:

excited Golly thanks! Oh my gosh. Thank you for welcoming me. Thank you for having me. I'm so excited because yes- I respect both of you, I respect the show so much, and I am a fellow Trek nerd so I'm so excited to be talking about TNG and Troi! And apparently Voyager and Enterprise. But we're not going to go there Andi! We're not going to go there. We covered that. We're not going to go there we're not going to. We're not going to ruin it for you.

ANDI:

deadpan I have feelings.

MICHELE:

You can't have feelings if you haven't seen it yet, Andi. *Salty*.

ANDI:

I'm like "Okay, I can't wait to be on this episode. For once I don't have to worry about any spoilers because Troi's only on TNG." *Michele laughs* and I'm looking down the list and its like "Voyager" "Enterprise" and I'm like "What the actual hell?" And I got *real salty* about it, and Jarrah talked to me down, and I'm still salty.

JARRAH:

I mean you can be mad at the show, just don't hate the messenger.

MICHELE:

That's right.

ANDI:

OK. Yeah.

MICHELE:

And it's gonna be so much fun. We have so much to talk about with TNG, we don't even need to go there Andi. We don't even need it!

ANDI:

OK. But see, it makes me mad because Enterprise, if I'm understanding Enterprise correctly, it's a prequel and it's set before TOS. Is Troi on Enterprise? And that just is like- that's shenanigans. That's writing shenanigans! I will not have it.

MICHELE:

I'm getting on Andi's train, actually with that one.

JARRAH:

Yeah, I know. I don't think it's a spoiler to say that *most* of the fandom will agree with you, who have seen that episode.

SPEAKER: F12

Yeah yeah yeah.

ANDI:

I really just was like "But why? *Jarrah laughs* Why?" OK. So I will have to do my patented *musical voice* "La la la la" while they talk about Voyager and Enterprise. But I'm here for the rest of it.

JARRAH:

OK. Well before we get into the main topic, a little bit of housekeeping. As always 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, up to silly watchalong commentaries of movies such as Star Trek Nemesis, that feature Counselor Troi

MICHELE:

disbelieving Nemesis?

JARRAH:

Right. There are some great rewards. So visit patreon.com/womenatwarp. You can also support us by leaving a rating or review on Apple Podcasts or wherever you get your podcasts.

ANDI:

Yeah. If you ever want to listen to our Nemesis one, you can hear me get even *more* salty.

MICHELE:

Andi, I want to hang out with you *more*.

ANDI:

It's like salt over a wound. *all laugh*

MICHELE:

But you know what? The goal is gonna be to make it just so super sweet today, and just talk about *all* TNG, and the Troi goodness, and so many hairstyles, and so many outfits and uniforms and costumes. It's gonna- there's so much there. We don't need it. We don't even need it!

ANDI:

She does deserve some serious love.

MICHELE:

All right. Yeah yeah.

JARRAH:

Do you have a favorite Troi look?

ANDI:

Oh, that blue dress thing that she wears and Barclays fantasy of her. *Michele cackles*

MICHELE:

You mean where she's like *sensual voice* "Come I am the goddess of love and understanding and empathy-

ANDI:

Yeah that episode! But not that look. The one at the very beginning, when you don't know it's a fantasy, and he's in ten-forward, and it's like royal blue and like super flowy and she just looks so elegant and beautiful.

MICHELE:

I like that. I'll go with that. I like that. I still like, you know, when she's in it's like season six and seven, and I don't know if she wore it before then, but her good old standard blue. I just like her when she's in like traditional TNG uniform. I like that one on her. I feel like she even like represents herself- there's a bit more just natural professionalism about her.

JARRAH:

Totally. I mean, we had a fair number of comments from listeners about the costume change. And Marina herself has talked a lot about how it was like she couldn't have brains before she got the uniform that everyone else was wearing.

MICHELE:

Yes yes yes yes yes.

JARRAH:

So I feel kind of like I have to say that. But I will say favorite non-uniform look would be in Man of the People, the one where she's like rapid aging because she's consuming all that dude's negative energy and she's like the vampy old lady with the skunk hair. *Michele gasps*

MICHELE:

YEEESS!!!

ANDI:

It's the one with the- that like- the collar. Like, the interesting collar.

MICHELE:

Oh yeah. And it's got like this little peek a boo in the front chest area. And she's got that one white streak in her hair, and her hair is up, and she's like *old broad voice* "What are you looking at?" Like when she comes in she's- she's salty *like Andi*. She took some lessons *Andi laughs* And she just comes in like *old lady Mae West voice* "Come up and see me sometime."

ANDI:

But she also like, her body language and the way she like, almost flings herself against the wall. *Michele laughs* God, that's good stuff.

JARRAH:

That's tough, because you know what negative emotions do to women? They make them *old* and *sexual*. *all cackle*

MICHELE:

And like ridiculously jealous, and yeah it- Yes that's exactly-

JARRAH:

She's obsessive-

MICHELE:

Yes. Yes.

ANDI:

laughs Oh my God.

JARRAH:

Awesome. Well, let's take a step back and maybe talk a little bit about like first impressions of Troi. Michele like, when did you first watch TNG?

MICHELE:

This was my very first. This is what I grew up on. This was the first show I started watching regularly. So I saw it, you know, from the very first episode with the space squid puppets that rose up and- yeah I didn't quite know what to think of her. Because I felt like- but I was a very, you know, I was a young young young pre-teen at that time so I don't know if I had really ingested necessarily what she was or what her purpose was? But perhaps that's because I don't know if the show really had decided what her purpose was? Kind of hadn't figured that out as of yet. I've always thought upon reflection that they *underused* her talents. I think that's pretty much an acceptable thing to say at this point. But I certainly liked her. I liked the fact that we saw women on the bridge, but when I was super- when I was watching it as a young person I really liked Crusher. I really liked Beverly, just because she was more well-defined and her role was more specifically clear and she seemed to have more authority. And I think that that was, you know, something that Marina had to grow into, and that the writers had to grow into, and that there were still even as the series progressed episodes in which you felt like "OK, what the frickity-?" like that were very outside of who I had come to know her to be? There were certain episodes that I felt kind of were jarring in that way. And we will get into that. But I mean, I loved the show from the get go. It was very, you know, it was space opera to me at the time, because I didn't really have a background in Star Trek yet. This was my first experience with Star Trek. But I definitely loved her. I loved the idea- she seemed almost kind of magical to me. I mean to be telepathic or empathic, you know what I mean? Is like whaaat?! I mean I would immediately thought- you know it was just amazing that she never used her powers for *evil voice* evil, *Jarrah laughs* because I would immediately be starting to think about all the things you could do with them. But yeah, my impressions of her were, it took me a while to form necessarily an impression of her. But I loved her, and I loved seeing women in, you know, on the bridge and in command. I thought that was really super cool.

JARRAH:
How about you Andi?

ANDI:
For me I was an adult, so I think I had a different perspective on it than most people. But like for me, what I really liked was I liked her femininity. I liked how unabashedly feminine she was.

MICHELE:
Oh I liked that you pointed that out! And I hadn't thought about that. Yes yes.

ANDI:
Yeah. I feel like they contrasted her with Yar a lot, and Yar was supposed to be like *not* traditionally feminine. And I feel like they kind of dropped the ball on that. And like were kind of timid about exploring that. But I always have found that there's always a, I guess, backlash against femininity when you're first like starting to kind of come to grips with sexism? One super common thing is to reject your own femininity. So like I remember when I was in say middle school, high school I was like *petulant voice* "I don't like pink, I like black. I'm not like those *other* girls." Like that kind of like attitude-

MICHELE:
In order to be taken seriously? Yes yes.

ANDI:
Yeah exactly. Or like you're so inundated with all of these messages saying that femininity is weak, and that the things that girls like are stupid, and the things that teen girls like are *especially* stupid, that there's I think a fairly common and understandable reaction to that is to be like "Well I'm not stupid so I'm not going to be feminine." And then, I don't know. For me I kind of came back around on all of that when I became an adult. Where I was like "You know what? Pink actually rocks and femininity is awesome and being empathic is not being passive necessarily." And I just kind of liked that kind of vibe that she had, and I liked how it contrasted with the fact that they were in space and having these hard sci-fi adventures and she was always there looking lovely and eating chocolate and just being super girly in a lot of ways. But also *tough*. I don't think we can say that Troi is not tough. Because despite the fact of like how she's presented a lot of the time, she has been through a lot of crap, and the show puts her through a lot of crap and she's very resilient and smart. And then they finally did start to give her like, *meaty stories* like Face Of The Enemy is a great example of like she is a tough character. But at the same time she never lets go of that femininity. Like we're talking about Nemesis, and I'm salty as hell about Nemesis. But like it started with her wedding, and she wore a really frilly wedding dress. And I just- I think that stuff is valuable and I understand why some people might not be as drawn to it because it's I guess almost stereotypical like woman stuff. But I don't know. I feel like a lot of credit has to be given to Marina Sirtis that she never felt *shallow* to me.

MICHELE:

I- Andi, you are just bringing this to light for me in a way I had not- I had never *Andi laughs* been able to articulate or synthesize. So thank you for that. And you're absolutely right. You're absolutely right! And especially at that time when considering the year and the time frame in which this was created, it makes sense to me now that my little young brain it was easier to understand Crusher, because she was more in that identifiable, somewhat less feminized, more masculine specific role as what we identify with authority. And Troi was *absolutely* feminine. And why it makes sense to me now that as I've gotten older I've gotten to appreciate and love her much more probably without even registering that consciously.

ANDI:

Like a lot of this stuff is always unconscious. Like a lot of writing and styling when it comes to media is unconscious. Like they'll pick out costumes for us specifically to evoke something. But what they actually- like most people don't know notice that that's being evoked. It's the same with music. Right? Like you might notice a particularly obvious music beat, but for the most part scores of things are supposed to subtly herd you toward an emotional feeling that you're not noticing, you're just feeling right? So her character design, I guess you could call it, is super feminine and some people are going to react poorly to that. I mean her place in the fandom I think is mostly positive. But there are a lot of memes about her being incompetent, as well.

JARRAH:

The meme about like her crashing the ship is the most common one.

ANDI:

Yes! *ugh*

JARRAH:

You see a lot of commentary about how TNG only had women in quote unquote nurturing roles after Yar left. And certainly, it's accurate to say that, you know, the women characters that Crusher and Troi were not like hugely outside the box for what was acceptable for women at the time the show was made. But that narrative kind of implies that- well first of all I wouldn't say like *McCoy* is in a nurturing role because he's a doctor. I mean Troi is also a single mom so that's part of it. Oh sorry, Crusher. That's right Crusher. But it's sort of this narrative that says like those roles aren't important? Instead of saying "Well we need more diverse roles" but those are also pretty important roles. Like you've a doctor and you've a mental health professional. Both pretty important.

MICHELE:

Exactly! And I would like to insert here, who's to say that a nurturing role is not a powerful role?

JARRAH:

Yeah.

ANDI:

Exactly. It's one reason why I really like it when they finally *let* Troi do her job. Which they started doing more and more and more. I mean we're talking about her in the Barclay episode. That's a good example of "she's doing her job" in that episode.

MICHELE:

Honestly for me, it started when you see when I went back and started rewatching some of these episodes. The Child in Season 2. I'll be honest with you- do you remember that one?

JARRAH:

Oh yes.

ANDI:

Oh yes!

MICHELE:

Exactly. OK. *all laugh* Her last scene when he goes away and it's her just- and it's before he kind of- before the child dies, she gets incredibly emotional. But I was kind of blown away. I was like "Holy shit Marina is like acting her butt off!" and to me, for her to be in that place with this kind of chain of command and just her ability to be that vulnerable at that time in that particular situation I thought was incredibly powerful. Just, this goes above and beyond just her professionalism or in her role on the ship, but just I appreciated the fact that she was on screen as an officer being willing to be that vulnerable at that place.

ANDI:

Yeah. Grieving. So The Child, in case you do not remember this one, this is the one that opened the season 2. It's also Pulaski's first episode, in which Troi is impregnated by an alien and then gives birth to him? So anyways, we have discussed it quite in-depth. We did an episode on it, and it's come up a lot because for me it's my least favorite episode ever. *Milchelle laughs* *But* there are some good things in it. And I think- going to like Marina acting her butt off in it, there was an interview that she did with Mission Log that I thought was really interesting, in that I loathed that episode straight up. But Marina *doesn't*. To her it was the first time that she got to do anything you know substantial on the show. And she got to show who Troi was more than "I sense..that stuff is happening." And she was really happy about it. And she's very proud of that episode, and I think that's completely fair and understandable why if after an entire season of you sitting on the bridge, she called herself a "potted plant" at one point, just looking pretty and sensing things that are usually obvious, she got to actually have an emotional arc in an actual story. And so, that's why The Child is a very interesting episode for Troi, because on the one

hand I don't agree with the messages that it sends but at least it gives Troi *some messages* to send. You know?

MICHELE:

Right. I'm talking about her specifically just as a *person*. Because it's been a lot- I don't know if you've kind of picked up on this but at least maybe it's just the shit I'm reading. But we're talking a lot about how much strength can be found in allowing yourself to be vulnerable and how brave it can be to really be truly authentic, present, and vulnerable. And so for me that was kind of the introduction to someone in command like, instead of trying to do the traditional and perhaps it's an attributed masculine trait I don't know, to kind of buck up and not show and not be present and not be you know not fully feel. And she full-out *was*. I mean she was like, it was blank opening for me you know as an actor watching another actor I was like "Holy crap she's acting her butt off. She is on display. She is not hiding, she is not shoving down, she is not trying to cover up anything." So for me, that was really powerful and it kind of lends itself to later on episodes like The Dark Page. Isn't that the one where she helps her mother? Like that one, that- her ability to kind of be present in that level of vulnerability and for that to be a safe thing and an OK thing that kind of nurturing role you see how frickin powerful that is.

JARRAH:

Yeah like I just actually watched Night Terrors, which is the one where no one dreams and they all start going crazy. And I remembered that being not a very good Troi episode, because I sort of lumped it in with like Violations, and Man of the People, and The Price, where she is- her powers sort of put her at- make her a victim in a way? Or make- they're a weakness. Like this happens- we see this a lot also in the episode in Season 7 where there's the part Betazoid guy that has left the psychic impression of the suicide? That often her powers are the subject of the plot when they leave her open to some sort of assault or to changes because of her powers, instead of her, you know, really using them for something other than like lie detecting? But in Night Terrors she- yeah she goes up to Worf and tells him that "Admitting you're afraid gives you strength." And I was like "That's so awesome." She also at one point tells- at the beginning she detects something on board the ship they're going to and they put together in a way team and she just says like "Commander, I need to go with you." And it's not like it's not a question, they all just trust her. So I think that's awesome.

MICHELE:

Yeah. No, that's so interesting. Andi, thank you for pointing that out. You're absolutely right. As far as the kind of messaging, on a broader scale when you pull back the microscope on the issues you would have that episode. Absolutely. Yeah. I guess I was looking at it more zeroing in.

ANDI:

Yeah, I think it's a good episode for her character. And just plot reasons, and kind of the way it's approached for me. But like for her character I think it's a good episode. And you were talking about Dark Page. That's my like- that's my favorite Lwuxana Troi episode, and it's one of my

favorite Troi episodes, even though I don't feel like in the fandom it's super beloved? But I think it's great. And I love that they took an entire episode and used it to explore the relationship between two very complicated women, and I think that that episode is great. And I could watch that episode all day. Plus Kirsten Dunst!

MICHELE:

I know!

ANDI:

Which is wild!

MICHELE:

It's so crazy. When I re-watched it this week I was like "What in the whaaaat? Say whaaat?"
laughs

ANDI:

"Who is that young elfen faced-? Oh. Ok." Yeah. But I think there should be more episodes that are like super sci-fi, and like that whole idea of exploring someone's psyche is super sci-fi.

MICHELE:

Oh my gosh! Yes Andi! Yeah! I like, I want to redo Troi. *Andi laughs* I want Troi to be *now!* Like, I would *love* to see the complexity and the depth that we could explore, someone like her in her position, with her skill set, what we could do now would be frickitty- fracking incredible!

ANDI:

Well, she should just be on that Picard show then.

MICHELE:

shouting Hello!

ANDI:

laughs To be honest I wish the Picard show would just be TNG part two. But I'm also like "Maybe that's not the best way to go." Although they're doing all like the casting and it's all people who are really young-

MICHELE:

I know! I know.

ANDI:

Yeah. Why is he like- OK you know how there's always like one person in a group that's like weirdly old? *Michele laughs* And it's going to be a *Picard*.

MICHELE:

intensely I know!

ANDI:

He's going to be hanging out with like 20-year-olds, and it's going to be like "Why though?" So anyways.

JARRAH:

laughs So going back to a bit of her origin stuff, she was obviously she was based on Ilia from the Star Trek phase two script that then got converted into the motion picture, and TNG. But they decided she needed to have less significant powers, because it would ruin too many plot opportunities. And even still like, we find her missing in many episodes where it would be too easy to solve the situation with Troi. In an interesting comment from Bobby on Facebook who said "I remember a cast interview shortly before the premiere. I think on the CBS morning news show where they described their characters and she said her character was as smart as Spock." And I also read an interview with her, this is me now not Bobby, where she said that you know she wasn't supposed to be the *eye candy*, she was supposed to be the *brains*. But that didn't really happen until later on. So that was kind of interesting. And they did almost give her three breasts.

MICHELE:

disgusted Oh God!

ANDI:

Can you imagine having to do that makeup now?

MICHELE:

No! No, I cannot.

ANDI:

That would be so uncomfortable.

JARRAH:

I like this quote from DC Fontana. She later recalled "I felt women have enough trouble with two. And how are you going to line them up? Vertically? *all laugh* Horizontally or what? I was like, 'Please don't go there.'"

ANDI:

Bless DC Fontana for saving us from so many things.

MICHELE:

reverently Thank you DC. *all laugh*

ANDI:

I'm going to light a candle in her honor tonight, *Michele laughs* that I didn't have to watch seven seasons of Troi with three breasts.

MICHELE:

Oh god! *Please!* Oh it be like a triangle. I'm seeing them- on- in my mind like- no god. *Jarrah laughs*

ANDI:

You know what happened is like, I'm going to guess Gene Roddenberry, but definitely *somebody* saw that movie with the three breasted woman, that sci-fi movie and they are like "That's amazing! Why don't we think of that?" And then they wanted to like duplicate it.

MICHELE:

The Arnold Schwarzenegger movie right?

ANDI:

Yeah yeah yeah. Total Recall? Is that- Yeah! You know that somebody on that team was like "Why didn't we do that?" *all laugh*

JARRAH:

I mean, they did the three-breasted Catwoman dancer in Star Trek five.

ANDI:

And that should have scratched the itch.

JARRAH:

Yes, it really-

MICHELE:

Yeah. Done and *done*, and checked off.

JARRAH:

Seirtis also came up with an accent that she thought sounded foreign to emphasize her alien-ness which- and she thought that they wanted her to do that and she based it on an Israeli friend's accent. And then later when Majel came on as her mom, like halfway through the first season she was like "Wow. I really regret that now I have to spend *Michele laughs* all this time doing that accent because my mum sounds like she's from like the Midwestern United States."

MICHELE:

And did you happen to see the episode the first time that her mother comes on? They actually give a line to explain*laughs* the accent.

JARRAH:

I missed that! What do they say?

MICHELE:

Yeah. It's right when they're in the, you know, corridor. And they're walking along with Picard and she said "Oh you know you still have that accent like your father" which is funny because we see her father in season seven.

JARRAH:

Oh yeah! And he doesn't have an accent.

MICHELE:

And he doesn't have an accent! And Marina said "Well your tutor got so angry he wasn't able to rid me of it."

JARRAH:

That's hilarious. Yeah, I totally forgot that. Yeah.

ANDI:

There you go. *Sorted*. That's how you take care of canon issues y'all. *Michele laughs* Awkward dialogue.

JARRAH:

But then we totally come across what, you have both raised this issue, of the writers not really knowing what to do with her at least early on. And like Brannon Braga has a quote saying "A therapist on a ship full of characters that supposedly had gone beyond human foibles and no longer succumb to petty jealousy and anger? Why is there a therapist on board?"

MICHELE:

You know what? Let me give you a quick slap. *all laugh*

JARRAH:

Marion Shankar said "I couldn't understand it. Especially coming from an immigrant family where nobody talks about their problems ever. The notion of having an onboard psychiatrist was so weird. I was like 'What does she do all day?' I don't understand. She could look at the guy on the view screen who's angry and go. 'I think he's angry. He seems angry to me Captain.'"

MICHELE:

Yeah. This was again, I really feel like an issue of the time in which the show was produced. Because Andi and I have already established how freaking amazing it would be to have her abilities now. And the kind of the depths you could go- it would be so fascinating. It would be so

so interesting. I feel like it would just be a very different approach now. Same person, same skillset.

JARRAH:

So what was it like for you being a ship's counselor?

MICHELE:

Oh I was so frickin excited, because that's- if I hadn't been an actor I was actually- I was very seriously considering going and getting my master's in psychology and becoming an MFT. I love that. I think it's an incredibly noble and amazing thing to do, to kind of just be a witness for people and to sit with them in situations like that. I find it incredibly fascinating and just a very worthwhile endeavor. So I didn't really think about the fact that she was like the *first one*. It didn't necessarily hit me. I think my brain kind of would've exploded, because I think for all of us, at least for me, it seems to be true with a lot of Trek fans. We are so- the show that introduced us to our love of Star Trek, it built us, it literally is kind of built into our DNA and our foundation. It formed my vision of the world, of humanity, of our place in it. Like my moral compass, like everything was- it's just incredibly important to me. So I actually thought about the weight of that too much. And I think it helped that when we were doing this, when we started out doing Star Trek Continues we had no idea how much of it we were even gonna be able to do. Like we were just gonna do one episode, because we wanted to do one episode and then we weren't even sure if we'd make more. So it didn't have, you know, a lot of weight to it at that point. But I was so incredibly excited. I thought it was a wonderful way to kind of blend- because of course our show was set finishing out the fourth and fifth year of the five-year mission of the original series. And of course that show was a product of its time, you see that everything especially in the female roles, of course. But you know, the female guest roles. But we were- are a product of our time and so it was we are trying to interject a little bit more of our modern sensibility into that by having more leads- of female leads in commanding roles involved in what was going on on the ship. So I was really excited about that aspect. Very very excited. And sometimes you know, they would let me- we would have scenes and I would say "Can I- we maybe take a stab at writing that?" And they let me do that a couple of times which is really neat. And in fact Jarrah helped me write one of the things and it's one of my- it's actually one of my favorite little speeches I get to do in our seventh episode Embracing the Winds. And I think it was very important to be able to interject our modern take and our sensibility of what a woman in command and her would be. So anyway, yes. Long story short it was great guys! *all laugh*

JARRAH:

How many times in the rest of Star Trek have we been- we thought "Man, where is the counselor on this ship?"

MICHELE:

Right?

ANDI:

Discovery needs a counselor. They need a counselor so bad. So much of season one could have been avoided *Michele laughs* with a decent mental health professional.

MICHELE:

I love it!

JARRAH:

Yeah, Enterprise too. And also Voyager. I mean, we just a couple of weeks ago talked about the episode where the doctor is counseling Seven in Retrospect and he's just like "I just installed a new subroutine" and of course it goes horribly wrong. People have training for a reason. And actually, we should talk about what numerous people, including a fan video I saw recently which I linked to in the show notes I can't remember the name off the top of my head, but arguing that Guinan is really the better counselor on the Enterprise. Or at least the more effective counselor. I'm not saying that's necessarily wrong, but do you guys have thoughts on that idea?

MICHELE:

You know it's funny you mentioned that. James Kerwin, who is one of the producers and the director of several of our episodes, we were trying to talk about my character Dr. McKenna in terms of how we see her in that show and Guinan was someone he specifically brought up. As kind of being the somewhat "step back and kind of giving the wisdom" in a way. Not necessarily direct, because a lot of the people onboard obviously didn't immediately take to coming in and actively seeking help from a mental health professional because she was new, right? So she would be able kind of interject wisdom or advice in different situations that would- that were not directly *formal voice* "I am coming to see you, and talk about you know resolving something." So in that way that, you know, Guinan would very often slip in sideways to kind of deliver some wisdom. So in that manner, in the delivery manner, he saw Dr. McKenna as being very akin to Guinan. So I think the- I mean we can certainly use more than just one voice of wisdom in that *laughs* sense and in psychiatric health on a huge starship. So I could see- I wouldn't say she was the better one. I would say her ability to reach people is completely different.

JARRAH:

Yeah totally. I mean as someone who has seen a lot of different counselors, they don't all have the same approach. And Guinan well, I mean I would want a Guinan *and* a Troi in my life. Because like, you want the person that- like Guinan can just say the right thing at the right time. But if you're going through something more serious or long term you want someone who's going to be there reliably at the same time, and listen to you, and help you discover it on your own.

ANDI:

Yeah, we've seen examples that Troi does that. That she has regular patients, Barclay was one of them.

JARRAH:

The woman she yells at in The Loss. Oh and she yells at someone in Man of the People too.

MICHELE:

Remind me which one is Man of the People again?

JARRAH:

That's the one with the dude that makes her old and sexy.

MICHELE:

excited Oh yes! *Andi laughs*

JARRAH:

And it makes her really grumpy, and she tells this woman patient that she's totally self-centered-

MICHELE:

Yes! Oh my gosh it's so funny! She does it with like the straightest face ever and the patient is like-

JARRAH:

"Basically, just stop whining."

MICHELE:

Yeah! And the patients like "Oh, OK. Thank you." *laughs*

ANDI:

That's a good example of *not* good counseling *all laugh* Let's not take that as a how-to book on how to counsel. Yeah no she was under the influence. She was feeling old and sexy.
Michele laughs

MICHELE:

I love that we're describing her as old and sexy in that episode! I have to go back and rewatch it now.

ANDI:

And then, so for Guinan, I feel like Guinan was, and I say this as somebody who loves Guinan. I feel like Guinan was more of a plot device in some ways, in that she was only brought in specifically *for* these moments. Like they were like "OK well we need Picard to do soul searching, how do we make him do that? Well, we'll put Guinan in a scene with him and he'll soul search with her." But like they didn't give her much to do outside of that. So like, I feel like she was in some ways not fully fleshed out. And she served a very particular function within the scripts. And Troi was more of a complete person. And you know, reliable counseling, as you said Jarrah. Like, she was always there. Guinan occasionally showed up, dispensed great

advice, and left. So I just think that they serve two different purposes. Both story-wise and job-wise, and I wouldn't get rid of either of them, and they were both great.

MICHELE:

I am just going to say again, Andi I *loooove* the way you are articulating these *sing-song voice* *thiiiings* that I never synthesized in my own brain. I love it so much I'm gonna sing about it. Because that's exactly it. Guinan was the- she would like light a candle on the path of soul searching. She would basically give- she would light a candle in a particular direction that someone needed to go, and it was absolutely more of a soul searching thing when someone was struggling over a particular decision or a particular revelation and could not find their way. She would pop in, light a candle on one particular path, and then they would be able to lead themselves toward it. That's exactly it. Soul searching. I love that. Now when it comes to therapy, and it comes to that process of kind of investigating, taking inventory of our psyche, what's going on, what's useful, what's not, what am I holding on to, where really is this motivation coming from? You know what I mean? All of those things that are kind of that multilayered process that happens within why we do what we do, why we feel the way we feel, how we formed our perspectives, how we- you know, why we get involved in the relationships we do, all that intricacy stuff. I would absolutely be wanting to go to Troi. I mean, I need someone trained who can help me walk through that process and see layer by layer what's going on and what's real and what's not. I need that objective voice. So I love that. I love that Guinan is that soul searcher. She helps guide people at that particular point when they are in the dark and they need a direction you know? They're already looking, and they need that help to decide which way to go. "Ah, yes!" And that's her.

JARRAH:

Totally.

ANDI:

Well even think about Guinan in *Rascals*, like when she becomes a little kid her story is not about her. Her story is about Ro. You know, they use her as a way to bring Ro out. That's why I say she's more of a plot device. A plot device I really love. But still.

MICHELE:

With the most amazing hats you've ever seen!

JARRAH:

And when we talk about like Troi's long term work, and story, Andi I'm referring to *Voyager* here. So you're going to have to "Lala" a little bit.

ANDI:

musically La la la la!

JARRAH:

We did have a comment from Cheyenne on Facebook who said “I think Deanna’s at her best in her Voyager appearances. We finally get to see her work as a counselor in those episodes.” So we did see it a *little bit* before, but we see her work with a patient that we saw her work with before. So that, I think, is a really cool thing. That she would actually be maintaining the counselor patient relationship over that amount of time. That’s like very rare in real life too, but shows that she’s committed to that practice.

MICHELE:

And it’s always good to see her in those different situations on more than one occasion with a particular person, because you start to see how her methods are different with each individual person. Which is so incredibly important if you’re going to be an effective counselor. It’s just as much the counselor learning about their patient and how to effectively reach them, as it is about having you know a particular you know ability to or ask the right questions. I think she even says it in one of her early episodes- Oh! It’s in The Loss I think. Where she says “Yeah, people will come to talk to you about what they want to talk about, but really the role of a counselor is to get people to talk about what they *don’t* want to talk about.” And in seeing the different methodologies and approaches she has with people that she sees on a regular basis, I think is very effective. So yeah I agree with you. I like that comment Cheyenne, well done!

ANDI:

Our commenters are awesome.

JARRAH:

Totally.

MICHELE:

Because you guys are awesome. *all laugh*

JARRAH:

OK guys. So real talk. Troi and Riker, Troi and Worf, Troi and someone completely different, or no one?

ANDI:

I know Troi and Worf is out. *laughs* Yeah, so I’m sure that there are people that ship that. I’m sure there are because people ship anything. Yes but no. Personally, for me, it’s a no. It was really weird. It was like Joey and Rachel on Friends. *Michele laughs* We’re like “But why? Is it just because you ran out of-?” *Michele laughs uproariously*

JARRAH:

Marina Sirtis said "I often felt that someone had watched Beauty and the Beast too many times."
all laugh intensely

ANDI:

You know what it is? Beauty and the beautician *Michele loses it* like Fran Drescher.

JARRAH:

Oh man, I loved that video.

ANDI:

Yeah.

MICHELE::

Yeah, it just did not make sense to me. It just- who those two people were, it just did not make sense to me. Like I was like "Marina would *not choose* this emotionally closed off-" like it just did not make- I much preferred Worf and Dax. I loved them in Deep Space Nine. Loved them.

JARRAH:

Totally. And I mean, I think it's partly to do with this maternal relationship she developed with Alexander. But it feels like a romance novel, in a not good way. Like this whole idea that "you're a single woman so naturally, you're going to develop maternal feelings towards this kid, and then because you love the kid you have to love the single father."

MICHELE:

Bleh-bleh.

ANDI:

So yeah, that's one of those like romance novels that you get at Walgreens. And it's like- I want to see that sheltered woman who finds the single widowed a widower and like you bring light back into his life.

MICHELE:

But in those books, she would be described as "plain", pleasantly plain.

ANDI:

Yes. Like she was a good, quiet- yeah exactly. I know, I read that a long time ago.

JARRAH:

Until she takes her glasses off. *Andi laughs*

MICHELE:

Yes. I want to see the artwork of her. I'm imagining it in my *singing* braaaain.

ANDI:

I always liked Troi and Riker, much for the reason that I liked Troi's unabashed femininity. I like Riker's unabashed masculinity. And I feel like, for the most part and there are exceptions, Riker's masculinity is refreshingly non-toxic. There are moments he has where I'm like "What are you doing?" *Michele laughs* But for the most part I find it to be a very like pleasant vibe together. And I love how most of their scenes where they're- OK. For one thing, I love how most of the scenes they have are like the lighting is like all- like put Vaseline over the light or the lens. You know? It's all like a soft lighting.

MICHELE:

He's usually in some kind of flowy pirate shirt.

ANDI:

Yeah! *Michele laughs* So I was thinking it was Menage A Troi, at the very beginning where they're like next to the lake. That is Riker and Troi.

MICHELE:

laughs And he's wearing like knee-high boots.

ANDI:

Yes! That's what I say. OK. So if Troi and Worf are like the crappy Walgreens romance novel, *Michele laughs* Riker and Troi are like the period romance novel, where she's wearing the long dress and her cleavage is spilling out and he looks like Fabio-

MICHELE:

Yes! They are on a bow of a ship! *Andi laughs* His shirt is held together with some kind of leather twine. *all laugh* There is surf being sprayed in their face. Yes! Yes! And yes!

ANDI:

And then the book always describes how they smell. Troi smells like lavender and honey, Riker smells like woodsmoke and cinnamon. *all laugh* Yes, so exactly.

MICHELE:

laughs I am so in love with this!

ANDI:

That to me just is more interesting, I guess. And what I really really liked is that they had basically an open relationship.

MICHELE:

Yeah.

JARRAH:
Totally.

ANDI:
For a really long time. Where Riker would be like “Hey I’m banging this new woman” and Troi’d be like “OK. “And they would be fine with it, you know?”

MICHELE:
Yeah! I mean, I did- I loved that.

ANDI:
And there were very few instances of jealousy or possessiveness on both their parts, and I actually found them to be a very healthy relationship.

MICHELE:
Yeah, they truly loved each other. Whether they happened to be romantically involved at any particular moment or not. They truly love each other. And in fact, what was that episode where she- I mean because they both hooked up. I wasn’t nuts- I was never really super psyched about the dynamics of the men that Troi would hook up with.

ANDI:
Yeah. Because she has a creep meter.

MICHELE:
Yes. Yeah, it really does. She’s got a broken picker. There’s something wrong with her picker. She’s- yeah, she’s honing in anyway. But I love the fact that she would be like she just got it on with like a, you know, a few different people and so did Riker. But there was that one where she got together with and then *uuh* oh he was a negotiator and you found out that he was part-

JARRAH:
The Price.

MICHELE:
The Price. Is that what that is? Yeah. OK.

ANDI:
He was *so sketchy*.

MICHELE:
Yeah. So sketchy. I mean he’s got those gorgeous eyes, but he is sleazy mcgreasy. *all laugh* Anyway like, he comes and tries to do his negotiator thing on Riker to psych him out, right? “I’ll be taking Troi from you too. And she’ll be coming along with me and happy as can be.” And he goes “Oh, you just made your first mistake.” And he was like “What do you mean?” He goes “If

you knew anything about me, and if you knew anything about Troi you would know that if you are what makes her happy then I would be more-that's all I would need. Because that's all I want is for her to be happy" and I was like "Duuuude."

ANDI:

singing Dreeeamweaveer.

MICHELE:

Yes! Like they loved each other no matter the situation, and they were real with each other. Like there was no like trying to hide crap. You know what I'm saying? Or like trying to make things look better- like they knew each other. They knew their faults, they knew their foibles. They were- I liked that. I'm with you. And I like, I want to see that novel covers so bad! *all laugh*

JARRAH:

Well I mean, there are the Imzadi novels which are pretty classic. And I'm a really big fan of the Titan novels Post Nemesis that Riker and Troi are on the same ship. And she's like, the chief diplomat kind of role, and it's awesome.

MICHELE:

Obviously, I have not read any of these. And I obviously need to get on board.

JARRAH:

That's totally cool.

ANDI:

On the flip side however, I mean we talked a little bit about Troi's creep meter. *Michele laughs*

JARRAH:

Yeah. We should probably cover that a little bit.

ANDI:

Yeah. I feel like we should devote some time to how, especially mid-seasons, TNG decided that all of Troi's stories had to involve her falling for some sketchy guy, or being attacked or violated by them.

JARRAH:

Or a combination of them.

MICHELE:

Yes!

JARRAH:

Yes.

ANDI:

Yeah, but why that though? *Michele laughs*

JARRAH:

Because it's episode of the week too like, or you know very episodic we never get to see any like grappling with trauma. I mean because you never would be able to do that many episodes, I guess, *and* have her grapple with traumas? That's all she'd be doing.

ANDI:

I know. She'd be like "OK I'm finally over this guy." Then she'd get a new guy.

JARRAH:

The one that bothers me the most, other than Nemesis, is Violations which is the one where the alien negotiators or diplomats are on board, and she experiences this psychic assault where the guy comes to her in the guise of Riker, and it's like a dream of a poker game, and then Riker is trying to assault her. And it's not clear whether it's the father or the son of this delegation, but basically she falls into a coma as a result of this psychic rape. And then at the end of the episode after they uncover the mystery Picard is like "Well we really don't actually have a way we can hold him criminally responsible because there's no crime that covers this in the federation." And it's like really? We've had telepaths around for like a couple hundred years and you haven't developed any criminal law around telepathic assault that literally injured someone?

MICHELE:

Yeah yeah. And I mean, again we're talking about the most basic way that we register that these days, which is physical trauma. Right? And there was absolutely physical trauma, outside of the incredible psychic trauma she had, she was put in a frickin' coma!

JARRAH:

And then like, the fact- I mean, I also love Troi and Riker. I just- I think it would be so hard after that, and *then* what happens in Nemesis where basically that exact same thing. Where the guy, I mean Shinzon is being Riker in bed with her, and then it's Shinzon. Can you imagine trying to get over that with someone who looks like the person that was in your head?

MICHELE:

Yeah. Mm hmm.

ANDI:

So that's why I get salty about Nemesis. *Michele laughs* I mean really like really it- because *that* when we did our watchalong of Nemesis, that was the first time I'd seen it. And you'll get to

hear me go from like “Ha ha this movie is so bad, but it's so funny” to going just so angry. I'm like, I went from being excited about the purple cape to being extremely angry about how they did this to Troi *again* and how gratuitous it is just *groans*

JARRAH:

Luckily we've done- and we did an episode on sexual assault in Star Trek that covered TNG. And we talked about- we also did a TNG movies episode that covered this a little bit. So if you're interested in like, a really in-depth look at the challenges with that topic, definitely go back and take a listen to those.

MICHELE:

Yes, I would like to hear that. Because I have not heard that one. Do we know what episode number that is by chance?

JARRAH:

OK, so that was episode 72 Sexual Assault in Star Trek part one, with our guest Lucia Lorenzi and we covered TOS and TNG in that episode.

MICHELE:

Wow OK. I need to go back and listen to that.

ANDI:

It was a hard one.

MICHELE:

I bet it was. I bet it was.

JARRAH:

We haven't done part two yet, partly because it was so hard that we're honestly still kind of recovering from that. I mean we've talked about it in some other episodes too. But you know the idea of tackling the topic again we won't get to it, but we do need some levity in between.

MICHELE:

Yeah. I can understand. Wow. You did TOS too huh?

JARRAH:

Yeah. But speaking of cake Andi, and Troi in cake *Michele laughs* Troi and cake. What comes to mind?

ANDI:

Now that, is a transition. *all laugh* That's how we do it here. Professionally.

MICHELE:

I will say, I do enjoy the peptide cake with mint frosting, I believe is the-

JARRAH:

Yes yes. I love how she bakes Data the cake at the end of that. Like I mean, you can't really say that it says, you know, the *being* a cake says anything about her particularly, and she's definitely like the horror movie victim in that where she's- like Data stabs her in the turbo lift and it's quite shocking. But I like at the end how she brings him the cake that they have to eat.

MICHELE:

Yeah, fascinating. I will say, totally off topic. That was the best cosplay I've ever seen at STLV. I don't know if you saw them this last year and it was a guy and a gal and they did the- *Andi laughs*. She did Troi two of our episodes that we've mentioned now, she was the cake and she was being wheeled around on a tray. It was amazing. And she also was in The Child. Like she was walking around with the mattress like literally she was walking around with herself plastered to a mattress upright with the sheet and then she had a light that she was pulling up and down underneath the sheet.

JARRAH:

Oh my gosh!

MICHELE:

yelling It was amazing! Anyway-

ANDI:

Cosplay is unlimited.

MICHELE:

Yes, but please don't let me stop you from sharing your thoughts on cake, Andi please.

ANDI:

OK. I want to take it to a dark place.

MICHELE:

Yay!

ANDI:

laughs So we talked a little bit about how I thought that Troi represented like traditional femininity. It has always made me wonder if that is why they always take it to the Violations area. If she just *seems* like she should be victimized. And as hilarious as that cake is, there is something to say about the fact that she is like being sliced open and consumed for other people's enjoyment.

MICHELE:

Oh yeah.

JARRAH:

Oh yeah.

MICHELE:

Oh yeah.

ANDI:

And that has always kind of freaked me out. Really.

JARRAH:

I don't think you're reading too much into that. I think it's pretty clear, and the like the stabbing in the turbolife totally reminds me of Janet Leigh in Psycho. Its very much like a sort of fetishization women horror kind of tropes in there.

MICHELE:

Oh absolutely. That's not a difficult or far flung conclusion at all. Absolutely. Yeah. I even remember watching that the first day like when it was aired. And even at that time going "What the f? Like what? What?Like why do I feel why do I feel that weird-" You know we feel that weird feeling in the bottom of our stomach-

ANDI:

Discomfort.

MICHELE:

Yes we get that like, it just is it's yuck. It's yuck.

JARRAH:

Yeah well, I said you know I like the part with the cake at the end. I don't like that they feel like she has to be OK with it. Like, someone stabbed you. Whether or not they were in their right mind at the time doesn't mean you like have to be OK with them right away.

MICHELE:

Right.

ANDI:

But as we know from previous episodes, what's important is that "Man feel okay about it."

JARRAH:

laughs Yeah.

MICHELE:

Even if he's an android. *all laugh*

ANDI:

I mean, we were talking about TOS like, that's what my whole issue with whatever the Enemy Within is. They're like "but make sure at the end 'So Janice Rand you were horribly attacked but like we're cool right?' 'Yeah everything's fine.'" Sigh

JARRAH:

Yeah. And even when she has relationships that don't result in assaults it still ends up being like a really bad decision that she made. Like in the Masterpiece Society where she ends up having to tearfully apologize to Picard that she slept with this head of this eugenics planet. And it's like, but nothing actually bad happened as a result of that. And then you look at like, The Game and where was the scene where Riker cries and apologizes to Picard for putting the entire ship at risk because he slept with some lady on Risa?

MICHELE:

Oh yeah!

JARRAH:

No one else has to do that.

MICHELE:

No you're absolutely- again another kind of testament of the time in which this was made. Although today- can we even safely say that that would be different? I don't know.

ANDI:

I don't know.

MICHELE:

I don't think so either.

ANDI:

I mean it might not be that over.

JARRAH:

Like I'm thinking of like, you know, other Star Trek characters and I mean no one, I don't think- I mean maybe Kes would be like the next most feminine or- I mean I'm not going to count Seven of Nine. She is really really different traits in terms of like her background, and she's not like emotionally super what we would think of as feminine. But yeah. I mean, it definitely- it was more I think was about her being feminine and about them not knowing what to do with her.

MICHELE:

Yes. Yes. And again, not knowing what to do with her abilities. So therefore her abilities will become a vulnerability. Something to use in that manner, since we don't know how to make her kick ass with it because we're not quite sure what to do with it, so you know we want her in there. You know, it's much *easier* to make it be something that is a you know a weakness.

JARRAH:

Yeah. There were some moments where she was exceptionally competent which were awesome, that a couple of people brought up. Our listener Sata mentioned that she had a number of moments where she gave explicit and good advice, very notably in Darmok. And knowledge of the human condition, or a *sentient being* condition. Zach also raised in Timescape when she's able to instruct Geordi on Romulan engines somehow.

MICHELE:

Oh yeah yeah yeah yeah! Like when the time is being stopped and they go over to that Romulan ship. She's the one who has to kind of tell them what the heck's going on. And I'm assuming that's obviously she learned that when she was over there on Face of the Enemy.

JARRAH:

Oh yeah. Good point. Yeah. OK. Face of the Enemy is pretty awesome right?

MICHELE:

Yeah!

JARRAH:

Romulan undercover one.

MICHELE:

Yes yes. Very good.

ANDI:

That's my favorite Troi episode.

SPEAKER: F28

Yeah. My second favorite is probably, well I mean I'm not counting some of the ones we've already covered like Dark Page, but just in terms of her being outside the box and showing her range I like Who Watches the Watchers, where she's undercover as a Mintakin as well and I think she is showing more of her kind of diplomatic skills in that episode.

MICHELE:

Right. And we had mentioned- I know we had a list here of some of the ones we were going to talk about. Thine Own Self, help me remember what-

JARRAH:

Oh that's my favorite! Except for maybe- that was my childhood favorite. I don't know how I feel about it quite as much now, but Thine Own Self is the one where she's taking the bridge officer's test.

MICHELE:

excited Oh yes! No. I love that one! Can I tell you why I love that one?

JARRAH:

Yes you can!

MICHELE:

OK. Because I love the fact that her true- we're talking about her strength, and how we could actually turn that ability to be kind of nurturing as well as healing as her strength, how difficult it was for her and unnatural for her to kind of switch into that mode where you have to almost dehumanize those under your command and start thinking, you know, pulling back again. I'm going to use that microscope thing, pulling back the view of the microscope into the whole symbiotic thing that *is* the ship. And that's what you have to focus on, as a counselor. And that made perfect sense to me, because as a counselor you were focusing on each individual. You are going to be figuring out what, you know, what their methodology is, how they view the world, their own point of view, which is exactly that. A view from a point. And so she's gotten so very good at looking at each of these people as individuals. But having to pull that back, that was a real challenge for her. And it was very a shift of her frame of mind and her perspective that was necessary for her to do that. But once she did it, it was like "OK got it." You know? I don't know. I really really like that episode because it just pointed to me what her strength is and her strength is being able to see each individual as an individual.

JARRAH:

Yeah I mean, I think that I don't love Rikers tough love approach in this episode. Where he's just like "No, you're going to fail you're a terrible commander." But I love that she- that you know motivates her to be even more determined to pass.

MICHELE:

Yeah. I kind of wanted his response at the very end of that to be like "Yes, that's why I was doing that because I knew that you would not give up, so I needed to get you to that place."

JARRAH:

Well, I think that was why he was doing it. It just, it was-

MICHELE:

I know, but I wanted him to articulate it.

JARRAH:

Yes. Agreed. I think that the reason, you know, just why this episode or, I mean not even this episode, but I think that Troi is one of the very very few characters on TNG that ever shows insecurity. And I think that just because of that contrast with everyone else, that sometimes that can be linked to her femininity. That like, she's insecure because she's feminine, or she is less competent because she's less secure. That like, there's sort of just these things that go hand in hand. But if she had been on any show after TNG, there were more characters that had more depth like that, and not everyone had to be perfect and heroic all the time. And that would have felt totally in place in any of the other shows. So I don't think it made her like a bad character on its own. And I don't think that she shouldn't have been insecure, but it was just the sort of fact that that was highly unusual for our heroes in the Next Generation.

MICHELE:

Yes. Yes. Again, taking into account the particular show and the time in which it was made. Because that's what we had been- we were talking about earlier, about how brave, how truly there is so much strength in kind of being vulnerable, and being fully present and yet still doing the thing that needs to be done. You know? Being brave enough to kind of speak your truth and your, you know, wherever you are out at that particular moment, and yet still doing it. Still doing it, not pretending that everything's OK. That to me is- yeah. Yeah, that is real frickin strength. So anyway *laughs*.

JARRAH:

So who, which character, do you think Troi should have- if you got to make Troi counsel any character on TNG that we didn't get to see, who would it be?

ANDI:

No. I don't need her to counsel people on TNG. I need her to counsel people on Discovery.

MICHELE:

laughs Yes please.

JARRAH:

There's still time.

ANDI:

Ash Tyler needs her. OK?

MICHELE:

Oh gosh yes! Please give him some help.

JARRAH:

Yeah. She could really use *a team* of counselors on that ship. Yeah, I think that was pretty much it. Any very last minute thoughts?

ANDI:

Just that they should have given Troi more comedic moments because, drunk Troi is a gift to this world.

JARRAH:

laughs Yes, they should've given Troi more moments period.

ANDI:

Yes, but like Marina Sirtis's comic timing is underappreciated and underutilized.

MICHELE:

Absolutely! So with you on that one. Yes.

JARRAH:

Kind of the same way that happened to Dax. I think it worked really well for both of them. Like if you're wise, you're gonna be a little funny.

MICHELE:

Yeah! You're gonna be a lot funny! Yeah.

JARRAH:

Yeah exactly. Yeah. Cool. Well thank you again so much Michel, for joining us today. Do you have any ongoing projects you want to plug, or anything else you want to share, or let people know where they can find you on the Internet?

MICHELE:

Well I am @MicheleSpecht, Michel with one L and Specht S P E C H T on everything. And I am hopefully will be popping up- I'm hoping, keeping my fingers crossed again in Star Trek Online. And I'll be at conventions and talking more about Star Trek and sci-fi with other amazing women in sci-fi. And those are all up on my Web site: MicheleSpecht.com. So I just really- thank you ladies for letting me come on and nerd out with you. You again proved how amazing you are, and I really wish we lived closer, because I become better hanging around and speaking with women like you, so it would be really neat if I could. If I had more access to that I would love it. So thank you so very much for your time truly. Really really.

JARRAH:

Thank you. And Andi, where can people find you elsewhere on the Internet?

ANDI:

I am @firsttimetrek where I am, not really, live tweeting my way through Star Trek. *Michele laughs* It's been a while, I realize it's been a while. Don't tweet me about it. *all laugh*

JARRAH:

And I'm Jarrah, you can find me at Trekiefeminist.com or [@Jarrahpenguin](https://twitter.com/Jarrahpenguin) on Twitter, that's J A R R A H- penguin. And if you'd like to contact our show you can find us at WomenAtWarp.com. We're also [@womenatwarp](https://www.facebook.com/womenatwarp) on Facebook, and Instagram, and Twitter. And you can e-mail us at crew@womenatwarp.com. And we just generally love hearing from you so drop us a line. And for more from the Roddenberry podcast network visit podcasts.Roddenberry.com. Thanks so much for listening.