

Women at Warp Episode 218: Kasidy Yates: "Not All Captains Wear Pips"

intro music

Grace: Hi there, and welcome to Women at Warp, a Star Trek podcast. Join us on our continuing mission to explore intersectional diversity and infinite combinations. My name is Grace, and thanks for tuning in. With us today, we have the fabulous Kennedy.

Kennedy: Hello!

Grace: And before we get started, we've got a little bit of housekeeping to do first. Our show is made possible by our patrons on Patreon. If you'd like to become a patron, you can do so for as little as a dollar a month and get our kick ass rewards, from thanks on social media to our special watch along commentaries. This episode was made possible by Patron Vote we do a lot of patron Q& A and trawling them for episode ideas. So if you have thoughts...

Kennedy: We love to hear from you.

Grace: We do. We want your opinion and that's why we love hearing it. So visit us at <https://www.patreon.com/womenatwarp> . Are you looking for podcast merch? When you go out in public, do you feel like your body doesn't express enough that you listen to podcasts? That you've got like hyper specific interests like we do? We can help you there. We've got help for you. You can check out our TeePublic store. There's so many designs, new ones being added all the time. A few designs by yours truly. So. Not gonna, not gonna flex that, but I'm gonna flex that.

Kennedy: Toot the horn, toot the horn, toot, toot, toot!!

Grace: Rooty tooty on my tootin horn. We've got so much more than just shirts, you can get stuff on coffee mugs, you can get on sweaters, you can get on those weird tapestries you hang on your wall. Do people still do that? I don't know, but we've got them. You can find it at <https://www.teepublic.com/stores/womenatwarp> . It's exciting stuff, please check it out. And we also get to hype up artists that we like via there. Kennedy, do we have any further updates, or do you have any upcoming appearances you want to shout out?

Kennedy: Uh, no, but I do want to give a hefty thank you to the crew of Trek Long Island for hosting such a fun time!

Grace: Yay!

Kennedy: It was great. That's all the news that's fit to print.

Grace: Oh, good times. Gotta, gotta love you some Long Island Trekkies. It sounds like you had the full experience.

Kennedy: Oh, yes. It was, it was grand.

Grace: All right, so we have a very special topic on deck for you today. We put up a vote over different characters that our patrons wanted to hear a full episode on. And the winner... The prestigious winner that we had is Miss Captain Kasidy Yates. Everybody loves Kasidy Yates.

Kennedy: And if you don't, like, check your pulse.

Grace: If you don't, what's wrong with you?

Kennedy: Seriously.

Grace: Do you hate good times and great hair? What's your deal?

Kennedy: Cause it sounds like you hate great hair and good jumpsuits. That's what it sounds like to me.

Grace: Every time you see Kasidy Yates, she is sporting a cool futuristic hairdo and a great jumpsuit that I want to steal.

Kennedy: Space chic, if you will.

Grace: Space chic and functional for a captain. Mm hmm. For those of you who are living under a rock or just need your memory refreshed, Kasidy Yates is the captain who Jake Sisko sets up with his dad, Captain Sisko, and they are an awesome power couple.

Kennedy: Mm hmm. The best.

Grace: That go through their ups and downs in a very realistic fashion and honestly, just make for a really cool, not just a couple, but Kasidy is a great individual character.

Kennedy: For sure. She does a great job of supporting Ben Sisko without imposing herself, right? The best thing about Kasidy Yates and her relationship with Ben and his son is that it was effortless. Right? Everybody's... Boundaries were respected, everybody's feelings were respected, and shout out to Jake for having good taste!

Grace: I know! For Jake, uh, not being weird about the idea of his dad dating again, and not only that, being like, I support you, and I have found the coolest lady ever, I want you to meet her.

Kennedy: And like, just seeing that his dad needed somebody. You know, I think people overlook Jake overall, but they certainly tend to overlook the fact that he was a sensitive enough young man to realize that his father was missing something in his emotional life and sought out to find somebody that wouldn't only, you know, be compatible with his dad, but also like be supportive in all of the ways that a Starfleet officer would need to be supported. You know what I'm saying? Like there was, there are certain complexities to Ben Sisko's occupation, his everyday life that not just anybody can slide into and Kasidy, not only being a captain herself and knowing what it's like to manage a team through the horrors of space, because let's not forget that!

Grace: Space is a big inky deathtrap!

Kennedy: Terrifying, terrifying, horrifying place.

Grace: McCoy was not wrong, why would you go to space on purpose?

Kennedy: I mean, and here she is, doing things. She also understands what it's like to need that emotional capacity to detach long enough to do things that might be difficult if attempted from an emotional place, or from a place of trauma, or anything like that. I found her presence in Sisko's life very gentle. And I found, I mean, just, oh, oh, to be loved by Benjamin Sisko.

Grace: Oh my goodness, what a treat that must be.

Kennedy: Just, just seeing their relationship and the, the mutual respect that it was founded on. Like there are all these things that they respect about each other and are compatible in a multitude of ways. And then they like are still

physically attracted to each other on top of it. So it's like, Ben's got to be like, oh. And Kasidy's gotta be like, Oh, look at him though! This is, this is nice!

Grace: Yeah, and there's definitely something to be said about what you think of when you think of, like, the Captain Love Interest character. I think some of our previous Trek iterations have given us a very specific idea of what that is. And honestly, by the point, by the time Kasidy shows up on DS9, I was very protective of Sisko and I was like, Oh, someone's trying to set him up. I want him to be okay. I don't want him to go through stupid romance, B plot drama, bullcrap. And then, and then you meet Kasidy and she's just so...

Kennedy: Self sufficient, independent.

Grace: Graceful. There's such a self possessedness of her that from her first appearance, okay, I can work, I can live with this. This is great, actually. And she's got her own shit going on, which I definitely appreciate in any love interest character where they're established as being a full person and not just someone who exists for the benefit of the person they are a love interest to. She's got her own stuff going on. She's got her own fascinating life going on.

Kennedy: For sure. I also thought the use of Kasidy was impactful as well, because this was one of the first times we really saw what the... Civilian, if you will, existence is like, right? In Star Trek, we always see what it's like through one organization's perspective or another, whether it's Starfleet or the Vulcans or the Klingons or the Romulans or the Borg. We're always seeing it through the lens of the organization instead of the individual or the people who are just unaffiliated, right? Who aren't aligned in any area of the spectrum to really care or have a political stance or even a social stance on anything. They're just, you know, kind of caught up in the ramifications of decisions made by organizations like this.

Grace: They've got to go with the flow of a bigger ocean.

Kennedy: Right, exactly. So their, their opinions and their perspectives on organizations like Starfleet or the Bajorans, or the, not necessarily the Bajorans, because they weren't, they were Rebuilding the Cardassian certainly is going to be ultimately a lot different and the fact that Kasidy was so like you said gentle, was not only a great way for us to have ease in conceptualizing what her point of view might be like, but also, it does double duty in that at the time there was still this, I mean there still is to this day, but on television there was this angry black girl rhetoric, or this sassy black girl rhetoric, or whatever the case may be, and Penny Johnson Gerald's performance of Kasidy Yates showed that a person

could be, or rather than a black woman character specifically could be strong and independent and effortless and graceful and self sustaining and all the things that we just listed, right?

Without being, without filling a stereotype in terms of who her personality is, right? Her capabilities and her personality are two completely different things. They are for everybody. At least they should be. Um, and, you know, there was never a question as to whether or not this, very graceful, gentle persona was any different than how she ran her ship, even though she had to make difficult decisions from time to time, as a captain does.

So it really... My favorite thing about Kasidy Yates is that she's still a woman in a position of power, even though it's not in Starfleet. And she's one of the many elements of... You know, the black experience that shows that a person can be strong and all these things and subtle and humble and you know unconcerned at the same time and that's not necessarily a bad thing because the opposite isn't necessarily a bad thing either.

So when you show different facets of a person's you know, community's experience, then you don't have to worry about having to layer on all of the things that we think embody a person in their, in that particular point in their life and, and, you know, in their community as well, so. Huh, that's a really long winded to say. She did that. She did that. It was fly. Everybody loved her. And if you didn't, what's wrong with you?

Grace: I absolutely love that like the very first appearance we get of her, um, in the season three episode, *Family Business* [DS9 Season 3, Episode 23], it's her introduction. Basically, Jake has been hyping her up to Sisko and then you hear like Dax being like, you're gonna meet Kasidy, you gotta meet Kasidy. She's great.

Kennedy: Yeah, and Dax knows because Curzon knew. Curzon knew.

Grace: Curzon knew what, what, what Sisko was needing. And the fact that everyone is so stoked for them to get together is already pretty precious. But then, I think, like, the first thing we hear her say is she's got, like, one of her crew members moving, like, crates around, and she's like, No, don't be stupid, you're gonna hurt yourself. Use the anti grav sled. And so you, like, know from the get go that she is responsible and not gonna take any posturing and...

Kennedy: And also genuinely cares about the health and wellness of her crew.

Grace: Yeah, you know how cool she is right off the bat, and that's, that's not easy to do with establishing a character.

Kennedy: Yeah, and also, now that you mention it, Grace, it really, like, like, it fleshes out the earlier point I made about her being such a great introduction to what civilian life is like. Because that tells me, from, from Kasidy's example, that tells me that the mutual respect and the genuine care for other people that we see exhibited on starships all the time is not exclusive to Starfleet, like all humans

Grace: Yeah, that extends out to the universe.

Kennedy: Yeah, like that's just, like everybody else talks about how the Starfleet officers are representations of what humanity's fulfilled potential could be like. But I look to Kasidy Yates for that because she could have been grizzled and unconcerned and, and, and just, you know. I'm not, don't break that sled either, you know, but the fact that she cared is important.

Grace: There's so many ways that Kasidy could have been written as a one note character that they did not go with and instead made her this really interesting multifaceted character. One thing that I always really appreciated about Deep Space Nine is how much the show emphasizes sort of the potential of living outside of Starfleet in the Star Trek universe and the different ways that can go and how, yeah, you can be really happy and accomplished without commanding a ship. Between Kasidy and Jake and sort of all of the, the weird stuff going around with the civilians on DS9, it's really the best sort of non Starfleet sort of life representation, I think, we get throughout Star Trek.

Kennedy: For sure, and we've been talking about how you know fantastic their relationship is and how great she fit in with everybody else and all that stuff, but it was not without its friction, you know, there was a point where she was accused of being, you know laised with the Maquis. But you know that was from Eddington and we all know he ain't shit

Grace: Fucking Eddington. Just the sketchiest dude imaginable showing up on your station and then everyone being like, yeah, okay, I guess you're a crew member now.

Kennedy: Just, uh, I would love to see somebody make a good, a strong case for Eddington because I have notes.

So they had to, you know, rebuild their trust from her being accused of being a Maquis and all that and just rebuilding from that. But, also there was a moment where they had assigned Kasidy as like the convoy liaison officer for the Defiant to help them navigate not only the space they were going to, but the people that they were going there with.

And, you know, we see her kind of gripe about Starfleet, like, yo, this sucks. Why do y'all need all this paperwork? What is this? This is horrible. And Ben had an attitude that she was on board. He, you know, never had to interact with her as Captain to Captain before and certainly not on his ship. So, not only was he protective of her well being just in general because they were romantic, but also because like, um, you're a civilian. This is real life out here. I don't even know if you should be out here like this. And, you know, she had to check him on that and they fixed it and moved on. So it was very refreshing to see that while she was perfect for him and their situations made them perfect for each other, the relationship itself was not perfect. So it was a very humanizing thing to see.

Grace: And can we talk about the fact that, you know, they haven't been dating for too long when she's accused of being a Maquis and she turns herself in and is like, okay, I will go to jail for this, honestly because I love my job and I love what I do and I have convictions in what I do. But, at the same time, I feel like there's something really powerful with us and that I'm never quite sure how to read that because on one hand I'm like, Oh, that's really romantic. And on the other hand, it's like, I can't think of anyone I would go to jail for.

Kennedy: Yeah.

Grace: But, that might just be me.

Kennedy: That might be my biggest issue about Kasidy's experience is that she did time and it's just like, wait a minute. So, now...

Grace: Was that necessary?

Kennedy: There's a trend versus Kasidy Yates and it's Michael Burnham. Then it's Captain Freeman. What is this now?

Grace: Uncomfortable trend popping up here, Star Trek.

Kennedy: Like what's up? It's not, you know, immediately, admittedly rather frequently, but it's a trend nonetheless.

Grace: And then she comes back and it's just kind of like. Oh, that was a minor inconvenience. Good to be back. We can hope for a future where being incarcerated is a thing that you can bounce back from as easily. That would be nice if they have to have incarceration at all in the future.

Kennedy: I mean, if her penal colony was anything like the resort that Tom Paris was in, I'm sure she was chilling.

Grace: She was just out there chopping wood and learning specialized skills like Tom Paris. You gotta wonder. Star Trek, I think we've got, I think we've got some inconsistencies here, Star Trek.

Kennedy: I have questions.

Grace: Some notes, if we may.

Kennedy: I have questions. I just, I just need some clarity, please.

Grace: Yeah, but as in, DS9 was introducing the Maquis, Like, as opposed to Eddington, very much, when he comes back, he's like, Yo, I'm all in. This is the Maquis. I am, I am a martyr for this cause. Versus Kasidy just being like, Yeah, they, they needed medical supplies. I got them medical supplies. I, I can live with that. Sort of showing the different degrees of which people can disagree with Starfleet and can act on that. I don't think we could have gotten kind of our impression of the Maquis as we got like on Voyager without having that dimension to it.

Kennedy: I agree. Just, just well done all the way around. I appreciate a complex relationship.

Grace: Also, she's a baseball fan, so that's just neat.

Kennedy: So, you know, a queen. A queen. Which is, you know, niche today. So you can only imagine how niche it is in the future.

Grace: Like, what would our equivalent of that be? What would our like, like super niche historical sport that it would be just completely bonkers happenstance for two people to both be into?

Kennedy: Baseball.

Grace: I was thinking something like, like, like old timey, like maybe they're both into baritsu or something.

Kennedy: Oh, there is a, hold on, let me, let me Google this. There is, oh, ringette. Yeah. There you go. Ringette. Are you familiar with that sport?

Grace: I'm not, but go on. Please, please share.

Kennedy: Some accounts said it was developed in the 60s. I've seen paintings of women playing ringette in, like, Victorian era dresses, so we'll see. Facts. Checking facts now. But basically, it's like an ice sport, like hockey, except instead of using the stick with the flare out piece at the end there and a puck, you're using an actual stick and a little ring. It's about, if you were to connect your index fingers and your thumbs together, that's about the size of a ring.

Grace: Okay. That sounds hardcore though. That sounds intense.

Kennedy: So that it doesn't get caught up in your skirts. Yeah. So the flat part doesn't get caught up in your skirts or the puck for that matter. And also it's more accessible for folks with you know, mobility issues and it's played the same way essentially there's just you maneuver the ring a different way so if someone ran we've been like hey yo i know exactly what ringette is i'd be like what.

Grace: Wait wait wait you're into penny farthing racing too? I'm gonna make it happen. I'm gonna force them to bring a penny farthing into Star Trek someday That's my that's my life goal right now.

Kennedy: Do it. Make it so!

Grace: Big stupid bicycles, I love them.

Kennedy: Yeah, she loves baseball doesn't just love baseball her brother plays baseball as well

Grace: Her brother plays on a league So, you know, she you know, their family is invested

Kennedy: Which comes in handy? When that jerkwad Vulcan tried to come for Sisko.

Grace: I know. The way she, uh, she's just like, No, I'm in. I'm in. I'm part of this. I'm helping. I am not going to let the Vulcans besmirch the name of our beloved sport.

Kennedy: Seriously. And when Ben was like, don't tell my friends. Don't tell the crew. They don't need to know about this. It's really not important for them to know. Kasidy went immediately to the crew and was like, look, he told me not to tell y'all this, but I'm not under orders. So this is the beef. I thought it was this, but apparently this Vulcan jerk has been bullying and picking with my man since ever. So we must destroy them.

Grace: We are going to put together a baseball league sooo ragtag and beloved.

Kennedy: You mean, you mean a team? A league is the whole.

Grace: Sorry, that's not...

Kennedy: No, it's fine! It's fine! Hahahahaha!

Grace: I'm all, I'm a filthy casual baseball fan.

Kennedy: It's all good. There's no such thing. There's only a fizz fazz uh, uh, uh. A casual baseball hater. A filthy casual hater. Those are the words.

Grace: Filthy casual hater, incidentally, is the name of my cross punk band. Yeah. Gotta have all the genres covered.

Kennedy: That's an excellent cross punk name. Filthy casual hater.

Grace: Filthy casual hater.

Kennedy: Or filthy and the casual haters! Oh! Grace, did we just come up with a band?

Grace: We did! Oh my god!

Kennedy: What is happening?

Grace: At our live shows, we ride a penny farthing on stage. We have a song called Kasidy Yates Was Too Good For You. And the whole time we're pointing at the audience.

Kennedy: Another song called Ringette.

Grace: Yes. Uh, there's a live Ringette bit on stage. We'll keep it going right up until there's a lawsuit when a ring hits someone in the face.

Kennedy: They should've ducked. They knew what it was.

Grace: They should've ducked, but you know, you can't, you can't control your audience. Try as you might.

Kennedy: True. True, true, true.

Grace: But as a team member, Kasidy gets just so totally accepted as just a member of the DS9 crew and is like part of the group there. And I think that's really cool because she's a civilian.

And how many times on another show, this is a very specific beef I have, how many times on another show have you seen like a character get a love interest character, and then her entire life revolves around that guy character and her having no friends of her own. And that's just, I know it's specific, but that's just such a pet peeve of mine when suddenly all of the lady character's friends are suddenly just like the wives and girlfriends of the guy character's guy friends.

That pisses me off to no end. But with Kasidy, she's like genuinely one of the groups. She's a member of the community. She knows everybody. Everybody is invested in her and Sisko being a happy couple and just them living their best lives together. And I love that.

Kennedy: Yes, I agree.

Grace: You can actively chalk my loss of respect for any piece of media by how quickly a love interest character goes from having friends of her own to suddenly just having all of her friends be the love interests. Uh, friends, friends, girlfriends, and partners.

Kennedy: Yeah, for sure.

Grace: I can name names on this one.

Kennedy: Seriously, for full transparency though, I love when it happens in the opposite. That's my favorite, when it happened with Angel and Buffy. It's one of

my favorite things. I also like that it, in the um, The animated Barbie series t the way Ken was just one of the accessories.

Grace: Wait, that's my job, being Barbie's boyfriend. He's just there for her no matter what.

Kennedy: Yep. Thank you, sir, for your service. I'm so proud of you for realizing your purpose in life.

Grace: Thank you, Ken, for being... The himbo that we all aspire to having. I kinda wanna start singing the national anthem now, just to be like, God bless ya! God bless ya! It's so good!

Kennedy: Makes you think that he probably took Barbie's last name when they got married.

Grace: Oh, you know he did.

Kennedy: So he's probably Ken Roberts.

Grace: Aw, that works.

Kennedy: [Singing to the tune of God Bless America] God bless Ken Roberts! Himbo we love! Stand beside her, support her,

Grace: [Singing, too] and make sure she always has what she needs in her purse.

Kennedy: [Singing continues] In the dream house, in the corvette, on location, or abroad..

Grace: [Still singing] In deep space in Sunnydale, there will always be a dude.

Kennedy: The only acceptable remake of that song.

Grace: Yes. We did it. We just wrote our band's first song.

Kennedy: Yes!

Grace: Holy shit, we're making it happen!

Kennedy: Filthy and the Casual Haters. See how the love of Kasidy Yates can inspire you to do great things?

Grace: Only good things can come from the love of Kasidy Yates.

Kennedy: Period. Including a wedding!

Grace: Yeah, I know, they eventually, they eventually get married. Can we, can we talk about the thing leading up to the course of their marriage and the fact that they've got two party birth control going on in the future?

Kennedy: Oh yeah, yeah, yeah. We find out that men get injections and it's not a big deal.

Grace: Yeah, that's pretty, that's cool.

Kennedy: Fancy that.

Grace: Yeah, it's almost like guys are capable of taking responsibility for this as well and putting the entire onus on the woman is messed up.

Kennedy: Shut yo mouth. They gon come for us in the comments.

Grace: How dare you expect men to take responsibility.

Kennedy: I tuned into this show to listen to Star Trek, not feminist nonsense.

Grace: You tuned into the wrong show, my dude.

Kennedy: Sorry! Or... You're welcome.

Grace: Yeah. You know what? You're welcome. Take it and like it. But yeah, they end up getting married. They, uh, the most, like, the most episodes we get with Kasidy are in Season 7, and a lot of that is the big, dramatic lead up to the finale, and part of that is, uh, her and Sisko finding out they are expecting and then getting married, and the prophet's telling Sisko you, you can't have a relationship with this woman.

Kennedy: Didn't they get married first?

Grace: Yes, they did. I've got my series of events mixed up there.

Kennedy: All good, because I remember Jake giving her away.

Grace: Yeah, aww, that's so precious because he introduced them! I love a good healthy adult child and parent relationship that isn't like, Why aren't you paying attention to me? No, you're not allowed to love anyone but my mom. And he's like, No, I want what's best for you, Dad. And I want what's best for you, Kasidy.

Kennedy: Yeah, and it's also a reflection of how Kasidy treated Jake, right? She never made him feel like he was the outsider.

Grace: No, they all went to games together. They had good times. They cooked!

Kennedy: Just saying. Well, she tried. She tried to cook.

Grace: Sisko, Sisko probably did most of the cooking in that. familial unit. You know, for as long as he was around. Yeah, because, because sadly, that's, that's how Deep Space Nine ends. But, there's a lot to dig into there about Sisko disappearing and having a, you know, a wife who is expecting on her own now, but at the same time, you know that Kasidy is confident as hell, she's got a great support group of people around her, and she's, she's got, you know, a son in law who, you know, is, is there for her and is gonna support her, so you know she's gonna, she's gonna be traumatized by the experience, but you, you feel like she's gonna be okay, because she and the people around her, uh, have her best interests at heart and are able to take care of her. Uh, to take care of her sounds kind of infantilizing, but you know, you know, she's able to take care of herself, also.

Kennedy: They're able to support her. Yeah, I saw what you were doing there. I was picking up what you were putting down.

Grace: You were smelling what I was stepping in, yeah. But yeah, just the, just the whole, I'm lost in the love of Kasidy Yates right now. Just of all of the cool stuff we get to see her do beyond just being a love interest and as an interesting character. We get to see her get, like, invested in community stuff on Deep Space Nine. We get to see her get emotionally invested in her husband's, like, beef from college with another classmate and join a baseball team for him. We get to see her, um, decide she's gonna help with a holodeck, uh, holosuite casino heist.

Kennedy: And has a important moment with Ben in that episode because, you know, he wasn't on board to play around with any of that. He didn't care, um, and resented Kasidy for showing interest in it, um, for very solid reasons, right? He didn't want to behave as though, to celebrate that time as if it was a good time for any marginalized people, but especially black people in this, in that, in that part of the world.

Grace: And them being able to have that conversation was very healthy.

Kennedy: Yeah, and I love that they didn't pull away from it. Because sometimes Star Trek likes to act as though, I mean, they'll reference that, like, the before times were difficult.

Grace: Yeah, we solved racism, gang!

Kennedy: Everything, everything's okay! No one's sick or hungry or dying anymore, and we love everyone.

Grace: The bad stuff is over. We did it!

Kennedy: Without really talking about it. And, I, you know, if, if this, if that episode came out nowadays... Someone would accuse Star Trek of trying to use critical race theory in the script. So, you know, there's that. I'mma leave that out there. And it's just really, uh, important for viewers to see that conversation between the two of them and also for Benjamin to kind of resolve that in and of himself.

Grace: Him getting to communicate that is important. Incredibly important. Oh my goodness, Kasidy and Ben. I just love them as a couple so much. I want nothing but good things for them and they get, they get married and you want it for them and then Ben disappears and it's just, no.

Kennedy: Ben doesn't disappear. He falls into a pit of fire messing around with Dukat's punk ass. I'm so sick of him.

Grace: Fucking Dukat screws it up for everyone again. Hate that guy. Not a fan. Not a fan of that Dukat guy at all. He's the anti Kasidy Yates. And we can rank everyone in DS9 on a scale between Gul Dukat and Kasidy Yates. Where on that scale lies any of them?

Kennedy: I would like to note that she did get kind of like a shout out and Picard for a hot second. There's a billboard bearing the name of her shipping company, Kasidy Yates Interstellar Freights.

Grace: Oh my gosh! Not only does it, does it rhyme, but she, you know, has branched out and has been doing good for herself.

Kennedy: It's the branding for me. I love it.

Grace: And the fact that she didn't take Sisko's last name is pretty cool. Well, she kind of did but she kept the name, her name for the business. Which is pretty cool. Something a lot of lady professionals have to do or vice versa. I've known multiple women who because they had made their name for themselves in a specific field while being married or before they were married they had to either keep their married last name or be like or not have their work recognized which can be a pain. So if you can, you know, have it recognized in your name that's pretty cool.

Kennedy: I remember reading a story about a woman who was a doctor who got married after she got her doctorate and her husband's family were giving her a hard time about not taking his name and she was like he did not get the doctorate he did not spend a million years in school and am, you know hundreds of thousand dollars in debt with me or for me like I did this so he doesn't get this

Grace: No, thanks. I am a credit to myself

Kennedy: Right! And also It's interesting because there are women who were you know who hold doctorates whether it's in the medical profession or otherwise who when they go to conferences and there's like dinners when they're and they bring their spouses, obviously you give your name and your partner's name and there's one lady who was, you know, righteously, you know, and rightfully pissed about the fact that all the conferences she would go to, they would automatically assume that her husband was the doctor.

So, you know, she had to set a couple people straight, and, you know, I feel like if this show were to be put on nowadays in the same context and, you know, the same way, there would be a lot of that in the comments of her, people like deflaming her and discrediting her and her importance and, and all this other stuff. They would call her a Mary Sue, not knowing what the hell that means. Just, just a multitude of issues as to how this character would be received nowadays that are the same reasons why we hold her in such a high regard 30 years later. Yeah. 25, 30 years later. You know?

Grace: Well also just think about how much, if it hadn't happened off screen, we'd have some dudes being ridiculous, being like, well, you know that her company got bigger and was able to branch out because she was the wife of the emissary and all that. And it's like, no, she did that on her own.

Kennedy: Right. He wanted to ground her half the time. There was a couple episodes where, like, after they got married, he pulled her off of a run because he didn't want anything to happen to her without talking to her first. So trust me, he might have supported the fact that she was doing her own thing, but Ben didn't want her out there like that. That took a lot for him to be okay with.

Grace: Yeah, Kasidy made that happen for Kasidy, and Kasidy is the one who got herself a cool captaining career, and, a ship that wasn't great, but she was making it work on her own. Again, she's got so much going on on her own, and she is a love interest. She is not a love interest who they tacked on a backstory for. Which, uh, what a relief.

Kennedy: I was just glad that there wasn't some drama with him and her, right, where they break up early on and he starts dating other people, and Jake's like, this is wrong. You already know.

Grace: That's why I was worried about them bringing in a Sisko love interest. I was so worried they were gonna get weird and, like, soap opera-y love interest wise and have there be a terrible love triangle that I was in no way invested in and then they were like, nope, nope, this is just Kasidy. She's cool.

Kennedy: Right. She's her own person.

Grace: Ben and Kasidy love each other very much. They are individuals, but they are a couple. Love it. So speaking of, uh, individuals and as a couple, I actually have a quote here, uh, that was sent to me by show friend Jessie Gender when I told her I was doing this episode. She found an interview, uh, with Penny Johnson Gerald. About, uh, where she had a few thoughts to say about Kasidy and Ben's relationship and the fact that it, while it's very loving, they, they don't get an actual sex scene. Uh, which we definitely get with some of the other captains and their love interests. So, I've got a quote here if I can share that. Penny Johnson Gerald here. "There was a script that LeVar Burton was directing, and the scene was the two captains, Kasidy and Sisko, in bed, and they were not married, and they were making love. Now, we weren't naked or anything like that, TV station wouldn't allow for that, but we were hearing rumors that the moment we wanted to share, which was tender, I think we were rolling over something to indicate we had just made love, rumor was that

probably wouldn't be accepted and wouldn't make it to the final cut. In the end of the day, I didn't make the final cut. I don't know why, but I feel cheated. Because that was a moment that, being a person of color, it was important to show that in this black family that we're normal people and we do this thing that you all do and it's tender and it's beautiful. I felt cheated from that moment that we didn't have that opportunity for you, the viewer, to see.” And I think she's got a, not only do we have evidence here that she's correct, um, but that's a very good point that there's a level of explicitness that we do not see with Sisko and Kasidy's relationship that we definitely see with some other captains, I think.

Kennedy: Yeah, for sure. I mean, we see the after effects of Worf and Jadzia. Like, they're all beat up and shit, so...

Grace: Yeah. We see that with, with fucking Quark and his Klingon girlfriend, too. We get to see the whole, oh, we had weird kinky sex after, yeah aftermath and but we don't get that with Sisko because there's still this very much this very much intense feeling from the show that they have to keep Sisko being as nice and friendly and stuff as possible, even after they reach the point where they're like, okay, we're going to stop trying to make him so super clean and nice. We're going to make him, allow him to be more complex and it's frustrating.

Kennedy: And on the one hand, like I'm thinking about it since you bring it up and I do recall seeing illicit scenes from other senior officers, but I don't recall seeing any from captains. I'm sure I mean now barring the fact that Kirk was shirtless most of the time, like we never saw Picard in the throes of anything with anyone. We never saw Janeway, even Archer, right? We'd only closest we got to that was even in Strange New Worlds, we see the aftermath of like an implied sexual relation with Pike and that horrendous lady.

Grace: Yeah, we're not gonna, we're not gonna see any Cinemax footage on, uh, Star Trek anytime soon.

Kennedy: Right. I personally think that the love of Benjamin Sisko and Kasidy Yates was too powerful for regular television because on cable you know, and again, maybe if it was shot then on cable or even now, like they would have been given the space to really flesh out those emotions, even if they didn't escalate to anything illicit, like we only glimpsed at it between the two of them and every other captain had some type of sordid past or breakup...

Grace: Or, messy ex girlfriend situation.

Kennedy: Yeah, and Picard's case being a repressed Ace Arosexual. I just wish they would let that king be by himself. Because clearly, clearly he don't want to deal with nobody except his books.

Grace: He doesn't want to get hit on on the sexy planet. He just wants to read his book.

Kennedy: He just, even as an old man, he just wants to go to a museum. Let him, take him to a museum, feed him snacks every, you know, half hour or so and he'll be great. All he wants. This was the first opportunity to really see the, uh, like another human element to the captains. And I just, you know, a missed opportunity all the way around. As much as we were graced with, with the two of them and their relationship on screen, there was so much that we missed out on as well.

Grace: Yeah. But what does it say that the, for what we saw, we've only got Kasidy in about like, depending on how you count your episodes, 15 to 17 episodes, but their relationship makes such an impact on us, and on a good chunk of the show, I'd say, and how we see Sisko as, you know, becoming more comfortable with himself again after the loss of his wife, and just kind of you, I'm trying to think of a nicer way to say, with him, dealing with his shit and getting himself right emotionally and the way that they, as a couple are so tender and loving for what little we see, what we saw was great. What they gave us. went a long way, I guess.

Kennedy: Even when they were at odds, it was so cute. It's like, okay, okay, okay. Yes, everyone's feelings are valid. You're both mad, but make up.

Grace: Yeah, you don't want them fighting. Mom and dad are fighting. I don't like it. And you know everyone on the station felt that. They're like, no. Station dad and Kasidy are disagreeing on something and we don't like it.

Kennedy: But also, what are they going to say? It can't really step in. The only one who could feasibly step in would be Jake, and it's not his place as his child. Maybe Dax, but while Curzon would step in, Jadzia wouldn't.

Grace: Morn, like comes into Quark at 2am and everyone's in there with like a glass of milk like, Mom and Dad are fighting. Oh my gosh. Uh, God bless you, Penny Johnson Gerald. Just a terrific performance across the board from her, I think. I say, I think, as if that is an opinion and not a fact.

Kennedy: Period. Like, wait a minute, we know for sure.

Grace: Personally, I think she did a very good job. No, she just did a good job. Period. Do you have a favorite Kasidy Yates moment?

Kennedy: Oh gosh, all of them. My, the one that jumps out at me most is the one I mentioned earlier when Ben was like, don't tell the crew and she immediately told, she went directly to them. She's like, okay, babe, have a good day. I need you to meet me in these quarters in 20 minutes. Like right now.

Grace: On one hand, yeah, she went behind his back, but on the other hand, she knew what he needed. She took that risk, and that risk led them in the right direction. And if she had not taken that leap, we would not have gotten fun baseball episode in the middle of dramatic season of sad things. Yes, which we all really needed.

Kennedy: None of the others would have, even if they had been privy to that information, which was clearly told to her in confidence. Even if they had been there, in the room, or been told that as well, if he had ordered them not to tell anybody else, what are they gonna do? What are they going to do?

Grace: No, she saw that and she was like, no, you, you need your friends behind you on this one.

Kennedy: Cause this is different. This is, this is not...

Grace: This is personal. Yeah, I'm trying to decide if I have, what my favorite moment would be. And I, I still think that that just kind of introduction of her where we establish her as like, you know, a tough but caring captain is really cool because that could have gone in so many different directions. They could have made her Deep Space Nine Ripley, as a, like, freighter captain. They could have gone in a lot of different directions with that, and just... They picked a very good one, and even from the get go, you're kind of like, Okay, I'm invested. I want to see where this goes.

Kennedy: Mm hmm. It's really nice to see two people paired very well. What I also like about their relationship is that it wasn't aggressively heterosexual, either. Even though they were clearly heterosexual people. Like, it wasn't like, these are gender roles and like you were saying, I'm not, you know, revolving around my man's every waking moment or let me make sure I get her flowers and I'm stressed out because she says I don't listen. Like, it wasn't any of that.

Grace: Yeah, not like another couple we can think of on Deep Space Nine. Kasidy was allowed to keep her job and not told we're moving to a space station

in the middle of nowhere because you are my partner and must support me. I have some thoughts there.

Kennedy: That part. Oh, while we're here, you're gonna take on the emotional labor of not only raising me, because I never really quite grew up, but also our child. And, since you're a busybody, you can take care of the emotional health of everybody else's children on this station, too. Have fun! You might be the first human some of them have ever seen. Kay? Kay, right.

Grace: Now you have to be mommy to all these children on the station.

Kennedy: Right. It's like plants, right? Everybody's different. Everybody needs different things.

Grace: No, Kasidy, Kasidy is her own person. She holds her own, and she is her own captain, and that is cool as hell. Yeah, if we had, if we had gotten to see the continuation of her and Sisko's relationship, do you think there's anything you would have liked to, like, see from old and gray, Ben and Kasidy, like, as a family, as a couple?

Kennedy: Just them together. Whether they're bickering over her burning the peppers again, or, you know, him clearly... Them arguing over whether or not a pitch was over the plate or low and outside, like, I... I want to see them do cute old people things together, like match.

Grace: I want to see them clipping coupons together. I want to see them going for long, long, very slow walks together.

Kennedy: I want to see them critique Jake for whatever children he has. I want to see them getting

Grace: judgmental and being like, Oh, I don't know if they're good enough for our Jake about any partner Jake brings home. Cause you know it would happen.

Kennedy: I want to see Kasidy have to tell Ben the very difficult fact that he's not good at baseball like her brother is and that no matter how strong he may be as a 75 year old, her brother was still a professional athlete, not spending all of his time in space, so you need to chill. It's this foolishness challenging that man to a game. Are you crazy? I still got it. No, you don't. Sorry. Sit it down, Admiral.

Grace: Yeah, I want to see them just have the whole, like, little people family thing with, you know, Jake and Oh, Jake's crazy friend Nog is here. How's Nog doing?

Kennedy: I want to see them have the heavy discussion about her settling down on Earth and starting Kasidy Yates Interstellar Freights.

Grace: Yeah, and how much of a challenge it would probably be for her from being a hands on captain to, you know, having to delegate to, like, other people in a larger scale. That would probably be really difficult for her. Cause she cares.

Kennedy: Yeah, I want to see her caught up in work and walking through the production room floor, delegating with someone behind her with this clipboard and Ben being like, Hon, I made, I made gumbo. Are you coming home?

Grace: Oh, like, like working girl, like he packs her a lunch before she leaves for work.

Kennedy: I want to see some, some cat's cradle stuff where she's now too busy to like really, you know, be present in the relationship all the time. And he's feeling that. And Jake's all grown up, like, Not that I want to put any emotional labor on Kasidy, but like that's, you know, an experience that we will never even get to see a possibility of happening because somebody thought it'd be a good idea to kill off Ben Sisko. I don't know who, I don't know why. But we will never see the rest of this.

Grace: What if, and this is, this is just a what if, with no basis in fact here, what if it turned out that their kid actually was not a baseball person? And actually liked, liked soccer? Or was a hockey guy?

Kennedy: Ooh, what if he was into ringette?

Grace: What if he was into ringette? He's like, Dad, I think we're not going far. far enough with our obscure Earth sports. I'm taking this a step further. I will wear the long skirts as I play. I expect you to be in the stands cheering for me. And they're like, you know what, we love you. We will absolutely be here. We don't get it, but we support you.

Kennedy: Yes. Ringette, ringette, ringette. Yes. And they start a band called Filthy.

Grace: A family band! Oh my god, they're like the Space Patridge Family.

Kennedy: Wait, no, their kid starts a band called Filthy and the Casual Haters and they're both supportive parents, but Ben hates it because he's like, this is not jazz. What, what, what, where did you get this from? I blame Nog. I blame Jake for exposing you to this nonsense.

Grace: I blame everyone forever and always.

Kennedy: Oh man.

Grace: Oh my goodness, just the, the, the opportunity that was at work that we, of all the things we could have seen from them as a long, like long, long term relationship, we will be haunted by what we never got.

Kennedy: Yeah, because unlike every other captain on every other series. Ben is the only one who didn't survive his. Which is some bullshit. Like, point blank, period. And him not surviving his series impacts everyone around him, including Kasidy Yates.

Grace: Yes. Kasidy Yates, who, while she is her own person, with her own very interesting arc and story, also had, like, you know, a big romance with Captain Sisko that probably affected her and, you know, beyond, you know bringing a child into the world and all that.

Kennedy: Mm hmm, and poor Jake for losing both of his parents. I just, don't get me started. Don't get me started.

Grace: He's got a cool stepmom.

Kennedy: That's true. And a new little baby sibling. As he's 19, 20 years old.

Grace: Oh, that's gonna be awkward. That's gonna be awkward.

Kennedy: Oh man, the age gap!

Grace: Oh man, can you, can you imagine? Can you imagine?

Kennedy: We're gonna have to because we were robbed.

Grace: Because we were robbed. I think that's our finishing up point right there.

Kennedy: Yes, we were robbed of the full spectrum of Kasidy Yates. And not only her role in the Starfleet, in the Star Trek universe, but also her impact on the life and times of Benjamin Sisko.

Grace: But for what she did get, we loved what we saw and we love Kasidy.

Kennedy: And if you don't, what's wrong with you!

Grace: What's wrong with you? Why do you hate, you know, joy and life? Why do you hate everything? Get it together. I don't know, go watch a baseball game. Get it together. Any final thoughts?

Kennedy: Um, I would watch a Kasidy Yates spinoff.

Grace: I absolutely would too. That would be... That would kick ass. Hey, uh, Short Treks, if you're coming back, we've got an A plus pitch for you here.

Kennedy: Just a fountain of unused source material here.

Grace: Unused potential and jumpsuits. All the good stuff. All the good stuff you could ask for in a sci fi show. Alright, so that's about the time we have for today. Kennedy, where can people find you on the internet?

Kennedy: Uh, you can find me on Twitter and... Instagram @thatmikeychick But as usual, don't act up in my comments cuz I will drag you publicly when we're blocking you. Love you. Smooches .

Grace: And I'm Grace. And you can find me across social media @BoneCrusherJenk or BoneCrusherJenkins. And to learn more about our show or to contact us, visit <https://www.womenatwarp.com/> . Email us at crew@womenwarp.com or find us on Facebook, Twitter for as long as that. Boat stays afloat, or Instagram, @WomenAtWarp.

Thank you so much for listening, and we hope you have a good day of playing baseball and being an independent character.

**outro music*