

Women at Warp Episode 151: Ooo, You're My Best Friend

JARRAH:

Hi and welcome to Women At Warp: A Roddenberry Star Trek podcast. Join us as our crew of four women Star Trek fans boldly go on our biweekly mission to explore our favorite franchise. My name's Jarrah, thanks for tuning in. Today with us we have the whole rest of the crew, Andi.

ANDI:

Hello!

JARRAH:

Sue.

SUE:

Hi there!

JARRAH:

And Grace.

GRACE:

Hey everybody!

JARRAH:

And before we get into our main topic, we want to take a minute to talk about the events that are happening in well, 100 percent happening in the United States and Canada, right now around racist police violence and the campaign that we're working on with other Star Trek platforms to support organizations that are working on issues of anti-racism, and civil rights, and social justice. And yeah, so it's a really heavy time right now. And we have a lot *a lot* of privilege and so we want to make sure that we're using this platform to talk about this and you're going to see on our social media that we've already been sharing more pieces on these issues and we're going to keep doing it even if it's not totally related to Star Trek because this is really crucial that we stand up against this type of racist violence and stand to support those in the black community that are experiencing this violence.

ANDI:

I know that sometimes it's like "This isn't Star Trek" and maybe it's not always. But it's also the kind of stuff that you should be doing if we want to get to that Star Trek future. If we want to get to a place where it really doesn't matter what race you are, it really doesn't matter what gender you are, we're all living in a free and equal society that's not, you know, separated by class and gender and race. This is the kind of work that we need to be doing. And so I think it's important that people with platforms that reach people, like ours, take a stand and do that work.

GRACE:

And if this whole topic, this whole conversation feels irrelevant to you then we're saying it for you to *hear it* then. Because this is very very important and being quiet about it is not helping anyone.

SUE:

We want to say unequivocally that black lives matter, black trans lives matter, black queer lives matter, black disabled lives matter. And that is the stance of all of us, that is the stance of our show, and we believe that is the stance of Star Trek.

JARRAH:

Yeah. And a side note for any Canadian listeners who might be hearing a lot of that you know kind of performative "Look at us and how great we are compared to the states right now." Well saying that we don't have these problems in Canada, saying we don't have racism in Canada is kind of like saying people don't have heart attacks in Canada. It's clearly not true. We are built on the same foundation, we're a society that's largely white dominated and we have the same history of colonialism and racism and oppression of black people. And that continues today in the police violence that we've been seeing against black and indigenous people at alarming rates. It's never OK, and we all have to stand up against it and not think that we're high and mighty here.

ANDI:

The other thing is that we'll continue to post links for places to donate. Our show donated to Black Lives Matter D.C. which has a mutual aid fund that we donated to. But there are many ways that you can, as we like to say "Do the work." And it's not just donating. If you don't have the money to donate you can donate time. If you can't protest you can, you know, help in other ways. You can educate yourself, you can do the reading. Talk to your friends. A lot of people spend a lot of time yelling at strangers on the Internet, and that might feel cathartic at times but it doesn't actually change minds. The people's minds that you can change are the people in your life that love you and you have a personal connection with. You are the one that can get through to them. So I encourage you to take the time to look up some resources on how to talk to people about racism, and do the work in your own family and your own community because that's where you can be the most effective.

GRACE:

"In your house" as they say. Do what you can. Address what you can. Just don't be silent.

JARRAH:

Yeah. It's definitely where you have the energy to do so, and where you think that it's likely to make a difference. That's one of the most important things that you can do especially as a white person, or someone who is less marginalized, who has not had to deal with these types of micro

and macro aggressions throughout their life. It's an important piece of work that we can do. But yeah we joined with a bunch of other Trek sites and podcasts and blogs recently, like Trek Movie and the other Roddenberry podcasts and trek corps to come up with a campaign called Trekkies Together. So if you are donating to an organization that supports anti-racist justice then you can share that using the hashtag Trekkies Together. And I would say even if you're doing other forms of non-monetary support and you want to talk about, you know, how that relates to how you see the vision of Star Trek and how we get there, and you want to join with other people, then post about it using that hashtag and we'll be continuing to talk about this. So if folks have questions and want to engage in respectful dialogue you know where to get in touch with us. You can e-mail crew@womenatwarp.com and we will- I guess I would just say like now is not the time to take our foot off the gas. This is a really defining moment, that has really- it's actually eclipsed the most serious economic crisis and public health crisis that our continent has faced recently because it is so important. And it's really really important for us to keep the momentum up.

GRACE:

Just keep that conversation going. In any way you can, keep it going. Keep talking about it.

JARRAH:

OK. And on to our main topic, today we are going to talk about best Star Trek friendships. And this arose from a suggestion from Rachel on our Facebook about relationships we wish we had seen in Trek. And we felt that if we did *all* types of relationships that could be a really really big topic. So we decided to drill it down specifically to friendships. So we're going to talk about some highly profiled Star Trek friendships, friendships between women, and missed opportunities. And we got lots and lots of great comments from you on social media. So thank you for weighing in.

GRACE:

Who's ready to get platonically affectionate? *crew laughs*

JARRAH:

At a safe distance. So yeah, I just thought I would start off by talking about like what do we think makes a good friendship? It's easy to say like "Oh well you know, there's a great friendship between Bashir and O'Brien." But like what actually makes these good friendships?

GRACE:

Articulate the relationship. Break it down, see how it works.

ANDI:

I like the same thing in my friendships that I like in the ships that I follow, and that is two people, or even more than two people, but people who make each other better. People who are different may have different points of view but somehow through some alchemy become a better unit together and they bring out the best in each other.

JARRAH:

Yeah, I would agree. I was thinking a lot about sort of like respectfully challenging each other? Like, I think that there is a point where you know it is useful in friendships to have people whose types push the other one to an extent. But you need to be also checking in to make sure that that's what the other person actually wants. And you know, so if like it's your goal to get out of the house more and you have the friend that's always like "Hey let's go out and do things!" then that's OK if you're discussing it. But they also need to be taking back what you're saying to them about how you feel about the relationship. So I think where I'm going with this is like respect for boundaries and good communication.

GRACE:

Yeah, those are kind of the basis for any good friendship aren't they?

SUE:

I'm always looking for, I guess more so for me personally than on TV, but I feel like support is super important but not unconditional support. I mean, I feel like a friend needs to be able to tell you when they think it's a bad idea and give you real thought about advice. You need to be able to have difficult conversations, conversations that require trust. And I think you also need to be comfortable to a point where silences aren't awkward, if that makes sense.

GRACE:

Yeah if I can pull out a quote from Best In Show out of context "We can just talk or not talk about things for hours." *Sue laughs* What you really need in a friendship is someone whose heart is true, and who is a pal and a confidante. *crew laughs*

JARRAH:

And who has got your back. I think in Star Trek we have a lot of great examples of friends having each other's back. But like you said, not in all cases. Like you have to be able to be like "I don't know man. that really breaks the Prime Directive. I'm not cool with this." or "Hey you're endangering yourself by what you're doing here and I'm not cool with this."

SUE:

Like "Are you really sure you want to date a candle?" *crew laughs*

GRACE:

Because let's be real, any friendship that's based around things only functioning when you both agree with each other and when things are good is not gonna be much of a friendship.

JARRAH:

Cool. Well one thing that was pretty clear, when you even look up like Star Trek friendships and some of the ones that really come to mind because they're profiled so highly in the series are

like Geordi and Data, Harry and Tom, Kirk Spock and McCoy, O'Brien and Bashir, and you'll notice that there's a lot of friendships between guys. And I was wondering like why do we think that these are the maybe the most- some of the most prominent friendships in Star Trek?

ANDI:

The number one reason is why I think also most people mostly ship slash ships. When you're talking about fanfic it's heavily dominated by slash ships, and there are a couple of reasons for that, but the main reason I think that this is true for both friendships and slash fic is that the male characters are better drawn. They're given more to do. They have more personality. They're given more screen time and more lines in general. And so there's more to work with when it comes to enjoying watching their their friendship grow.

SUE:

I think until more recent Trek as well, most of the time not all of it but a lot of it, that we see women friendships they're talking about their partners or-

JARRAH:

Love interests. Male love interests.

GRACE:

We definitely do see in a lot of media the relationships between women defined by their relationships to men. I've said it before and I'll say it again, one of my big litmus tests for any piece of media for characters who are in a long ongoing relationship is if it's a man and a woman in a relationship does the woman still have her own life going on? Does she have her own set of friends or does her friend group automatically just become all of the man in the relationships friends, or their spouses, or partners?

SUE:

Specifically I'm thinking about like Troi and Crusher, because that's the image, the workout image *all laugh* that we used asking for comments for this one. But throughout Next Gen there is really only one scene I can think of of just the two of them talking. That is not about a love interest.

GRACE:

Whereas with the guy friendships and their relationship we get all kinds of conversations, and even when the women are talking with their *male* friends we get we get all those poker games, we get all kinds of work conversation. But no, there's just a very sort of slim idea of what friendship between women constitutes, it seems like.

JARRAH:

Definitely. I have to go back to my back to my Bechdel-Wallace tests on the number of Troi Crusher conversations that are not about a relationship with a man, but it would be a small number I can tell you. We have a lot of comments shouting out Deanna and Beverly, and Kira

and Dax. We also had some people talk about Beverly and Alyssa Ogawa, Seven and B'Elanna, but like Kira and Dax and Troi and Crusher were really like the two that came up as like "We love them. But why didn't they get more to do than to just talk about boyfriends?" But Sue, I actually thought you might want to read that comment from Melissa on Facebook.

SUE:

Sure, Melissa wrote "Deanna and Beverly, Beverly and Alyssa -one is a relationship of equals the other is more a mentorship, but there are so few female friendships in Trek AT ALL that the glimpses we saw were not enough. Also Guinan and Ro. They were building a friendship. I mean, I love Data and Geordi. I think they have one of the best male friendships on tv, and while I ALWAYS want more Data, it's the women who were underserved by the writers."

GRACE:

It's *almost as if* we're dealing with a bunch of writers who find male friendships more important than female relationships.

JARRAH:

Or who just literally have never sat in on a conversation between women friends and think that all they talk about is guys.

GRACE:

Yes.

ANDI:

That's what I was gonna say earlier too is like, part of the problem is probably this is like one of those things where you have male writers writing the vast majority of these characters. And I mean it makes me think of like the jokes by the 90s comedians that are like *cheesy comedian voice* "Women, am I right? *all laugh* They love the shopping, you know? They I love the shopping and they love to gossip."

GRACE:

terrible Jerry Seinfeld voice "What's the deal with the ladies and the aerobics? *Andi laughs* What's the deal with when your lady friend is *dating a candle*?" *all laugh*

ANDI:

But that's it. That's like- I'm sure that's not what they were thinking in their heads like *deep in thought noise*.

GRACE:

No one actively thinks "Oh I'm being a real piece of crap right here, but I keep goin'. I was thinking I'm just throwing a bunch of stereotypes at the page, but there we go!"

ANDI:

laughing I mean think about how many men are like, you know that they're thinking "is it too much to throw a slumber party in your underwear in there?" *Sue laughs*

GRACE:

continuing the gag "What's the deal with when your security officer and your science officer get together and all they wanted to talk about are shoes? WHAZZADEAL???"

JARRAH:

Really sad thing is before it was an aerobics scene, it was gonna be a pillow fight. *Sue laughs*

GRACE:

You are absolutely shitting me!

JARRAH:

Yes I am. *Graces note: you got me that time Hodge!*

ANDI:

This is my point, these are dudes writing women and that's what happens when dudes write women.

GRACE:

I love the fact that we've got that aerobics scene and them being like *ditzzy voice* "Guys can be hard! Sometimes the relationships aren't great but you go forward with them anyway!" And that very same episode we get a conversation between Geordi and Data being like "We could be stuck in this wormhole for all eternity" and Data being like "But you'd be stuck with me, and that's OK." *crew laughs* And the comparison and contrast between those two scenes is pretty telling I think.

SUE:

But like how come *they* never go kayaking together? They don't go kayaking together, they don't do like whatever the reenactments the Bashir and Miles were doing.

GRACE:

They have to do *lady things*, you see, lady things!

JARRAH:

They don't play darts.

ANDI:

Oh my gosh. Every time I see that screenshot of this Bashir and O'Brien in their nerdy cosplay of like historic costumes and they're just like "We were in the holodeck." bein' nerds together. I find it so cute.

JARRAH:

Kira and Dax in Camelot, which ends because Kira punches Lancelot I think?

GRACE:

On one hand, rad as hell Kira. But on the other hand, even we've taken the activity of doing historical reenactment and kind of feminized it in terms of "Oh but it's this romantic love story"

JARRAH:

In princess dresses. Like, they're totally in like what we used to call it princess costumes as a kid with the pointy hats-

SUE:

And pretty dresses.

JARRAH:

But I mean I will say though, that I think that Melissa raises a bit of a good secondary point there which is that like the Geordi Data friendship and a lot of the other male friendships, with I would say some notable exceptions towards like the later series towards particularly Voyager and Enterprise, are like pretty non-toxic. Like there's very little bro-iness in like the Kirk Spock McCoy relationship or in the Geordi Data relationship. And that's pretty cool.

GRACE:

Pretty sure if we had those like bro-y toxic friendships we wouldn't like the characters. Because we don't want to believe that the characters we can look up to could fall into those kind of relationships. So I kind of wonder if we've got a missed opportunity there with not showing some things fall apart, because you know sometimes that's just what happens. That's life and it's not great, it's not fun, but it is telling about our personal character when things do not go well.

ANDI:

So I would say that Trek does have one example of a really good female friendship that's fleshed out and actually onscreen and that would be Tilly and Burnham from Discovery.

GRACE:

I love how in comparison to previously when we've gotten you know like Crusher and Troi doing aerobics together talking about men, in comparison we've got Tilly and Burnham jogging talking about how "No, we're gonna get you up to the physical requirements. *commanding voice* You're gonna keep marchin soldier if you're going to be a captain!" I love that contrast.

ANDI:

Tilly teaches Burnham that it's okay to feel and not conceal and Burnham makes Tilly jog a lot
crew laughs so she can become a member of the command whatever school thing-

SUE:
Training program.

GRACE:
They *jog* and they *eat salsa*. You know, girl stuff!

ANDI:
And tacos, but like healthy tacos.

GRACE:
All tacos are good tacos, but some are healthier for you than others.

JARRAH:
It's very true. Although I don't think salsa is always the big problem. But whatever.

SUE:
Wasn't it a burrito?

GRACE:
I don't know.

SUE:
Anyway.

JARRAH:
Whatever.

GRACE:
back at it with the terrible impression "What is it with women and Tex-Mex food?"

JARRAH:
A friend is someone you can enjoy Tex-Mex food with.

GRACE:
A friend is someone who challenges you, makes you grow, and you know you can eat with
without shame. You can lick the plate without feeling judged.

ANDI:

And I feel like even though it's, you know, it *is* realistic that Tilly would be Burnham's wing woman when it comes to her relationships. So like that party scene where Tilly she's like bopping around and she's like "Let's get you laid!" Like that is what female friendship can be like as well. So it's not that you need to completely cut out this "Oh the ladies are talking about their boys." Women *do* talk about their relationships. That is true. That is something that happens.

GRACE:

As do guys with each other, I assume.

ANDI:

Exactly.

JARRAH:

And sometimes in Trek that's pretty gross.

GRACE:

But sometimes in life that's pretty gross.

SUE:

But that is not the *only* topic of discussion.

ANDI:

Exactly. It's just a facet of their friendship instead of the entire reason why they're talking.

GRACE:

I also want everyone listening to know that when I said "Licking plates without judgment" my roommate walked in and I had to give him an **whispering** "I gotchu buddy" gesture. I got you. I've got you man, **emotional voice** I love you man!

JARRAH:

Well, I thought we could maybe go back and forth between some of our faves and the faves of our listeners and some of the missed opportunities, so that we're not like dwelling inordinately on the missed opportunities but still getting them in there. Because we asked people for also which ones they thought they really would have liked to see more of. And one that came up a few times was Tuvok and Seven of Nine. Lynn pointed to their relationship that we see in the two-parter Year Of Hell and said "They depended on each other and showed each other kindness and respect during the most challenging times. They were both intensely private people but found each other. I like that it took these extraordinary circumstances to develop that deep friendship - and they almost never hinted at the possibility of it in the regular timeline or mentioned it for the rest of the series."

GRACE:

Which is unfortunate because it is very interesting anytime you see the dynamic of two people who are very straight laced but in different respects having mutual respect for each other both as co-workers and as part of a team.

SUE:

And I feel like- I mean, I know Seven wound up with Janeway and the Doctor as like her mentors for humanity. But I feel like it could have been really valuable for her to have that relationship with Tuvok where he could say "Yeah. These humans are- they can be difficult to live with. Here are some of my coping mechanisms." You know?

GRACE:

Yes. They could have really commiserated. We could have gotten some great stuff from that. There's probably something further to be said about how relationships between men and women that aren't romantic aren't always given the chance to sort of *bloom* that romantic ones do. And it's not- it's no secret that the media doesn't really value platonic relationships as much as romantic ones and unfortunately I think this is one of those relationships that we could have all benefited from seeing play out further just as growth for both the characters.

JARRAH:

Totally. A lot of people also mentioned the importance of seeing men and women who could be good friends and Dax and Sisko is one that came up there as well as Janeway and Tuvok.

ANDI:

This is one reason why it annoyed me that they randomly decided to make Dax and Sisko bang in the mirror universe.

GRACE:

What the hell are you guys? You had a respectful platonic intensely cool relationship and then you just decided to get out the window.

ANDI:

Yeah, I was very confused by that choice and I'm still confused by that choice. And it's one of those "Never forget" moments but like not in a good way. Never forget Sisko and Dax banged for no reason at all.

GRACE:

grossed out noise It's like knowing for sure that your cousins hooked up. *Andi laughs* It's uncomfortable and you can never take it out of your brain.

JARRAH:

We definitely talked about that a lot in our mirror universe episode Ripped and Machiavellian. Yeah. Not cool, not cool Ben.

GRACE:

And so out of character too.

JARRAH:

But Janeway and Tuvok were cool. Yay.

GRACE:

Janeway and Tuvok have a great friendship in that it's a very respectful working relationship. And you know from the start when you find out that Tuvok was working with the Maquis but was working as security for Janeway that there has to be an incredible level of trust there.

SUE:

And for whatever else they may or may not be, *laughs* my two Picard and Crusher are truly- they are the best of friends.

GRACE:

They have little croissant brunches together.

SUE:

But that's why I love their relationship so much. No matter what point it's at on that spectrum, because they do care about each other so much and they absolutely challenge each other.

GRACE:

We have an episode where they are literally two-of-a-mind and managed to make it work. And that's very telling about their friendship.

SUE:

They're constantly discussing issues, and the Prime Directive, and what is the best thing to do, and what is the ethical thing to do. But they always come back to one another and they don't hold a grudge. And even in their romantic relationships they're supporting each other. And I love them a lot. Clearly. And that's the last I'm gonna say about it.

GRACE:

It's something that you pointed out to me that I think of a lot now when I'm watching TNG, and that is that Beverly calls Picard out on his shit. She is someone who's like "OK but as the doctor I get to not only overrule you, but as your friend I get to say this is dumb and you're being a dummy right now. You dum dum dum dum."

JARRAH:

"Hey this empathic mesomorph doesn't actually have choice. That's a problem."

GRACE:

“Hey Jean-Luc get it together, you doof.” *Andi laughs*

SUE:

Outside of that relationship, one of my favorites is actually Seven and Naomi. And I think that- I mean we've talked about this a lot recently with Seven of Nine, is that she's physically an adult but like her humanity is in its adolescence. And I think pairing her up with a literal child a lot of the time is really interesting to see how they interact and how they teach each other. And how Naomi's teaching Seven about humanity, and interaction, and like social cues. And Seven is like literally schooling her, teaching her science lessons. It's really great and it's really sweet a lot of the time.

GRACE:

Yeah. Especially because Seven is in a position where she is sort of an emotional adolescent but she's in a position where they need her as a science officer. She doesn't *get to* really do the child thing and she has never gotten to. So seeing someone actively and happily doing the child thing is probably very positive for her in terms of learning about her own emotional development and sort of coming into her own as an individual person. Because let's be real, human beings need that playtime. We need that thinking like a child time to develop our adult brains and our adult emotions.

JARRAH:

Totally. And well I mean, and speaking of schooling *Grace laughs* one of the missed opportunities that came up was Uhura and Chapel who we really only see in the original series interact in the episode The Changeling, where Chapel has to teach Uhura how to read. We talked about this a bit in our Chapel episode recently but, you know, the original series almost never passes the Bechdel test.

GRACE:

Oh hell no. Oh hell no.

JARRAH:

These were kind of the only significant recurring women other than Rand.

GRACE:

And for some reason they're just not in the same room with each other very often.

JARRAH:

But Kathleen did shout out The Animated Series episode The Lorelai Signal, where the women have to take over after the men are sort of psychically enslaved by a bunch of like praying mantis type women, And shouts-out a scene where Uhura notices what's going on and calls Chapel up to the bridge and Kathleen's says “I forget how it went exactly, but it's effectively, “Do you see this nonsense?” while rolling their eyes and then they spend the rest of the episode saving the men. They were so good at animating side-eye on TAS.”

SUE:

Yeah they were.

GRACE:

Pretty sure that was a Stargate episode too. *laughs* But I like this one better.

JARRAH:

Like, I'm not actually sure that there's necessarily enough meat on the character of Chapel to make me think that she'd be necessarily like a good friend for Uhura. But I certainly think that we saw the beginnings of friendship between Uhura and Rand that could have been further developed, had that character stayed on.

GRACE:

I'm gonna bring it down for a second and say there's probably something to be said about the two characters interacting and the interaction being the white woman teaching the black women how to read. As uncomfortable as that is, there's something to be said there probably but I'm not qualified to say it.

JARRAH:

I mean that scene is uncomfortable and on numerous levels.

GRACE:

Yeah. Especially the fact that Uhuras has been brain zonked and is kind of being infantilized in the situation. But it's good that they're getting along and having a good time in that moment.

JARRAH:

Also like Chapel just seems to be kind of the "slot her into any traditional woman's role" like "Oh do you need someone to feed children? Chapel can do it." Do you need someone to teach someone? Schoolteachers a woman's job. Chapel can do it."

GRACE:

"Women are interchangeable in woman roles."

SUE:

"You need someone to deliver soup. *all laugh* Chapel can do it."

GRACE:

She's the one woman soup delivery service slash teacher slash caretaker slash mother figure slash sex symbol.

SUE:

I maintain that Number One had more character development in one episode than Chapel did in three years.

GRACE & JARRAH:
bitterly YEP.

SUE:
Moving on. *all laugh*
GRACE:
But we digress.

JARRAH:
More favorites. So another very popular one that I think some people will have something to say on is Garak and Bashir.

ANDI:
That's not a friendship. *all laugh* And that's what I have to say about that.

SUE:
Hey if mine counts as a friendship so does yours.

ANDI:
Uuuuuuuuuuh-OK.

GRACE:
There are definitely two different contrasting people who are put together in odd circumstances and grow because of it.

ANDI:
Yeah 'cause they're totally boyfriends. *all laugh/someone starts laugh clapping*

GRACE:
I mean I'm not going to dispute that. We can neither confirm nor deny it, but we're not going to deny it especially. *Sue laughs*

ANDI:
I especially like how much time Garak spends just like eye f**king him. *all laugh* It's definitely something I do with my friends all the time.

GRACE:
Completely platonic friends. You just kind of are constantly elevator-eyeing.

ANDI:

I also like how often he just stands like an inch from his face *Sue laughs* just like staring with laser eyes practically.

GRACE:

Is it TV framing or is sexual tension? Who knows?

SUE:

Andi you haven't made it yet to Our Man Bashir yet have you?

ANDI:

Yes I have. And it's the *yelling* gayest thing I've ever seen in my life! *Grace cracks up laughing* I love how everything Garak says to Bashir is said with this like little smirk that's like "And also I will do dirty things to you." *Sue laughs* Like when they first meet and Garak is like totally hitting on Bashir and Bashirs like "Blush blush Oh!" like really? *Really?*

GRACE:

"Genius doctor, you my himbo."

ANDI:

No. I have seen Our Man tBashir and it was excellent and I enjoyed it immensely.

JARRAH:

laughing Amazing.

ANDI:

Pretty much that whole opening scene is Garak showing up to roast his boyfriend. *Sue laughs*

GRACE:

I mean isn't that part of a good relationship? Being able to roast each other to a respectful degree? A respectful roast?

ANDI:

Yes! Actually!

SUE:

Well *pause* cool. *all laugh intensely*

ANDI:

I mean you're right, that there is a friendship there. The friendship that's foundational for the rest of their banging. *laughs*

GRACE:

Friendship is a good foundation for that.

SUE:

I think what's different about that relationship is that I don't know that they're on equal footing. Like clearly Garak has some secrets that he is not telling Bashir. You could say there is a weird power dynamic there. But like at the same time Bashir is into it.

GRACE:

Well if I can semi- quote Beverly crusher "It's going fast. It's probably not the best thing. But does that mean we don't do it? Nah!"

SUE:

Oh man.

JARRAH:

Also like, the way that Bashir goes around asking everyone on the station for more information about Garak. Like, have you ever done that about someone you weren't interested in?

GRACE:

embarrassed No.

ANDI:

Bashir is like "So Garak. That Garak guy. Soooo um.-

GRACE:

gossipy voice "So what's his deal?"

ANDI:

"What's his deal? What do you- I mean. Is he like-"

GRACE:

"Does he only date other Cardassian?"

ANDI:

"Does he have like, a girlfrieeeeeeend? Is he like open to maybe talking a little biit? What do you know about him?"

GRACE:

"Is he bi ooor..." *Andi laughs*

SUE:

I believe the quote that Grace was going for *Grace laughs* which is horrendous is "Who needs rational when your toes curl up?" *all snicker*

GRACE:

I had to quote the aerobics scene. I had to. I watched it. I had to.

ANDI:

I think we can move on from that clearly not platonic relationship and onto the next.

JARRAH:

Well my first one to, if I was gonna be making this list which I did, *all laugh* T'Pol and Hoshi. We actually- we got a lot of mentions for T'Pol and Hoshi and Hoshi and Travis, but T'Pol and Hoshi was one that when I was watching through Enterprise and doing the Bechdel-Wallace test I was like "Why do they never talk?" And it was so frustrating. And we had a comment from Kaja on Facebook saying "I wish I would have seen more of T'Pol and Hoshi's friendship or to see more of one develop. They formed a sort of mutual respect in the first season and then we didn't see our two main women cast members interact much after that. It could have been a neat way to showcase Vulcan culture more through T'Pol teaching Hoshi and having more conversations in Vulcan." And another one of our commenters on Twitter, Entallat, said that "Hoshi, an anthropologist and linguist with insight. Both mathematically gifted, driven, with martial arts backgrounds from similar cultures of strong tradition, art." So yeah I was like "Missed opportunity"

GRACE:

Enterprise, it's almost as if having just two main ladies, and then not having them do much, and not having them interact with each other is missing the point of having two ladies and only two ladies.

SUE:

Well TOS and TNG you can use the excuse that one is on the bridge and one is in sickbay right? But T'Pol and Hoshi are both on the bridge.

GRACE:

They're in the same room together all the freakin time.

SUE:

And they still don't talk to each other.

GRACE:

Are they trying to ice each other out? Is this another guy writers what they think women interacting is like thing? "If there's two women in a room there will be at least one grudge!"

JARRAH:

Enterprise definitely has the most bro-y male friendships. So many, like especially the Archer Trip and anytime Reed is around. You know Reed and Travis working out together and talking. Like in the Orion episode just like *bro-y voice* "Oh we just got to pump iron so that we can stop thinking about how much we want to bone these green ladies."

GRACE:

Bro voice “We’re men-ing! We’re men-ing!”

JARRAH:

It’s not a good look.

ANDI:

Can I just say that y’all have me very excited to get to Enterprise? *Sue laughs*

JARRAH:

It has its moments but I wouldn’t say it’s the most strong on the friendships front.

GRACE:

Also I wouldn’t say *excited* is quite the right word, so much as *fired up* or something.

JARRAH:

But I mean Enterprise does have one great friendship, which a lot of people also mentioned which is Hoshi and Phlox. And I think we’re all fans of that one.

ANDI:

My favorite is a tie. Between Data and Geordi and Jake and Nog. I love Jake and Nog.

GRACE:

Probably two of the most fleshed out friendships we have in Star Trek.

ANDI:

And I like them because they have a specific arc. And the friendship is not just *there*, it serves a specific story purpose that deepens all of their characters.

GRACE:

Lydia on Facebook says “Nog & Jake are two of my favorite trek characters of all time. It was wonderful to see them grow up together. I was grateful that the show explored growing pains that happen in many friendships through them. I always felt like the message there was: we can come from very different backgrounds and still be friends. We can better each other by being patient and trying to see each other’s point of view. I will adore them forever!!” and yeah!

SUE:

They have no shortage of fights too.

GRACE:

I know. That's incredible. And sometimes really good friendships are established by how you survive your differences and how you get through arguments and the differences that you continue to have. And again it's weirdly rare how sometimes we don't see growing pains in friendships as much as we should, because friendships can have ups and downs and still come out stronger because of them. Not just romantic relationships can go through bumps and come out better. Just sayin.

JARRAH:

I also like how you know, talking about toxic masculinity like, so there's challenges with the way that the Ferengi are portrayed and Ferengi *are portrayed*. I do like the dynamic that they have we're Nog is saying these like stereotypical Ferengi things which are basically stereotypical toxic masculine things, in their friendship about women. And Jake is just like giving him the side-eye like "Ugh Nog."

GRACE:

Guys, if your friend around you says something messed up you got to be the Jake in that situation. Because clearly they're not going to listen to the women in the room.

ANDI:

And that's kind of going back to what I was saying at the very top of this episode is "They make each other better." They make very different life decisions, and they take very different life paths, but they support each other while they do that and they help each other grow as people and as individuals.

GRACE:

And that's beautiful.

ANDI:

It's wonderful.

SUE:

If I can bring one out of left field here for missed opportunity.

JARRAH:

It's Sisko and the Vulcan baseball Captain.

SUE:

No.

JARRAH:

Literally out of left field. *all laugh*

GRACE:

Dude, that was some primo wordplay.

SUE:

Pulaski and Data. And I feel like we talked about this back when we did the Pulaski episode, but clearly they get off on the wrong foot. But throughout the season she comes to respect and even defend Data and I really think they could have played that up a lot more. I think they could have had her present for Measure Of A Man in that trial. I think they could have shown them talking and see her learning.

GRACE:

Imagine if she'd come back as an advocate for Data. That would have been incredible.

SUE:

Exactly. So I really- they could have done more with that. They definitely showed a repaired relationship between them by the end of the season. But I think there could have been a lot more there. And to stay on my TNG roll, I always loved it when Beverly and Geordi were together. Which was very rare.

GRACE:

They had some good dynamic, definitely.

SUE:

Yeah. I feel like they were good together and they worked well together.

JARRAH:

I mean, they resist the pull of space together.

GRACE:

And she tries to talk him into being in her show, and it's great. I love the dynamic of her being a very confident and outgoing person and Geordi is less so. Together they work conversationally.

ANDI:

Yeah I really like them together, and keeping on this TNG theme Geordi and Data. OK? Obviously they're one of the more main examples of like really iconic friendships. And I have to say that I love that their friendship is so iconic that it's been like parodied?

SUE:

singing Troy and Abed in the morning. *Grace laughs*

ANDI:

Exactly! So, I saw Community before I saw Star Trek.

SUE:
Oh my God.

GRACE:
That's a trip. You have a unique take!

ANDI:
Yeah! I knew Troy and Abed before I knew Data and Geordi and so like when I was watching Star Trek I was like "Oh my gosh! This is Troy and Abed!" *all laugh* Completely backwards! There is an episode of TNG where Data and Geordi get- they're in like a shuttle and they don't know if they're going to get back from the wormhole and they just kind of like look at each other. And the first time I saw that scene in my head I was like *singing* "Data and Geordi in a wormhole" like that's *all laugh* what I thought. And that friendship is so iconic that not only did Community do a huge riff on it, they had Levar Burton come and be a mentor to Troy. And I just, I find that so amazing.

GRACE:
They even have a holodeck.

SUE:
A "Dreamatorium."

GRACE:
laughing It was a holodeck. Let's be real.

ANDI:
This is a good time to tell everybody if you have not watched Community you should sit down and watch Community.

GRACE:
Both for funsies and for watching how weirdly a show can get off the rails over time.

ANDI:
I love to tell people to watch Community like, at first it'll seem almost normal. Like almost like a normal sitcom and then like slowly it just becomes the weirdest thing you've ever seen.

GRACE:
It unravels. *all laugh* It unravels and then collapses under its own strength.

ANDI:
Yeah pretty much.

SUE:

Well there's this specific frame of Troy and Abed in the dreamatorium in their Inspector Spacetime costumes that mirrors exactly that famous shot of Geordi and Data. And it's just so good.

ANDI:

Yeah. And I think the reason that that friendship is so good is just Data is, and I talked a little bit about how Nog and Jake and Data and Geordi are examples of arc-ed friendships. Like Datas on this epic series spanning arc of finding his humanity. And one of the number one ways they explore that is with his friendship with Geordi. Like Geordi is the human that means the most to him and their friendship becomes a way for him to understand so many feelings. And it's beautiful.

JARRAH:

Totally. I do want to talk a little bit about Harry and Tom but I'll introduce it by saying we had a comment from Misty on Facebook about the friendship between B'Elanna and Harry and how she was kind of saddened by the fact that once BE'anna is in a relationship it was like *that* stops existing. Which is actually something that happens in real life although it's very unfortunate. And I would say generally that a good friendship is one that survives even while people are in non friend-y relationships.

GRACE:

I'm going to say though it's almost as if there are a lot of people out there who don't think platonic male female relationships can exist that aren't you know possibly going to be non platonic. Hmm.

JARRAH:

But the Tom and Harry relationship I think is a *little bro-y*? Like it's- I don't think it's at the level of Trip and Archer or Trip and Reed.

GRACE:

Was anyone waiting for them to make friends with a guy named Richard so they'd be Tom Dick and Harry?

JARRAH:

Yes. But they definitely have a bunch of stuff early on where it's like **bro-y voice** "Hey let's go hit on some ladies!"

GRACE:

bro-y voice "The Delaney twins."

JARRAH:

Yeah. But to me like, it doesn't bug me to the same extent because like Harry is so kind of innocent and-

GRACE:

laughing It's like Radar and Hawkeye.

SUE:

The time that it gets me the most is when like the wrong twin is into Harry and Tom is like "Who cares, they're twins."

GRACE:

That's gross Tom. That's gross.

JARRAH:

They're not super great on the like toxic masculinity spectrum of their friendship, especially early on. But they also do have some really nice moments of being there for each other. I mean, they're also not trying to like one-up each other in that game so much? Like it doesn't feel like they're having a measuring contest but they're where they have to be there and stand up for each other and not let their friend, you know, be at the mercy of evil aliens and stuff. So they do have some nice moments but I wouldn't put them up there with like Geordi and Data.

GRACE:

singing the Friends theme So no one told you Starfleet was gonna be this way. *clap clap clap*

ANDI:

So are we going to talk about Kirk and Spock?

SUE:

offended AND McCoy.

GRACE:

laughing The bro triumvirate.

JARRAH:

I feel like if you're saying that Garak and Bashir isn't a friendship then we can't really talk about it.

ANDI:

I don't know. I absolutely understand and support Kirk and Spock shipping, and Kirk and McCoy shipping, and McCoy and Spock shipping, like all of them are shipped, and some of them are

shipped all of them together. OT3 for the win. And I am completely fine with all of those permutations, but I actually have always felt more of a platonic vibe from Kirk and Spock than your general person.

GRACE:

Do you love the idea that it's possible that there's someone listening who just now for the first time has ever considered the idea of OT3 and just is like "Wait what?"

ANDI:

"What is OT3?" Actually we really should tell people what OT3 is because I don't think it's super common *Grace laughs* OTP

GRACE:

to the tune of O.P.P. Yeah you know me!

ANDI:

Exactly. Means one true pairing. And that's like your ship right? You're like the big one. For Sue we *Sue starts laughing* call her OTP Picard and Crusher. So OT3 is one true threesome *Grace starts laughing* and it's basically three characters together.

GRACE:

We are offending someone very hard out there.

SUE:

Or throuple.

GRACE:

Or throuple.

JARRAH:

A menage a Trois? *crew laughs*

GRACE:

Those relationships are out there, they are functional, they are valid just for the record. Sometimes a relationship is more than two people. *singing* The More You Know!

JARRAH:

Word. And sometimes, you know, your friend definitely does get propositioned by a couple cosplaying Troi and Riker together at a convention. *all laugh*

ANDI:

I feel like that was in character.

SUE:

Cool cool cool.

JARRAH:

It is a real valid thing. Sometimes any, no matter how many people are in the relationship, it can cause humorous interactions.

GRACE:

Just remember, read the room. Make sure everyone being propositioned is comfortable with it.

SUE:

I know that, to try to get this back on topic-

GRACE:

Too late!

ANDI:

I mean, you can try.

SUE:

I always try and I usually fail. *Andi laughs*

GRACE:

That's how *our* friendship is challenging *your* character arc. *all laugh* See? Eh? Eeh?

SUE:

Not "no."

GRACE:

Eeh?

SUE:

So I know that Kirk Spock is like the big one that everybody talks about but the one I really love is Spock and McCoy. And I feel like I'm just saying things that we've said a million times before, *laughs* but the sassy-ness from both ends. *laughs* The way that they quip with each other, the barbs thrown-

GRACE:

The shit call-out-ery.

SUE:

Yeah. The fact that they call each other on stuff and that because they are equals then it's lovingly. Like it's not- nobody's punching down. Right?

JARRAH:

Yeah I think it's really really important that Spock has that power and that also that Vulcans have that power. Because you know, I think generally speaking with some of the things the ways that McCoy insults Spock are like very like "Whoa!"

GRACE:

"Whoa! Below the belt!"

JARRAH:

"Vulcans are this" and in an ideal friendship I would stay away from that kind of stuff. Because of the mythos we have surrounding Vulcans and Spock in the original series, I don't think like it lands that harmfully but.. problematic in outside of that context.

SUE:

And to be quite honest about the whole thing, McCoy is definitely the most *ugh* concerning? *laughs* Along those lines? He has been space racist *plenty* of times.

GRACE:

Check your old white man privilege McCoy.

JARRAH:

as McCoy "I'm a doctor, not a special snowflake!"

GRACE:

And that somebody is somebody cruisin for a nerve pinch right there.

SUE:

But really the xenophobia that we sometimes get from McCoy is unfortunate, shall we say.

JARRAH:

But I agree. I think they all have really interesting friendship. And as a group of friends I mean. And you know even though I also think that Kirk and Spock have *hella* chemistry, you know just even the "I have been and always will be your friend" like you can't take away the depth of the friendship as well as their you know love-ship for each other.

ANDI:

That two moments that I would point out for this collection of dudes, number one is Star Trek 5.

JARRAH:

Yeah I was gonna be like "Row row row"

ANDI:

Which, I know people don't like Star Trek 5. But if you cut out everything that happens after the camping and just have that movie be them camping for 90 minutes I would have been 100 percent for it. That like campfire scene is everything. And then the second thing is for Kirk and Spock specifically, the moment that always comes to me "this simple feeling" moment. Spock realizing that everything that's good in this world and that he needs to fight for is right here with Kirk and it is so good. It's everything Star Trek to me.

JARRAH:

Also you know, say what you will and we have about the J.J. verse. J.J.-verse Spock and McCoy also have a pretty fun friendship.

ANDI:

Honestly the thing that J.J.-verse gets right is the three of them.

GRACE:

Yeah yeah no doubt.

SUE:

It gets bones the most right in my opinion.

ANDI:

Yeah. Karl Urban really loves McCoy.

GRACE:

And we love that he loves McCoy.

JARRAH:

Like little shout-out for like Sulu and Chekhov who get to in the JJ-verse and like in some of the movies and stuff, I mean they're not like always paired off together as friends. But they are kind of like the junior officers and in the original series they do get kind of these like side conversations that kind of put them as almost almost like the lower decks of the bridge crew.

SUE:

I just had a flash of that Futurama episode where they're like "We have to share a script!" *all laugh*

GRACE:

That *is* kind of the vibe.

JARRAH:

So recently, I guess since we did our last episode, they have announced that the Pike series is greenlit. So we're we're going to have a series called Strange New Worlds that's been- we're

expecting they said that it's probably going to be a bit more episodic or at least people are interpreting the comments from Akiva Goldsman to mean that. And it's going to feature the crew of Pike with Anson Mount and Spock and Number One. And we did get some cool friendship between Spock and Number One in the Short Treks and there's been like, a big campaign to like bring back Boyce and have a strong friendship between Pike and Boyce. I don't know how much of that is just because people think he looks like Jeffrey Combs. *Grace laughs* Because I always found, I mean so maybe this is just my unpopular opinion, but I always found that Boyce was like not a very strong character in The Cage. And also I'm like "Please make any excuse to not have more white people in the show because you already have three white leads." But I don't know, maybe I'm the only one on that one.

SUE:

You are not.

GRACE:

I want Jeffrey Combs in whatever role, but I would love for them to announce that they're going to announce more main characters like they really need some people of color in there stat.

SUE:

Yeah for sure.

JARRAH:

Well any other final awesome friendships or missed opportunities you want to throw in there?

SUE:

I wish, I know I've said this before, I wish Kira and Odo stayed friends. I just personally liked them so much more as friends than as *pause* lovers? I guess?

GRACE:

Luh-vuhs? *dramatic voice* Luuuhvuuuhs.

JARRAH:

I also feel remiss that we didn't talk about Odo and Quark.

GRACE:

Maybe we can have a frenemy centric episode?

JARRAH:

Yes. Have Q and Picard and stuff.

GRACE:

Yes I think we got a whole episode there.

JARRAH:

Also like, in terms of bad friendships, like don't be friends with your ex Captain mass murderers.

GRACE:

Yeah. Not not a great idea.

JARRAH:

No.

SUE:

You know what? I got another one. B'Elanna and Seven. Yeah. And that is one that definitely has like some frenemy vibes to it. And I mean they- B'Elanna grew to like deal with Seven being around, but I don't think they ever really became friends. And I think that is another missed opportunity there.

GRACE:

She gave her little baby shower booties. That's about it though.

SUE:

I mean when they're at work there seems to be an undercurrent of competition between them, and women can have relationships at work that are not competitive.

JARRAH:

Yeah. We had a comment from feminist engineer on Twitter about that as a missed opportunity and said that she "Hated how mean B'Elanna was to Seven at times. I would have thought there'd be compassion there considering B'Elanna also struggled to fit into the Voyager family. It's so frustrating to watch and you can't help but wonder who decided this." And what I was wondering about was whether they were trying to play on like xenophobia a little bit? Like we see like a Worf be really quite xenophobic in TNG, and I wondered if it was supposed to be like sort of saying like B'Elanna is more distrusting and aggressive because of Seven's like Borg history. Like she certainly, I feel like, there's times where there is an undercurrent of that that she doesn't trust her because she used to be a Borg. But either way I agree like it's a missed opportunity and it means- we've also kind of talked about how like they essentially kind of created two women like engineers science officers and Janeway. And it meant that there was- there ended up being a lost a lot fewer scenes between Janeway and B'Elanna because there were all these scenes between Janeway and Seven and they couldn't figure out a way to have so many women science-ing in one scene.

SUE:

God forbid.

JARRAH:

Yeah.

GRACE:

Overload! Overload!

JARRAH:

Cool. Well yeah. We have not got to all of them. We had many many many many comments for this episode so thank you again for your comments. If your one that you talked about was not mentioned or you thought of another one based on our conversation. Please get in touch with us. We have an email address crew@womenatwork.com. Or you can visit our website WomenAtWarp.com You can comment on our social media. We're on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram [@womenatwarp](https://www.instagram.com/womenatwarp). And you can also leave us a rating or review on Apple podcasts or wherever you get your podcasts. Now to conclude Sue, where can people find you elsewhere on the Internet?

SUE:

You can find me on Twitter [@Spaltor](https://twitter.com/Spaltor). That's S P A L T O R.

JARRAH:

And Andi?

ANDI:

If you need me to explain more fanfic terms to you I am [@firsttimetrek](https://twitter.com/firsttimetrek) on Twitter.

JARRAH:

And Grace?

GRACE:

You can find me on Twitter [@bonecrusherjenk](https://twitter.com/bonecrusherjenk). That's the words Bone, Crusher, and the name Jenk, J E N K. and trying to retweet and amplify as many resources and voices as I can find at the moment.

SUE:

Absolutely.

JARRAH:

And I'm Jarrah, and you can find me on Twitter [@JARRAH-penguin](https://twitter.com/JARRAH-penguin). And for more from the Roddenberry podcast network visit podcasts.Roddenberry.com. Thanks so much for listening.