

## Women at Warp Episode 158: “Before and After”

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

**Grace:** 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 Grace, thank you for tuning in. With me today is my future and past friends, Sue

**Sue:** \*pause\* Oh, me. Sorry. \*laughs\*

**Grace:** and Jarrah.

**Jarrah:** \*making crying baby noises\* Wah wah wah wah. \*all laugh\*

**Grace:** Yes, past Jarrah. Hush hush, my child. Hush and know that the future holds better things. \*whispering\* Better things.

**Jarrah:** You probably have not figured out what we're going to talk about today, but- \*Sue laughs\*

**Grace:** And that just makes it better, honestly. \*Jarrah laughs\*

**Sue:** I mean, presumably you've seen the episode title.

**Jarrah:** Yeah. Okay. It's a good thing.

**Grace:** Unless you've got this on shuffle in which case you're in for a wild ride. \*Sue laughs\* So before we get into our main topic, we have a little bit of housekeeping to do first. Our show is made possible by our patrons on Patreon. We love our patrons so much. 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's the perfect time. Time. Time. We really appreciate the support either way. Please check us out. You can find us [patreon.com/womenatwarp](https://patreon.com/womenatwarp). In fact today's episode was selected by one of our patrons. We've got quite a few to get to, but don't worry, we're working through them all. We love getting your suggestions and we love seeing what we can do with them.

This episode is also brought to you by Text Expander, a little more on them later. We've also got our TeePublic store for t-shirts hoodies, mugs masks, and more at [teepublic.com/stores/womenatwarp](https://teepublic.com/stores/womenatwarp). We're regularly curating new designs. I'd say we've got some quality ones up there, and I'm not just saying that because I did a few of them.

**Jarrah:** \*Cheers\*

**Sue:** Team Tuvix!

**Grace:** Yes. I think we're still at the point of Tuvix having outsold team Janeway. \*Sue laughs\* So that's where the universe stands right now. I think. All of these links are also going to be available on our website [womenatwarp.com](https://womenatwarp.com). And finally, we have a birthday shout out!

**Jarrah:** Which is one of our new Patreon rewards. This is the first one to get to do! We're super excited!

**Grace:** Yay! So we want to wish a happy birthday to our patron, Grey.

**Jarrah:** Woo!

**Grace:** Our skies are never grey with you around.

**Jarrah:** Yes.

**Sue:** \*singing\* Happy, happy birthday from all of us to you. Disney owns this tune, so I'm going to stop singing it. \*all laugh\*

**Grace:** \*singing\* Better stop it soon. \*Sue laughs\*

**Jarrah:** Grey, I hope that your birthday is Tea, Earl, you, hot. \*all laugh/Grace cheers\*

**Sue:** Wow.

**Grace:** That was quality!

**Jarrah:** But seriously, happy birthday coming up on February 15th. And looking forward to doing more of these birthday greetings. For now, say to Grey that hopefully your year ahead is better, as it probably should hopefully be, than last year. And we are- our years already looking better because you're in it. \*Sue awws\*

**Grace:** And that's Grey-t. Yeah. \*laughs\* All right then. This episode was a Patreon request from our patron Susan. Now, would anyone like to give the email from her a read?

**Jarrah:** Sure. So, I think we'll probably read a couple of different parts in a couple different times, but starting out by saying that Susan had a really great argument for why we should talk about the Voyager episode Before And After. And she says, ""I do have memories, they just don't correspond with anyone else's" is the Kes version of, "if there's not something wrong with me, there must be something wrong the universe." Before And After may be my favorite Voyager episode and Kes is one of my favorite and possibly most interesting characters in Trek. While I'm sad they didn't use her to the fullest, either the interesting character or outstanding actress, we have at least several fab episodes in which to explore both." and then she lays out a whole bunch of awesome themes that this episode touches on. So I feel like we should maybe go through some of those.

**Sue:** \*laughs\* So to jog your memory, Before And After is the Voyager episode that begins with KES as an old woman, waking up in sick bay and not knowing who or where she is or what's going on. And throughout the episode, she jumps backwards in time to earlier points in her life. And I guess Memento style, right? Sort of has to figure out what's going on and why, to solve this mystery. So we see her as a very old woman, and then she starts jumping a few weeks, and then a few months, and then years at a time. And I think that that basically sums up the gist of it without spending a ton of time on a recap.

**Grace:** That's just a- that's about it. Yeah.

**Sue:** I mean, this is not a new concept for Star Trek, right? This "I'm in a strange place and things are different and I got to figure out this mystery." We've got the one that Susan pointed out in her suggestion, that it parallels Remember Me. But also it has some similarities with All Good Things the TNG finale, with Future Imperfect where Rikers in the Romulan- or the kids simulation, he's not a Romulan. That's just another simulation within the simulation. There's Parallels, the Worf episode where he gets dizzy every time he jumps between alternate universes. So there's a lot going on.

**Jarrah:** Yeah, definitely.

**Grace:** And we do definitely have a lot of different sub topics to talk over with this. Which is on one hand really cool, because we get see Kes be sort of the lead in this high concept episode, which is cool. Cause I think in a lot of the examples we were going over just now there aren't a lot of lady led ones. I think we've got the one with Crusher and that's about it. And maybe the one with Guinan also, but there's a ratio there is what I'm saying.

**Jarrah:** Totally. So one of the themes that Susan pulled out, which I- just struck me off the top, is ageism. Which I really noticed watching this because I hadn't actually thought about it as a- I hadn't thought about the connection to Remember Me. And I hadn't thought about it as a thing about believing women, and gaslighting, and age-ism. But then watching it with that lens, I was like, "Oh yeah." Basically people don't believe her because she's old. And then they believe her because she's like, adult. Like younger to middle-aged adult. And then they stop believing her when she's super young again.

**Grace:** Yeah.

**Jarrah:** It was just kind of like who-

**Grace:** Which sounds about right.

**Jarrah:** -Is trustworthy here and who gets agency?

**Grace:** Yeah, one thing that I know a lot of the older women in my family have brought up a lot is as they age they get paid attention to less, just in terms of general attention. And also there's a lot more of, "I don't know. Are you sure about that?" Not- like it's kind of a sort of pathway to eventual stage of, "Oh mom, are you confused? Does grandma not know what's going on?" Sort of condescension.

**Jarrah:** The moment that I think I was actually pretty appalled by, along those lines, was when Paris, who is her future husband, and Linnis their daughter are like fighting over whether they should extend her life, despite the quality of her life. And first of all, to me, it was like very unbelievable that you wouldn't have had that discussion before she turned nine. You know? They're just banking on The Doctor to come up with this cool theory. But at this point, like they're having this debate and Paris is like, "If we can keep your mother with us one more day, we have to do it." and she's like, "She wouldn't want that. And especially not now that-" she appears to basically have dementia. And then like Kes is like trying to talk and she's like, "Yes Mother, tell us, what do you want?" And it's like, why was that not your first question?

**Grace:** Yeah. Yeah.

**Jarrah:** And also, why are you asking it now?

**Sue:** As morbid as it sounds, like general advice? Make a death plan.

**Jarrah:** Oh my gosh. Yes.

**Grace:** That's your advice today from this fun wacky Star Trek podcast, make a death plan.

**Sue:** No, but seriously. \*laughs\*

**Jarrah:** I would be lying if I said this didn't make me think about like my Mom and my Stepdad who really resisted doing so until very recently. And then even more recently, like, don't want to talk about it openly. And I like, yeah okay, maybe this is a little bit too heavy for your Star Trek podcast topic, \*Sue laughs\* but it just- when my dad passed away, he did talk about that like with us super openly, and it really was super helpful when the time actually came. And it just is- I would hope that in like a more idealistic future, especially given that Kes literally knows her lifespan is nine years, and that like no Ocampan has apparently lived to 10 that we've heard of, that like, they would have had this discussion already. And it wouldn't be a fight between the surviving relatives or the still mentally competent relatives, I guess, is what's depriving her of choice in the scene? It's that they're perceiving her as unable to make those decisions.

**Grace:** Shoot, Ocampan should just have an end of life plan at- I mean, if you had a lifespan that short, I would think that would be such a big priority for them wouldn't it? Or at least one that they would look into early on.

**Sue:** But she's also what the first Ocampan that we know of to really have left her home planet. Right? So maybe she's just used to a certain ritual and because that's always been the way it's done, didn't think of it. Right?

**Grace:** Yeah. You gotta wonder, there's just so much we don't see developed when we're talking about Ocampan society tied in with the Ocampan lifespan.

**Sue:** For real. \*Grace laughs\* I want to talk more about lifespan but \*laughs\*

**Jarrah:** Generally speaking though, like they advise that you do it when you, like, when you have major life events, like getting married and having a kid as well. So the fact that she would get married and have a kid without anyone bringing that up is odd to me.

**Sue:** Yeah.

**Grace:** It's a little shortsighted, definitely.

**Sue:** My parents will openly like joke about their will. Like, if you remark on something in their house there'll be like, "Do you want it in the will?" \*laughs\* It's like, "Okay, calm down." But, my grandfather passed last year and didn't leave a lot of- like, left instructions about what he wanted like, corporeally I guess? But not like account information, or like lease information for his car, or rental agreements for where he was living, so that my Mom in

having to deal with that, I think that may have lit a fire under her butt to make sure that like their stuff is in order, you know? Anyway \*laughs\*

**Grace:** And having to take care of that on someone else's behalf, that can be incredibly stressful. And that can just kind of prolong the discomfort of the whole situation in a way.

**Jarrah:** I do like how Kes's grandson is like, "Listen to her. She's the smartest woman I know!" and I'm like, "Yes, you go grandson!"

**Sue:** I think he says person. \*Grace aww's\*

**Jarrah:** Yeah, I think you're right. "She's the smartest person. I know." Yeah, that sounds right. But yeah.

**Grace:** Grandson seems like a good kid. I would have definitely taken some issue with finding out that A, I married Tom Paris and B, I had a child who-

**Jarrah:** who married Harry Kim? Yeah. Let's talk about that.

**Grace:** Yeah. "Who's going to be my child's dad's drinking buddy?" That is- that's puts off some alarms.

**Sue:** The ageism thing. I think we do see that reflected, that people don't listen when you're old, people don't listen when you're young in workplaces. But also like, I want to say in Fandom I think it's a very common-

**Grace:** Oh yeah.

**Sue:** For certain fans to dismiss the opinions of others, especially people of marginalized genders, by saying "You're young, your opinions will change" or "You're young. You don't know what you want." And like, eff that. \*laughs\*

**Grace:** And with older people, like, "Well, you're the old audience."

**Sue:** Yeah. "This isn't for you anymore. It's for 18 to 34 year old white men. That's who it's for."

**Grace:** I always think of the Simpsons bit of where it's Lisa and Grandpa at the table. He's like, "It's terrible being old. No one listens to you." And she's like, "It's terrible being young. No one listens to you." And Homer just walks in "I'm a white male ages 18 to 34. Everybody listens to me!"

**Sue:** Okay. Yes. So, lifespan. Let's talk about it. \*Grace laughs\*

**Jarrah:** Good theme. Okay. So yeah, this is tied into the Kes- so we got the Kes Tom relationship, and then their daughter marries Harry, and they have a son in Kes's life. And it seems like, so she's supposed to be like four when this episode starts.

**Sue:** I spent way too much time researching this, \*Grace laughs\* because I couldn't wrap my head around it. This is what I found: I could have sworn to you that when Kes joined Voyager, they said she was about two years old.

**Jarrah:** Yeah. Just like when I adopted sandwiches.

**Sue:** Yes. \*laughs\*

**Grace:** And like, when they throw that birthday party for her, don't they say she's like around like two years old?

**Sue:** Probably. In the episode, when she's talking to the doctor, he says something like, about Andrew, he says, you know, "He's not quite a year old. You were just a little bit older when we first met you."

**Grace:** \*makes uncomfortable noise\* That's even more unsettling!

**Sue:** So, that doesn't line up. But also at the end of the episode, they say that she is three years and two months old, and this is at the end of the third season. So with that- just the age of Kes doesn't quite line up canonically. But if you look at just the events in this episode and placing them like, with the events we see later, like the year of hell, we get Kes being born in either 2369 or 2371, depending, Liniss being born in 2374, and Andrew being born in 2378. So if you just take it internally, in this episode Kes would have been born in 2371, which would have made her about three years old when she had Liniss, and would make Liniss about four years old when she had Andrew.

So when you've got species in Star Trek, I understand this is entirely hypothetical and conceptual, but when you've got species in Star Trek with such different lifespans, the question for me comes down to "what is the age of consent?" And then when there is an offspring, like Liniss who is half Ocampan half human, "How does that affect her lifespan?"

**Grace:** Yeah, wouldn't that change?

**Jarrah:** Do they even know? Like they may not know cause they have no one else to compare it to.

**Sue:** Right. And then what is the age of consent in that case?

**Grace:** And also with the grandson, he's going to be only a quarter Ocampan. How's that going to change it?

**Sue:** Exactly.

**Jarrah:** Like, it could just still be nine?

**Sue:** But he's six months old and he looks like he's like 13, right?

**Grace:** Gosh. Yeah.

**Sue:** I don't know. But you can extrapolate this out beyond the situation to humans and Vulcans.

**Grace:** Yeah, that's true.

**Jarrah:** We've talked a little bit about the consent weirdness before around Kes and Neelix, and I guess Paris you know, to some extent. I think that we know that by the time that we see her she would be, if you don't count the relative position of the other person, she would be capable of giving consent for a relationship. And where it becomes like more problematic is the fact that, you know, Neelix is like a bit controlling

**Grace:** Super controlling!

**Jarrah:** You see him again in this episode not listening to her and like-

**Sue:** Oh my gosh

**Grace:** Ugh.

**Jarrah:** But to me like, the weirder thing is the idea that you would end up marrying someone you saw as a baby. Like to me, that's the weirdest-

**Grace:** Yeah. Yeah. That's just such a creepy concept to me!

**Jarrah:** Like, Paris has only known Kes since she's been old enough to consent.

**Grace:** And we have that on multiple levels in this episode, with "Yeah, Kes is marrying this guy who knew her when she was like one or two years old." And she's totally cool with her daughter marrying someone who has known her her entire lifetime. I just- I'm so surprised with all of the stuff that Kes finds out about her possible future in this that we don't get like a Back to the Future Part 2 "I got married at the Chapel O' Love?!" moment of disgust. Like, "Oh no!" at all.

**Jarrah:** Well, but then the- what I was going to say is one of the other topics that Susan suggested was like, Voyager as a generation ship. And then the question is, so if you're assuming people are going to - we talked about this talking about Elogium a little bit, like Janeway talks about "pair-off." We've talked about why that's a little bit problematic.

**Grace:** Super problematic.

**Jarrah:** Assuming some people will decide to have procreative relationships with others, Liniss wouldn't have a lot of options if you don't allow people that are like on human lifespans. It'd be like, "You aren't allowed to see her until she's an adult, so it's not weird."  
\*laughs\*

**Grace:** \*confused voice\* "Okay?"

**Jarrah:** \*laughs\* So yeah, like, it wouldn't- then like also is it valid to deprive her of the right to pair off with Harry because it's a little bit weird?

**Grace:** Well, I feel like when you get into that, you also have to stop and say, isn't it kind of the right of any one of the crew members of Voyager to, if they reach a place that is habitable or like stopping over to say "No, I would rather spend the rest of my life here than risk spending the rest of my life in deep space, trying to get to a set destination." Wouldn't that be like the right of any offspring also?

**Jarrah:** Yeah, you'd think so.

**Sue:** Yeah. Cause they're not Starfleet officers.

**Jarrah:** Yeah.

**Grace:** Yeah. They're only there by proxy.

**Sue:** I suppose you'd still have to observe the Prime Directive. Right? You wouldn't want to set down and try to slide into a society that is pre warp. But I feel like if we had seen Voyager as a generation ship, that- purely speculation, that Janeway wouldn't want to be the one to stop people from leaving and settling down if they wanted to.

**Grace:** Yeah.

**Jarrah:** She let Amelia Earhart go. And her and Chakotay were going to let the whole crew stay there if they wanted.

**Grace:** I'm just saying, if her mind changed between then and this, that that'd be pretty weird. Oh gosh. That would have to add a whole nother layer of like having to say goodbye and letting your kids leave the nest, if you knew you weren't ever going to see them again, possibly. Wouldn't it? But I also feel like if Voyager was set up as a generation ship, they probably would have been a little more prepared for like, being out in deep space for an unknown quantity of time.

**Sue:** Oh, for sure.

**Grace:** I would have hoped that they would have had more planning for that.

**Jarrah:** Yeah. I guess they were hoping to mine more tension from that then I think they actually ended up doing.

**Grace:** Yeah, I think you are right on that one.

**Jarrah:** It is an interesting idea.

**Grace:** Still, just the idea of pairing people off. And them being like, "Oh, let's think about this." That just- \*uncomfortable noise\*

**Sue:** There are a few episodes where, you know, like when Harry is infected by something and thinks he's a member of some other race in the Delta quadrant-

**Grace:** \*laughs\* Oh god.



**Sue:** to stay, right? There are some episodes where some individuals say, you know, "I'm going to stay here. I'm going to stay behind." And the objection behind that from the rest of the crew tends to be when they think that individuals being coerced. So, that presumably would not be the situation in other cases.

**Jarrah:** Yeah.

**Grace:** Good grief. This is complicated.

**Sue:** \*laughs\* There's a lot here. Like a surprising amount here when you really get into it.

**Jarrah:** What do people think about the Kes Tom relationship in general?

**Grace:** \*makes uncertain noise\* I think there's something to be said about a character who is supposed to be A, very young and impressionable and B, who we're being shown is in like their first serious committed relationship to have them go either immediately and for like full commitment and settled down with either the first or like the second even person they're in a relationship with. Always- that always seems kind of weird to me. Just in terms of, "you make decisions when you are younger, that you would not necessarily make when you are older." And there are lessons about relationships that you definitely learn through the course of being in different relationships. And to just be like, "Oh yeah, it's fine putting her immediately with like her first or second boyfriend ever for the rest of her life." that always strikes me as a little bit \*uncomfortable noise\*.

**Sue:** It's not like there's a huge dating pool on Voyager. \*laughs\*

**Grace:** No. No, that's true. But at the same time, that always just kind of rubs me the wrong way. Like anytime prince charming is literally the first man the princess has ever met in her life. It's always kinda like, "UUUH, does she know if she's actually in a good relationship or not though? If this is her first ever relationship?"

**Sue:** At this point outside of this episode, Tom and B'Elanna are starting to be a thing, right?

**Grace:** Yeah.

**Sue:** So we have already seen to this point, Tom Paris evolve from like our roguish character to like a more mature potential partner. Right? And then we're also presented with the fact throughout the episode that B'Elanna died in this alternate future. So I feel like Tom becomes a much more mature, much more maybe self-reflective person in this timeline when he's with Kes. Which makes me a little bit more okay with it. But in general, like it's not Neelix. \*all laugh\*

**Grace:** Which is a step up, definitely.

**Sue:** Well just- he treated her so poorly and he was so possessive about her.

**Grace:** So petty.

**Sue:** And what we see in this episode with her relationship with Tom, even when they're not together, is how supportive he is of her.

**Grace:** That's true. Yeah.

**Jarrah:** I feel like this episode is really a sweet spot for me in their relationship. And it's kind of like, it's like a River Song Doctor moment? Kind of like they hit the right points in time at the right times in their lives. And you know, most of the rest of the arc of their relationship maybe is the points where it's not the right stage of their lives, because I feel like- yeah. I mean, he's not Neelix, but early on it's partly like his- we know like early on that he's super cocky and basically just thinks she's cute, and she is super naive and like starry-eyed about everything. And in this episode she's also a lot more- yeah. You know, she knows like there's bad things ahead. And she has this, like more of this wisdom about her.

**Sue:** She's very confident and self-possessed.

**Jarrah:** Yeah. And so the fact that he would have like evolved through as we've seen, but then through additional periods of loss, to me means like that they're more at the right stage in their interactions and in this timeline. And I kind of like it. I was like, "Ah, wow, I've never really been sold on this relationship, but I am sold in this episode."

**Sue:** Harry and Liniss, however, is still creepy. \*laughs\*

**Grace:** Super creepy!

**Jarrah:** So Susan says, "This is perhaps the only successful iteration of poor Harry's love life."

**Grace:** \*laughs\* Oh no!

**Jarrah:** Their kid's cool.

**Grace:** I'm sad at how accurate that is.

**Sue:** It seems they're happy. Right? But like, it's- I just can't get over like marrying your best friend's daughter who \*Grace makes uncomfortable noise\* you have known since birth. I understand the lifespan is different, but even- even so it's just weird.

**Grace:** Saying, "Yeah, I married one of my dad's drinking buddies" That just- ugh! And the whole thing is just too Twilight, \*Sue laughs\* of having known someone from when they were an infant and then being like, "Aw yeah, once you're an adult." Ugh!

**Jarrah:** It would've been worse. They could have gone for the trope where Tom doesn't want Harry to date his daughter.

**Grace:** I wouldn't \*Jarrah laughs\* want him to date my daughter in this situation, though.

**Sue:** I'm sure if this episode were longer, we would have gotten that scene. \*all laugh\*

**Jarrah:** So the other point that Susan made, that I think is tied into this, is about how Liniss is portrayed positively even though she's not naturally inclined to motherhood. I thought that was a nice moment where she is just like massively doubting herself, and Kes is able to reassure her that her son will be great. Although definitely, I thought it was better than the

part where Kes tells Tom "You'll be fine" moments after his partner dies. \*Grace groans/Sue laughs\*

**Sue:** Oh yeah-

**Grace:** Jeeze...,

**Sue:** that was rough. And also immediately after Kes gives birth and Tom says "I love you. "And Kes says "We need to talk."

**Jarrah:** Oh yeah! \*all laugh\* and he's just like, "Oh, sorry, there's a message coming in. Oh, Voyager's being attacked." But like, if that was me, like I would have frozen, like ice cold in that moment and been like, "Whoa whoa what? I'm not doing anything until you tell me what you mean." \*all laugh\*

**Sue:** No, back to Liniss. I think- I mean, I don't have any personal direct experience with not wanting children and having one, or I should say, not being inclined to motherhood and deciding to become a mother, but it feels realistic. My friends who have had children, my friends who are pregnant now actually, will say things- they'll doubt themselves. They'll say they're not sure. They'll wonder if it's the right time. And I think- I think that's rare on TV, especially at this point on TV in the nineties.

**Grace:** Yeah. We definitely have this kind of reverant image of motherhood of being something, still in this day and age, as something women are just supposed to do at some point. And for some people that's not something they want to do and that's okay. And sometimes it's something that you kind of come into and that's also okay. There's a lot of different ways it can be shown.

**Sue:** There's also this idea that once you have your child, once the child is born, you will immediately magically fall in love with it and immediately magically know what to do in every situation.

**Grace:** Yeah. You'll just all of a sudden get the motherhood software upgrade and know exactly what you need to do.

**Sue:** And it just, it doesn't work that way.

**Grace:** And that's not true at all! And that's a horrible idea that really stresses a lot of new mothers out.

**Sue:** I think pretty much anytime somebody says something along the lines of "You'll know what to do" or "You'll know when its time."

**Grace:** "I DON'T know! That's why I'm asking."

**Sue:** Yeah. I think what the real case is, is they don't have an answer for you and they want to try and be helpful. So they give you a platitude. \*laughs\*

**Grace:** \*bitterly\* Joy.

**Jarrah:** But before we get to our last couple of themes, let's take a minute to talk about why Text Expander is awesome.

**Grace:** Text Expander: let's expand on this, shall we? \*cheesy laugh\*

**Sue:** Get ahead of your productivity in the new year with the power of Text Expander. Text Expander removes the repetition from your work so you can focus on what matters most. Say goodbye to repetitive text entry, spelling, and message errors, me, and trying to remember the right thing to say.

**Grace:** Me!

**Sue:** When you use Text Expander you can say the right thing in just a few keystrokes. Better than copy and paste, better than scripts and templates. Text Expander snippets allow you to maximize your time by getting rid of repetitive things you type while still customizing and personalizing your messages. Text Expander can be used in any platform, any app, anywhere you type. Take your time back in the new year and increase your productivity with Text Expander. Show listeners get 20% off their first year. Visit [textexpander.com/podcast](https://textexpander.com/podcast) to learn more about Text Expander.

**Jarrah:** Awesome.

**Grace:** You will definitely be thinking of the before and after you installed Text Expander, and how much it will change your life-

**Sue:** Nice.

**Grace:** and its course. \*all laugh\*

**Jarrah:** So the last three themes that are on this list are time travel, the concept of medically extending one's life, and women believing women.

**Sue:** Oh, can we take the last one first?

**Jarrah:** Yeah.

**Sue:** I just- I love that scene where they cut back to the end of what I guess is Caretaker, and Kes just blurts out "I'm sorry. Something is going on. You have to listen to me." And Neelix tries to shut her down and Janeway is like, "No, shut up. What's going on?"

**Grace:** Well, that's one of those times when you just know that Janeway's kind of been in that situation, maybe as, you know, a woman in a leadership position or when she was starting out at Starfleet, she has had people try and talk over her and has to- and knows that she doesn't want that to happen on her ship. And that's a pretty cool moment.

**Jarrah:** Yeah, Susan highlighted that too. Says, "The contrast between Neelix, who dismisses her and apologizes to Janeway like Kes is a pet who won't stop barking, and Janeway pushes him aside and says directly to Kes "Tell me more."" Which is very Janeway

**Grace:** Yeah. It's great. And that we get to go back and establish that from day one, Janeway would have been willing to believe Kes, that speaks strongly to her leadership.

**Jarrah:** Later on it isn't like, as cut and dried gender who believes her and who isn't, but it shows like that intersection when, you know, when she's an age that people are willing to listen to her it's Janeway that listens first.

**Grace:** Yeah.

**Jarrah:** Paris also does listen later in like the middle of their time together, before she's too old.

**Sue:** Yeah. I would say for the most part, it's an age thing rather than a gender thing, with who or when people listened to her. But the poor behavior is, I think, speaks more to Neelix's character at the beginning of the series.

**Grace:** Absolutely. Which is pretty garbage. Just- just dispose of this whole man, \*Jarrah laughs\* please.

**Jarrah:** Yeah. But, it is a very nice Janeway Kes moment. And I think that comes through in other parts of their relationship as well, like Elogium and other episodes where Janeway is there to like back Kes. And she is a maternal figure, but she always believes her. Like, she doesn't patronize her. She respects her.

**Sue:** And you know what? Even though the age continuity cannon thing is a little bit weird. I do appreciate that they call end of life Morlogium, when we got Elogium earlier in the series. I appreciate that, you know, they're looking ahead to Year of Hell, an episode in the following season and setting the stage for the Krenim and the time torpedoes. And it just feels very very thought through, in terms of the rest of the series. And I think that's very well done.

**Grace:** And when that pays off, it's very satisfying to have that have carried over.

**Jarrah:** Yeah. Cause we later get the mention that like, because of Kes getting us the frequency of the torpedoes or something, or the torpedo launchers, we were able to like get helped in some way.

**Sue:** Well, it doesn't kill Janeway.

**Jarrah:** Yes.

**Grace:** Yeah. \*Jarrah laughs\* Which is helpful. Your captain not dying is usually a pretty good step in the right direction.

**Jarrah:** Random science-y fun fact: in this episode they measure chroniton radiation with- by röntgen or roentgen as the unit, which is like a dated measurement for radiation in tissues. Like, it can measure radiation in the atmosphere and it used to be used as kind of just like a general radiation exposure measurement. And it's kind of dated now from like around the time this episode was made. So, if we want to be like super geeky, you can be like, "It came

back in some point between 1998 \*Grace laughs\* and 24th century, we will re adopt this unit specifically for chroniton radiation." \*laughs\*

**Grace:** It is all about the retro units of measurement now.

**Sue:** \*singing\* Jarrah's science corner. \*all laugh\*

**Grace:** Jarrah's Science jargon! That's it! \*laughs\*

**Jarrah:** I feel like we covered science- or time travel a bit as a theme, you know, kind of woven throughout this whole thing. I guess, like they do have the thing at the end where people all want to know what happened to them. And then, you know, there's a very like to ending where Kes is like "No time like the present." And everyone goes hahaha. \*Grace does cheesy laugh again\*

**Sue:** But they- that's the interesting thing right? Next Gen for sure would have been like, "We can't disrupt the timeline. We can't. Don't tell us anything. It's not for us to know" even though it was an alternate future, right? Which they told in All Good Things and Janeway just straight up like "Eff the DTI, tell me what's going to happen and tell me everything you know about it." \*all laugh\*

**Jarrah:** Well, she kind of had Tuvok's approval, because Tuvok's like "Well, Kes changed everything anyway."

**Sue:** Right. But it's still just very- it strikes me how straightforward it is. It's not like "If you wanted to tell us something about what you saw", it's like, "No, tell me everything. Let's write up a report." \*laughs\*

**Jarrah:** Kes initiates that process earlier though, even than that. It's like the time jump before that time period, she was like "The Krenim are coming, target the thing differently." But yeah, Janeway is usually the one who's more in tune with Starfleet protocols and ethics.

**Sue:** \*laughs\* But she does hate time travel.

**Grace:** It would be pretty great if B'Elanna asked her "So anything happen to me?" And she's like, "No, nothing happens to you. \*creepy voice\* Everything's fine." \*Sue laughs\*

**Jarrah:** I feel like it works pretty well as a time-travel episode. It's not like too too- like it's pretty easy to just shrug off the paradoxes because "Oh, well. Kes changed it. So... how did that happen anyway?" but it was still like an interesting story. It wasn't too convoluted.

**Grace:** Basically. Yeah.

**Jarrah:** Did you have any further thoughts on the idea of like medically extending one's life beyond the need for death planning that we already covered?

**Grace:** Definitely is a conversation worth having. And at the risk of sounding very morbid, I've appreciated that in the events of this past year my parents have definitely been more willing to have the conversation of "This is a situation where I would like to keep going. This is one where I'm okay with not." Which is again, a very hard conversation to have. And again, one

you would have expected someone with a very short lifespan, like Kes, to have discussed with her family.

**Jarrah:** I guess one of my questions was "Should the doctor have been pursuing this outside of having an actual illness to treat?" Like, because normally the purpose of treatments in some case- like in many cases- like we're not largely like trying to discover a fountain of youth every time we treat an illness. But The Doctor is like proposing a treatment to just stop Kes from basically hitting a natural end of her life span.

**Sue:** I think it depends. And they obviously, aren't going to tell us this in the episode, because there's a limited amount of time. \*laughs\* I think it depends on how far he went before talking to her about it. Right? Cause we get that scene that's at the- supposed to be at her party. And he's saying, "I just had this idea this morning" if that's really true, if he was just sort of like musing and had this idea and wanted to talk to her before taking any action, I think that's fine. I think if he had created this bio temporal chamber and just sprung it on her a few weeks later, I think that's a problematic situation.

**Jarrah:** I do feel like it is out of character though, for Kes to be like- I mean, I guess maybe it's supposed to be like, "Well now she has a family. She wants to live longer and doesn't want to leave them." But yeah, like, I don't know. If we were talking about The Doctor having an idea, being like, "Look, I'm a program and I'm immortal and I'm going to miss you all. So I'm going to make a chamber that all the humans can sit in, \*Grace laughs\* and it will mean that instead of dying at an average age of like 88, they're all gonna- or I guess-

**Grace:** You know, I think that actually makes a lot of sense for The Doctor as a character, just like, "Don't leave me alone!"

**Jarrah:** They're going to die like 10 years later, approximately. I feel like everyone in Star Trek could be like, "Let us probe this question- this more about like, whether this is something we want to do."

**Sue:** Well I- you got me thinking with this question, cuz isn't one of the measures of a civilization increased lifespan? Like, the more advanced the civilization, the longer the lifespan gets?

**Jarrah:** I think that's probably debatable whether that's like, I mean, I think that we do tend to see it like that, but it's like, not because- it's because of things like sanitation and hygiene and medical care,

**Sue:** Right.

**Jarrah:** by a lot of the medical technologies and stuff we have do increase lifespans, but that wasn't like the primary goal.

**Sue:** Right. I mean, that, that was exactly where I was going. That, you know, it's sanitation, it's learning, it's vaccines, it's medical treatments. It's not necessarily like delaying natural death. And it- I just wonder, we don't know much about Ocampan society. Like, with more

advanced just general medical treatment, would their lifespan be more than nine years? We don't know.

**Jarrah:** But like her people were pretty advanced. They just lived on, like, they just didn't want to go up above the surface, but they had like pretty advanced - although I guess they didn't develop it themselves, but their hygiene and stuff was pretty advanced.

**Sue:** Yeah. I'm just thinking everything was supposedly provided to them. Did they develop it, and would they continue to develop it?

**Jarrah:** Yeah, I still feel like it's- I feel like there is room for a discussion on it. Like, I mean, because of the way that season one Picard ended, spoiler alert, are they going to just try and have Golem's for everybody? Like, I feel like that's inevitable, you know, like end of that type of intervention. If like the goal of medicine is purely to extend life, and not necessarily regardless of quality of life, or like to treat an illness that is going to cause death or something, but just purely, not like a numbers game of how many years you're alive, then at what point do you lose your humanity or your, you know, innate self?

**Sue:** I mean, it's also telling us, I feel like at the end of Picard, that life is special because it ends.

**Jarrah:** Yeah. Big big messages that can be like, could go kind of go either way in that debate.

**Grace:** Well, now I'm just falling into an existential spiral again. \*all laugh\*

**Sue:** That's what we do here. \*Grace laughs\*

**Jarrah:** I do you like that we see the Doctor pick a name. I like whenever we see that in like the future is an alternate things. So he's got Dr. Van Gogh \*Grace aww's\* and there's also a nice moment of friendship with Kes.

**Sue:** Yep. He's also Dr. Mozart one point. And he has a hairpiece.

**Grace:** \*laughs\* That was the part that cracked me up.

**Sue:** The "You've lost your hair" was great. \*Grace laughs\* Jennifer Lien did a really good job in this episode, especially in the first half, right? Where she's still trying to piece everything together and just the confusion and the displacement that you see come through in Kes was just really really well done.

**Grace:** Absolutely. Again, one of those times where we get to look at her, see her stretch her legs, and go "Man, why didn't she get to do this more often?" Imagine what that would have been like.

**Jarrah:** Yeah, yeah. It would have been nice. It definitely showed, you know, season three I think shows Kes have a bit more of like a sense of herself and more agency and more wisdom. And I really liked that part in her character. And it's sad it didn't go much beyond that.

**Grace:** Yeah, it's unfortunate.



**Jarrah:** But definitely enjoyed rewatching this episode. I really appreciated the suggestion. It's a good one. We've talked about it a very tiny bit once before, in our episode on childbirth? On pregnancy and childbirth in Star Trek, but we only talked about the part where Kes is giving birth in the shuttle, which is kind of-

**Grace:** Out of her back. Yeah. Out of her back. Cause that makes a lot of sense.

**Jarrah:** But yeah, Tom's a supportive birthing partner. Well, we see the back-sack in Elogium.

**Grace:** \*laughs\* Back-sack!

**Jarrah:** So lots of things stuck with that, at least.

**Grace:** They're like "No, we're here. We made this bed, we're going to lay in it."

**Sue:** She's also immediately fine afterwards.

**Jarrah:** Yeah.

**Grace:** Yeah. That's very TV right there.

**Sue:** That's very TV. \*laughs\*

**Jarrah:** Well, it also is a- you know, we talked about that in like The Child and in- actually in the pregnancy and childbirth episode, we talk a lot about that. Cause we talked about The Child and we also talked about the episode where Kira gives birth, and it's like, an exercise in relaxation. \*Sue laughs\* So take a look- listen, back to that episode if you want to get more into the childbirth implications of this. I did also appreciate that it clarified that Ocampan's do have more than one child, which is- this was a question around Elogium about like, "How do they repopulate their species if they only have one child per two people?" but the dad says like, "You're my favorite daughter, but don't tell anyone." So obviously they do have more children. But in Elogium it kind of implies that they only hit that period once, but some people have speculated, you know, they might be really prone to multiple births. So they might just have like triplets and quadruplets every time. Or they- it might be that like once the elogium starts you can have multiple kids kind of. But like, if you don't use it the first time you lose it.

**Sue:** Yeah.

**Grace:** \*laughs\* The "use it or lose it" childbearing property.

**Sue:** I have always interpreted that as "use it or lose it", right? It happens, and you either have a child or you don't. And if you don't, it doesn't happen again. But as long as you continue to have a child every time you enter Elogium, you will enter it again. Which, who knows if that was the correct concept? That's just what's in my brain.

**Grace:** As we have said many times about many high concepts and grand ideas: \*I dunno noise\* Do we have any final thoughts that we want to go over with this episode today?

**Jarrah:** Should we rate it?

**Grace:** What would we use as our scale of rating?

**Sue:** Whatever you like. \*Grace laughs\* Shuttle craft births? Chroniton particles?

**Grace:** Less and less plausible looking wigs. \*Sue laughs\*

**Jarrah:** I'm going to rank it four out of five awkward family baby photo sessions. \*all laugh\*

**Grace:** I'm going to rank it a 3.5 out of five implausible wigs.

**Sue:** I threw all those ones out, now I don't have any. \*all laugh\* I will rank this seven out of 10 bio-temporal chambers.

**Grace:** Excellent. Well, that's about all we have time for today. Jarrah, where can people find more from you online?

**Jarrah:** You can find me @Jarrahpenguin. That's J A R R A H penguin. And as well I'm at [Trekiefeminist.com](http://Trekiefeminist.com).

**Grace:** What about you Sue?

**Sue:** You can find me on Twitter @spaltor. That's S P A L T O R

**Grace:** And I'm Grace, and you can find me on Twitter @Bonecrusherjenk. That's B O N E C R U S H E R J E N K. You can also find me moving back and forth with incredible deja VU.

**Jarrah:** 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.rodnenberry.com](http://podcasts.rodnenberry.com).

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