

Women at Warp Episode 91: RPN Takes Vegas!

[Women at Warp theme]

Sue: Hi and welcome to Women at Warp: A Roddenberry *Star Trek* podcast. Join us as our crew of four-women *Star Trek* fans boldly go on our biweekly mission to explore our favorite franchise. My name is Sue and thanks for tuning in. Here with me today is Grace.

Grace: Hey. You thought you'd gotten rid of me. You thought wrong.

Sue: [laughs] And we are just back from Star Trek Las Vegas.

Grace: We made it. We survived the desert.

Sue: It was quite warm.

Grace: Oh, my gosh, it was.

Sue: But not nearly as humid as where I live.

Grace: But why do they keep saying like, "Yeah, let's put a bunch of these nerds out in the middle of the desert in the middle of the hottest part of summer."

Sue: Because they don't expect us to go outside.

Grace: Why though? [Sue laughs] Why?

Sue: Well, this episode and the next two after it will all be Star Trek Las Vegas coverage. But we're not going to make you wait the typical two weeks. We're going to release an extra episode in that middle so you won't have to wait.

Grace: Rapid fire coverage. Woo. Yeah.

Sue: But before we start, Grace, what were your personal highlights from Star Trek Las Vegas?

Grace: Oh, my gosh, my personal highlights. I've got to say, this is going to make me sound like such a doofus because you pushed me into it. You were like, "No, you have to do this." Probably meeting Doug Jones was pretty great. [laughs]

Sue: He was so sweet.

Grace: I was losing my mind over it and he could tell and he was so sweet about it and we got [laughs] so many selfies with him. And I'm really glad that you wouldn't let me get too shy to do that because it was really worth it. It paid off. And I am going to remember those two minutes for the rest of my life. [Sue laughs] I got a kiss on the forehead from Doug Jones and it was amazing. I can die happy now.

Sue: I really love seeing the *Discovery* cast and how much of a family they already are.

Grace: Well, this isn't even just a *Star Trek* thing. I've been a fan of horror movies and weird fantasy movies he's been in since I was literally in middle school. So, this was a lifelong freak-out building up and it was just like, "Oh, my God. Oh, my God. Oh, my God. Oh, my God. Oh, my God."

Sue: [laughs] Well, I'm glad I made you do that.

Grace: Yeah, I really appreciate you not letting me chicken out on that one. And let me see, other highlights. Getting to be at the convention during a certain really big announcement was pretty incredible.

Sue: Yes. More on that in just a little bit.

Grace: Yeah. [Sue laughs] I've also got to say, sitting in on and just recording you being completely unimpressed by the Joe Piscopo performance. That's the one that I'm going to treasure in my heart also for the rest of my life.

Sue: It was a very bizarre evening at a Friday night dinner.

Grace: It was so weird. [laughs] It was amazing.

Sue: For me, I think it was a lot of the little things. The opportunity to be backstage for some stuff, how I randomly found myself shopping with Chase Masterson in the vendors hall.

Grace: Like you do. I guess.

Sue: Like you do.

Grace: There's always so many little moments that pop up like that at cons that you never expect.

Sue: Yeah. And of course, also speaking with Nichelle Nichols for a little bit because it's highly rumored that this will be her last convention. Even if it's not, you never know when it will be, so.

Grace: They've made an official announcement on her diagnosis, yes?

Sue: Well, I don't think they intended to, but it came out in the court proceedings.

Grace: Yes.

Sue: Yeah, so.

Grace: Which is very unfortunate on multiple levels.

Sue: Yeah. There's a lot going on there, which we will not comment fully on other than to offer our support.

Grace: And that we're glad to have gotten to speak with her when she was able to speak with us.

Sue: Yeah, absolutely. But onto happier things. Before we get to our audio really quickly, our table at Star Trek Las Vegas was part of the Roddenberry island or monolith, and our presence there was sponsored by Eaglemoss.

Grace: Thank you, Eaglemoss. We love you and your little ships.

Sue: We do. We had several of the ships on the table and lots of people were asking questions about them. And thanks to Eaglemoss, we're able to give one of those ships away.

Grace: Ahh.

Sue: It is the 10-inch XL edition USS Voyager.

Grace: And it is a beauty. I got to tell you. That's one of the ones where people kept coming up and being like, "Can I hold it? Can I touch it?"

Sue: And it is substantial, let me tell you. Heat that thing up and you can iron with it.

Grace: [laughs] It's an iron voyage. [Sue laughs] That has a nice ring to it.

Sue: So, to enter this giveaway, just send us an email to crew@womenatwarp.com with the subject line Voyager. And tell us what Captain Janeway was looking for in that nebula. You know the one I'm talking about.

Grace: You know the one.

Sue: And entries will remain open through September 4th. And now, onto our con audio.

Grace: First, you'll be hearing the Roddenberry Podcast network panel on fandom, and then our discussion on the Roddenberry booth on the return of Jean-Luc Picard. Now, when I say that being there for that was one of our highlights. This was part of it. All of us were rushing to it, being like, "We've got to start talking about this right now." And here's the result of that.

[audience cheering]

Male Speaker: Hi. We're the Roddenberry Podcast Network. Who are you? Right. So, Jon Champion, Ken Ray, Alison, Kenna, Pitt, and Elio "Elijah" Lleo. Yeah, from Priority One. And I can't see who else is down there. Will everyone--

Male Speaker: Grace and Sue right there.

Grace: Grace Moore from Women at Warp.

Sue: Sue Kisenwether from Women at Warp.

Grace: Oh, she did it.

Sue: Grace. Why so much Sweet 'N Low?

Grace: Because like the Starbucks down the hall, I have no equal.

Sue: [laughs] And Larry Nemecek.

Male Speaker: Ah, okay.

Male Speaker: And Larry Nemecek. Dr. Trek. Larry Nemecek from The Trek Files.

Larry: Hope you're trekking well this weekend.

Male Speaker: Hey, Roddenberry *Star Trek* podcast.

Male Speaker: So, did you guys hear any news today? Anything new going on? Anything big going on? Before we get to the stuff that we had planned to talk about, I felt like it would be silly not to talk about that, especially because if you were in the room, two amazing things

happened. First of all, the fans went crazy. And second, Patrick Stewart said, and whether this is actor speak or whether this is absolutely 100%, Patrick Stewart cited fandom as the reason that he's coming back. And what I said to these guys earlier, it's not exactly a letter campaign, "Let's save *Star Trek*." But the fact that we're all here and the fact that we're all still talking about this and the fact that we're all reaching out to the people who make *Star Trek* is making *Star Trek*. And that's kind of a really neat thing because when we said, "Oh, let's talk about fandom, then they went on stage and said, "Here's why fandom's actually a big deal, because I'm going to go and resurrect this character who I thought I had killed because 20 years ago or 15 years ago," or something like that.

Male Speaker: Not actually killed. Not actually killed 20 years ago.

Male Speaker: We don't know his head cannon.

Male Speaker: Okay. True, true. Patrick Stewart has his own head canon. That is rad.

Male Speaker: Migo's going to bring it out.

Male Speaker: Oh, I can't wait. I will wear that.

Grace: Left over from Locutus.

Male Speaker: Yes.

Larry: Yeah. Well, I don't know. My personal head canon just exploded.

Male Speaker: So, what we had planned to talk about. And if anybody wants to talk about, we have a microphone. I don't know when we're going to say, "Hey, come on up." And. But if you've got questions, go ahead and be thinking about them. What we wanted to talk about, actually is why our fandom doesn't stop with, "Yeah, I like *Star Trek*." I mean, there are different shows up here. I mean, we're all *Star Trek* fans, and we could all be making podcasts. In fact, we are all making podcasts, but we're not all making the same podcast. Larry does a sort of a history angle, obviously, because that's his thing. Women at Warp do a feminist angle because that's their thing. These guys are doing Priority One. He is doing a weekly news show, because that's their thing. And we sit around and talk to each other a lot because we're like that.

Male Speaker: That's our thing.

Male Speaker: That's our thing. Yeah. So, we kind of wanted to just- I mean, I guess the question to start off with everyone and whoever wants to go first, raise your hand. Nobody wants to go first.

Male Speaker: What is the question?

Male Speaker: Okay, so don't go first. I guess the question is why does your fandom lead to what it is that you do? How is it that you don't just stop with, "Well, I'm a *Star Trek* fan," or, "I like current events." I mean, how is it that your fandom led to the show that you do?

Grace: Well, for me, personally, I'm all over the place as a well, as a general person, obviously. I'm a huge just geeky, nerdy *Star Trek* fan. I want to know what's going on now. I mean, I started off podcasting, really, from the gaming space. So, that was my initial inroad into the fandom. And then, that's really expanded. So now, I'm really into keeping up with exactly what's going on, what's the newest things, what are happening around the globe with

other people as well. And I just want to just really quickly apologize for taking all the selfies, because I'm a huge fan, and that's what this is about. So, I thought it was probably okay.

Male Speaker: Yeah.

Grace: Yeah. Okay.

Male Speaker: Good.

Sue: I think for Women at Warp, if I can speak for both of us-

Grace: Absolutely.

Sue: -is that when you are a woman, when you are a marginalized person, when you are a queer person, your existence is inherently political, and you can't turn that off when you watch media. But *Star Trek* embraces that, and it opens those conversations. And I think having those conversations is really important, especially for people who don't have those perspectives. And when we came up with the idea to do Women at Warp, to do this show, we realized at the time there wasn't anybody doing it and a lot of the *Star Trek* podcasting was shows hosted mostly, if not entirely, by men.

And it didn't make any sense because, as Larry can probably agree with me, a lot of *Star Trek* fandom has been driven by women. Women organized the conventions, women ran the Welcommittee, women wrote books and collected stories and created fanzines. And there is no reason that shouldn't continue as technology continues.

Grace: And if I can just add to that, I think all of us as hosts were coming from a situation where anytime we were having a conversation, there'd be a point where we'd have to stop it and say, "Actually, as a woman, that's a little different," or, "As a queer person, that's a little different." There were lots of caveats that we had to add into whatever conversations we were having. Because simply put, if you're talking about a utopia in a society that's being shown in *Star Trek*, any group of people that you don't see there is someone, whether intentionally or not, saying, "This is the perfect future, I see you are not in it." So, we all wanted to be conscious about that and keep a conversation going.

Larry: When I was a kid, I was a big history buff, fan and I was a big NASA real space science fan and I built models and all that. And really, since Leonard passed away, I've really gone back and been aware of things that were just so unexamined with me. But basically, I think I took a lot of *Star Trek* for granted. Well, yeah, well, of course we go from caves to city states, to countries, to a united world, to a united federal. Of course, that's the arc of history. Or else, we blow ourselves up like [unintelligible [00:12:03]]. Well, of course that's what will happen. And so all of this, the history speeches that Kirk would give, Napoleon, Hitler, Caesar, Lee Kuan and those kinds of things, it's us out there.

I love sci-fi, but I didn't consciously think about that until Star Wars. That's another galaxy, it's far, far away. It's fun. But this is us in the future for all of that means. And the background of *Star Trek*. And then, how did they get to the background of Star Trek? And that's what wound me, how I wound up with the backgrounding, the behind-the-scenes canon, all those kinds of things. So much of the aspirational and the utopian and the futuristic positivism, I just took for granted until the last few years and kind of like, when I see people that don't get that and I have to go, "What, didn't you get that?" That was just a given. Oh, I guess not. So, trying to keep all that poked up for people. Yeah.

John: And I'll answer for Mission Log about why we do what we do. Ken and I are similar in the respect that we both grew up watching *Star Trek*, kind of fell into the fandom, fell out of

the fandom, back in just over a number of years. And professionally, both found ourselves podcasting. I had a couple of web series that I was producing in Chicago. And both met this guy named Rod who said, "Hey, *Star Trek*'s a show about ideas. I want to figure out a way to explore those ideas. And you happen to be a couple of guys who like to talk about those ideas. I mean, you specifically describe being in college and watching *Next Gen* and then having these hours long conversations with your friends and roommates afterward."

I grew up as a kid who was amazed by spaceships and phasers and aliens and thought that was cool and sort of emotionally got wrapped into the stories of *Star Trek*. And then when I put it away for a little while and came back to it, the first thing that I did was go to a convention because I hadn't been to one in a long time and there I was in Chicago, hadn't been to a convention in maybe 15 years or something. And I thought this is the way to come back to it, is to go back among my people and really get a sense of the excitement for *Star Trek* again. That was a few years before talking to Rod about the whole podcast thing and his real desire to explore what we call the morals, meanings, messages.

And even before that, it was just a couple of sit-down dinners. And I think you had a similar experience, you and Rod, me and Rod, separately, to saying, "Well, what do we feel about the future? What do we feel about the message of *Star Trek*? What are the messages? Are they relevant? Are they even coherent? [laughs] Does *Star Trek* have a coherent statement to say, I guess we'll have to watch 735 hours plus and figure that out in a few 15 years." So, that's what got us there.

So, yeah, my fandom has had various levels and various intensities over time, and now it's a little weird to have a foot in fandom and a foot in *Star Trek* being a thing that I do partially for a living. It's a little weird, but I like that it keeps me disciplined. [laughs] I don't want to let you down. I don't want to let Rod down. I don't want to let the listeners down. So, that makes me watch *Star Trek* with a more critical eye than I did at any other point in my life.

Let's also ask you guys some questions and have you ask us some questions. If you do have something burning that you can't wait to get out to us and to the audience, make sure you come up to the mic there and we will get to you ASAP.

Male Speaker: I actually one of the questions that we wanted to find out from you guys, because I've been curious. Is this where your fandom lives, or is there something else that you do the rest of the time? I mean, we come here and we do this, and it's an absolute blast, but then we go home and keep doing *Star Trek* podcasts. I'm curious what *Star Trek* is like the other 51 weeks a year for you guys?

I do also have a question specifically for Larry and for Women at Warp. *Star Trek* is obviously relevant today. That's why we're here. I shouldn't say that. I'm sorry. There may be people who are here because they used to like *Star Trek* and they just want to go back and celebrate the thing they used to like. For a lot of us, *Star Trek* is relevant. I know you guys, your show is dictated by what's happening today. You're a news show. Our show is dictated by, this is the next episode we're watching. And so, that's what we're going to do. I'm curious, Larry, when you are picking out documents, are you thinking about, "Wow, this was something 40 years ago, and it's the thing today"? And I'm curious, Grace and Sue, when you guys are deciding what you're going to talk about next, is it something that you're like, "Okay, this is a thing that happened in *Star Trek* and I want to talk about it? Or this is the thing that's happening right now. Let's find the *Star Trek* lens through which we can look," and you guys can flip a coin?

Sue: Yeah, sure.

Larry: I have a good answer.

Sue: It sort of depends when we're looking at our schedule. One of the things we did recently, if you're aware of what was happening in Ireland, they reversed their abortion ban. And after that news came about, that's when we decided to talk about the *TOS* episode, *The Mark of Gideon*, which is all about reproductive rights. And Kirk literally gives a speech about birth control in the 60s on TV. And people seem to forget that.

Grace: If you saw that episode and didn't parse that out, what show were you watching?

Sue: [laughs] Every time I tweet that GIF every now and then, "Why not teach your people about the safe contraception?", people reply to me and they're like, "Wait, that's not *Swear Trek*." No, that's real. [laughs]

Grace: That happens. That is a conversation that was happening even if weren't hearing that much of it.

Sue: Yeah. And there were also recently the issues in the Star Wars fandom surrounding Kelly Marie Tran being bullied off of Instagram. It's happened to other actors. And we did our episode shortly after a lot of that news broke about toxic fan culture. So, if we have something very clearly we can relate to almost a breaking news item, we certainly do. But I think there's something in every *Star Trek* that we can bring back to what's happening today. And it might not always be what you expect.

We did an episode a while back on the *Outcast* and looking at it today, clearly at the time it was meant to be a very special gay episode and be an after school special of sorts. But now in 2018, the host on the show at that time, determined that looking at it through today's lenses, it sort of fails as a gay representation episode, but it also kind of succeeds as a trans representation episode.

Grace: Or as a nongendered-- a nonbinary in representation.

Sue: Yes. So, I mean, sometimes they fail into success, if you want to look at it that way.

Grace: And to be completely honest, we have 50 years' worth of franchise to work with here. There is no shortage of conversation to be drawn from any year of that. There's a lot we can work with, a lot of stories to get through and to pull from really conversationally. There's a lot to work with.

Larry: And the exciting thing, I remember 5, 10, 15 years ago, wondering the internet, what cultures would do, what our online culture would do to conventions. Would internet make all and message boards and then social media make all this obsolete? And it hasn't. It's kind of brought it back into a vengeance as a family reunion. But on *Trek Files*, as we're going through Gene's documents, we're going through Gene's drawers.

[laughter]

Male Speaker: Not as much fun as that sounds.

[laughter]

Larry: A lot of dust in the air, a little mold at times. No, seriously, seriously. We always view things-- There's the historical aspect because Gene's time in his papers cover the origin of *The Original Series* and then the after years, the movies, the pilots in the 70s, the movie projects that failed, and then the movie era when Gene was on the outs, when Harve Bennett was running movies, and then the roots of *Next Generation* and then the first few

years of that series. But even we have some things from-- we did a *Have Gun - Will Travel* letter from the American Baptist association praising Gene for an episode. But all of that time and the most shocking one, sometimes they're just great history. Like the unknown 1986 premise for *Next Gen* had Gene not come back hands on, the studio was prepared to run with something.

But then, we come across the context of today because one thing that affects all this is we look at all of these-- We looked at them 10 and 20 years ago through a certain filter. Every 10, 20 years, this is always going to be fresh. We're always going to have things to talk about because our own social and personal filters change every 5 to 10 years. But to find a memo from 86 where David Gerrold was warning Gene something as Vulcan and peaceful as having Vulcan show up and saying, we come in peace. How an alien culture might take that, "Oh, yeah? Really? And you're here on our planet?" And that was exactly one of the points of the *Discovery* pilot. And I just dropped that piece of paper when we found it. "Oh, my God. This relates directly to *Discovery* purely on a production *Star Trek-y* level." But then, we also have celebrity and media and politics and all of these things that we can view them through and relate today and give ourselves more context for today.

And that's what-- it's wonderful cool history and *Star Trek* history. But yes, it gives us a lens about. "Oh, and we've come this far and here's how far we have to go," on all those kinds of levels." And that's what I love about Trek Files. And thank you for having me to do it. And it keeps opening up as we get into it, what we can do, with something as old and dusty as Gene's papers.

Elijah: So, I wanted to add a little bit. Priority One, yes, we do recap the news that happens in *Star Trek* on a weekly basis. But one of the backbones of the podcast has been our coverage of *Star Trek Online*, which is, for those of you that don't know, is a massively multiplayer online game that is free to play, that takes place 30 years past *Nemesis*. And it really is until *Discovery*, Al Rivera, lead designer, sitting right there. Up until *Discovery*, it really was one of the best places, if not the best place, to continue the voyages as your own captain in *Star Trek*, in the mythos. And they do a fantastic job honoring the canon.

To that end, massively multiplayer online game means it is a massively multiplayer. There are people all over the world that we have engaged with on the show through the grand thing that is the internet. So, whether it's something like TeamSpeak or Ventrilo, where we all get on with our headsets and talk to each other and collaborate, to new platforms like Discord to livestreaming like Twitch, that's the other side of the fandom that we get to see between conventions.

Male Speaker: Let's go to our very patient caller who has been standing by.

Male Speaker: Heck yeah. I almost forgot my point, because he started. But anyways, I think for me, when you look at the-- My fandom, when you ask the question is, why are we just- I like *Star Trek* too. I'm coming to this big thing. I think and I've said this before to you guys personally and in these panels, but like John and Ken have really-- your podcast brought me back into a fandom, and I think all the technology, what it does is for me, as you know, I'm in my mid-50s. For many years, I thought I was the only one for many, many years. I was the only *Star Trek* fan, and I was the only monster kid, and I was the only person who liked this or that.

But with the internet, it's like, "Wait a minute, I'm not alone." And with the podcast, it's like every week, I can sit and do what I like to do at a convention, sit around and listen to people talk about what I like. And I don't have to actually have to participate. I don't have to participate, but I love listening. So, my fandom now is in podcasts, because I have different podcasts I listen to-

Grace: You have excellent taste.

[laughter]

Male Speaker: -based on my fandoms when I was a kid. But they've all come back because these people are inspired and they are excited about what I was excited about when I was a kid. So, I'm a kid again, and I like listening to podcasts. So, I thank all of you. I haven't listened to you guys. Sorry, I'm going to try them out. But I thank all you guys for what you're doing, and I think that's what makes the fandom today better. And I think, like you were saying, Larry, that it's actually helped to grow these conventions. Because it's not, "Oh, I listen to, listen, listen." I want to meet these people. I want to be with these people. And that's why we're coming to the conventions. We're not alone. That's what I think. That's what the Internet has shown us.

Male Speaker: Thank you. Thank you so much. There's a check waiting for you at the Roddenberry table. We'll, we'll see you a little later.

Larry: Real quick. The first real professional and mainstream level look at what fandom was Sondra Marshak and Jacqueline Lichtenberg's book *Star Trek Lives!* which we had the Gene foreword for it. And one of their effects of why this thing called *Star Trek* and this media explosion and why they had a thing called the discovery effect. And that was part of it. It was like, "Oh my God, I'm not alone." And when paper and mail and postage stamps, SASE, Zine fandom led to conventions, led to clubs in the pre-internet era and people went, "Oh, my God, I'm not alone." That was one of the. And it didn't exist in anything else until then.

Sue: Well, there was also the Welcommittee that came out of that culture and on the back of that book, on the back of *Star Trek Lives!*, they published a mailing address. If you want to find your local fan club, if you want to be connected with more *Star Trek* fans write to the Welcommittee. In the early 70s?

Larry: '72, '73.

Sue: '72, '73 that organization disbanded, I believe, in 2000.

Larry: I was going to say, when the internet kind of took its place.

Sue: So, 30 years of completely fan-organized connection, of just trying to put people in touch with each other to create a community. And that's what I think *Star Trek* fandom is about more than anything else, is about the community.

Larry: I say *Star Trek* invented the internet with paper and stamps 30 years-- [laughter] Because there was a demand, these people wanted to know the information, they wanted to know each other, they wanted to find each other. And it had to be in the horse-and-buggy days of anything for a SASE. Anybody know what a SASE is?

Sue: Self-addressed stamped envelope.

Larry: Self-addressed stamped envelope. Yes. You could send a self--- get a catalog, get a fan list, get a club list, get a convention list. And the Welcommittee was the hub of that because it did not exist otherwise. It's like fandom, the power of that passion created something that didn't exist. It's like, "Damn it, if the internet's 30 years away, we're going to do it like this right now."

[laughter]

Grace: But one great thing about the Internet and technology, and thank you for bringing that up, is that fandom is not a monolithic culture. And it's actually a lot easier to access your own particular brand of fandom, whether you're into games or novels or cosplay or whatever it is. And that's part of the reason that we wanted to ask you guys in the audience what exactly you are into. Is it everything or have you got a little niche that maybe some forums somewhere have led you to connect with other people with your exact niche?

Male Speaker: You're waiting there patiently behind the mic. Come on up.

Female Speaker: I don't think I have a niche. This convention every year is very important to me. It's the one time of the year that I can be with humans who are filled in their heart with the vision from Gene, which is a world without war, a world without money, a world without bigotry, without hatred, without homelessness or famine or any of this ridiculous stuff. And when I come here and I see people, you can leave your handbag on the floor, and it will be handed in. You can drop your iPhone, it will be handed in. You can be as disabled as you like. People will open the doors for you. Gene would be proud. I spend 300 days a year completely on my own. And when I come here, I am filled. It lasts me all year because I'm with really decent people who understand that these are historical documents that we have to work towards. And that's why I come every year.

[applause]

Grace: That's very well said.

Male speaker: There's actually a really cool thing that I didn't know until recently. So, we put together a VR thing. It's called Sansar. It's here. You can demo it. That's great.

Grace: You're really selling it there, man.

Male Speaker: I'm going right now.

[laughter]

Male Speaker: Well, no, I don't want this to be a thing where I'm stumping for something else. So, we were collecting audio for different things, and one of the items that is in the virtual reality space is one of Majel's old license plates. And originally, Rob was going to record a thing like, "Hey, it's my mom's license plate." And I was like, "Well, dude, it's your mom and it's you. So, can you tell me a little bit more?" And one of the things that he said was, and this audio is available in that thing. You can listen to it. After Gene died, she felt like it was her job to sort of carry on this vision. But she didn't have Gene to check with. And it was people here, it was fans coming up to her, and she was checking in with them, making sure that she was staying the course, that she felt like they needed her to stay, and that he would have been on.

And then, Patrick Stewart comes up and says, "Yeah, you guys called me back out." I mean, this is important. And it's weird because you don't think so. You think you're watching television, and you are, but it's doing more than that too. We have another caller on the line.

Male Speaker: We have number one Mission Log Live listener, Meredith.

Meredith: So, obviously I'm a Trek fan or I wouldn't be here. But I don't know the names of every starship or every phaser or alien, and I feel that's kind of intimidating when you're at an event like this. I feel like a poser. So, I'm just wondering how you guys feel about that.

Female Speaker: I join you. I join you.

Meredith: And do you guys ever feel obligated to know all of those little details as podcasters?

Sue: Huh, May I?

Grace: Yes.

[laughter]

Male Speaker: I forget the name of an episode in the middle of the episode.

Sue: This is what we call gatekeeping. [laughs]

Grace: Yeah.

Sue: You have to know this. Let me give you a quiz. You can't really be a *Star Trek* fan. BS because it's only 2:15. [laughs] It's ludicrous. It's absolutely ridiculous. You don't have to prove yourself as a fan. All you have to do to be a fan of something is like that thing.

Grace: Let me paint you a picture here for a second. [applause] Have you ever sat down to watch a movie with someone. Neither of you have seen it. And you both sit down and think different things about it at the end and the other person's like, "Well, I guess you weren't really watching it." That's about as accurate as someone saying, "Well, I just know *Star Trek* more than you know." You've watched it, you've enjoyed it. It meant something to you. It is just as important. you are just as much a fan as anyone else. And saying that you need to be quizzed or that you have to memorize a list of starships is just ridiculous. No one gets to tell you how to be a fan. Nobody.

[applause]

Male Speaker: If I can share a little anecdote about my early fandom. So, I was a kid and I was still new to *Star Trek*. I was watching *TNG*.

Grace: We're all new at one point.

Male Speaker: Right. We are new at one point. And I had a Nintendo 64 and I was so excited, because maybe I can continue the voyages that I'm watching on television with my console. So, I go Toys "R" Us, I saved up money, and I went Toys "R" Us. It was the whole wall of Nintendo 64 games, and I picked one out, and it was *Star Wars*. And I brought home *Star Wars* because I wasn't sure. I still didn't really know the difference.

Sue: Aww.

Grace: I love this story.

Male Speaker: Thank you, thank you, thank you. It keeps me up at night every once in a while. There's an ongoing joke that *Deep Space Nine* is my least favorite track, and people give me crap about it all the time. But you've already so eloquently put it, *Star Trek* is so immersive. And it doesn't matter where you start or where you end.

Grace: You get to choose how you immerse yourself.

Male Speaker: You get to choose on how you immerse-- Buy a *Star Wars* game and think of it as *Star Trek*.

Male Speaker: And if there was any time in history when all of this was true, it's now. It's not likely we had the six exalted tomes that only four people get to-- No, it's everywhere. You can get it anyway.

Sue: Really quickly. There's this idea in the study of fan culture that, generally speaking, I will couch that as much as I can, in general, that men tend to be collectors, whether that is collectors of collectibles, of starships, of action figures, of magazines, of books, of knowledge. And women tend to be creators, and that leads to fan art and zines and fan clubs and communities.

Grace: And one is much more respected than the other from an outside source.

Sue: Yeah.

Grace: Yeah.

Sue: But every part of it is valid. And if you're a woman who is a collector, good on you. If you're a man who is a creator, good on you. Because-- [crosstalk]

Grace: You be you.

Sue: -you are the one to determine how you enjoy the thing. And don't let anybody else tell you anything different.

John: Yeah. I have very little to add to that except that yesterday in our panel, I want to reiterate something that I said there. I don't understand the compulsion that some people have to take enjoyment away from others. I love criticism. I love the deep dive that we get to do every week. I love disagreement within that. Yeah, they might make it later. As somebody once said, we can disagree without being disagreeable. And that's a really nice thing about the conversations that we have every hour of every day that we're here and for the most part, everything that we get in reply to what we discuss on Mission Log.

So, having a favorite is great. Having a least favorite is great. Having analysis, criticism of what you watch is awesome. Using that as a bludgeon to take away somebody's enjoyment of something and gatekeeping, I think, is absolutely horrendous. And I hope that none of us have experienced that here. [chuckles] [Grace laughs]

So, here's the unfortunate part, where we are in the show. This is a very short panel and we have the excellent problem of having people lined up to ask questions and pose comments. We won't be able to get to those right now, but we have a monolithic table in the middle of the vendor room with the Roddenberry logo on it. Please come there and visit us so we can continue this conversation. What we want to do right now, because we only have about three minutes left, is very quickly wrap up and everybody tell you where to find us. I guess we'll start back down at the other end with Larry there.

Larry: Okay, The Trek Files is at Facebook at facebook.com/thetrekfiles, larrynemecek.com for everything Nemecek.

Sue: So, Women at Warp, womenatwarp.com, podcasts.rodnenberry.com, @womenatwarp on Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, always the same username. Me personally, like, we're all back at the monolith. 6:30 tonight, I'll be over at Count's Tattoo [laughs] but if anybody will be

in Atlanta over Labor Day weekend, I will also be at Dragon Con talking specifically about fandom herstory. So, I have two panels on that. Come find me.

John: You're a soldier. Soldier.

Sue: Six cons, eight weekends. Let's go.

Grace: If you're in Seattle in fall, I'll be at GeekGirlCon, in October on the Chronic Conditions panel and pretty much just weaseling my way into any other panel I can get my fair self onto, so.

Elijah: So, you can find Priority One at *priorityonepodcast.com*, one the word, not the number. You can also easily find us at *podcasts.rodnenberry.com* and tomorrow at 10:30, I have the honor of moderating *Star Trek Online's Age of Discovery* panel that features Mary Wiseman and another very special guest. So, don't miss that. Tomorrow 10:30 right here in the DeForest Kelley Theater.

Ken: I said earlier I didn't want to promote the VR thing. That's because I'm waiting till right now. If you've not been over to the Tropica Room, we did spend the better part of a year working on putting together a Roddenberry Museum. And one of the things that I'm most excited about that is it does allow us to continue the conversation in a different way. There was not a big deal to get the event space ready for this show, but there's going to be an event space there where we're going to have screenings and lectures and meetups and all sorts of things, because we want this to continue with the people who can get there, because not everybody can get here. So, *sansar.com* is the place to find out about the platform, but over there, you can just put on a headset and go to virtual town.

As far as our show, *missionlogpodcast.com* or of course, *podcasts.rodnenberry.com* will tell you about all of these shows, any shows that we have coming up. And John can thank you enough, but I can't, and John can't either. Thank you, guys all very much for coming out to see all of us and come over to the table because we want to keep talking.

[applause]

Sue: Hey, so we are here with the Roddenberry Star Trek Podcast Network. That was a mess.

Grace: Next to the whole network.

Sue: Live podcasting, to talk about the announcement at Star Trek Las Vegas that we are going to see the return of Captain or not Captain Jean-Luc Picard.

Grace: Civilian Jean Luc Picard. He's not going to be captain. They said he's not captain anymore.

Sue: They said he may not be captain anymore.

Grace: To be fair, they were vague on basically all details.

John: I'm just going to call him Old Man Picard.

Sue: Old Man Picard. Twenty years on.

Male Speaker: They didn't say civilian. All they said was, may not be captain. Immediately somebody turned to me and said, "Admiral Picard." And I'm thinking, "When has Admiral anybody been good news?" I don't know why that would make somebody excited.

Grace: What about Chief Sommelier Picard? He's made the Chateau Picard thing really work for him.

John: The whole series is going to be him tending to his vineyard.

Male Speaker: Great.

Grace: And then, occasionally leaving the house for a wine tasting.

Sue: The politics of import and export taxes in the Romulan sector.

Grace: It is a brutal business, but he's the man for the job.

Male Speaker: All right, so it sounds like we're all speculating on what we would like or not like. Seriously though, what would you like to see out of *Picard* 20 years on or 25 years on?

Sue: 20 years post *Nemesis*?

Male Speaker: Sure, 20 years post *Nemesis*.

Sue: Well, I said it on Twitter.

Male Speaker: It was, say it again.

Sue: If Beverly is not part of Jean-Luc Picard's life. Twenty years in the future, I will follow the example of my foremothers and I will picket CBS.

Grace: Hear, hear. She'll do it. She's just crazy enough to do it.

Male Speaker: I think I like the idea of still growing and learning B-4 and Jean Luc Picard out solving crimes and helping people.

Grace: I really do like that idea. I like the idea of seeing what happened with that and then they're solving crimes and spitting rhymes with their own van going across the galaxy.

Male Speaker: It's *Knight Rider* meets *Highway to Heaven* meets *Route 66*.

Grace: I love it and I want it.

Male Speaker: Yeah, me too. Plus, then we get Brent Spiner back or somebody.

John: What if the Borg return and he is-- Oh, everybody viscerally just. I think somebody wants to take the mic and be--

Male Speaker: You're fired.

John: That's what I thought.

Male Speaker: You're fired.

John: That's what I thought.

Male Speaker: Just stop.

Sue: Are you as over the Borg as I am?

Male Speaker: Yeah, I kind of am. Although.

Grace: Are you bored with the Borg?

Male Speaker: I'm bored Borg. Borg bored.

Grace: That's what I was hoping for.

Male Speaker: Above board and below Borg. I'm overboard.

Grace: All across the Borg.

Male Speaker: All across the Borg. It's funny, actually. I was talking to a listener who had a really interesting pitch for how to make the Borg interesting again. And I'm going to take that idea because he's not in the industry.

John: So, what was the idea?

Male Speaker: I'm not going to share it here. We're going to make a million dollars off of it. We'll all split it.

John: Sounds good. Sounds good.

Male Speaker: Yeah.

Sue: I'd be interested to know if they have any plans on following what's been happening in the shared continuity novels, because I don't want to spoil anything, but there have been a lot of changes in the Federation since *Nemesis*.

John: Like what? No, please spoil.

Male Speaker: Spoiler alert. I'll never read them, so.

Sue: The Borg come back, but they almost completely destroy the Federation until the Federation takes them away completely. There are no more Borg, however--[crosstalk]

John: Like a genocidal thing?

Sue: Well, they. No-- [crosstalk]

Grace: They technically count as a species, don't they?

Sue: They sort of like, return them to their original state so they're not corrupted and evil anymore. Yes.

Male Speaker: Okay, but wait, here's my problem with this.

Sue: But that's not the point.

Male Speaker: Okay, all right. I am going to point of them.

Sue: What if there were Borg though. No more Borg.

Male Speaker: Okay.

Sue: Right. They were over. They're gone.

Grace: I got one more. I got one more. I'm so Borg with the USA.

Sue: Great.

Male Speaker: Great.

Sue: [laughs] But it has left a rift in the Federation because of all the damage they did. So, places like Andor are pulling out of the Federation and there's like these huge rifts and they have to rebuild. And there's not only the Cardassian Union, there's the Typhon Pact. They're basically restructuring the politics of the Federation in these novels.

Male Speaker: Hmm. Okay.

John: In canon, he becomes ambassador to Vulcan, right? Isn't that--?

Male Speaker: Picard does?

John: Yeah, actually, he does.

Male Speaker: It sounds like a cushy job.

John: In the IDW series, he becomes an ambassador to Vulcan.

Sue: But is that canon, question mark.

John: According to J.J. Abrams, all the *Countdown* comics leading up to the-- I don't even know why I'm going to repeat myself, but all the *Countdown* comics leading up to the 2009 movie are considered canon, and they take place in prime timeline.

Male Speaker: Would you guys mind terribly if we move away from what might happen in the shows and talk instead about just what the return of *Picard* means? I was talking to Lou over at FanSets earlier yesterday, and what he kept saying is, "This unifies everything. This unifies everything," because it's 20 years after *Nemesis*, which means it's also after *Voyager*. It's also after *Deep Space Nine*. I started thinking, like, we could see Kelpiens now.

Sue: Ooh, yeah.

Grace: Yeah.

Male Speaker: We should go back to things that have been created since *Next Gen* left the air, since your latest *Star Trek* iterations left the air, and fold those back in. I mean, this is a way to actually bring cohesion. I mean, they've been good about-- I know you hate the canon thing, but they've been good about trying to keep that in. But this is a great way in a way that, every time we see a JJ reboot or something like, "Oh, get the ship from the mud incident and look, we know these other names from *Star Trek*," this is actually a way to bring those things in a real way that makes it more of a cohesive universe. Is it--? Who is it that--? Somebody, it might honestly be Rod. I can't remember, but somebody always talks about wishing that we could have not a cinematic universe, but a Marvel Universe type thing with

Star Trek, where, I mean, they've always existed as different times. They've always existed in different areas of space. This is a thing that could be-- [crosstalk]

Grace: That's me that said that.

Male Speaker: Was it you that said that? It is you. Right, on Priority One, a Roddenberry Star Trek podcast. She looks so much like Rod. Her Rod looks--

Grace: It really is a stunning resemblance. [laughs]

Male Speaker: It's a fun idea. And it was interesting to me that the very first thing out of his mouth is, this is their chance to tie this all together in a way that probably only Marvel has to this point.

Male Speaker: Okay, but how is that, say, more or less "real" or ugh, "canon"? Then, oh, look, here's Admiral Janeway because *Voyager's* over, but let's give Kate something to do. So, let's throw her into *Nemesis*.

Sue: What about Captain Nog?

Male Speaker: Hey, Captain Nog.

John: Captain Nog is in *Star Trek Online*.

Sue: Shout out to [unintelligible 00:46:32] win.

Male Speaker: Well, I mean, my answer to that question is Janeway was on screen for what, a minute and a half in *Nemesis*. That was fan service. That felt like fan service to me. It's not a bad bit of fan service. It's great to see Janeway actually active and alive and doing something. But these are going to be-- [crosstalk]

Grace: It was good to know she wasn't traumatized by *Voyager*.

Male Speaker: It's good-- but these are going to be hopefully. I mean, they didn't really tell us much of anything except that *Picard* is back. My assumption is the series because I think that rumor was out there before.

Male Speaker: Yeah.

Male Speaker: Maybe it's movies, who knows? But it's a chance to tell longer stories. Right, if a Kelpian just walks by on screen and people are like, "Oh, my God, a Kelpian," that's just fan service. Yeah, but I mean, there are chances to-- [crosstalk]

Male Speaker: I have a fear that's what that would be.

Male Speaker: Well, it's possible.

Male Speaker: That's what we'll get.

Female Speaker: Well, I guess they're not going to get served. They're not in the mirror universe. I was thinking-- or it gets shown on screen just in a bowl going past.

Grace: Are they like at a conveyor belt sushi place?

Female Speaker: That's when we go to-- Yeah. Old Man Picard Mirror Universe. Can you imagine that though? Ooh.

Male Speaker: Pairs well with Chateau Picard.

[laughter]

Grace: This Kelpien is just too dry for me.

Sue: One thing Patrick Stewart was talking about was how the fans brought him back to this because it gave everybody so much hope and *Discovery* has gotten some crap about not being a positive vision of the future. And yet, Patrick Stewart also said that this would be a man changed by his experiences. So, how does that all play together? How can we have a positive vision of the future? And usually, when you say someone has been changed by their experiences, they're in a darker place.

Grace: Not all change is bad. And it is possible for things to be in a good place and just change, be a different kind of all right, if I can get esoteric there for a second. Well, one of the things that I was hoping to talk about with you guys was the concept of Picard as a character. So, one of the things that he presented very strongly in *Next Generation* was as a diplomatic leader. And I think that's pretty much everyone can agree on that. What do you guys think? How can they use that in a new way in a new show that's not just going to be us seeing, "Oh, here's the same guy and he's a diplomatic leader, but he's older"?

John: I would like to see a broken Picard. We saw a little bit of that in *Generations*, but we see a little bit in *Generations*-- [crosstalk]

Grace: I am just jonesing to see him on the floor crying.

John: Right. When his entire family dies in a fire, he realizes that was the end of his lineage. He never pursued family. He never pursued having children because he put Starfleet first.

Sue: He does in the shared continuity novels.

[laughter]

Male Speaker: Here's my problem with when we start talking about what do you think might happen, because now I think I know what's on going to happen and I'm kind of bummed about that. You're right, he's going to end up as a diplomat. But he is a guy who's gone through some stuff. He has said that there's a chance it's going to be darker. He said that he won't necessarily be captain. It could end up being the Michael Burnham thing where, "Oh, is she ever going to find the right way? Oh, it's the last episode. Of course, she finds the right way." So, I mean it's quite possible that Diplomat Picard doesn't come out-- If it's a four-episode thing that he doesn't come out until episode four. If it's a ten-episode thing, he doesn't come out till episode ten.

I mean, it's possible that we're going to do the journey through darkness that *Star Trek* seems to want to do and be at this point or that everybody says TV seems to want to do and be at this point. He's going to be more DC, less Marvel is my fear. Dark, dark, dark. And then theoretically, all's well because it ends well, and never mind your guts on the floor for the first five of six or three of four or whatever--

Grace: Are you suggesting we get a *Teen Titans Go!* of *Star Trek*? Because that's what I'm hearing.

Male Speaker: I bought that IDW comic earlier this week and I'm perfectly happy having done so. I don't think *Picard* does that. Oh, although maybe he's like the older, sort of wiser, maybe a little grizzled headmaster of, say, a Starfleet Academy up in the country.

Grace: Mm. He's the Dumbledore now.

Male Speaker: Well, actually, I'm thinking he's Professor X, Xavier.

John: Actually, he is Professor Xavier.

Grace: Oh, it just got better.

Sue: I do think that Broken Picard seems to be what they're hinting at. But my wonder/concern is, will Broken Picard have the same fan reaction as Jaded Luke Skywalker?

Grace: Fair.

John: Oh, yeah.

Male Speaker: Here's my favorite idea though about Broken Picard. The toy tie-in is incredible. [laughter] Broken Picard. You put him together.

Grace: It's a build your own model Picard set.

John: I mean, you look at *Logan* and how he played Professor Xavier at the end of his life, old and suffering from his own power.

Grace: To be fair, a lot of people suffer from Xavier's power.

John: Yeah, that's true. I could see us-- I wonder if he's thinking to himself, "All right, well, now I'm just going to play Professor X from *Logan*."

Grace: Well, in space.

Male Speaker: In space.

Male Speaker: I kind of want to think of it this way. So, potentially, Picard is a character like Spock in the respect that we had 25 years of Spock. The first 25 years of *Star Trek* was a huge arc for Spock, and we had Broken Spock. We had Broken Spock a couple of times in *TOS*, but primarily when he went off to do Kolinahr at the beginning of *TMP*. And then you tell Spock's renewal after that point and then death and then coming back to life. But whatever. Huge, huge arc for Spock. I think it was a way to do a huge and very personal arc for Picard that now sort of finalizes the second 25 years of *Star Trek*.

Sue: We know from the first JJ film that in the prime universe, Romulus is destroyed.

Male Speaker: Mm-hmm.

John: Hmm.

Sue: So, maybe we continue the story of reunification.

Male Speaker: Interesting.

Grace: Oh, and we established—[crosstalk]

Male Speaker: As long as, we don't have to watch that episode again.

Grace: We also established in *Star Trek Online* at one point that Jean Luc Picard was one of the big people gunning for the Federation to do something about the imminent destruction of Romulus. So, maybe we'll see something with that.

Male Speaker: Could be. Could be.

John: Yeah. There are a few novels that I might recommend. Well, definitely the *Countdown* comics, because he's in there, the Countdown comics. And that is according to what is everybody in the right places is considered the C word, canon. The other is the *Star Trek Online* book, the tie-in book. It's a whole novel that leads up to where *Star Trek Online* begins.

Male Speaker: And let's not forget what is a really important aspect of this, which is the business of *Star Trek*. There are a lot of people who still to this day say, "Well, I don't watch *Discovery* because I don't like, I don't want, I don't get, I don't understand, etc., CBS All Access." Jean-Luc Picard, played by Patrick Stewart, coming back to *Star Trek* on that platform is a big, big, big, big deal.

Sue: Yeah, I have already seen the sentiment all over social media of well, now I'm going to get CBS All Access.

John: Exactly what it's been on.

Male Speaker: And I love the idea of people who saw, a half dozen stills or teaser trailers from *Discovery* who decided right away that they weren't going to watch it and they would unload all of their corporate hate energy on CBS because of All Access. I'm much more interested in the idea now that a little piece of that audience comes for *Picard* and then maybe while they're there, they can lower themselves to watch an episode or two of *Discovery* or of animated thing.

Grace: They can deign to do it. Interesting

Male Speaker: Yes, yeah or of an Academy show or whatever and realize that again, even if it's not for them, *Star Trek* Universe is this bigger thing that has many more aspects to it than one interpretation.

Sue: And something more familiar, even if it's not the same, makes the new stuff an easier pill to swallow.

Male Speaker: Yeah, for real.

John: Well, I think we're at a good stopping point for now and I'm sure that we are going to most certainly continue on this discussion in our respective shows over the course of the next several weeks and months and until it comes out. So, until then, ladies and gentlemen, it was a real pleasure working with you again this weekend. Thank you so very much. See you next year.

Sue: Whoo.

Male Speaker: Yes.

Grace: Next year on Risa.

Sue: If you'd like to contact Women at Warp, you can email us at crew@womenatwarp.com or find us on Twitter, Instagram or Facebook at Women at Warp. For more from the Roddenberry Podcast Network, visit podcasts.rodtenberry.com. If you'd like to support the show, you can do so on patreon.com/womenatwarp or by leaving a rating or review on Apple Podcasts, Facebook or wherever you get your podcasts. Thank you so much for joining us.

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