

## Women at Warp Episode 165: Here's the Mail, It Never Fails

[Women at Warp theme]

**Jarrah:** Hi and welcome to Women at Warp, a Roddenberry *Star Trek* Podcast. Join us on our continuing mission to explore intersectional diversity in infinite combinations. My name is Jarrah and thanks for tuning in. With me today are crew members, Grace.

**Grace:** Hello.

**Jarrah:** Sue.

**Sue:** Hi.

**Jarrah:** And Sarah.

**Sarah:** Hello.

**Jarrah:** And our main topic today is your questions, listener mail. Before we get into that though, we have a little bit of housekeeping to do. Our show is made possible by our patrons on Patreon. If you'd like to join us there and check out some of our patron-exclusive rewards content and polls, visit [patreon.com/womenatwarp](https://patreon.com/womenatwarp), that's *P-A-T-R-E-O-N.com/womenatwarp*. And a huge thanks to all you who already support us on Patreon. We truly couldn't do this without you.

We also have a TeePublic store with new designs based on our new banner art plus logos and some other non-podcast-specific *Trek* designs. Check that out over at [teepublic.com/stores/womenatwarp](https://teepublic.com/stores/womenatwarp).

Let's get into our listener mail. Our last mailbag episode was in the before times in December 2019. But we do collect your amazing questions and comments that you send to the show via email, on social media, via Patreon and through our website. And we save them up for these episodes. So, you may hear your question in here. So, let's start out with a question from Susan via email and I'll turn that over to Sue to read.

**Sue:** Yeah, so Susan wrote in response to our episode on women and aging in *Star Trek* and said, "I noticed that far too many Starfleet career tracks follow as such. Ensigns are in their 20s. Lieutenants and commanders are in their 30s. Captains are 40 plus. Admirals are 50 plus. Yet, there are simply not enough admiralties for every 50-year-old in Starfleet. Nor are there enough ships or space stations for every 40-year-old in Starfleet to captain. So, where does everyone go? In *Tapestry*, we see Picard as a failure for still being a lieutenant. But is he a failure? He's working on the flagship, exploring strange new worlds and presumably doing a job he enjoys. Many would see that as a success."

**Jarrah:** Agreed.

**Grace:** Yeah.

**Jarrah:** Yeah. I have a big problem with *Tapestry* for that reason. I mean, for a couple reasons. Also, the girlfriend thing is gross. For an episode that I think is much beloved and I used to love quite a bit, I have really come to question that idea that serving in a lower rank position is somehow underachieving. You're still in Starfleet. You're still, as Susan points out, doing a job you enjoy, a valuable job. We're told that everyone in the crew is valuable. And I think that even though this is supposed to be a post-capitalist society, it really does reflect

this capitalist idea that you're supposed to try to rise to the top of whatever hierarchy you belong to.

**Grace:** Capitalist and just generally really competitive. If we're at a point where the future of humanity is based around self-betterment, shouldn't we be a lot cooler with the idea of, "This is a position where I'm happy. I'm good doing this part"?

**Sue:** And we see that often in *TNG*. Riker brings up all the time, "I want to make captain by the time I'm this age," or, "I want to make captain by the time I'm this age," or, "I was the youngest person to do this." So what? [laughs]

**Grace:** I can't help but wonder if that's a byproduct of this weird idea that we culturally have that competitiveness is a good quality.

**Sue:** Well, it was also the late 1980s where this was very much an ideal. But we can see it, the pushback, I think we can see starting in *Lower Decks*. Mariner doesn't want to go anywhere. She's happy where she is. But I feel like this observation also tracks to real life, right?

**Jarrah and Grace:** Yeah.

**Sue:** Where people make a lot of assumptions based on whatever your job title is.

**Jarrah:** Mm-hmm. I think that also in *Tapestry*, it's very also a gendered idea. And I think that Susan rightly points out, this applies to all genders in *Star Trek* in terms of the idea that we don't see a lot of 50-year-old lieutenants. But in *Tapestry*, there's very much this idea that because he didn't do this risky masculine stunt, he ended up being this underachieving namby-pamby science officer. I think that's also not super helpful.

**Grace:** God, just namby-pamby as a descriptor for Picard is cracking me up. [laughter]

**Sue:** This is also reminding me of-- It's kind of funny. Grace and I play *Star Trek Adventures* game and except for our captain, we're literally all commanders.

**Jarrah:** Yeah.

**Sue:** Nobody wants to rank down. [laughter] So, definitely, every time we have our fake conference room meetings, it's, "Commander. Commander. Commander."

**Grace:** Commander. I think also there's definitely an element of ageism and storytelling going here. Just that-- Well, I'm bringing it back to, "Oh, it's our culture, damn it," but I do think we do have this pattern of really saying, "No, we're more comfortable with thinking of older characters as the people who are retired, and their main story has passed." And it feels like we really need to get over that idea and be like, "No, there are older people who are having just as interesting life adventures as someone in their 20s."

Especially if we're talking about Starfleet as being something that isn't just an immediate track thing that everyone does in their 20s, the idea that people can change careers or decide they want to join Starfleet later on, we really got to examine that more, I feel like.

**Jarrah:** Yeah, I feel like O'Brien is one of the few that we get that's older and doesn't seem to care about being a captain because he's just super down with being an engineer and obviously is non-commissioned.

**Grace:** And let's be real, far too traumatized to want to do anything more.

**Jarrah:** Yeah. But I think that you're right. I don't think that the creators put a lot of thought into where does everyone go. I think it was more like, "What do we want this to look like on screen?" And also mirroring this idea that everyone in the Academy, especially in the era of *TNG* and stuff, like, everyone needs to be physically fit. It ties in with body issues and how agent and body image and fitness and disability, all of this ties into this idea of, what does an ideal human look like in the 1980s and 1990s? So, yeah, complicated. Anyway, great question.

So next up, we have a question from Kary or Kari. I apologize, I'm not sure exactly what the pronunciation is via email. Grace, do you want to take a stab at reading that one?

**Grace:** Absolutely. Kari or Kary, sorry, we're not sure which, wrote to us on Admiral Satie's father worship, which is a very interesting topic. "I recently watched *TNG* episode, *Drumhead*, and was irked by how Admiral Satie constantly put herself as a product of her 'brilliant father.' 'Great man without him, I would have been nothing.' I shortly thereafter watched the *DS9* episode, *Ties of Blood and Water*, and was struck by how, again, fathers or father figures were uplifted and centered. Tom Paris had a negative relationship with his father, but the father was still famous and influential in an ongoing character arc for Paris. I'm not sure we ever heard anything about Paris' mother. Are there any other mothers than Lwaxana Troi that are mentioned and revered as famed, powerful and brilliant in the *Trek* universe? Amanda Grayson and Dr. Crusher are good examples of mothers, but I'm not sure they're mandatory reading at Starfleet Academy." That's a really good point.

**Sarah:** I guess [unintelligible 00:08:13], AKA Mother.

**Grace:** Yeah, there's Laurel. I think we get at one point talking about how Geordi's mom is a big captain. But that's pretty one-off, isn't it?

**Jarrah:** I think that it's a lot to do with what the writers related to, and I think that's why you'll see more mothers in *Discovery* than you did in *TNG*. The other father episode classic example is *The Icarus Factor*.

**Grace:** Oh, wow.

**Jarrah:** Never forget. And you see it in a lot of sci-fi, obviously, *Star Wars*, that it's partly to do with the issues between fathers and sons and the fact that men are writing these shows, by and large. So, I think that's part of it. But in terms of other mothers in *Star Trek*, yeah, we get Worf's mom showing up really briefly. We get B'Elanna's mother issues, so that would be another later example of B'Elanna's conflict with her mother.

**Sue:** But nobody's praised like this.

**Jarrah:** Yeah.

**Sue:** "My mother made me who I am," is never a conversation that we hear in *Star Trek*.

**Jarrah:** Yeah, that is a great-- I guess Burnham's mom is, I would say, the closest we get to and Georgiou as kind of a surrogate mother-type figure. But Gabrielle Burnham does get more of a heroic persona later on. Challenging, but yeah. And Amanda, I think, is a decent example. She does have a lot of influence on Spock and Burnham in *Discovery*. But it was actually really interesting, I think, Sue, you probably read it as well, that Fact Treks transcript of that interview, or like-- It was the 19--

**Sue:** Yeah.

**Jarrah:** So, Fact Treks posted on Twitter and we retweeted. There was a 1972 convention panel that was emceed by Isaac Asimov and had Majel Barrett and D.C. Fontana on it. And there was a point where someone in the audience asked, "What does Sarek see in Amanda anyway?"

**Jarrah:** I think D.C. Fontana was, "I think, what does Amanda see in Sarek?" [laughter]

**Sarah:** For real.

**Grace:** Yes.

**Jarrah:** But yeah, it does kind of speak to that idea that mothers are caregivers and that's somehow not as heroic.

**Grace:** Mothers are caregivers and fathers are heroes.

**Jarrah:** Yeah.

**Grace:** And that's how the story we keep getting told.

**Sue:** And apparently, caregivers can't be heroes.

**Grace:** Evidently.

**Jarrah:** Interesting double standard there. So, I'll take the next question, which was more of a comment on our watch-along on *Star Trek: Nemesis*, and we had a comment that we thought was important to share from a rape survivor, who self-identifies as a rape survivor, who said that they were concerned by the way that we talked about the second part of-- So, in *Nemesis*, we talked about Troi's sexual assault and how that was very disturbing. And then, we also talked about the part where she kind of gets vengeance on the Shinzon, and calls out, "Remember me?", Shinzon and the Viceroy when she's directing the missile towards the ship at the end. I think we had a lot of problems with *Nemesis*, so the listener felt that we should have been more attentive to the perspectives of actual survivors who said that kind of moment of redemption-- Or not redemption, but revenge or just seeking justice was really important and powerful.

So, the commenter said, "Did the movie need the rape? No, but it did need the, 'Remember me?' once it had the rape. Because without that, you just leave Troi as an object to be used and we pass over her trauma again. At least, this time it addressed it in some way." So, very valid point and we appreciated the outreach on that.

**Grace:** It's just a fair point. Yeah.

**Jarrah:** Next up. Sarah, do you want to read the next question from Claire on Facebook?

**Sarah:** Sure. So, Claire wrote to us about Odo getting a pass for working with the Cardassians. She said, "I've only recently stumbled onto your podcast and I'm enjoying discovering all the great topics you cover. I just listened to your episode on Odo, and I was super surprised that the subject of Odo as a Cardassian collaborator never came up. That always seemed such a big plot hole that Kira always gave him a pass for working with the Cardassians when she was so harsh with others on that topic. Would love to hear you guys discuss that aspect. Love the show and look forward to hearing more." Thanks, Claire.

**Grace:** Also, a really good point.

**Jarrah:** Yeah, I definitely have had that thought before about why did no one seem to have an issue with it. I think that part of it is that he's not a Bajoran, so this idea that he wasn't collaborating on the oppression of his own people, whereas Kira seems to have this particular rage towards Bajorans who are collaborators. Also, he was a goo puddle at the beginning of the occupation. He had no consciousness and was very trained into this order. But yeah, still, it does invite questions about what is his culpability here. And he, as a character, kind of presents himself as-- Or we're told to appreciate him as someone who just cares about the law and about justice, no matter who is in charge but like micro justice, obviously. Because if you care about macro justice, then the entire occupation is unjust.

**Grace:** Mm.

**Sue:** I think we also get several storylines where we learn more about Odo's history, and he was also being subjugated by the Cardassians. Not to the extent of the Bajoran people, of course, but he was paraded around and made to do his Cardassian neck trick. So, yes, he was a collaborator, but I don't think he had that much choice. I'm not sure if that's the right way to put it. But he was in their labs, and he was labeled by Cardassian scientists and it's not as if he was in an outside position and came in and helped the Cardassians, if that makes any sense.

**Jarrah:** Yeah, and as the next comment points out, which we'll get to, he's also like an abuse-- someone who has been the subject of abuse.

**Sue:** Mm-hmm.

**Jarrah:** So, it's not he had really a choice whether or not-- Like, he could have maybe said, "I'm just not going to participate," but who knows what would have happened then?

**Sarah:** Right.

**Sue:** I mean, he could have made the choice to leave, but I don't think he could have stayed on Deep Space Nine without cooperating.

**Jarrah:** Yeah, exactly. Especially because he, as a Changeling, a shapeshifter, he was kind of an implicit threat.

**Grace:** You still get that episode though where Odo had kind of flashing back to being like, "No, I definitely was complicit at least this one time in terrorizing the Bajoran people." And that's supposed to sort of be our like glimpse into, "Oh, this is the path that Odo could have taken," but it's sort of used as this redemptive moment of, but it didn't. But there was that one time, and it makes you kind of have to ask, "Okay, but there was that one time."

**Sarah:** You also have to question-- Well, for example, Quark was there at the same time and we find out one point that Quark secretly helped the Bajorans under the table. Probably not out of any moral reasons, probably just to make some cash. But he was helping the people who were being oppressed and Odo was not. And I think that has a lot to do with Quark having a lot more moral relativity and Odo seeing everything in terms of black and white.

**Jarrah:** Odo, we also learn, shields Kira a bit from the Cardassians.

**Sarah:** Because he's in love with her.

**Grace:** Hmm.

**Jarrah:** That's a whole topic for another day, which I believe we've had questions about before and have definitely talked about on the show.

**Grace:** That's a whole other bucket of goo to dig into.

**Sue:** Yep.

**Jarrah:** But shall we go to the next question, which is somewhat related? And, Sue, do you want to take a stab at reading that?

**Sue:** Yeah. So, Jane wrote to us about Doctor Mora and said, "In your episode about Odo, you mentioned that Doctor Mora sucked, but I am sending this because I felt the magnitude of his badness was far greater than you let on. The way Doctor Mora treated and talked to Odo mirrored a lot of things my spouse's mom said to them. Enough that within a few minutes, I stopped the episode. I couldn't see it on their face. Doctor Mora isn't just crummy, he's downright abusive. Abusive, manipulative, narcissistic parents have a way of covering their tracks. They have a reasonable explanation for everything they do. And famously, nothing bad is ever their fault. For someone who didn't experience what it's like, it can be almost invisible.

Had I not met my spouse and some friends, I don't think I'd have understood, and I would have been fooled. I've spoken with far too many people who have that experience and suspect more that haven't opened up in one way or another. On one hand, this episode could be a way of starting conversations and healing. On the other hand, it might just trigger PTSD instead." I don't have any answers.

**Sarah:** This episode has always made me so angry because he's absolutely an abuser. He tries to isolate Odo. He has all the red flags of an abuser, and then they just reconcile without him taking any responsibility or facing any consequences.

**Grace:** Hate that. I hate that whole thing in media where there's this constant or at least consistent thing of, if your parents were shitty to you, you still have to be the bigger person. And, ugh, I hate it. I absolutely cannot stand that being the bigger person is always portrayed as, "You have to let it go and be okay with some of the horrible stuff that was done to you." Especially when we do-- This is such a textbook case of a parent or a caregiver being like, "Well, I know you better than you know yourself," in a situation where-- at one point, we have Odo trying to explain what it's like to be a Changeling and what it's like to grow up as a shapeshifter and the doctor is telling him how to do it. And he's like, "No, I am the one who knows this experience here. Stop acting like you know this better than I do."

**Sue:** And we certainly, especially in our episodes on characters, have a tendency to err towards the lighter, jokier tone. But that shouldn't be an excuse for Doctor Mora's behavior by any means. So, it came off as if were dismissing that. That was not an intention, because you're absolutely right. Doctor Mora is horrendous, abusive, and manipulative and absolutely terrible to Odo. And it is absolutely a reflection on what some people might experience in their families.

**Jarrah:** Yeah, I guess in terms of the what could they do differently, I think that one thing we've talked about around sexual assault, which we haven't talked about in the case of something like parental abuse, that some shows have explored is, like, better warnings at the beginnings of the episodes versus just Netflix warning, "This episode contains sex and fear." [laughs] Is that what it says?

**Grace:** Yeah, sex and fear, the two emotions. [laughter]

**Jarrah:** And also, lists of resources at the ends of the episodes. So, again, some media have done that for episodes about sexual assault, but we haven't seen that for abuse, at least not in *Star Trek*. And that is an area where I think they could explore.

And then, I think that, as folks pointed out, the easy reconciliation at the end is possibly the big problem with the actual content of the episode. But then if you're going to present it, also make sure that you're attentive to the effect this could have on someone who's experienced that in their own life.

**Sarah:** I have a big problem with how they take the way he abused Odo and they use it on the other Changeling and it works. And that's what they bond over.

**Jarrah:** Yeah.

**Sarah:** That's like Stockholm syndrome or something.

**Jarrah:** Mm-hmm.

**Grace:** And probably something to be said there about how a lot of people who-- There is a consistent pattern of people who are raised in an abusive household only know how to raise their own offspring in an abusive manner. There is a perpetuated cycle that is really hard to break out of.

**Jarrah:** Yeah. I'd be really curious to know if they discussed this in detail because clearly, there's some parallels to the idea of corporal punishment, which would have been a debate at the time. So, I'm really curious to think if they saw what they were doing to the Changeling as just metaphorical tough love, or whether they actually saw that as physical violence. And either thing can be problematic, but I'm just really curious about how it played out behind the scenes.

**Grace:** Another one of those "you've got to wonder" moments.

**Jarrah:** All right, well, on to our next question. Grace, do you want to take it? It's a short and fun one.

**Grace:** Yeah, it's from ALR Stories on Instagram. We got this just in April. A fun one. "Which actress working today should get a role on *Star Trek* and why?"

**Sarah:** Okay, I got an answer, but I don't want her to just get a role, I want her to write a whole limited series, like a one season, one shot and star in it.

**Grace:** Go on.

**Sarah:** Brit Marling from *The OA*.

**Grace:** Ah.

**Sarah:** I think she would do something so interesting with the *Star Trek* Universe, if you just gave her that sandbox to play in.

**Grace:** Would be interesting, wouldn't it?

**Sue:** Gates McFadden. [laughter]

**Jarrah:** Okay, so one, obviously I don't think *Star Trek* is quite the level of her, but I know when they were launching *Disco*, there was a big campaign to make Angela Bassett the captain. Obviously support that idea.

**Grace:** Oh, my gosh, that would have been so cool.

**Jarrah:** Yeah. I also think that *The Expanse* has really elevated a lot of really fabulous actresses of color. And I'm thinking specifically of Cara Gee, who plays Drummer.

**Sarah:** Drummer.

**Jarrah:** But yes, there's the actresses or actors who play Bobby and Naomi. There's just so many great actors on *The Expanse* and it is wrapping up. So, there's no reason they couldn't move some people over to *Star Trek*. I think that really, a little bit ahead of *Discovery* in the time frame, showed some really cool potential of diverse casting.

**Sarah:** And we already have Avasarala.

**Jarrah:** Yes, exactly. We already have Shohreh Aghdashloo in *Star Trek* Universe. So, let's just bring them all over.

**Grace:** I say Archie Panjabi. I just think she's fabulous. Based on her comedic skills, I just don't think she's gotten enough of a wide range of work, which is very sad to me.

**Sarah:** Mm-hmm.

**Sue:** Gina Torres.

**Grace:** Oh, yes, agreed.

**Sue:** Gina Torres, but also Indya Moore.

**Jarrah:** Mm-hmm. Yep.

**Sarah:** Yes.

**Sue:** Just really anybody. Anybody who wants to be on *Star Trek*, bring them in.

**Grace:** Just get more people on *Star Trek*.

**Sue:** [laughs]

**Grace:** Just do it. It'll be great.

**Jarrah:** Yeah, there's such a great pool of talented, diverse people out in TV right now. And I think I'm excited to see who *Star Trek* could pull in.

**Sue:** If I could add one more, Aliza Pearl.

**Grace:** Oh, yeah. [laughter] Yes, absolutely.

**Jarrah:** Yep.

**Grace:** Oh, my God, she's so cool.

**Sue:** If you need a young Guinan, you know who to call.

**Sarah:** Mm-hmm. But also, all the rest of us as extras.

**Grace:** Yeah. [laughter] Our show, our rules, we get to plug ourselves.

**Jarrah:** So, next up, we had an email from Curator, who talked about two fandom friends, [unintelligible 00:23:52] and Seema, I hope I pronounced those right, who said that the three of them hit on a theme in *Voyager*, which is B'Elanna Torres' body being used for purposes that aren't her own or medical decisions being overruled. And Curator provided many examples, but said, "It's difficult to think of another *Trek* character whose physical and medical choices over and over again are not his/her or their own. An episode on this B'Elanna Torres theme with insight into the implications for women, Latinx performers, and so much more could be fascinating." So, yeah, super cool. We've done a B'Elanna episode, but this is definitely a more specific look into it and just thought we could kind of take an initial look at this theme that was brought up.

**Grace:** God, that could be a whole episode, couldn't it?

**Jarrah:** [chuckles] Certainly, I think we see some other examples in the *Trekverse*. We talked about-- mystical pregnancy is a good example of a woman's body being used in a way that's not their intention. So, we get that in *The Child*. And we do see some women having less agency in their medical choices than others. But yeah, this is a really good point. There's the face-swappy, the Vidiian one, split into two faces. Is that *Faces*? Yes. So, yeah, an excellent point and lots of implications in terms of just kind of the feminist analysis there.

**Sarah:** Kira occasionally gets it with her whole, actual real-life pregnancy being written in kind of a weird way. And also, the one where she gets kidnapped and turned into a Cardassian.

**Sue:** Yep.

**Jarrah:** Yes. Yeah, very true.

**Sue:** Which is similar to Troi being kidnapped and turned into a Romulan.

**Grace:** Yeah.

**Jarrah:** Yeah. I think sci-fi has a real fascination with-- I don't know, it's maybe crossing into body horror in a lot of these cases, but what kind of scary things can you do to women's bodies? And it does kind of, I think, you could say like mirror some of the ways that ciswomen have felt their bodies controlled by society and certainly ciswomen of color. So, yeah, it's an interesting theme, for sure.

**Grace:** Yeah, we also-- I feel like with B'Elanna, we see that kind of as an extension of-- We had a blog post written back in 2017 by Larissa Maestro about *Star Trek's Tragic Hybrids*. And there's definitely something to be dug into there that I don't personally feel qualified to, but would love to hear more analysis on.

**Sue:** And *Star Trek* also has this problem of medical privacy, let's say, in general, where your doctor will talk to whoever wanders into the room about your medical condition and everybody seems to be able to give their opinion, even if you're in the room and it's a committee decision that's made for you.

**Grace:** Did OSHA not make it into the future? [laughter]

**Jarrah:** No, apparently not by all the exploding consoles.

**Sue:** The privacy and confidentiality, we understand, of course, that a lot of this is for the plot of the television show, but it still reads, while watching it as an individual and often a ciswoman individual is not able to make her own choices about her own body.

**Jarrah:** Mm-hmm.

**Sarah:** I think it's interesting that our Trill main characters were all either female or nonbinary because they're people who-- They're making their own decisions, but they don't have total ownership of their bodies anymore. They're a host for the symbiont. And there are a lot of rules imposed on them by the Trill Commission. I don't know why we don't see more male Trill hosts, except for like that one episode in *TNG*.

**Jarrah:** And like Stabby McDax.

**Sarah:** Oh, yeah.

**Grace:** Stabby McDax? Is that the official name?

**Jarrah:** Yeah. And the guy who kidnaps Dax.

**Grace:** Maybe it's just because we have a bunch of writers who aren't comfortable with writing male characters who don't have full body autonomy. Huh. [laughter]

**Jarrah:** Mm.

**Sarah:** Also, I just want to give a quick shout out to Curator because they're a fabulous fanfic author. And you can see their stuff in every issue of my fanzine, *Star Trek Quarterly*.

**Jarrah:** Nice. And a fountain of thoroughly intriguing topics and feedback. So, we love their feedback. Yeah. And I'll also just mention the episode where B'Elanna resists working with the Romulan hologram who was essentially the Dr. Mengele of the Cardassians?

**Grace:** Yeah.

**Jarrah:** Romulans?

**Grace:** Cardassians.

**Jarrah:** But yeah, because I think that history of medical experimentation on communities of color and women of color, if you look at the history of experimenting on women in the Caribbean and Latin America before the birth control pill came on the market for white women, and there's a lot of really sketchy history there.

**Grace:** We have a history of forced sterilization for Latin American women in California as recently as the 1970s, don't we?

**Jarrah:** Yeah. Indigenous women, there's actually present-day cases of women who have said they were forced into or like pressured, coerced into being sterilized in recent years still in Canada.

**Grace:** And women at ICE facilities who claim they were subject to medical practices they did not ask for.

**Sue:** Mm-hmm.

**Jarrah:** Yeah, and it goes beyond racialized communities too, and gets into disability and intellectual diversity, neurodiversity. It's a whole thing. But I think it would be interesting to take a look back at that episode and see what degree B'Elanna is being empathized with in that situation versus kind of being pressured to realize this is just a hologram and ultimately you have to put aside your hatred to do what's right kind of thing.

**Grace:** Does she though?

**Jarrah:** Well, I'm saying it's been a while since I saw it, so I would be interested to take a look at it. And in that light of-- I don't think it's being sympathetic to the Cardassian dude. And at the end of the day, he does prove out to be super sketchy as a hologram too, but.

**Sue:** If I remember correctly, part of her argument to The Doctor is that it's not just a hologram because he's been programmed with all of the knowledge and research he gained by doing these horrific things.

**Jarrah:** Mm-hmm. Yeah.

**Sue:** So, it's not just a hologram. It is an endorsement of his practices.

**Jarrah:** Mm-hmm. So, I think what we're probably saying is that, should not be the first time we've said it, The Doctor needs to check his privilege a little bit. [laughter]

**Grace:** Yeah, to say the least.

**Jarrah:** Anyhoo. All right, let's move on to the next question. Sarah, I don't know if you want to take a look at this one. You may want to paraphrase a little bit, but it's a great question from Miriam.

**Sarah:** Sure. So, Miriam is a student going back to school to study math and computer science. Yay, fellow math nerd. So, she says that she's been filling out applications and writing essays. She's been doing a lot of thinking about the women scientists who have inspired her, both real and fictional, and wanted to find a breakdown of female scientists in *Trek* and their specialties. So, she came across an article which was about whether women were more interested in pursuing computer science if the classroom were decorated stereotypically geeky or in neutral decor. And she says the article claims that *Star Trek* fandom may have kept women from studying computer science. What do you think about this perspective?

**Grace:** Stereotypically geek, I want to know what their standard of stereotypically geeky is and further analysis of that.

**Jarrah:** Yeah, so they put like *Star Trek* posters up and comics up and basically had people take this computer science class versus neutral décor like plants. And I think some folks have already done a bit of critical analysis on this study. But first of all, it strikes me as definitely one of those studies that when the headline is that like, "*Star Trek* keeps women out of computer science," you have to be like, "But is that what it really says?"

**Grace:** Is it that or establishing this space as being kind of a stereotypically geeky space, which is one that women have historically not always felt comfortable in?

**Jarrah:** Exactly. Yeah. That it codes it as male because geek is still coded as a male space, less so than it used to be. But I think that was some of the critique that I've read or listened to on podcasts about this piece, is that really what it might have been implying was that this is a room where you-- I mean, if anything, you could also say that it implies maybe that you need to learn this geek code or this like social code, and this fandom code versus, you don't need to show that you understand plants to sit in a room with plants. So, it could also just be, "Hey, if this isn't your world, if you can't say who your favorite captain is, you don't belong here."

So, I don't think it's that *Star Trek* was keeping women out of science, but I think that it's like you said, Grace, what does it mean to be in a geek space? And this expectation particularly for women that you have to prove that you are a real geek.

**Grace:** It's making me think of the Lena thing, which is there's a standard image that's used a lot in computing and image processing. It's one of the earliest ones, but it is a cropped image from a nudie magazine of a topless woman. It's still used because it's considered just part of the computing culture thing like, "Oh, she's a mainstay. We've used her since the beginning." But anytime there are women in coding classes and then there's multiple documentations of people being in coding and computing classes where they'll say, "And here's Lena. She's the picture we always use. Don't look up the uncensored picture," and then everyone will instantly look up the uncensored picture. And of course, if you're not a straight dude in the room, that's going to be uncomfortable for you.

**Sue:** It's also frustrating that this culture is believed to have always been, because it's not the case, right?

**Jarrah:** Yeah. Yeah.

**Sue:** When computer science and programming began, I'm going to speak in the binary here, it was women. It was women doing math and programming punch cards and writing code because it wasn't deemed important enough for male engineers to do. When *Star Trek* first came on the scene, it was considered an afternoon or evening TV show for bored housewives.

**Grace:** And when *The Beatles* first started being popular, it was just teenage girls that liked it.

**Sue:** They were just a boy band. Yeah.

**Grace:** So, no one cared.

**Sue:** When these things start being popular, when they're deemed important, that's when men take over the space. And this is a documented thing, and it happens over and over again. But I recently heard a term for this that I had not heard before, which I love and hate at the same time, which is mentrification.

**Jarrah:** Oh, yeah.

**Grace:** Oh, gosh.

**Sue:** But that's what this is.

**Grace:** Yeah.

**Sue:** Computer science historically was dominated by women. *Star Trek* fandom historically has been dominated by women.

**Jarrah:** Yeah.

**Grace:** Yep.

**Sue:** So, the whole conceit behind *Star Trek* keeps women out of computer science, just makes me want to flip my desk. [laughs]

**Jarrah:** Yeah, no, clearly what it is its geek gatekeeping that keeps women out of spaces that are decorated with geek stuff, I guess, or spaces that make you feel not safe or your validity is going to be questioned because you're a woman.

**Grace:** Which makes you have some questions about *Wired*, doesn't it?

**Jarrah:** Yeah, it is. And obviously a whole other whack of problematic representations in *The Big Bang Theory*. But it creates this idea that you're going to be approached by these four *Big Bang Theory* geek bros and judged for not liking something enough or having the wrong opinion on something when all you want to do is talk about math and computers.

**Grace:** Yeah.

**Sue:** And it's absolutely true that you might walk into a space and someone who feels it's their right to be there might see a poster on the wall and decide to quiz you on it if they think that you don't belong there.

**Grace:** And for anyone listening who's done that or regularly does that, it's the worst. Don't do that.

**Sue:** Don't quiz.

**Grace:** It's super obnoxious.

**Jarrah:** Yeah.

**Sarah:** It's even more subtle. I think two years ago, there was a huge NASA event with tons of media, I forget which launch or landing or whatever it was, but one of the guys thought it was perfectly okay to show up in a Hawaiian shirt with naked ladies on it.

**Grace:** Gross.

**Sarah:** And he thought nothing of it.

**Jarrah:** Yeah, it's unfortunate. And also, I think that generally it-- I think that anytime you see a news article about a study with a headline like that-- I mean, or anytime you see a news article about a study, really, I tend to-- If I'm like, "Huh, this sounds interesting," and either I love it or it enrages me, I try to find the study and read what the actual abstract says. And a lot of times, these things are pushed out into media before they're even peer reviewed. So, in this case, I didn't go back and look at the original, but there's many, many examples of these types of things that you know they're being framed this way in the media to prompt people to have reactions a certain way.

And yeah, I mean, I think the right reaction is to-- or the most constructive reaction is to say, "Okay, so if this is true, what's really at play here? And is it just that *Star Trek* is impossible for women to get into?" Obviously not.

**Sarah:** And without having read the article, I really have to question what they mean by "stereotypically geeky stuff" because a lot of that stuff is pictures of scantily clad female characters.

**Grace:** Right?

**Jarrah:** I think that in this case, they were not going pinup level stuff, but you definitely could. You could have had-- I remember when I had the *Star Trek* magazine subscription when I was younger and they would come with those posters that would fold out.

**Sue:** Yep.

**Grace:** Oh, boy. Centerfolds. [laughs]

**Jarrah:** Yeah, I had them all up including Dax in her Ryza swimsuit and stuff. But if I had not been a 10-year-old Trekkie, that may have been weird to me or objectifying, if I had seen that in my workspace.

**Grace:** Yeah.

**Jarrah:** Yeah. Apparently, just because it came up a couple times, they had *Star Trek* posters, video games and comic books versus coffee mugs, plants and art posters. But art also, it doesn't describe what was in the art. How do we know that the art was inclusive? So yeah, there's a lot of questions. And basically, they asked 215 students-- Again, you always run into problems when a study is only college students because you're automatically tending to sample people that are likely to be more economically privileged and tend to be more white. 215 students were asked to imagine they were joining either a geekily decorated or a neutrally decorated company after graduation. So, it was like which environment would you prefer to work in and women preferred the non-geeky space and men didn't have any notable preference.

**Grace:** It makes you wonder also, is there a level of perceived professionalism there?

**Jarrah:** Yeah.

**Grace:** Like, oh, this is just standard decor, okay. This is an office space versus with the pop culture stuff as seen as being a lot more casual.

**Sue:** I think there might also be a measure of, "Oh, this office space is decorated a comic book shop. Well, how have I been treated in comic books?"

**Grace:** Yeah.

**Jarrah:** Exactly. Oh, my gosh. I had a guy in a comic book store who was the owner and I was like, "Oh, yeah, I'm looking for *Ms. Marvel*." And he's like, "You know that *Captain Marvel* and *Ms. Marvel* are different things, right?" And I'm, "Yes, I'm looking for *Ms. Marvel*."

**Grace:** Good Lord.

**Jarrah:** Oh, my God. Yes, I know they're both women.

**Grace:** That's insufferable.

**Jarrah:** Yeah, so fair. Also, as we talked about in the recent episode on *Trek Tech*, there's a well-documented history of *Star Trek* inspiring women scientists. So, I think the point that Miriam makes in this email to us is that this seems very counterintuitive because we know that *Star Trek* also has inspired a lot of women in STEM and the study is not attempting to tease that out at all.

**Sue:** I had a guy ask me if I got my Leia tattoo. A guy at a comic book shop asked me if I got my Leia tattoo for my boyfriend.

**Grace:** Oh, my God.

**Sue:** No.

**Jarrah:** No. Stab.

**Sue:** In so many ways, no. [laughs]

**Grace:** Side question. Does anyone else's local comic book shop just have a dude who hangs out there, who doesn't work there, who doesn't have any business there, but is just kind of there to nonstop talk at people in there?

**Jarrah:** Yeah, I've encountered that. I've also encountered a lot of comic book stores where the guys who work there don't even seem-- like, they're just like, "Oh, a woman." They aren't interested in engaging you in conversation, but they are super interested in conversations with any guy that walks in.

**Grace:** Yeah, yeah. I've definitely had that.

**Jarrah:** There's definitely this implied the whole fake geek girl assumption.

**Grace:** It's super fun to try and get help from somebody at the front desk when they're just actively ignoring you, especially if you're super shy in person like I am.

**Jarrah:** Yeah. Or you feel like they're going to judge you for reading an all-ages comic or for something that they consider not serious enough.

**Sue:** This is why I just pick up my holds and leave. [laughs]

**Grace:** I'm just remembering a point when I had a stack of *Transformers* comics and the guy at the front counter said, "Oh, girls don't usually like this stuff." And I was like, "I'm a girl and I'm cool at getting a stack of it."

**Sarah:** I was at a Comic Con and I was trying to find the *X-Men/TNG* crossover comic, and I went booth to booth to booth-

**Grace:** Oh, my gosh.

**Sarah:** -and all these old white guys were so rude and condescending to me until finally I found a booth with young guys in it and they're like, "Yes, we have that comic. We also have the *X Men/TOS* crossover. Would you like that too?" I'm like, "Yes. Thank you for being nice to me."

**Grace:** Oh, the one with the Dr. McCoy, what? It's great.

**Jarrah:** Yeah. Ugh, man. Anyway, thank you very much for the excellent question, Miriam. I hope that we answered a little bit in addition to having a good rant about the gross gatekeeping that can exist in some geek spaces. So next up, we have a question from Vanessa via Patreon. So, Sue, do you want to take that?

**Sue:** Yeah. Vanessa wrote in response to our episode with Blair Imani on women religious leaders in *Trek* and said, "I appreciate you all wanting to see positive versions of religion in *Star Trek*, and I'm fine with that as well. However, as a woman in my mid-40s, I absolutely appreciate and still feel it, not only necessary, but extremely contemporary to also shine that light on the corruption and corrosive parts of religion."

Christianity has stripped people of their cultural identities the world over through colonization. Not only that, I can't find any organized religion that isn't rooted in patriarchy. Yes, even Buddhism. There are countless studies of the subjugation of women in all religions, and so many ridiculous wars have been fought in its name. So, I think as feminists, we can also be happy when *Star Trek* interrogates dogmatic beliefs and shines light on power and corruption from religion.

I think it's important as well to show the worst sides of religion as well as the best and not to confuse culture and religion. They absolutely can be independent of one another." Ooh, there's a lot here. [laughs]

**Jarrah:** Yeah.

**Sue:** This was one that I really wanted us to discuss on the mailbag. Yeah, you're right. Religion has caused a lot of problems. Religion has done a lot of harm. And when I say religion, I mean organized religion. I think on an individual, case-by-case basis for a person, religion can be harmful, but it also can be beneficial. A lot of different people have faiths. A lot of people have different faiths. Yeah, it can be difficult when you know that your faith or perhaps the Religion that your faith is a part of has been a part or led the charge in horrific things in the past. But does it completely discount what positive impact it might have on you as an individual? I think that's for each person themselves to determine.

I can only speak for myself in this part but wanting to see positive versions of religion in *Star Trek*, again, for me, that's as an individual, I don't want to see or necessarily need to see a service of different kinds of religion. But if we can see that different people are practicing different faiths in the *Star Trek* Universe, I think that is very positive. And one of those options can be no faith. And I think *Star Trek* does often shine a light on the corruption of many religions and the corruption of religious leaders as we talked about in that episode.

**Jarrah:** Hello, Landru. Yeah, you'll definitely find different individual perspectives across our crew. But I think that-- I'm personally atheist, but when I was engaging in skeptics circles, I was really turned off by the version of atheism, humanism-- I wouldn't call it humanism like the Dawkins version atheism, that is like disrespect everyone's individual beliefs as dogma, basically and write off a whole bunch of people's agency as they can't possibly understand because they're oppressed. And I think that in its own way that is another form of dogma. So, so I definitely gravitated more towards humanist circles that had a better understanding of I don't want-- I want to minimize the influence of religion on the public sphere for the sake of equality and equal treatment by the state. But if individual people are practicing their own beliefs in a way that they find personally helpful and that largely isn't harming others, then that's cool.

So, that's where I personally stand. But I know, obviously, religion is a complex and divisive and political subject in a lot of circles. So, I hope we strike an okay balance between that, not

pretending that there has never been any harm associated with religion, but also that it's challenging when *Star Trek* leans so hard as it did in the earlier series, less so now, into this idea that a rational future of more advanced humans means leaving all this silly superstition behind.

**Grace:** Yeah. Well put.

**Sue:** My personal faith is very complicated for me, but I was raised by a doctor of theology, as I probably said on that episode. But one of the things I appreciated in my upbringing was that even though my dad was the pastor, one of the things that we were always told was to question everything, question traditions, question ceremony, question the, "Well, this is the way it's always been done."

And I think that I internalized that and perhaps a bit too much for my family's liking because [laughter] that questioning has led me farther away from the very conservative part of religion that I was brought up in. And I think that is where that sort of thing can lead you, where the individualism in your faith or in a faith can come into play. I certainly don't condone by any means all of the things that were done in the name of Christianity before I came along. It is up to me as an individual to decide what I believe and what I want to incorporate into my life, if anything.

**Sarah:** I just think this question is kind of funny because they seem to think we went too easy on religion in *Star Trek*. But I was on that show and all I remember talking about is how shitty religious leaders were, like Kai Winn and [unintelligible 00:48:52]. So, I'm not sure what nice things we said.

**Sue:** As pointed out in the comment, there's a difference between culture and religion although they can influence each other. In my opinion, there is also a difference between faith and religious dogma and institutional religion.

**Jarrah:** Yep.

**Grace:** Yes, that's definitely how I feel and that's definitely part of my religious experience.

**Jarrah:** Yeah. And actually, one of the authors I've been reading recently is John Gray, who's a philosophy professor who's written a lot about different types of atheism. And there is also the type that can find values in the different philosophies and views them more as different philosophical schools versus looking at the Catholic Church. I think it's a really rich area and it's hard to really-- like, you could definitely write a book about it. I actually think there are books about religion in *Star Trek*.

**Sue:** [chuckles] The one last thing on this discussion before we, I think, probably have to move on is that this is not an invitation to anyone to go religion bashing in the comments. [laughs]

**Jarrah:** Any particular religion or religion in general. It's totally cool to say, I think, respectfully like Vanessa did, the very valid issues with history and present-day harm. But yeah, not going to tolerate the Dawkins stuff, folks.

**Grace:** Not in our comments, not in person.

**Jarrah:** Yes. So, we also had a question from Daniel about the Bechdel test. And I could go on about this for a long time. But the question was basically, "Hey, will you also Bechdel test *Star Trek*, but about race?" So, we've definitely-- I think probably in a previous mailbag have talked about the pros and cons of the Bechdel test. It's a really, really low bar. It doesn't

necessarily indicate feminism in a show. It's mostly valuable because it's really, really easy to apply. And because it's such a low bar, it's striking when it's not achieved.

So, the challenge is that you can't really just straight up apply it to race because, especially in *Star Trek*, you run into situations where are you talking about alien race or human races or some combination of the two? There're cases where you have characters that are so heavily covered in alien makeup, like, does that person read as racialized? And is it fair because the actor was of color to read that person as racialized? And I think that all of those are important discussions to have. But also, do you say that it's just anytime two people of color talk about someone who's not a white person? It doesn't just kind of neatly translate over.

Luckily, many folks have suggested alternate tests that are better at taking race into account. So, in the show notes, I'll post a link to an article at FiveThirtyEight that includes a bunch of suggestions for how to evaluate. It's like basically called Moving Beyond the Bechdel Test or the Next Bechdel Test. And it suggests ways of looking at women behind the scenes, but it also looks at race. So, there's one by Lena Waithe, the writer for *Master of None*, who suggests a test that a movie passes if there's a black woman in the work who's in a position of power and a healthy relationship. There's a test called the Ko Test by Naomi Ko from *Dear White People* who suggests a movie passes if there's a nonwhite female identifying person in the film who speaks in five or more scenes and speaks English.

So, there's a whole bunch of different ideas in there. I think they're all super interesting and think it would be a great project for someone to take on. Just warning, it's a lot of work.

**Grace:** Yep.

**Sarah:** And the idea of turning the Bechdel test into a race test isn't a new idea. It was discussed on the DuVernay test after Ava DuVernay, but it isn't fully defined.

**Jarrah:** Yeah. I think that what you need to do is you need to start with an understanding of where some of the gaps are. The Bechdel test started as a joke in a comic strip, but it also started because it was acknowledged that you didn't often see women talking to other women about something other than a man. So, you need to come up with what is the gap that you're trying to identify in film and build the test around those problems. And I think that's what some of these alternatives do. All right, so this one is like rapid fire questions.

**Sarah:** Okay. Natalie has three quick questions, so I'll read one.

**Jarrah:** Rapid fire. Yeah.

**Sarah:** Okay, first question. The episodes that make you cry.

**Jarrah:** *Half a life*, the *TNG* one with Lwaxana and Dr. Timicin.

**Sue:** Yep. *Half a Life*.

**Grace:** *Visitor*, where we see old Jake still mourning his dad.

**Sue:** Still *All Good Things* for me.

**Sarah:** *Time's Orphan* and the finale of *Discovery* Season 1. The very last shot, that one made me lose my shit. Okay, next question. What is your opinion on *Children of Time*?

**Jarrah:** Yeah, this was a good point that we may not be able to answer that quickly, but basically, Natalie was saying Odo's actions are presented as romantic but kind of awful. Agreed.

**Grace:** Yeah.

**Jarrah:** Yeah, like, but they're actually kind of awful, agreed. He basically condemns a bunch of people to death so that Kira won't die. It's definitely a needs of the one very supersede the needs of the many that had no say in the situation.

**Grace:** Needs of the primary character of the show supersede any possible theoretical characters.

**Jarrah:** Yep.

**Sarah:** Okay. And last one, what is your favorite theme song of all the series?

**Sue:** [singing]I've got faith. [laughter] Probably honestly, *DS9*.

**Grace:** Yeah, I'm going to say the *Discovery* theme just gets me pumped.

**Jarrah:** [scats the *Lower Decks* theme]I'm going *Lower Decks*.

**Grace:** Okay.

**Sue:** *Lower Decks* is a good one.

**Jarrah:** Yeah. It's got all of the fanfare of the *TNG* theme, but it's like a little bit maybe pithier and more modern.

**Sue:** Always reminds-- It makes me think of the *Galaxy Quest* theme.

**Jarrah:** Yes.

**Sue:** It really does.

**Sarah:** Mm-hmm. I'm actually going to go with a movie and say *First Contact*.

**Grace:** Nice.

**Sue:** Yeah, there is a very cool-- Made it less quick, I'm sorry, I'm going to forget the name of the game, but there is like overlay for a game that has a soundtrack that weaves all of these songs together so there's no break in them and the different phrases just kind of move between each other. And again, our GM plays it for our *Star Trek Adventures* game all the time, which is why I even know about it, but it is phenomenal and I will find out what it is and put it in the show notes. [laughs]

**Jarrah:** Okay, amazing. So, we have two questions to wrap things off that are somewhat related, so just tie them together. Bill asks about suggestions that we have for media to consume that would help him become a better feminist/ally. Says, "I've listened to a few *Trek* podcasts in the past but wanted something to supplement those and found your amazing show. It gave me a new lens to view my favorite show through. And you've also challenged me to update some of my world views." So, thank you for that very nice note. "And looking for any suggestions to become a better feminist/ally."

**Grace:** Can we just put like a link to a Google Drive full of stuff or--

**Jarrah:** There are many, many, many, many options. Yeah, it's like where do you even start? Our blog. We have a blog that has lots of *Star Trek* stuff. Generally, for kind of like a feminist 101 perspective, I generally recommend Bell Hooks' *Feminism is for Everybody*. It does a good job at explaining intersectionality and why feminism is important and not about hating men or burning your bras or things like that. It's like super basic. So, that's something I would recommend for people who are just kind of just starting out on feminist theory.

**Sue:** I have to admit that I have not been to the website frequently in a few years, but I used to always recommend everyday feminism to people, especially if there was a specific topic they were looking for more information on. But I would also recommend Jessie Gender's channel on YouTube.

**Grace:** Oh, yeah.

**Jarrah:** Yes, definitely. It's great.

**Grace:** Friend of the show and just a good channel.

**Jarrah:** Yeah, there's so much stuff and there's also a lot of other, I would call them, like, almost our informal sister podcasts. There's the Verity! podcast on that's like women on *Dr. Who*. There's other podcasts that are women and people of diverse backgrounds talking about *Star Trek*. So, there's a lot more out there in the *Star Trek* podcast sphere as well.

**Sarah:** Oh, yeah, there was that blog post we did back in January. It's called Infinite Podcasts and Infinite Combinations and it's got a list of diverse podcasts you can check out.

**Jarrah:** Awesome. And then, we have another question asking for recommendations from Neil. And I believe that this was about our-- We did a panel with Roddenberry hosts at *Star Trek* Las Vegas, which was about how do we get to the *Star Trek* future from here. And our crew talked about universal education and universal healthcare and--

**Sue:** Universal basic income.

**Jarrah:** So, Neil asks, "Can you recommend any reading material, whether *Star Trek* focused or not, that outlines practical ways society could work towards that better future?" And again, this is like big question because there are many, many books that look at this type of thing.

**Sarah:** My very favorite book of all time is called *Woman on the Edge of Time* by Marge Piercy. And it has this amazing future that's inclusive, it's equitable, it's non-capitalist. And this book was written in the 1970s, but it's got stuff in it like nongendered pronouns. It was way ahead of its time. And I read this when I was like 19 years old and this is like 90% of why my politics are so left, like that in *Star Trek*. But yeah, *Woman on the Edge of Time* by Marge Piercy. It's wonderful.

**Jarrah:** I thought you said why your politics are so lit. And I'm like, "Yes, they are." [laughter]

**Sue:** If you're looking for like policy stuff, like a practical, "How do we get people to enact these policies?", that I can't give you. But there are lots of analyses of science fiction and *Star Trek* in particular about how those systems would work that are out there. You get into to certain parts of *Trek* fandom on the internet and you can't throw a rock without hitting one.

**Jarrah:** Yeah, I would suggest-- Okay, so first of all, one interesting *Trek*-related book is *Treconomics* by Manu Saadia, which is more about what would you need economically to create a *Trek*-type society. And it talks a lot about like scarcity, but it does a good job of kind of integrating what are some of the barriers to that we have in our society today. I would also suggest--

Yeah, I have a fair number of resources that are about kind of like political organizing and things like that. So, there's a good really short book called *Don't Think of an Elephant* by George Lakoff that's about political communications and how progressive movements tend to communicate about themselves in a way that is really abstract and not necessarily more academic-y and not kind of necessarily hitting people right in the feels and how we can better work our language to connect with people that are facing oppression in order to do community organizing. Yeah, and tons of resources on community organizing.

I feel like it's hard-- Obviously, if we had all the solutions for how we get to that better future, we would probably not be recording this podcast today. But it's about a lot of different conversations and we would definitely recommend just looking up reading lists on community organizing or on aspects that you're particularly passionate about if there's a particular issue like healthcare or incarceration or mental health or racism. You can find good reading lists online. And there's great podcasts. And yeah, sorry, it's almost like too overwhelming a question.

But yeah, we'll try-- You know what? How about we say we will try to come up with a couple of things for our show notes this time to put on our website if we think of anything. It will not be the comprehensive list but encourage you to go out there and do some research. Check out your local library. I will always plug local libraries. Librarians are great at helping people find the best things to read on different topics. That's their whole deal.

**Sue:** But do so safely and make sure you're following all of their safety guidelines.

**Jarrah:** Right now, ours are not open, so, it's phoning people anyway. So, I'm going on that. But yes, safely engage your local librarians. I also didn't mean to imply they don't do anything else. They're just specifically trained to do that. Obviously love librarians. So, yeah, check out the resources that are available to you to learn more. And there is much reading and learning to be had out there.

One podcast that I do really want to recommend is called Politically Re-active with Hari Kondabolu and W. Kamau Bell. One of the things that it does really well, in addition to having many, many amazing guests on that show from lots of different backgrounds, is that they're really good at acknowledging also the areas where they still have to learn more and then inviting guests on to address those. Like, they had a guest on early in the year who made kind of an offhanded comment about asexuality and then they didn't call the person out on it at the time. Later in the season, they came back and they had a host who was asexual and was able to talk about it really knowledgeably and explain to them and the listeners and educate them on the show. So, I think that it is a really powerful example that doesn't just teach you as the audience about those issues, but it's like you're learning along with the hosts.

Okay, that's about all the time we have for today. And we love to hear from you. If you would like to send us something to be in one of these future episodes, hopefully in what will be the aftertimes.

**Sue:** [laughs] A year or so from now.

**Jarrah:** Yeah, a year or so from now.

**Grace:** Someday.

**Jarrah:** You can email us at [crew@womenatwarp.com](mailto:crew@womenatwarp.com), or you can reach out to us on our social media channels and also on our website. Sue, where can people find you on the internet?

**Sue:** You can find me on Twitter [@spaltor](https://twitter.com/spaltor).

**Jarrah:** What about you, Grace?

**Grace:** You can find me on Twitter [@bonecrusherjenk](https://twitter.com/bonecrusherjenk). And also, just reeling from still some of the conversational topics we've been given today.

**Grace:** And, Sarah?

**Sarah:** You can find me on Twitter [@sarahmiyoko](https://twitter.com/sarahmiyoko). Or you can find my fanzine, *Star Trek Quarterly* on Facebook.

**Jarrah:** Nice. And I'm on Twitter [@jarrahpenguin](https://twitter.com/jarrahpenguin), J-A-R-R-A-H penguin. And to learn more about our show or to contact us at [womenatwarp.com](http://womenatwarp.com). Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, all of those are [@womenatwarp](https://twitter.com/womenatwarp). And email us, as I said, at [crew@womenatwarp.com](mailto:crew@womenatwarp.com). So that's all the ways you can get in touch with us. And for more Roddenberry podcasts, visit [podcasts.rodnenberry.com](http://podcasts.rodnenberry.com). Thanks so much for listening.

[Women at Warp theme]

**Female Speaker:** This is a Roddenberry podcast. For more great podcasts, visit [podcasts.rodnenberry.com](http://podcasts.rodnenberry.com).

[Transcript provided by [SpeechDocs Podcast Transcription](#)]