

## Women at Warp Episode 221: Starfleet Brats

[Women at Warp theme]

**Sue:** Hi, 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 Sue, and thanks for tuning in. With me today is my cohost, Jarrah.

**Jarrah:** You're my number one cohost.

**Sue:** Aww. And we have two amazing guests with us today. First is Katie, who is one of our patrons and suggested this topic. The day we're recording is also her birthday. Hi, Katie.

**Katie:** Hello and hi. I'm going to talk all night.

[laughter]

**Sue:** And Markeia McCarty, who you might know from all over the internet.

**Markeia:** Hello, everyone. I'm looking forward to this topic. And thanks, Women at Warp, for having me on.

**Sue:** Thank you so much for jumping in on this. You have some experiences when we get to the main topic that the rest of us do not. So, I'm glad to have that perspective here. And that main topic today is going to be Starfleet kids or Starfleet brats. Is using brat in the military kid sense offensive? I hope not.

**Markeia:** No. That's what I grew up with. We're military brats. In particular, I'm a navy brat. Each branch has its own-- [chuckles] There's a little bit of a rivalry there.

**Sue:** So, we're talking Starfleet brats.

**Jarrah:** Weirdly, Starfleet, most of them not very bratty.

**Sue:** But first, before we get to our housekeeping, I want to give both of our guests a chance to introduce yourselves, tell our listeners a little bit about you and your work online or your history with *Star Trek*. Why don't we start with Katie?

**Katie:** My name is Katie. My pronouns are she, they. I live in the Chicago area. My history with *Star Trek*, I am kind of a latecomer to *Star Trek*. I didn't start watching until college. I had had some familiarity because my dad was a *Star Trek* fan. He watched the original series when it was airing, and he watched *TNG* and *Deep Space Nine* up until about he and my mom started to have kids and it was no longer feasible for them to watch TV. So, I would ask him things about *Star Trek* and had sort of a cursory knowledge but didn't start watching until when all of *Star Trek* was put on Netflix in about 2010, 2011. So, I started with the original series.

And then my boyfriend, who I am still dating but who I had met at the time, was also a *Star Trek* fan, and he had started with *TNG*. I had finished the original series, so he was like, "What a wonderful opportunity for us to watch *TNG* together." And then we will watch *Deep Space Nine Voyager*, which neither of us had seen, and then *Enterprise* which, while flawed, because that was the one that was airing when he was a kid, he has a lot of affection for. And there are definitely things about *Enterprise* that, while flawed, I also have an affection for.

So, for a while, it was just the classic *Star Trek*, until earlier in February, when I finally got Paramount+-- Sorry, in January, when we finally got Paramount+, so I spent all of January and February binging all of new Trek. So, I am largely up to date on all things Trek related.

**Sue:** Fantastic. And, Markeia, what about you?

**Markeia:** Hi, I'm Markeia McCarty. I am a creative producer, voiceover actor, and GM, game master, like a tabletop role-playing game person. I'm also the Community Director for Hunters Entertainment. We do games like *Alice is Missing*, *Outbreak: Undead*, *Altered Carbon RPG*, *Gods of Metal: Ragnarock*. We're an indie company that does a lot of fun games in that way. So, for me, for my *Star Trek* background, I'm a generational *Star Trek* type of a person. My grandfather got my mother into it, and my mother got me into it, and my grandfather and my mother were particularly original *Star Trek*, the OG, Captain Kirk. And I'm the one that continued carrying the torch into the newer Treks after that, *Next Generation* and *Strange New Worlds*, *Discovery* and such.

I haven't been able to really bring my mom on board with the new Trek. When back in the day when I tried to get her into *Next Generation*, she was literally like, "Who's this bald guy? Where's Captain Kirk?" [laughs] Although I did get her semi interested in Chris Pine, because *Strange New Worlds* is so reminiscent of the *Enterprise* that she knows. So, I'm going to try to get another shot at that, and I'm certain that I could probably almost maybe get her into *Discovery*. She's not a big fan of time travel, so there is that. Oh, was that a spoiler? Uh, watch *Discovery*.

**Sue:** [laughs]

**Katie:** It's not.

**Sue:** No.

**Katie:** Saying that there is a *Star Trek* that has time travel is like, "Oh, *Star Trek* is science fiction. Did you know?"

**Markeia:** [chuckles] Fair point.

**Sue:** All right. Well, before we get into our main topic today, we have our 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 one dollar per month and get some awesome rewards. In fact, August is one of our merch months, which means everyone at our Warp 5 tier or higher on August 1st gets some merch. This is the merch that is going to be available at our booth at Star Trek Las Vegas. And this year, this is the first time we're announcing it, it is custom Women at Warp socks. So, if that's something that strikes your fancy, head to our Patreon, where you can see those images. The images are public and join us there. As I mentioned, they will be for sale in Vegas, but they will be at a higher price in Las Vegas. That is [patreon.com/womenatwarp](https://patreon.com/womenatwarp).

Speaking of Vegas, Grace and I will both be there next month, and we'll have, as I mentioned, our table in the vendor hall where we'll also have our free pronoun buttons. So, make sure to stop by and say hello.

If you're looking for other podcast merch, you can check out our TeePublic Store. There are so many designs with new ones literally being added all the time. We have brainstorming going on, ideas, sketches on post-it notes, and the designs are on so much more than just T-shirts. We've got tote bags and hoodies and stickers and notepads. So, head on over to [teepublic.com/stores/womenatwarp](https://teepublic.com/stores/womenatwarp).

**Katie:** Sue, if I may briefly interrupt, I own a shirt from the TeePublic Store. I own the Majel Cinematic Universe shirt that lists all of the characters Majel Barrett has ever played. It is a shirt that is very comfortable, and I get lots of compliments on it. So, take this as a customer testimonial and go get some Women at Warp merch.

**Sue:** Look at that. I love it.

**Jarrah:** Amazing.

**Sue:** We didn't even pay for that. [chuckles] All right, so let's get into it, our Starfleet Kids. Katie, when you suggested this topic, you said, let's focus mainly on Wesley, Jake and Naomi, makes a lot of sense. Those are the ones we see the most.

**Katie:** Mm-hmm. They are the ones that we see the most. And also just, they're the ones that have-- because we see them the most, we know the most about them. And I noticed, "Oh, there are some recurring trends that seem to be appearing here." They all have single parents. Naomi's is a little bit more complicated considering, I believe her dad is still alive, but her ship is stranded out in the delta quadrant with no way to contact, so she is functionally with a single parent until they return to Earth. Also, they witness a bunch of really traumatic shit on a regular basis. And they also seem to be like, "Yeah, Jake has Nog, but they largely seem to sort of be on their own. Wesley, I think, has peers, but most of the other kids we see on the *Enterprise*, they're a lot younger. With the exception of Nog, Jake doesn't really have anyone else's own age to talk to. And Naomi is kind of the only kid on Voyager period, until the Borg kids come and join later in the series, like Icheb, but she is simultaneously peer and also mentor because she's helping Seven teach them. So, that's a weird sort of space to be in.

**Sue:** Yeah, I think the closest analogous thing that we have to this experience is being in a service family, and I don't have that experience.

**Markeia:** I definitely do. [chuckles]

**Sue:** Yeah, I would like to hear about that. What we see on *Star Trek*, is it true, in a way, the best it can be to the experiences that you had? Are they getting it right, or are there things that they missed?

**Markeia:** For the Starfleet brats experience, I will say this with thinking, I'm more familiar with Wesley than I am with Jake and Naomi with everything, but with this is, to me, it wasn't anything special. And since I am a military brat, that says a lot. Their experience was what I basically went through. I did not grow up in a single-parent household though. My family traveled with me, so it's not that. But it's in the sense of you know how Wesley was on the bridge. Wesley was walking around the ship, Wesley basically seemed like he was a glorified intern for a while until he became higher up in the ranks and ended up going to the academy and all that other stuff.

So, with that, being a military brat, you get very used to being treated like an adult, I guess you would say. I don't remember being treated like a child. It's very much like going to private school in different countries. And with that, we had what would be super advanced tracks academically, especially compared to, for instance, after my mom retired from military, we lived in Florida. And let's just say that when I was in school in Florida and saw the workload that I was expected to do in my grade level, I was like, "I did this two grades ago." So, yes, it's very advanced. You are treated very maturely. You live on base, and you tend to have this realization that these people are your friends and they're part of your community, and they can leave at any time.

So, you get into a mindset of being very open to what life has to throw at you. This person might be your best friend for the next six months, and then they relocate to Germany for three years, and then you relocate to Iceland, and that's just the way that the world works. That's normal. So, the Starfleet brats experience of just life coming at them real strong and real fast every week, yeah, I'm not going to say that I was in danger, I wasn't in of service or anything like that, but whatever existed in our bubble was normal.

**Katie:** Yeah, I'm going to piggyback off of that because I am not a military brat, but my mom was. So, she talks about how she lived all over the world as her dad was moving from base to base, and she doesn't really have any long-term friendships from that period of her life because she couldn't establish a bond with anybody for longer than a year before having to move again.

**Markeia:** Yeah. You would move anywhere from-- well, I mean, it could be three months, it could be three years, somewhere in between there. So, you get pretty good at making friends quickly, doing those strong bonds, but also knowing that it's not in the cards to be with this person when you're 70. It is so bizarre to me that there are people that went to the same elementary school, high school, and/or anything after that, and that's just their lifelong friends because they lived in the same town or because they had desks next to each other. That is so out there for me.

**Sue:** Yeah, my family lived in the same house for 37 years. [chuckles] So, very different experience there. [laughs]

**Katie:** Yeah. On that same topic, my mom was not a fan of the fact that she had to move houses. So, it was an intentional choice when she got together with my dad and they had kids, that they would find a house and that would be the same house we would all grow up in, we would have a stable community.

**Sue:** Yeah. Well, Markeia, you mentioned specifically, you weren't in danger, you were on base. And I think that is one of the sort of interesting things we see first with Wesley, that he is with his mother on what they're calling a family ship on the Enterprise-D, who is in active service, it is carrying photon torpedoes. It is going into hostile situations at times, and it's an interesting choice for Starfleet to make. Beta canon seems to indicate, so like the tie-in novels and comic books, that usually families would be on star bases, and maybe one parent would go out on the ship and serve. And so, the Enterprise-D, as *TNG* leads us to believe, is sort of an experiment, a new family ship.

**Katie:** And the reason Naomi is on *Voyager* is because of an accident. Samantha Wildman was pregnant when she was on *Voyager*, which was meant to be a two-week mission, but then they got stranded out in the Delta Quadrant, so she was never intended to be on there.

**Jarrah:** I want to just go back to the Enterprise-D for a second and a couple of things that occurred to me, when I was thinking about Wesley and the other kids on the ship is, you mentioned the point that Jake has Nog, but not a lot of other friends. Wesley, similarly, his friends are the adults, and same with Naomi until the other kids get there. But then again, you said she's in a bit of an interesting role. But yeah, when you see Wesley in *When The Bough Breaks*, he's clearly the only kid of that age. How many people are supposed to serve on the Enterprise-D? Over a thousand, right?

**Sue:** That sounds like a good question. [laughs]

**Jarrah:** I think it is more than the people that were on the island that I grew up, which was 700 people. The island I grew up had an elementary school with 100 kids. And so, it struck

me that it's kind of implied, and it's possibly because Starfleet career and this moving around doesn't necessarily always attract families and people with kids to want to be on a ship. But, yeah, it seems like there's basically only one class of kids, and kids of all ages are taught together. But then I was thinking, like, how does that also work with shifts that their parents are working because their parents are assigned different times of the day to work. But did the kids all go to school at the same time, or are there school shifts?

**Markeia:** Well, I can give another military family perspective on this. Yeah, my school hours didn't line up with my mother's military shift. Like, that happened frequently. When we lived in Iceland, and keeping in mind that with Iceland, you have that midnight sun type of scenario, because of how far up in the hemisphere that it is, there would be times where she would be gone from work, I would have to get up by myself and iron my clothes, make my breakfast, get out to the shuttle, and it could be pitch black outside. No matter what time it actually says that it is, and go to school. And when I get dropped off, she might not be back from work yet. And this was a common occurrence. I think there's terminology for it. It's not a military based terminology. It's just like, overall generalization called latchkey kid.

And it's basically, you either leave home after your parents have already left, or you are home before they come back from work. And that was a common occurrence in each of the countries that I lived in. So, school time was a set time. Parents had to work different shifts in different times. And there was even a time when we lived in London, my mom was stationed in Italy for, like, three months, and me and my dad were in London [laughs] just living our lives kind of a thing, until she finished her assignment there, and then came back.

**Jarrah:** Another thing I was wondering if you see a lot of this, is there an equivalent pressure that we see in *Star Trek* to follow in your parents' footsteps when you're a military brat. We definitely see that with Wesley. We do see that with Jake, although he successfully pushes his dad to recognize, he has other goals for himself. Naomi, I would say it's somewhat self-imposed, but also, she's working in the complete absence of any other models for how to live.

**Markeia:** There definitely is, because it's the way of life that you're used to. After my mom retired and I ended up going to school stateside, it was a rude awakening, let's say, with keeping in mind that you have everybody that has grown up in the same elementary school with each other and high school and such and such. So, you have all of these bubbles that have already developed without your input in anything in there. So at a certain point, I did consider going to officer school because of, like I said, we were basically in a military private school bubble because of that, I was on track to be able to go into a college type of situation as an officer, like, two years when I graduated from that and then be in the navy or be in whichever branch I chose and go on [chuckles] off with that.

My mom is actually the one that was like, "Hell no." We've had family that has served in every conflict or war that America has been a part of. I have a family member in it, and mom said, "Enough is enough, and it's going to stop with you and your brother." So, neither one of us ended up enlisting. She was very much like, "No, we're good now. We're good. It's like you two do whatever it is that you want to do. "Oh, you want to act? Okay, you go off and act. Oh, you want to cook? Okay, you go off and you cook."

**Jarrah:** I do feel fairly safe saying that in *Star Trek*, I don't think we ever see a Starfleet parent discourage their kid from following a career in Starfleet.

**Katie:** No, what we see is the opposite, which is Nog wants to join Starfleet, and Quark is like, "Absolutely the [beep] not. You will not. My nephew will not join Starfleet as long as I live and breathe," until he eventually does.

**Sue:** Yeah. Well, it's also not until the streaming era of *Star Trek* that we really have anybody other than the Ferengi diss Starfleet.

**Katie:** That's very true.

**Sue:** Certainly portrayed to the audience like a top notch-organization for many, many years.

**Jarrah:** I mean, there are the Vulcans that are sometimes just too good for Starfleet.

[chuckles]

**Katie:** Yeah. Although as someone who has a soft spot for *Enterprise*, I'm not going to say that it is perfect, but at least in the early days of Starfleet, there are folks, both human and otherwise, who are like, "Uh, do we think this is a good idea? Is this safe though? I don't know."

**Sue:** I also think it's interesting. I know it's a little bit in the way *Star Trek* has to tell its stories, but we see both Wesley and Naomi, the two kids on starships, forming bonds and finding mentors outside of their parent relationship.

**Jarrah:** But with adults.

**Katie:** Yes. And Jake does to some extent too. It's not on screen, but there are all the time. But we know that he is talking to the other folks on *Deep Space Nine* when he's like, "Hey, Cassidy is super cool. You should help set up my dad with Kasidy Yates. So there has to be some sort of established friendship there for that to be a conversation to happen.

**Sue:** Yeah. I would still say, though, that Jake's primary parenting-mentor relationship is definitely with Ben-

**Katie:** That is true.

**Sue:** -and that is something that Avery Brooks was adamant about.

**Katie:** Yes, I think you are correct. I think his relationship with the other senior staff is probably more along the lines of a friendship.

**Jarrah:** Well, and another thing that goes with the being expected to follow a career in Starfleet, but also, is this just extreme achievement focus we see or perfectionism, perhaps even ambition that feels out of step to me with what it is like to be a child for most kids in Wesley and Naomi, but also, we see this in some other kids in the series, and it made me think about, again, like with Naomi, there's no other options to see what it's like to not be an overachiever. [chuckles] And I mean, in Starfleet, like, all the adults around them are the best of the best, that's the premise. But what impact does that have on kids, knowing what we know now about how kids internalize these pressures and perfectionism and how that can follow you through your life and create dysfunction? Like, do we think that if there was a kid on *Discovery* that they would treat it the same way?

**Markeia:** Oh, I would be really interested. If there was a kid on *Discovery*, I would really want to know how that would go. But going from my perspective with things, it was a very competitive environment. It wasn't *Mean Girls* competitive. It was normal. It was normal to have everything be extremely competitive. It was normal to try to be top of the class for every-- it could have been social studies, could have been mathematics, it didn't matter. You're always striving to be the top to be recognizable out of the other members in your class. And the class sizes weren't large either. We would have maybe 15-20 of us. Very

competitive, you're treated like adults. And I guess for the internalized, as you were saying, with that, yeah, I do feel like to this day, nothing that I do is as good as it could be. So that's something to just-- thank you, military for that.

**Katie:** Yeah, well, we see a variation of that in new Trek as well. Like, she's not a kid anymore, but Beckett Mariner, we know she's a Starfleet brat, and she as sort of, like, I guess rebellion, for lack of a better way to phrase it, has just been like, "All this perfection and striving to improve my career. Nah, I'm just going to be a lackadaisical, bisexual slacker and just do the basics to get the job done, and then I'm going to go hang out with my friends." The other thing I started thinking of was Wesley's human, Jake is human, Naomi is half human, Alexander Rozhenko is half human. Almost every other Starfleet kid we meet is human, or at least very human presenting. I understand, to some extent, on the production side, that's like, child labor laws, and we don't want to put kids and have them sit for a ton of hours in makeup and try and make that work. Like, I understand that, but it's still just also interesting being like, "Oh, until you hit prodigy, most of the aliens that we're seeing are adults." Even Nog is played by an adult actor.

**Sue:** Yeah.

**Jarrah:** Well, and I also thought about Mariner in that context, too, because I was thinking about, like, "Are there any kids we see rebel?" And I guess the other one would be like, Tom Paris, at the beginning of *Voyager*, has rebelled against his father by joining the Maquis. But, yeah, like, I would expect, just given the anxieties and traumas, like you said, that a lot of these kids go through that I would expect to see more kids acting out, being kind of like the doctor's son when he turns to Klingon punk in that hologram episode.

[chuckles]

**Katie:** Well, even just back when Tom Paris was Nick Locarno, that strive for perfection is what led them to that court martial, because their crew died.

**Sue:** We blew by it real quick. But I feel like I should mention, we do kind of have a kid on *Discovery* because Adira is 16.

**Katie:** That's right.

**Markeia:** Oh, right.

**Katie:** I forgot about that.

**Sue:** When we first meet them, they're in the Earth Defense Force, and I guess not technically Starfleet but they're wearing a Starfleet uniform by the end of that season. So we don't know much about their history before that, but certainly wound up in a place of military things and is sort of adopted by the crew.

**Jarrah:** I do think that there's a bit of a different context because they do come in fully with an adult job. And, yes, absolutely, they have some need for family and parental figures, which is delightfully fulfilled by the space dads. But also, I think even with this example, we can see some evolution in the messages, which are like, you are enough just as you are, it's okay not to be okay. You see the way that Adira and Gray are treated on *Discovery*, and I think it's a little bit more forgiving and there's a little bit more space to figure out who you are and go for that instead of kind of just falling into this mold of exceptionalism.

**Katie:** Yeah. Although it's also a recurring thing, I want to say in almost every *Star Trek* show where it's like, "Oh, you're not a member of Starfleet, but you're a member of the main cast.

You have a Starfleet uniform [chuckles] by the end of the season. We're just handing out Starfleet uniforms left and right."

**Jarrah:** Oh, yeah. And then, I guess, I mean, if you can count it as rebellion, Sidney rebels by being a really good pilot instead of a really good engineer.

[chuckles]

**Markeia:** Yeah. I mean, everything that we're saying, this is so normal to me.

[chuckles]

**Markeia:** This is so normal. You don't see what the difference is until after your parents retire from the military. And by then you're probably too, well, older or set in your ways. I don't even remember how old I was. I think I was 13 or 14 when my mom eventually retired. And so all of this was set. It was baked into my personality of, "Hey, whatever you're going to do, you're going to be the best at it. You're going to work really hard at it." It's exactly what you said where it's like, "Instead of being the best engineer, I'm going to be the best pilot." Yeah, all of this is-- now I'm rethinking my life. This conversation [laughs] has me rethinking things. I need to chill out, not make my bed tomorrow.

[laughter]

**Sue:** Structure can be good, right?

**Markeia:** No, structure could also be good.

**Sue:** Yes. Also, true.

**Katie:** It's all on a spectrum. Everything's on a spectrum.

[chuckles]

**Sue:** So, we sort of shifted into some of the Starfleet kids that we meet when they're adults. And we've mentioned Tom Paris, we've mentioned Mariner, we've mentioned Sidney. There's also her sister, Alandra La Forge. But Geordi is also a Starfleet kid, and so is Kirk, both Jim and Sam. George, whichever one you want to use.

**Katie:** The Kirks.

**Sue:** The Kirks. Robin Lefler, Demora Sulu, Kathryn Janeway, Malcolm Reed, sort of, because Starfleet doesn't quite exist. But he's from a naval family.

**Katie:** Yeah, he comes from, I want to say British naval. And if I am correct, his dad shames him for deciding to go to Starfleet and not continuing in the navy tradition.

**Jarrah:** He's like, in the Royal Navy.

**Katie:** How dare you want to go to space?

**Sue:** [laughs]

**Jarrah:** And again, it's like, "Oh, you're getting shamed for doing something else very similar, very well."



**Markeia:** Okay, so Geordi La Forge is obviously such a Starfleet kid that then became an adult, and there were so many moments and one that I definitely recognize with. Okay, so, from *First Contact*, when Geordi La Forge is talking to Zefram Cochrane. Yes, the guy who invented warp drive. So, when they're talking and Geordi's telling him, "Oh, yeah, there's a statue right here of you, and you're stretching your arm to the sky and bringing in the future." And he's like, "Okay, dude, I got to go take a leak." And then Geordi's like, "I don't detect a leak." And he immediately goes into problem solving mode. And then he figures out that it's slang, and he's like, "Oh, that's funny." And you can actually see him kind of put that in his mental rolodex of, "I'm going to use that in the future. I have had that moment so many times." So, yes, obviously, with that Geordi.

**Sue:** Where do we go? So, we also have some Starfleet kids that recur, but we see less frequently. We've mentioned Alexander. There's Molly O'Brien and her brother Kirayoshi. And, like, the only ones we see that have a nuclear family really.

**Katie:** Yes, they are a nuclear family. But Keiko takes Molly to Bajor for work. And there's know during the occupation of *Deep Space Nine* and other points where the family is separated and Keiko and Molly are sent to Earth for their own safety. And it clearly has impacts on the family, but you don't really see how that impacts Molly. The episode we get about her trauma when she's older is when she accidentally goes into a time portal and comes out as a feral adult. But it has nothing to do with processing what just would have been understandable issues related to being moved around and not having the support of her parents and having her dad particularly go through a lot of awful stuff that she's probably peripherally aware of.

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

**Katie:** But also, her mom, considering her mom for a while, was sort of the go-to elementary teacher on *Deep Space Nine*, only for Kai Winn to be like, "Nope, you will not teach here. You will not teach secular teachings to our Bajoran children.

**Jarrah:** Yeah. She also gets terrorized by a giant Rumpelstiltskin. And also later, her mom's possessed by a paw wraith and threatens her. So I feel like she's old enough that would have been something she'd remember, at least on some level.

**Katie:** Yeah. We also don't hear anything from her little brother. Her brother is also a literal baby. But still, I imagine even-- let's say, hypothetically, they all move back to Earth at three, he would still have some sense memory of being on *Deep Space Nine* and some of the weird shit that went down.

**Jarrah:** And I wanted to go to Alexander for a second who also has a single dad because his mom is murdered, also gets sent to be with his grandparents. But he also goes through some really legitimately kind of disturbing situations including, I think probably the most upsetting from my perspective is when he has to deal with his dad considering ritual suicide in ethics. There's a lot that has to do with stuff that is because his dad is in danger and then later to do with trying to fit into Klingon culture. And some of that's related to-- well, I would say a lot of it's related to his dad being in Starfleet but then also being of interest to notable Klingons.

**Katie:** Yeah. And also, much like his dad, Alexander being like, "I'm a quarter Klingon or half Klingon," because Worf is full Klingon, and his mom, she's awesome. I'm forgetting her name.

**Jarrah:** K'Ehleyr.

**Sue:** K'Ehleyr.

**Katie:** K'Ehleyr, thank you. Kennedy is going to murder me forgetting that. K'Ehleyr.

**Sue:** [laughs]

**Katie:** But K'Ehleyr is half human, if correct. Alexander also being like, "How does Klingon stuff work?" And Worf doing his best to teach him but also from his limited understanding of how Klingon stuff works.

**Jarrah:** I do like, though, that with Alexander, at least we do get to see an arc similarly to Jake where we see he does grow up in a way that is not what his father wanted for him. And his father has to accept that and love him anyway and recognize that he's becoming his own person. So, I like that about it.

**Sue:** So, I want to mention a little bit more beta canon, and that is that Molly supposedly, when she turns 18, decides to study art, and Naomi enters Starfleet Academy.

**Jarrah:** Well, we also see in the future in *Endgame*, Naomi's in Starfleet Academy and in another alternate future-- sorry, she's in Starfleet and she's also in Starfleet in another alternate future. So apparently the acting captain training school is a great route to a Starfleet career.

**Sue:** Yeah. And according to the *Picard* tie-in novel, Thad and Kestra Troi-Riker briefly lived on the Titan before they moved to Nepenthe.

**Katie:** I was also going to bring up as another sort of technical Starfleet brat, Jack Crusher, in which the entire Season 3 of *Picard* is about and his whole thing is his mom being like, "I don't want you to join Starfleet. We're going to go be vigilante doctors."

[chuckles]

**Sue:** Yeah, I don't know if he counts because she has left Starfleet at that point.

**Katie:** Oh, that's fair.

**Sue:** That was my reasoning for leaving him off the list. [laughs]

**Jarrah:** I think that there's an argument to be made on both sides because there is a point after Crusher tells him who his father is and then he has the weight of that legacy and has very complex feelings about it. So, I think it's relevant from that perspective.

**Markeia:** But really enjoyed the Doctors Without Space Borders. I mean, that's wonderful.

**Katie:** Very good.

**Markeia:** [crosstalk] -that we brought up that I just found interesting with Alexander when y'all were doing that discussion with Worf and him, and one of the things with growing up as a military brat is kind of the removal from American culture that you have. You're kind of removed from the culture of the country that you're in. And then also you're a few steps away from American culture. You know how you will turn on a television back when cable was a thing and there would be commercials. We didn't have commercials. We literally had programming. And in between that programming, there were, in a very real sense, infomercials. Like, it would be a jingle comes on and it would be something like, "Hey, this state has this state bird. The major city for this state is this. Here's what the flag looks like for

this state. Here's the capital city of this state. Have you guessed which state it is?" That was literally between our programming.

So, for Alexander to be removed from Klingon culture and the way that he was and then the fact that his dad was so removed and within the bubble that is Starfleet, then that's a whole other conversation. But I very much recognize Alexander with that, because when you get back stateside, you legit have to learn the societal shorthand that everybody just takes for granted.

**Sue:** I have a coworker who, I don't remember what branch, but was also a military brat and spent most of her, I guess, formative years in Japan and has told similar stories about, "I didn't know this cultural thing," or, "I didn't know this TV show," and when I came back, it was alienating.

**Markeia:** Yeah, big time, you have to learn, and you have to know where to look. That's the thing. On the one hand, yay, you get to discover things and see them for the first time. And that's always fun and exciting and new, especially if you have a friend group that's very, "Oh, yeah, you got to check out the *Princess Bride*." I'm like, "The Princess what?" [chuckles] For instance. But there could be the other side of that as well.

**Jarrah:** In *Picard* with Jack, there's also this interesting point that I think may feel relevant to people whose parents were, like, high up leaders in any field, but this feeling of, at least believing that your parent doesn't care about you as much as they care about their job. I think that's an interesting one. On the Thad and Kestra living on the Titan, that's interesting. I was actually thinking that in terms of the idea of having an unstructured upbringing that they had, from what we know, the most unstructured upbringing. But that would be, I guess, after he got sick. But they're just, like, making up languages and having fantasy games in the woods on Nepenthe. But that's also potentially after their parents are not active in Starfleet.

**Sue:** It is unclear how much older Thad was than Kestra, but they're definitely, like, the novel that focuses on them, that is the *Picard* tie-in novel is like, he is a young child and they're doing missions on the Titan. So, he was definitely there. I think it may have applied less to Kestra. I'm not sure on that though.

**Katie:** Okay. I was going to say, I just think it's interesting that Riker and Troi were like, "Well, we've left Starfleet and gone to this planet. Now we're going to do the absolute opposite of structure. The only consistent thing is that dinner is going to happen at about this time, and it is family dinner. Everybody will be there otherwise, hmm."

**Jarrah:** Mm-hmm. I mean, maybe that's the Lwaxana Troi influence coming out as Deanna gets older.

**Katie:** God bless Lwaxana Troi. That's not relevant to this discussion. I just love her.

**Jarrah:** [crosstalk]

**Sue:** But we also have a handful of kids that we see, Starfleet kids that we see mostly in *TNG*. Just once for a story.

**Jarrah:** Radish kids. Radishes, sorry. [chuckles]

**Sue:** We'll get some radishes. Calm down. Yeah. We start with Jame Finney in *Court Martial*, named for James Kirk, it's-- [crosstalk]

**Jarrah:** And also, who looks like 25.

**Sue:** Yeah, ooh. But Jeremy Aster is one of the first ones I always think of, that is from the *TNG* episode *The Bonding*. That's all about him losing his parents on an away mission and connecting with data because he doesn't want to deal with the emotions of it. There's the three kids from *Disaster*, Marissa, Jay Gordon and Patterson. There's Harry Bernard from *When the Bough Breaks*. There's Clara Sutter from *Imaginary Friend*. And technically, Lal in *The Offspring*.

**Jarrah:** Sometimes, like Starfleet kids like Naomi and Wesley and Robin Lefler intimidate me. But then I just think know there is a future where if I just grow some weird radishes, I too can meet Captain Picard.

[chuckles]

**Sue:** They came up all weird, but I think the reason why my brain always sticks on *The Bonding* is because supposedly, Roddenberry didn't want to do this story because he felt that kids dealing with the death of their parents wouldn't be a big deal in the future.

**Jarrah:** Yeah. Basically, like, we wouldn't have trauma and mental health issues because we'd all just be so mature. We would just move on.

**Katie:** But we have a counselor, that doesn't mean we're going to treat mental health issues or treat her seriously, but we're going to acknowledge that mental health issues exist, and it's important enough to have a therapist on your military ship.

**Jarrah:** Yep.

**Katie:** Oh, man. I'm kind of in awe of the thought of be like, "Yeah, in the future, we won't have these problems." [laughs] Oh, my goodness.

**Jarrah:** And in the *When the Bough Breaks*, that kid Harry, his thing is like, he doesn't like math. Is that it? Or he's really good at math and he doesn't like something else? I forget. But basically, I know that there's a thing where he's having some conflict with his parents, I think, over not doing his math homework. And by having everyone's kids get kidnapped, their parents get a lot nicer to them. So that's just a weird Season 1 episode.

**Sue:** Yeah. I think it's like while he is kidnapped, he discovers he likes art.

**Jarrah:** Yeah.

**Sue:** And the decision is, like, he's allowed to do art if he also does math. [chuckles]

**Jarrah:** Yeah. That seems like a very basic thing that they didn't need a kidnapping to figure out. But I do say one thing about Harry that I also like about the kids from *Disaster* is that it shows kids are kids with child fears and insecurities, and weird, odd behaviors sometimes, annoying behaviors. They're definitely getting on Picard's nerves, but I think that's the first time we start to see kids in *Star Trek* that actually feel like actual kids.

**Sue:** I think we get that with Wesley a little bit too, especially early on, like, when we see him hopping around in the holodeck in *Encounter at Farpoint*.

**Jarrah:** It feels weird, but also good.

**Sue:** [laughs] Yeah. Taking alcohol, drugs. I guess they weren't drugs. Getting alcohol, sickness, or even *Justice* when he goes to play and messes up big time.

**Jarrah:** Although clearly in that episode, he had no way of knowing that was messing up.

**Sue:** Well, I'd imagine that would be a common problem.

**Jarrah:** Yes.

**Sue:** Right?

**Jarrah:** Yes. You're just so distracted by everyone's nipples hanging out.

[laughter]

**Katie:** I am going to say, as someone who was once a child, there were definitely times where I did not realize I was messing up until after I had done it.

**Jarrah:** There were also times when I did realize I was behaving badly. Definitely my friends and I did a lot of ringing people's doorbells and running away, and sometimes we pulled up people's flowers. Yeah. I don't know. My mom says, "You were such a good kid," and I was like, "You just don't remember all of this stuff." Oh, prank calls, too. We used to prank call one of our teachers, and back when you could press the thing that would hide your number on the caller ID, and our teacher had a voicemail that said, like, "Hi, you've reached" his name, his partner's name, and their dog's name. And so, we used to leave long, elaborate messages for his dog.

**Katie:** I love that.

**Markeia:** That's such a wholesome prank call.

[chuckles]

**Markeia:** Like, I'm sure that they probably just put the phone up to the dog and be like, "Hey, it's for you."

[laughter]

**Jarrah:** I can only hope so.

**Sue:** But I would expect if you are in a situation where you might be faced with unfamiliar rules or customs because of your placement near your parents job, especially, that there would be times that you are doing your best and are still messing things up and could cause big problems for everybody else. Because Wes didn't just cause problems for himself, he caused problems for that whole ship.

**Jarrah:** He made no mistakes and still lost. That is not weakness. That is life.

**Sue:** He created nanites.

**Katie:** Well, there's that *Deep Space Nine* episode, and y'all can fill in my brain space because the specifics of it are lost on me. But where Jake is trying to get a gift for his dad and partnering up with Nog accidentally almost causes war crimes just because he was trying to do a nice thing for Ben Sisko, who deserves to have nice things happen to him.

**Jarrah:** Yep. That's in the cards, which I love.

**Markeia:** It's normal. If you're going to fail, you're going to fail exceptionally.

**Sue:** Let me ask, Markeia, how much were you supervised when you weren't in class? Like, we see Jake and Nog going off and causing trouble.

**Markeia:** It is very secure on base. Think of it this way, think of like the neighborhood that you grew up in, and I'm not certain how big you all's neighborhoods were, but think of it as a gated community. You exist in that community and because everybody's there for a specific job, it's about as-- when people are like, "Oh, when I grew up, they just let people run around the neighborhood and play all over around everywhere." Yeah, that's what it was like growing up after school, you could just go and do whatever because you're literally within this very secure gated community that nobody that isn't military can be a part of. And if they are, they have a guest pass and they have that on their outfit. You can see visitor and this such and such. So, it was a very, very safe childhood growing up. And we got into shenanigans when I lived in Iceland, I mean, the snowball fights, they were legendary. Ice balls are a thing, art and a science.

**Katie:** It's not exactly the same thing, but I'm from Minnesota, we take snowball fights very seriously.

**Markeia:** Very seriously. [chuckles] You build that fort just right. Anyone who gets in the crossfire, the universe wanted them to be there. They're target practice. Adult or child, it did not matter.

**Katie:** I was going to say, I'm going to go back to your bit about military bases kind of being a gated community because I'm thinking of the *Enterprise-D* and *Deep Space Nine* and *Voyager*, those are all literally gated communities because if you go outside of the ship or the space station, you will die because there's no air.

[chuckles]

**Katie:** So, it's a similar thing of like, I'm going to use the *Enterprise-D*, but I guess also *Deep Space Nine* is an example of this, but the *Enterprise-D* because we know that there's a lot of kids on there, I understand that it's like a floating space neighborhood, military based thing. But when the kids go on field trips, where do they go? Is it like in *Spaceballs* where they've got their own three wing circus and zoo? Do they just go to the arboretum for a day? Where do you go?

**Sue:** They have a holodeck.

**Katie:** They do have a holodeck. That is very true. There are holodecks.

**Jarrah:** They sometimes have puppies, and they go see the whales on the *Enterprise* at one point. I feel like in terms of security and safety, that *Deep Space Nine* is probably the least secure because there's so many different ships coming and going all the time and the potential for a kid to just sneak on a runabout like we see in the *Deep Space Nine*, *Lower Decks*, that it's very easy to just-- well, actually, and we see in some *Deep Space Nine* too, to just sneak on runabouts or steal runabouts or steal ships that are at docking bays. And there doesn't seem to really be like customs on *Deep Space Nine*. [crosstalk] Not that I necessarily think that we need a future with border security, but just in terms of the potential to get into trouble and the number of things that happen on the promenade or in the habitat ring, feels like there's greater risk kind of throughout the station than there is on the *Enterprise* or *Voyager*.

**Katie:** Yeah. Sorry, my brain just brought on a totally new thing, so I'm going to go back to a previous topic and then we can move forward. But speaking of different one-off Starfleet kids, where does Dr. M'Benga's daughter fit into that?

**Sue:** Oh, yeah, I left out Rukiya.

**Katie:** How did we forget about her?

[laughter]

**Jarrah:** I mean, she only has one really meaningful episode and then a couple other scenes ahead of that. Yeah, I mean, I think it's a little bit outside of the rest of the things. I mean, she is on the ship alone with her dad, but because of her illness, there is no potential to discuss her career path and pressure her into Starfleet because she's just out of the buffer for a couple of minutes every day.

**Katie:** Yeah, that is true. Although I do think, and maybe this is just me grasping at interplanetary straws, so go with me on this. But it seems sort of interesting to me that with Dr. M'Benga, and I guess you could also argue, Riker, that because of their Starfleet ties and the knowledge that they've been able to get from Starfleet, they might have access to resources to be able to care for their kids, like the average earth civilian might not.

**Markeia:** Oh, definitely. And they utilize that. They definitely do. Yeah, with his kid just being on, basically being in a buffer, living your life between pause moments, that's, ooh, amazingly visceral. Maybe that's why I kind of blocked her out. [chuckles] But the fact that she created such an intricate world with that alien entity, again, no spoilers, go watch the episode. I think that she would have been a Starfleet kid going into probably falling in her dad's footsteps. She was so about him, and they had such a close relationship. I mean, it might still be in the cards in a future season. Who knows?

**Jarrah:** She obviously has a really, really keen imagination. And I think that's another thing we see across these kids. I definitely talked a lot about trauma and other things like that, but they also are resilient. They're creative, they're very self-sufficient and able to spend a lot of time on their own creating things and coming up with new play and books and journal articles and all that kind of stuff. So, these are their strengths that we see separate from just them being smart and driven.

**Katie:** Mm-hmm. Because I was going to mention whether or not this is a good *Voyager* episode is up for debate, but it is one that I enjoy, which is the one that focuses on Naomi's children's story holodeck program. So, we meet all of the fictional characters that she hangs out with, and that sort of comparison of these two Starfleet kids who have very active imaginations and are very into the things that they're creating. And even then, the episode with Molly where she's an adult, after coming back from the future, after coming back from a very violent past, she managed to survive until that point. Like, you have to be very creative and very smart to be able to make it to that age in the time period that she was sent back to.

**Sue:** To regarding the Riker situation, did he have additional resources to get Thad treated? This is a slight divergence, but I'm going to do it anyway.

**Katie:** Do it. It's your podcast.

**Sue:** [laughs] Back before we actually got *Picard* Season 3, I thought the Thad storyline was going to be related to why we hadn't seen Beverly Crusher yet. I thought because Riker and Troi are going to be high profile Starfleet officers at the time of the synth ban, they need a positronic brain or positronic network to create this cure for Thad. I really believed that the

storyline was going to be that Crusher broke the law to try to treat Thad, and that's why she disappeared from Starfleet, because she was like a wanted criminal.

**Jarrah:** Oh, well, that would have been cool.

Speaker 5: I like that theory.

**Katie:** What a missed opportunity. Either that or the fact that she wasn't able to save Thad, similar to how she wasn't able to save Jack, eventually just caused her to leave. Oh, God, I made myself sad. Okay.

**Sue:** So, hey, Terry Matalas, call me.

[chuckles]

**Katie:** And it's also not the same thing, but I feel like it would be remiss not to mention that most of the, if not all of the entire main cast of *Prodigy* is children. And while they are not Starfleet kids, these are kids doing the best that they can to try and live up to Starfleet ideals. I have no main point to this other than watch *Prodigy*. *Prodigy* is great.

**Sue:** *Prodigy* is great. I feel like they're a different kind of Starfleet kid.

**Katie:** Yes.

**Sue:** They're kids who so desperately are looking for, I guess, belonging and see Starfleet as, like, an end goal or a sanctuary.

**Katie:** We were all taken from our homes and have nowhere else to go. Starfleet is the place that will give us a home and a place to be after having everything robbed from us. And also, we could learn more about our cultures there.

**Markeia:** Well, I wouldn't think necessarily robbed from us, because I don't think they'd understand what they're missing, because how they're growing up is normal to them. There's no other way of thinking that this is how everybody grows up. So, it's only if they get back to Earth or wherever that they'll be like, "Oh, there's a difference," and then they decipher themselves. If that's something that I like and I want to sign on board with, or if I'm going to go back to what's normal.

**Katie:** That is a wonderful point. I am going to push back on that slightly only in that they have memories of what their lives were before they were taken in into slavery. So, I could see at least some of them do. So, I could see that being the point of, I am aware that there is a way that I was living before I was then brought into this situation. So, I don't know what I would have learned in that previous life.

**Jarrah:** But they were all pretty bad.

**Katie:** Yes.

**Jarrah:** Those are some kids with a lot of stuff to work through.

**Katie:** Exactly.

**Sue:** Well, we have talked about a lot of stuff, jumped around a little bit, but also covered a lot. So is there anything anybody wanted to mention that we didn't get a chance to talk about yet?



**Katie:** The only thing I'm going to say is, *Star Trek* is great. Everybody should watch *Star Trek*. That's what I got.

[laughter]

**Sue:** I think you might be preaching to the choir.

**Katie:** I am.

**Jarrah:** Head[?] along and prosper.

**Sue:** Here's my final thought. I have been sort of brainstorming the title of this episode, and I kept going back to Starfleet Babies, like Muppet Babies. And I started writing a theme song for Starfleet babies. [laughs] [singing] When the ship is kind of weird and you wish that you weren't there, just head into a holodeck and you can be anywhere. It's bad, it's bad problem. All right, [chuckles] so with that, I'm going to stop singing.

**Jarrah:** Nice.

**Katie:** I love it. I was going to propose Brat Fleet, but I don't have a theme song to go with it.

**Sue:** Oh, that's good. I like that.

**Jarrah:** And it also kind of feels like it could be about Starfleet brats, but also about Starfleet and Bratwurst, and I'm here for both.

**Sue:** [laughs]

**Katie:** That's another episode.

**Sue:** All right, so we're going to wrap up then today. Katie, is there anywhere you would like to point people to if they want to follow you on the internet?

**Katie:** There's not really anything of note social media wise, but I am going to point in some directions of things that my friends are doing that I have contributed to. So, I have some friends of mine in the Chicago area do the podcast Starship Tempest. I am a patron of theirs, and I have been part of the sort of patron Kobayashi Maru scenarios. The first one followed Divina[?] Cassie and her journey and going through it, and the second one has not been posted yet, but is a bit more experimental. And you can witness me having an existential breakdown and Travis laying very obvious clues that I don't pick up on. So that's a lot of fun.

The second one is some friends of a friend of mine finished up a podcast a couple of years ago called Improvised Star Trek, where they take episode titles either from the audience or from suggestions. So, the episode that came out of one of my suggestions is Happy Halloween: Tales from the Holodeck. So, I am going to point you to that one specifically, if not the entire run of Improvised Star Trek. They are a delight. My name is Katie Utke. That is spelled K-A-T-I-E. Last name U-T-K-E. If you go to the Nerdologues Podcast, internet webpage that lists all of the various podcasts that they have. If you type in my name, you should find every episode that I have guested on because my friends are too nice to tell me no when I say, "Hey, I want to be on an episode and talk about a thing." And I have also done just some voila and background noises for the podcast Unwell in the first season, so go and check out that as well. I don't know. I'm kind of everywhere and nowhere all at the same time and at the mercy of my friends who are like, "Oh, Katie wants to be on this thing. Yeah, we'll be nice and let her do that."

**Sue:** Those are good friends.

**Katie:** They are very good friends. I love them.

**Sue:** All right, Markeia, where can people find you on the internet, see more of what you're up to?

**Markeia:** Hey, so I've been Markeia McCarty. That's M-A-R-K-E-I-A M-C-C-A-R-T-Y. According to Google, I'm the only one that exists in the world. So just put--

**Jarrah:** Oh.

**Markeia:** Yeah. Hey, landmark right now, unless a baby comes behind me. So if you just type my name into google, I do a number of things all over the internet. If you are specifically interested in things involving sci-fi, I've done that for a number of different podcasts. For my direct social channels [@MarkeiaMcCarty](#), that's Twitter, Instagram. If you want to hang out on TikTok or with Twitch, that's Darth Markeia, as in Vader.

**Sue:** Nice.

**Markeia:** And along with that, if, say, for instance, you want to create your own, since this is Starfleet brats or Brat Babies. I'm sorry, was it Starfleet Babies? And the such, Hunters Entertainment, the indie game company that I am community director for, we have a game called *Teens in Space*. It's based off of the powered by kids on bikes line. It is a very easy to pick up and play, and you can create your own sci-fi adventures with literally, it's the title, *Teens in Space*. You can find it on [drivethrurpg.com](#), [dtrpg.com](#). I think we even have it on sale right now. [laughs] So if you want to check that out, that'll be something to put into your tabletop role playing game rotation, sci-fi edition.

**Sue:** Incredible. I'm going to link to that in our show notes too, for sure.

**Markeia:** Awesome.

**Sue:** Jarrah, where can people find you?

**Jarrah:** I will plug that I am recently celebrated the 10th anniversary of my blog, Trekkie Feminist, which you can find at [trekkiefeminist.com](#) and the most recent thing I've done is updated the Bechdel-Wallace test results for Season 3 of *Picard*. So big thanks to you, Sue, for all your help with that.

**Sue:** If I'm going to be watching it four times an episode, anyway. And I'm Sue, you can find me parked on Twitter [@Spaltor](#). S-P-A-L-T-O-R or in person Star Trek Las Vegas. And I'm deep in the middle of Dragon Con planning. So as always, if you're going to be in Atlanta over Labor Day weekend, you can find me there. To learn more about our show or to contact us, visit [womenatwarp.com](#), email us at [crew@womenatwarp.com](mailto:crew@womenatwarp.com) or find us on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram [@womenatwarp](#). Thanks so much for listening.

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