

## Women at Warp Episode 160: An Anniversary Episode

**Announcer:** You're listening to a Roddenberry podcast.

[Women at Warp theme]

**Andi:** Hi, and welcome to Women at Warp, a Roddenberry *Star Trek* Podcast. Join us on our continuing mission to explore intersect diversity in infinite combinations. My name is Andi. Thanks for tuning in. With me is the entire crew.

**In Unison:** Whoo-hoo. Yay.

**Andi:** So, we have Jarrah.

**Jarrah:** Hey.

**Andi:** Sue.

**Sue:** Hello.

**Andi:** Sarah.

**Sarah:** Hi.

**Andi:** Grace.

**Grace:** What up, nerds?

**Andi:** Aliza.

**Aliza:** Hey, hey. LLAP. [laughs]

**Andi:** And Kennedy.

**Kennedy:** Good evening.

**Andi:** So, before we get into our main topic today, we have a little bit of housekeeping to do first. Our show is made possible by our patrons on Patreon. We've revamped our Patreon tiers for the new year, bringing in some new rewards like exclusive Women at Warp merch. So, if you've ever thought about checking out our Patreon, now is the perfect time. We really appreciate the support. Find us at [patreon.com/womenatwarp](https://patreon.com/womenatwarp). Check out our TeePublic store for T-shirts, hoodies, mugs, masks, and more at [teepublic.com/stores/womenatwarp](https://teepublic.com/stores/womenatwarp). And we're regularly curating new designs, so keep an eye on that. All of these links are also, of course, on our website at [womenatwarp.com](https://womenatwarp.com).

All right, so onto our main topic. Today, we are doing something super fun, which I love to do every time we do it, which is once before our anniversary episode. So, three years ago-- Is that right? Three years ago.

**Jarrah:** Three years ago.

**Grace:** We've been doing this since before time began.

**Andi:** Yeah, I'm pretty sure that there has never not been Women at Warp at this point. So, three years ago, we did a fun little spoof on *Shades of Gray*, and we put together a clip

show. And just to give you a little amuse bouche, a tasting menu of our show from year one to three. And we thought we'd do that again because, amazingly, it's three years later already, which blows my mind. Time has no meaning.

**Sue:** If we were an accountant, we would be well into old age.

**Kennedy:** We'd be ancient. [laughter]

**Sue:** And married to Harry Kim. Yeah. [laughter] Or Tom Paris. Take your pick.

**Andi:** At least it's not Neelix. [laughter]

**Kennedy:** Ooh. I'll take it.

**Andi:** Yeah, I'm trying to find the bright side for [unintelligible 00:02:48] here, but yeah. So, it's been three years. And in those three years, a lot has happened.

**Grace:** It's been--

**Andi:** Our society has fallen apart. Lots of things. But our show has grown.

**Kennedy:** Our society has fallen apart, but our show has come together. [laugh]

**Aliza:** The collapse of civilization cannot stop us from talking about *Star Trek*.

**Andi:** Exactly.

**Aliza:** We need it now more than ever.

**Andi:** Absolutely.

**Grace:** Can't Stop the signal, baby. Exactly. Wrong show. Wrong show, right reference. Boo. [laughs]

**Andi:** So, yes, I would say the biggest thing that we need to talk about is we have new crew members.

**In Unison:** [cheers]

**Andi:** Which has been really awesome and I think has added a lot of life and cool new perspectives to our show. And I am nothing but grateful for our next generation. Yay.

**In Unison:** Yay.

**Aliza:** We are so happy to be here. It's been so nice for the last six months just having regular time where I talk about *Star Trek* with friends. Yeah.

**Sue:** Yeah, it's really nice. It's been kind of a combo of having this built-in set of people to talk about *Star Trek* with and also have reasons to do deep dives. Like, "Oh, I have to do an episode where we just talk about these types of episodes. Let me spend 10 hours researching it." Now, I have a reason to do that. [laughs] A place to funnel that *Star Trek* nerd energy into.

**Kennedy:** Yeah, totally. I have always been obsessive, [laughs] probably to an unhealthy extent, but I, over the past six months, have finally had an opportunity to be obsessed with

people who are equally obsessed, if not more so. I really do feel like I've stepped onto the bridge of a ship somewhere and we're out here kicking in doors and bringing people with us and calling out the tomfoolery [chuckles] whenever we can. And it's been so incredibly enriching. When your crew levels up, you level up. So, I feel like this has been just a whole entire level of experience for everybody and the glow-up is palpable.

**Andi:** Yeah. It's a good time we have a good time.

**Jarrah:** Thank you for making me feel quasi academic. [laughs] Yay.

**Andi:** So, what we ended up doing is we split up our show and picked out clips of things that we thought were fun to talk about or--

**Jarrah:** Thought provoking.

**Andi:** Thought provoking. Captured the ethos of our show, like discussing the dick rock.

**Kennedy:** Dick rock.

**Andi:** Yeah. So, I hope you all enjoy the clips that we picked and tell us about moments on our show that you liked and we did not get a chance to include because we only have an hour. We cannot include everything. And I personally love to hear feedback about things that people liked or things that people disagreed with. All that stuff is really cool. So, feel free to comment if you think that we missed something.

**Jarrah:** And inspiration for future episodes. What was missing and do we need to take on in the next three years before as the Ocampans, we die. [laughter] Sorry folks, I know we didn't talk about this, but we're all actually Ocampans.

**Andi:** In three years, we've been doing this show for nine years.

**Grace:** Oh, my God. That's wild.

**Andi:** It really is.

**Grace:** Oh, wow.

**Andi:** Are there any clips on this list that you all picked that you want to highlight?

**Grace:** No. It just made me very proud of this show, going through some of the stuff we've done.

**Jarrah:** Totally.

**Andi:** I think that's one of the most fun things about this project is I get to kind of dive into the older shows and be like, "Yeah, that was awesome."

**Jarrah:** One of the clips that I didn't pull because it was too long, but which I highly encourage anyone to go back and take a listen to because it was my favorite of the things I re-listened to is Grace's excellent-- It wasn't quite a tangent but amazing pontification on the satanic panic. [Grace laughs] It was a very awesome deep dive into the satanic panic and weaves back into the narrative about the episode, and it was great and also hilarious. So, recommend that one if you want to do some further re-listening.

**Sue:** One of my favorite things in doing this was in the block of episodes I took to go through was our panel recording from several years back now, I think it was episode 92. And on that panel were Aliza and Sarah. And I pulled a clip from that panel, and it was very neat to hear people who are now hosts on the show, joining us for special episodes or for panels or for things that we have released. And it just kind of warmed my heart.

**Aliza:** It's like back when we were dating and not part of the family yet. We hadn't married into the family yet. [laughter]

**Andi:** Well, we always kind of considered you part of the family, I think.

**Sue:** Yeah, basically.

**Andi:** But I was also thinking about this because Kennedy and Aliza did a really great episode on Guinan that was revisited and reminded me that it was years ago, years and years ago that Aliza first came onto the podcast and recorded on Guinan.

**Aliza:** And that was my first episode with you all.

**Andi:** Mm-hmm.

**Sarah:** Sue, I think that panel, that was the first time Aliza and I met.

**Aliza:** That was the first time I met all of you, I think, at least in person.

**Andi:** Yeah. In person. Yeah. Memories.

**Kennedy:** Bathe alone in the moonlight.

**Jarrah:** I also really liked getting to remember some of the cool guests we had. They won't all be quoted in this episode. We had Gersha Phillips, the costume designer. We had Hanelle Culpepper, the first black woman to direct a *Star Trek* pilot. Had Kate Mulgrew. We had Mary Chieffo multiple times. And we just love them all so much.

**Andi:** I think Chase Masterson was also in this. Yeah. Rekha Sharma, Jayne Brook.

**Grace:** To say nothing of some of the great fans we've gotten to bring in and have their opinions and thoughts on, it's been amazing.

**Andi:** Yes.

**Sarah:** Can you imagine though telling, like, little you in the '80s, you're going to grow up and you're going to, be on a podcast talking to the people you're watching on screen.

**Grace:** I would have laughed in your face. I would have died.

**Sue:** And then, she would be like, "What's a podcast?" [laughter] "Is that like a Walkman."

**Grace:** It's like radio for nerds.

**Andi:** Thank you so much for the work that you all did on this project. I really appreciate it and I really appreciate all of you.

**Sarah:** You too.

**Aliza:** We appreciate you too, Andi, for putting up with all of our mistakes.

**Kennedy:** Our shenanigans. [laughter]

**Andi:** All right, enough stalling. Get to the clips.

**Jarrah:** Well, first, talking about the business side, I work in finance and I found that, yes, corporate business is very patriarchal. So, I left and I work for myself now, and I'm much happier and I make more money.

**Female Speaker:** Good job. [cheers and applause]

**Jarrah:** Fandom side, I'm involved with a lot of local cons, and I got really frustrated with them because you'd go in, you'd have, like, a diversity panel that was all white or a STEM panel that was all old white men. And so, I got really frustrated, and that's why I started doing my own events so I could go in and say, "Hey, if you're going to have a panel at my event, you're going to have at least two women. You're going to have at least two people of color. Please have more if you can. And we're going to talk all about issues like representation or running for public office or using geek art as protest, things that we can use for marginalized people to make a difference in their lives." [applause]

**Female Speaker:** Because, let's be honest, girls, we're talking about all this great stuff up here, but legally, women are still not equal in America because the Equal Opportunity Act has never been passed. So, we're still not officially equal. I mean, people who work regular jobs-- Well, actually, even actors know that because, not talking out of school here, girls didn't get paid as much as the boys on our show. And women earn 80 cents on the dollar usually. So, we're still not equal. Still have a ways to go. Hopefully, by November, that will change. But anyway, let's see what happens.

**Andi:** We have about five minutes left apparently.

**Aliza:** I wanted to talk about the diversity and inclusion.

**Andi:** Yes, go right ahead. I wanted to see if anyone had anything they wanted to add in our last five minutes and maybe we can get a question or two.

**Aliza:** Yeah. So, I work in the nerd space and working for Nerdist and being part of the Geek & Sundry family, I found two groups, well, one shared family that has two different faces to it that is very much excited about diversity and making actual steps towards becoming more inclusive and diverse. And the things I see outside of that and even before I got to Nerdist made me-- It was hard for me to kind of accept and be open about my fandom for a long time because of those comments like the Lyft driver and a lot of comments that were much worse that I don't even feel like sharing and bringing you all down today. But I'm not sure how to say this besides that representation, it's not just about having-- I think we were talking before about it's not just about having your couple of people on the panels and stuff. It's that. And it's also once you open up the doors or once someone gets through who is diverse and different from you, actually listening to them, actually including them, celebrating them, hearing their ideas and implementing them. [applause]

I can't tell you how many spaces I've been in before where I'm just there to be a token. And I think this past year, I've always been very passionate about inclusion and diversity. But this year was the year that I finally was like, "I am not doing anything if it is not also hand in hand with inclusion." Diversity without inclusion is tokenism. [cheers and applause] So, no more. No more of that.

**Andi:** Thank you. That was awesome.

**Female Speaker:** This episode highlights how you can use-- and governments do that today, and it looks like they'll be doing it in the future. They use incidents from the past, isolated incidents, to specify targeted individuals and say how, "You know because this happened in this one place." Like when [unintelligible 00:13:51] brings up. I forget the actual stardate, but she brings up the Bell incident and she says, "Hey, because that happened, all Romulans are bad. And because you are fighting for them, Picard, you are a traitor." There is that pointing of fingers because of isolated incidents to basically reject an entire species, which is not unlike the things that are happening today with the US Government in particular. Yeah.

**Sue:** And I would like to point out that a lot of the countries in the "Muslim ban" are countries that do not have economic relations with the United States. And also, most of them don't buy weapons from the United States. So, I just want to throw that out there.

**Kennedy:** Fair point to bring up.

**Female Speaker:** I believe none of the terrorists that were involved in 9/11 were from those countries.

**Sue:** No, no, they were not from those countries.

**Jarrah:** Yeah, but it's the facts don't matter because they're stoking fear. And the same thing in The Drumhead where it starts out, "Okay, well, we suspect Simon Tarses because he lied about being part Romulan." And that's already a little scary. And I think Picard's advocating is really powerful. But then, because Picard advocates for him, Picard comes under suspicion. And then, I think, the more egregious example is then when she basically turns on Worf, who she's been complimenting this entire time and is, "Oh, because your father was an alleged Romulan conspirator," even though they never had reason to believe that. And just, "Well, you're obviously suspect too". So, it's this whole--

**Kennedy:** Everyone is suspect. Yeah.

**Female Speaker:** Yeah, and that's how you get Sikhs being attacked for wearing turbans because people are afraid of Muslims because of xenophobia after 9/11. You get this whole thing that the facts get totally lost and it's all just how you look influences your right to safety and security and justice in even the country you might be a citizen of.

**Sue:** Well, the Doctor believes Seven right from the start.

**Jarrah:** Yeah.

**Sue:** And he's right there and he's telling her she has every right to feel the way she feels and that it's understandable that she's upset and that she's angry because she was violated. And 43 minutes later, he's saying, "Well, we all make mistakes."

**Female Speaker:** And it's not like she's remembering this stuff with his help, other than he helped her relax. But as soon as he helps her relax, she starts having these flashbacks. And I think a lot of people raise this as one of the hardest things is that we, as the audience, live through the flashbacks with her and then we're told it's not real.

**Sue:** Well, it's not even just help her relax. He says she has something blocking part of her brain that wasn't there before. So, something--

**Grace:** She has come down with a MacGuffin.

**Sue:** Something physical has changed, and he removes that block and that's what she remembers. So, between exams in his office, someone or something has blocked part of her memory.

**Female Speaker:** Yeah, it's not like he's like, "What happened? Was it Kovin? Did he assault you?" It's hard to believe that she would just pull that out of-- Especially because it's a pretty recent memory, just pull that out of thin air. And I mean, they sort of say later, "Oh, well, you were maybe just confused because you do have a lot of other trauma and maybe this trauma's all just blurring together in your head." And that's almost kind of worse. They're just, "Oh, who can really say with you?"

**Grace:** You've had a rough couple of years. Just go sit down, wrap yourself in a blanket and let the grownups handle this.

**Jarrah:** You know what, it reminded me very much of watching the Kavanaugh hearings.

**Female Speaker:** Oh, good Lord. Yeah.

**Jarrah:** It's all for anyone who watched it, especially anyone in the US, it might be very fresh in your memory, but there was even an entire section of the hearings where the panel was asking Dr. Ford, "How are you sure you remember this?" And she's a scientist. And she said, "Because I understand how memory works." And victims are much more likely to remember details of an assault or a trauma than to forget them which, who knows what we knew in the '90s for sure, because we're a good 30 years on, right? 20 years on something?

**Grace:** Good Lord, it's been that long already?

**Jarrah:** I can do math from when this episode aired, but it's just-- I kept having-- I kept seeing parallels to this thing we just watched on national TV not that long ago including how angry and belligerent Kovin got. How every time, any "evidence" was presented, it just made them angrier and it brought back all of those feelings of discomfort and nausea [chuckles] and all of it. Yep.

**Female Speaker:** And he's basically, "In my society, even being accused is going to destroy my career." And you're like, "Oh, good."

**Grace:** That's uncomfortably familiar.

**Female Speaker:** Yeah, I mean, I do like at that point that Tuvok and Janeway are, "Okay, but we can't help that. That's your society's problem."

**Jarrah:** But can we address that that is BS in our society too?

**Female Speaker:** Yes. Yes, we 100% can.

**Jarrah:** Like, how people who are victims can't return to their homes because of the death threats they've received but somebody will be back on their comedy tour in the next couple weeks. I just--

**Grace:** Bright future.

**Jarrah:** Making the statement coming forward is much more likely to harm the accuser than the one who was accused.

**Female Speaker:** But you know what, the goal is going to 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. There's so much there. We don't need it. We don't even need it.

**Grace:** It does serve some serious looks. All right.

**Female Speaker:** Yeah. Yeah.

**Jarrah:** Favorite Troi look?

**Female Speaker:** Oh, that blue dress thing that she wears in Barclay's fantasy of her?

**Jarrah:** Oh, the Goddess of Empathy?

**Grace:** [laughs] You mean where she's like, "Come, I am the goddess of love and understanding and empathy."

**Female Speaker:** Yeah, that episode but not that look. The one at the very beginning when you don't know it's a fantasy and it's in time forward, and it's like royal blue and super flowy. And she just looks so elegant and beautiful. I like that. I'll go with that. I like that. When she's in season-- It's like season 6 and 7, 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 traditional *TNG* uniform. I like that one on her. I feel like she even 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.

**Female Speaker:** Yes, yes, yes, yes.

**Jarrah:** Yeah. 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 rapid aging because she's consuming all that dude's negative energy. And she's the vampy old lady with the skunk hair.

**Grace:** Yes. The one with the-- like, the collar. The interesting collar. Oh, yeah, totally.

**Female Speaker:** Yes. And it's got, this little peekaboo in the front chest area, and she's got that one white streak in her hair, and her hair's up and she's, "What are you looking at?" When she comes in, she's salty. Like Andi, she took some lessons and she just comes in, "Come up and see me sometime." Yes.

**Andi:** But she also her body language and the way she almost flings herself against the wall. Oh, God, that's good stuff.

**Jarrah:** Because you know what negative emotions do to women? They make them old and sexual.

**Female Speaker:** And ridiculously jealous and addicted. Yes, that's exactly.

**Jarrah:** Possessive?

**Female Speaker:** Yes, yes. Oh my God.

**Jarrah:** Let's talk about *Star Trek* 2009 and when they cast Winona Ryder as Amanda, who was six years older than Zachary Quinto. And the argument I think was, "Well, but in the flashbacks, Zachary Quinto is a little kid."

**Grace:** The flashbacks that were cut from the movie. Yeah.

**Jarrah:** Or but it just-- there's awesome articles you can find that compare the ages of mothers and children in Hollywood films as well as romantic couples and how it's acceptable for men like George Clooney and Tom Hanks to get older and older, but their love interests stay the same age or even get younger in some cases.

**Grace:** And once Maggie Gyllenhaal turned 38, she was too old to be the love interest for a 50-something guy.

**Jarrah:** Yeah, there's another movie. It's a Melissa McCarthy movie and has Melissa McCarthy and Allison Janney.

**Grace:** *Tammy*.

**Jarrah:** So, Allison Janney plays the mom and then Susan Sarandon plays the grandma. And the kind of hilarious part of this whole thing is that Allison Janney is 11 years older than Melissa McCarthy. And Susan Sarandon, if she was really Melissa McCarthy's grandma, would have been a grandma at age 24.

**Grace:** Yikes.

**Jarrah:** Yeah. So, it's just a thing that Hollywood can't understand how women age.

**Grace:** Can't or won't?

**Jarrah:** A little bit of both. [laughs] So, I think that the Winona Ryder example is one of the times we see that most clearly in *Star Trek*. But certainly, if you go and look back at the primarily love interest characters in most of *The Original Series* and *TNG*, they are by and large very young.

**Grace:** Looking at the range of Picard's love interests, that becomes very clear also.

**Female Speaker:** Yeah, they're all in their 40s, so at least they got them to their 40s.

**Jarrah:** Yeah. But then you also get a whole bunch of these crotchety old dude scientists with younger wives.

**Female Speaker:** That is just constant, man.

**Grace:** How do these guys just keep scoring hot wives? Because that seems a little wish fulfil-y.

**Jarrah:** Yeah, there's the woman in the horrible episode, *A Matter of Perspective*, with her older husband. And there's, of course, *We'll Always Have Paris*. So, yeah, that's just a general comment on Hollywood and *Star Trek* and aging.

**Female Speaker:** Well, they're just, they're the rock stars of the future because you know how people are always wondering about how these rock stars get these model girlfriends or wives.

**Jarrah:** But then, why don't Toby Russell from Ethics and [unintelligible 00:25:15] Lamar have, super hot young guy-- Well, I wouldn't say guy because we didn't have gay characters in *Trek* by that point. Why did they not have an entourage?

**Grace:** Why do not the older women scientist characters have hot boyfriends?

**Female Speaker:** Because they just work too hard. They dedicate their life. If they're not-- they just dedicate their life.

**Grace:** If you're a working woman at that age, you're a crone.

**Female Speaker:** That's right. You just don't have time for men.

**Grace:** Crone.

**Sue:** So, if we can switch gears a tiny bit and talk a little bit about *Star Trek: Voyager*, as you're well aware, will be turning 25 next year. How do you feel about having played *Star Trek's* first woman captain to lead a series? And have your feelings about that changed over the last 25 years.

**Kate:** No, and they won't change. I feel great about it. It was a singular honor, it really was. It was a real adventure. I think I was given quite a gift when I got this role which, as you know, I got after Geneviève Bujold accepted and then quit. And I'm thankful to her for that as well, for her foresight and her courage.

But I understood while I was doing it that it was going to change my life forever. Little did I know at that time though that it would change other lives as well, particularly women in science. And that has been the single most gratifying aspect of the job, aside from creating a character whom I grew to really love, which is maybe three, four or five times in a lifetime for an actress. But to be able to permeate the greater world, to affect it, to influence it is a wonderful feeling, and I've been nothing less than grateful for it. Just a wonderful thing.

**Sue:** Do you recall what your first impressions were of Captain Janeway when you were first auditioning or reading the lines and how you saw her change over the years in the series?

**Kate:** My first impression of her was that I was going to own her. I was her. I had a high sense of confidence about it. I didn't know anything about *Star Trek*. I had never watched any science fiction or read it aside from George Orwell. It was not my genre at all and yet I immediately liked her, I immediately understood her and there was an instant creative simpatico and I went into the audition room without a nerve, I'd say, and thoroughly enjoyed myself in front of about 40 people in suits and learned about two or three days later that I'd gotten the role.

**Jarrah:** Is there anything that you see or saw in the character when you were playing her that you think that fans might not have picked up on?

**Kate:** Aside from my terror? [laughter]

**Jarrah:** We definitely did not pick up on that.

**Kate:** Yeah, well, initially there was great, great, great nerves. It was just overwhelming. I mean, my audition pieces were not technobabble. They wanted to see what kind of-- I don't know, what kind of strengths and weaknesses, what kind of nuance I bring to Janeway. It's when I hit the bridge, when I got the part and hit the bridge 6 o'clock on a Monday morning,

and I had three pages of absolute crazy technobabble, I thought, "Oh, my God, how am I ever going to do this?" And that was the single hardest thing, I think, I've ever undertaken as an actress. Not just the technobabble per se, but my work ethic as an actress, which demands that I understand and absolutely control the material so that I can be free with it.

And in order to-- It took me months to understand that I had to endow all of that scientific jargon with authenticity. And that was hard work. But after about six, maybe eight months, it began to happen naturally. And after that, the sky was the limit, as they say. I knew what I was doing. It was all mine, and it became quite happy.

**Andi:** Today's show is also brought to you by TextExpander.

**Sue:** TextExpander. TextExpander.

**Grace:** It's text that will expand. It does it by your command.

**Kennedy:** A text it will expand.

**Jarrah:** Wait, are we doing *Goldfinger* or *Moon River*?

**Sue:** I was thinking *Goldfinger*, but clearly Grace was on *Moon River*.

**Andi:** But you know what can eliminate this kind of confusion? TextExpander. TextExpander removes the repetition from your work so you can focus on what matters most, like song parodies. [laughter] Say goodbye to repetitive text entry, spelling and message errors and trying to remember the right thing to say. When you use TextExpander, you can say the right thing in just a few keystrokes. You can write a chorus to a song and just type "chorus," and it'll pop right in while you're writing the rest of those lyrics.

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**Mara:** I very much want to talk about *Profit and Lace*.

**Andi:** Yeah, I think we should probably get that out of the way so that we address the elephant in the room.

**Mara:** So, I want to preface this by saying that I have a somewhat controversial opinion of this episode.

**Grace:** Oh?

**Mara:** I don't hate it.

**Grace:** Oh, okay. Well, tell us about that.

**Mara:** All right, so, top level, this episode is horrifically sexist. It's abusive and awful. It is. But the scene, the first scene we have with Quark as a woman-- and let's get this out of the way, Quark in this episode is not trans. Quark is wearing the costume of a woman to get a goal.

And that's awful. It plays into the stereotypes of the trap of the transperson being deceptive. That's awful and it's horrific. And it upsets me even to still watch the episode.

But that one scene where he's adapting to womanhood is sort of like the first five months of transition in 30 seconds. Everything that happens in that sequence is so on point. And there's a line-- I actually have the script here because I wanted to read off a line. It's not important. It's where they put. Yeah, "There go his hormones." And Rom immediately chirps, "And there goes her hormones." So, good job, Rom.

**Elissa:** Oh, wow.

**Grace:** Aww, Rom's an ally.

**Mara:** I want to talk about Rom in the scene too, but I'll get to that in a second because I have a really interesting headcanon about him. But Quark is immediately emotionally unstable. And when you're starting out on hormones in HRT, it's a wild ride. You don't know how to feel about anything anymore. And it's wicked when you start getting your hormonal cycle and the way you react to things starts to change so violently. It was so easy to relate with Quark going through 30 different emotional states in the state of two minutes. And top level, it's like, "Yeah, women be hormonal," but no, that's a fresh experience for a transwoman transitioning, that's super relatable.

**Grace:** That's super interesting.

**Elissa:** Yeah, I mean, I said, I couldn't bring myself to rewatch it, but I do remember that. That bit now. But that certainly does feel like something that-- Yeah, is a pretty accurate description of, I don't know. I think I called it Hell Month. Yeah. Yeah.

**Mara:** Yeah. Then immediately start talking about how Quark is walking. And so, it gets into the performative aspect of transitioning, where you're not doing things like a woman, you're doing this wrong, and you look like a man when you walk, so you need to walk this way. And it's like, "Oh, my God, please stop." [laughs] And, again, it's so on point of just what the expectations are, not even for internally, because internally your dysphoria is all over the place if you experience it. But then, just the external pressures of people looking at you and expecting things out of you, like, "We're looking for your progress," even among friends, even among close allies, there's still that expectation. And it's stressful.

**Elissa:** Yeah. I mean, the performative aspect is kind of interesting because I found for me, it was more not performing because in my case, I was really self-conscious and I always felt like an imposter before I transitioned. I couldn't escape that feeling. As in, I would get panic attacks going into men's bathrooms because I could not escape the feeling that I was in the wrong place and I was going to get found out. And that's something I don't feel anymore, which is weird. I had no idea that you weren't supposed to feel terribly stressed going into a public toilet. Yeah. For me, I found that I was performing before more than anything else. So, things like I would actually artificially deepen my voice rather than anything else. I would try to talk an octave lower. And one of my friends at one point had said, and this was a really awkward conversation and it wasn't spectacular, but he'd said, "I was really uncomfortable around you at first, but then when your voice started to change," I am like, "My what?" He'd just presumed that my voice was changing because of hormones. Whereas in fact, it was more just, I think, I was just no longer trying to sound masculine, I guess.

**Grace:** Turning off the affect.

**Elissa:** Yeah. So, it was more not performing and that sudden which suddenly he was reading as performing femininity.

**Grace:** There's a lot to cover with Mirror Georgiou.

**Jarrah:** Yeah, she's one of our heavy hitting, more recurring characters for this episode, and first shows up in the Mirror Universe as the Empress-- Emperor. They call her Emperor eating Kelpien.

**Grace:** So, she's a literal man-eater. We get that off the bat.

**Sue:** She's one of these rare ones where we do have two versions of this character.

**Grace:** Yeah.

**Sue:** Because we know Prime Georgiou and we know her as this upstanding officer, this great leader, this most decorated captain in the fleet. But we don't get to know her for long. We really only know her in two episodes and by reputation. And then, what's unusual is that the character we get going forward is the Mirror Universe version of this character, and that's the one we're going to be sticking with, which is very different. Usually, it's the other way around.

**Grace:** Yeah. Usually, the mirror version is one off.

**Sue:** Right. Or a couple, once or twice, and that's it. And it's very clear that Michelle Yeoh has a great time playing this character.

**Grace:** Oh, totally.

**Sue:** And it's interesting to also see how she has adapted, how Mirror Georgiou has adapted to the prime universe, how she can play the part of Prime Georgiou and fool people.

**Grace:** And that really does make you just wonder more and more about what she got up to in her own universe.

**Jarrah:** We will definitely have to revisit her because they announced they're starting filming for the Section 31 show that she'll be starring in soon in lovely Mississauga, Ontario. But yeah, it's really interesting. I really enjoy Mirror Georgiou. I think she brings a lot to the dynamic in the last season of *Discovery*. She has this tension because she's definitely unlike Prime Georgiou, except for this sort of maternal tie that she feels to Burnham. And it is interesting. And I kind of like the interplay and the distrust between them.

**Grace:** They do have a really interesting dynamic. Yeah.

**Jarrah:** Yeah. Like, they want to be close to each other, but they also don't trust each other.

**Grace:** Yeah. They want to be close to the versions of each other that they cared about.

**Sue:** Mm-hmm. And she brings so much more depth to the Mirror Universe than we've ever had before.

**Jarrah:** And to Section 31. I mean, Section 31 previously-- especially when it was very first introduced, was almost kind of a bit of a caricature. And I think the farther it's gone along, the more kind of nuanced and insidious and actually kind of a believable, threatening force it is.

**Grace:** It kind of was introduced in kind of a Lovecraftian sense of, "Oh, they've done things worse than you can imagine." You're not going to elaborate on that? "Use your imagination."

**Jarrah:** I think she puts a face on it and they've done a really good job kind of showing the linkages to upper echelons in Starfleet and we have no idea how she's getting back to Section 31 after being in the future with *Discovery* this season but we're going to see. I'm curious.

**Grace:** I think that's also part of what makes her such an interesting character. Both as a villain and just as a character, she's very engaging, and you really want to know what's she going to pull next.

**Grace:** It's so funny. You've got space Lurch. You've got the dick rock. You've got that really inexplicable pantsuit made of scarves that I think totally works. You've got sexy robot lady.

**Jarrah:** You've got the rotating Kirk table.

**Grace:** I mean, the Android making merry-go-round. This is all gold.

**Jarrah:** Yeah.

**Grace:** Yeah, pretty much, in terms of sci-fi shenanigans, this episode is probably in the top 10 of *TOS*.

**Andi:** It's just so enjoyable.

**Jarrah:** It's just so, "What the hell is going to happen next?"

**Andi:** And every time there's a shot of Kirk cradling the dick rock.

**Grace:** You say that the dick rock is a central part of the episode.

**Andi:** It is, Grace.

**Jarrah:** If you look at what the internet thinks about this episode, it is.

**Andi:** I mean, that's fair. That's fair. When I was first time tracking this episode, I was, "Oh, God, I really want to say something about how this rock looks totally like a dick, but I'm going to be classy and I'm not going to say anything." [laughter] Two tweets and people are like, "Are you just going to ignore the dick rock? How dare you?" And I was, "Okay, I see how this is." I mean, this was pretty early in my first time Trekking journey, and I just, I hadn't realized what my audience was. And I was, "Oh, okay, I should just talk repeatedly about the dick rock." So, I did.

**Grace:** I was watching it and my roommate, who's never watched *Star Trek*, just walked into the room and was, "Oh, is this the one with the dick rock?"

**Andi:** Yeah. See? So, I definitely feel like it's the standout moment of this episode.

**Jarrah:** I feel like technically it's a dick stalactite. [laughter]

**Grace:** That's where you're drawing the line.

**Andi:** Wait, which is-- stalactite or stalagmite?

**Jarrah:** I actually don't know.

**Andi:** if it's a stalactite, it won't fit in your butt. [laughter] But if it's a stalagmite, it might fit in your butt.

**Sue:** A stalactite is the top and a stalagmite is the bottom.

**Andi:** Yeah, I think I got it there. So, is Kirk the top or the bottom?

**Grace:** Only Spock can tell us for sure.

**Sue:** Oh, my gosh. Oh, my God.

**Andi:** We got to put a not safe for work on this episode. And I'm totally fine with it.

**Andi:** We've got one. We've got a Kess Williams on Twitter. "Janeway did the right thing by separating Tuvix back into Tuvok and Neelix."

**Jarrah:** And I'm like, "I wish we had been told more."

**Andi:** Yeah. Elaborate on that because we're curious about what the thinking here is.

**Jarrah:** This was another one where we got, the exact opposite. Someone else said, "They should have kept Tuvix."

**Andi:** Yeah, I know. We've gotten that a lot.

**Jarrah:** I feel like I've heard that Janeway made the wrong decision more than Janeway made the right decision.

**Andi:** Yeah, that's what I've heard also, I think. But I thought it would be interesting to bring up because, again, it's a really polarizing episode in terms of there are people who are like, "No, that was murder." And then, people are like, "No, that was the right thing." It is so curious again to see which episodes turn out to be the super polarizing ones like that.

**Jarrah:** Yeah. And I mean, it's often used as an example of, like, Janeway's a bad captain, which I don't agree with. But I remember when I first watched this episode when I was a kid, I thought it was totally the right decision. And going back to watch it, I just see it as, based on the conversations that Janeway and Kes have, it does seem kind of selfish. But maybe it would, if it would make more sense if his molecules were disintegrating but he still didn't want to go back.

**Andi:** Like, he wasn't stable or something.

**Jarrah:** Yeah. Like, he was going to die, but he still didn't want to go back or something. That would be interesting and maybe more ambiguous.

**Andi:** Maybe it was more of a, "you guys could have written that better" situation.

**Sarah:** I think it would have been-- This is not how TV shows were done at the time, but I think it could have been-- It would have been nice if they were able to have Tuvix around for a couple episodes while they try to figure it out and see him maybe, struggle to fit in or not actually be able to do-- I'm tying myself in circles. And then, have a cellular degrade thing happening. Because I think part of why that episode is so visceral for some people is because it does happen so quickly.

**Andi:** Yeah. And then, never addressed again. This is the kind of decision that Janeway should be thinking about for the rest of her life after she's made it, and it's just, "Nope, it's one episode."

**Jarrah:** Anyway, I would be happy to hear more about why Janeway did the right thing in case I'm just missing a piece. And either way, it's totally cool to have that opinion.

**Andi:** Yeah.

**Jamala:** I don't know. I just remember there being a lot of emphasis on the fact that they had a woman as a security chief who was in charge of this. And I think that where-- [laughs] I think that where this comes out the most is in the episode that I have redubbed the Worst Wakandans. [laughter] It's one of the very first *Star Trek* episodes, and she's prominent in it. What is the actual name of that episode--

**Jarrah:** It's *Code of Honor*.

**Jamala:** Thank you. Now, you know what I like to call it. Oh, God, it was so hard to rewatch this episode. But it was actually very interesting and one of the-- I don't know if I want to say it's the worst depiction of a culture involving black folks ever that I've seen, but I think it's probably one of *Star Trek's* worst.

**Sarah:** For what it's worth, the cast agrees with you.

**Jarrah:** Yeah. They talk about how awful it is.

**Jamala:** Oh, really. Oh, really. I'd love to read that. Oh, wow. I'd love to read that. Because I was looking-- It was funny to me as I was watching that episode and thinking a lot of this is a way to kind of pull out what we see of Tasha Yar as her function of security chief on this particular ship. But at the same time, everything about the name of their actual culture is--

**Jarrah:** Ligonians.

**Jamala:** Ligonians. They're the Ligonians from, I guess, Ligon II. And it involves a vaccine, interestingly enough, which is the same thing that happens on *Symbiosis*. But there are so many things in this episode that are just so hard to watch. You've got, first of all, the costumes with all of the African American cast. They reminded me of, I guess, what I would see, Aladdin riding around in, in a Disney movie or something, with the turbans and the very kind of spicy costumes that they had on. The women's costumes were pretty cool. But a lot of how they depicted this particular "culture" were very interesting. Didn't really much agree with it until the end, of course, but I still see problems with the way that they had that set up.

**Aliza:** Well, I mean, the biggest thing is that tying back into what we read from the show Bible, how to write Tasha Yar and talking about her, how do they weirdly state her ethnicity?

**Jamala:** Ukrainian descent.

**Aliza:** Yeah, but what was it? Unspecified.

**Jamala:** Oh, unspecified Ukrainian.

**Aliza:** Whatever that means. [laughter] But yeah, so-

**Jamala:** No idea.

**Aliza:** And then, just her very female body and muscularly well developed. So, first of all, super objectifying her. And then, this episode also objectifies her, literally making her an object to be captured and a trophy of heroism for this leader on this planet.

**Jamala:** Absolutely.

**Aliza:** And then, you layer on the already very complex and tricky and not always great relationship between just generally black men and how they are viewed as if they are dating white women and white women who date black men. And just all that stickiness, just drop that in there too. [laughs]

**Jamala:** Exactly. And the anger.

**Aliza:** It's just chock-- Oh, yes. Oh, my God, you're right. The anger of-- what is it, the first wife?

**Jamala:** Yes, Yareena. Her name was Yareena. She was the first one and the owner of all the lands. There was some scheming going on from the very beginning, and of course, people on the Enterprise figured it out based on the rules of the culture. [laughs] But I don't know, it's just shady, shady, shady shit happening from the very beginning.

**Aliza:** You know what's funny too is this episode so easily, with just some, core tweaks, could have been cool. It could have been good because the only shred of goodness I can see in this episode is seeing black characters not have to be the hero, not have to be perfect and untouchable and wise and magical. It actually is refreshing to get to see black characters that are not sanitized. You know what I mean? Although they are in a different way in this episode.

**Jamala:** It's definitely refreshing, but at the same time, I feel like they're still held to specific, cultural construct from that time period that we would have considered to be not okay. It was like you're holding up this completely created black society up against, these, I'm sorry to say, white standards of what would consider to be civilized. Because the very last sentence in that particular episode is, "You may have more technology, but we still know how to be civilized," or something to that degree. And I was like, "Who wrote this? Who wrote this?"

**Jarrah:** And they're literally withholding a vaccine from dying kids or something. So, they're very much portrayed as these evil, exoticized baddies.

**Kennedy:** So, Aliza, were you a *Trek* fan for. You said you were pretty new to the fandom. Would you say it was within the past five years, 10 years? Was there some tenure there? Or are you a brand-new *Trek* baby? Baby *Trek*. [singing] Baby Trek do, do, do, do, do do. [laughter]

**Aliza:** Well, so, here's the funny thing. And, Kennedy, we're from similar parts of the US. I'm from Newark, New Jersey. I know. You're from Philly, right?

**Kennedy:** Ay.

**Aliza:** Okay, I don't know about you, but I grew up in a mostly black Caribbean Latino area in Newark, New Jersey. And I loved *Star Trek* growing up. I watched it with my dad. We watched *The Original Series*. We watched some *The Next Generation*, some of *Voyager* and *DS9*. And I have very fond memories of watching as a kid. But outside of my house, I didn't really connect with anyone about it. It wasn't talked about. I didn't know what a convention was. [chuckles] I didn't know what cosplay was. I grew up in this part of the world of the US where nerdism wasn't really celebrated. And so, it wasn't until I moved to the West Coast and

then became an actor and then tapped into the outward side of my fandom that I realized that there's this whole world of Trekkies and cosplay and conventions and stuff. And so yeah, when I say that I was new to the fandom, that's what I mean. I was new to, like, the community of fans.

**Kennedy:** Gotcha.

**Aliza:** Not new to *Trek*, but new to the community of fans. So, yeah, in that way, I was a baby Trekkie.

**Kennedy:** Gotcha. Sarah, what about you? Are you a veteran as well, or you have similar exposure to the community as Aliza?

**Sarah:** So, I started watching *Star Trek* in 1987 when *Next Gen* was on the air, and my first convention was actually back in-- It would have been 1993 or 1994. And in the '90s, Creation used to do tiny conventions all over the country. And so, we had one in Portland with William Shatner just after they finished filming *Generations*.

**Kennedy:** Wow.

**Sarah:** So, I have vague memories of this because I would have been 13, 14 years old. But I wasn't really involved in fandom. I didn't really know there was a fandom. I saw the Shatner documentary about ST:LV in probably 2013 or so, and I thought, "Oh, that's really cool." I think I'll wait and I'll go to the big 50th anniversary convention that was in 2016 because I thought the people that fly to Las Vegas every year for the *Star Trek* convention were insane. And so, now I've been four years in a row. I've made so many friends there. The *Star Trek* community is so friendly and so welcoming. You go your first year to see Captain Picard and Data and all these people you grew up with on TV, but you keep going because of the fans.

**Kennedy:** Yeah. Yeah, that's for sure. This is definitely a unique fandom in that because the driving mission, [chuckles] for lack of a better term, of this series of this franchise, is to highlight and focus on how immensely beneficial combinations of people can be. The more-- I hate the term "diverse," let's say that because it has such negative connotations to it. It almost makes me feel of a division. And I like to instead say that it's a more accurate representation of humanity. People across all walks of life saw themselves in *Trek* to some extent or another. Some groups certainly not as much as others. Some groups barely any at all. So, that's a cool thing about *Trek*. It's almost a self-editing document because now with new series being on the air, they have an opportunity to right some of those wrongs.

But for me, I grew up on *Trek*. My mom raised me on it. I also watched *The Next Generation* when it came out and literally every series ever since. I also went to conventions coming up because it was my mom's jam. Her and all her friends would get dressed up. At the time, it wasn't cosplay though. It was called "going in uniform" because that's how precise their shit was. Everybody was pressed. I remember in the mornings getting ready for those weekends, everybody would be in the TV room getting into uniform and people were buffing their boots so that they would shine for the photos. That's how into it they were.

I remember being a kid and haggling somebody for Latinum. [laughter] Someone had bars of Latinum at a vendor table. I was, "How much is your Latinum?" And he was like, "\$12," or something for a bar. And I said, "\$12? This is not a big piece of Latinum. You're crazy." He's like, "Wait a minute, where are you going? What do you mean?" I said, "Sir, this is barely the size of my finger." I'm like 13. "This is barely the size of my finger. It is unreasonable to charge these prices for a sliver of Latinum. You have lost your mind, sir. Good day." He was, "Wait a minute, come back. Give me \$5 and it's yours." I said, "Sir, you have struck a bargain."

**Female Speaker:** Oh, my God. Baby Ferengi. Oh, so sweet.

**Andi:** You know what else I enjoy?

**Grace:** What?

**Andi:** Garashir dates.

**Grace:** Yep. Yep.

**Andi:** So, we talked about diplomatic dinners.

**Grace:** This is a different kind of diplomacy.

**Andi:** Yeah. This is a romantic feeling out of somebody's romantic attentions. They have a lot of dates, y'all. Like a lot.

**Sarah:** So, Grace and I did a *Star Trek* panel at Wizard World last year, and afterwards we were so tired, went back to my house, and we're just like, "Okay, let's watch a bunch of Bashir episodes." And so, we started with the episode where Garak meets Bashir. And I just remember being, "Oh, my God, was this always so gay?"

**Grace:** Yep.

**Andi:** Yeah, it was. It was very gay. That episode is called *Past Prologue*, and it's their first date, and their first date comes in the third episode of the first season. So, they laid that groundwork early.

**Grace:** I love the progression in their relationship that we get throughout these though in terms of how the show goes forward, we see such-- What am I trying to say here? Both a representation of how comfortable Bashir is becoming with his situation on Deep Space Nine and with this whole intriguing world of Garak that he's getting pulled into and how in control he's getting with that, and also just how personally engaged with the whole thing Garak is getting over time, rather than just, "This is an interesting novelty," to "Oh, these are people I know and work with, and this is someone whose company I value."

**Andi:** Yeah. And that first one is kind of funny because they play it very interesting and it's kind of out of-- It's not the same as the rest of them. So, you've got Bashir acting very wide-eyed and naive. [Grace laughs] And then, you've got Garak almost being a bit predatory. Andrew Robinson has since said in the *DS9* documentary that he was like, "I want to be really clear, he wanted to have sex with him." [laughter]

**Grace:** We noticed. We noticed.

**Andi:** We definitely got that, bro, like, that was very clear.

**Grace:** T'weren't subtle.

**Andi:** T'weren't subtle at all. I mean, some people didn't get it. So, obviously, your mileage may vary on this one, but for me, I was, like, gay.

**Kennedy:** But *Trek* ain't retiring because we've got all these new series, we've got all these new seasons of new series, and it really is the gift that keeps on giving. But I believe, and I have a hunch that the three of you and those of you listening will agree that one of the

greatest gifts of *Trek* that keeps on giving is the cosmic African Diaspora. Now, what is the cosmic African diaspora, you might ask?

**Female Speaker:** I was asking that, Kennedy. Thank you for-- Yes.

**Kennedy:** It's valid. It's a valid question. Who, who talks like that? I do. I define the cosmic African diaspora as a concept that includes the nuances of blackness and black culture that transcends race, species and vast distances in space.

**Female Speaker:** I'm glad you defined it because I thought we were just talking about Sisko's cousins or something. But I'm cool. I got it now. I'm good.

**Female Speaker:** I was just-- that was a lot though, Kennedy. How do you even break that apart? [Kennedy laughs] Once black people got into space, I'm pretty sure we were, cool, cool, cool, we out.

**Kennedy:** Right. And that happened. But what is cool, I think, about *Star Trek* is that there's representations of blackness across different species. And we've seen this in evidence of black Vulcans, black Klingons, black Romulans, and there was even a black Cardassian once upon a time. So, that implies that the presence of blackness transcends not only this planet, but also exists on different planets in different ways.

If you want to get really super niche-y about it, when you look at races like the Romulans. If we're all caught up on Picard, we know that Romulans can look two different ways. The northern Romulans have bumpy ass foreheads and the southern Romulans look like watered-down Vulcans. Those are the same species, but they're two different races. I've seen black actors play both types of those Romulans.

So, that to me, is an indicator not only that the casting directors know what the hell is up, but also that blackness can exist on any planet that has a sun and a climate. So, I wanted to not only define that for everyone, but also put that bee in your bonnet, if you will, because it circles back onto some of the representation that we'll get to dive into over the course of this episode.

**Andi:** All right, well, thanks so much for listening to our clip show part deux.

**Sue:** Thank you so much for joining us for another three years of this wild and crazy journey. It's been such a gift to be able to do.

**Jarrah:** We thank our patrons at the top of every episode. But thank you even if you're not a patron, thank you for being a listener. Thank you for supporting us whether it is with likes and shares and retweets. Thank you for downloading the episodes and listening to them. Thank you for joining in conversations. Thank you for helping us build a community around this show that we love to do.

**Aliza:** We can't wait to be able to see you in person again. Those of you that are part of our in-person convention audience, we love and miss you. And second star to the right and straight on till morning.

**Andi:** All right, well thanks so much for listening. To learn more about our show or to contact us visit [womenatwarp.com](http://womenatwarp.com) or find us on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram @womenatwarp. You can also email us at [crew@womenatwarp.com](mailto:crew@womenatwarp.com). And for more Roddenberry podcasts, visit [podcasts.rodtenberry.com](http://podcasts.rodtenberry.com). Thanks so much for joining us. Whoo. [crosstalk].

[Women at Warp theme]

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