

Women at Warp Episode 100: Never Give Up, Never Surrender

[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. With me tonight for our 100th episode is the entire crew. We have Andi.

Andi: Hi.

Sue: Jarrah.

Jarrah: Hello.

Sue: And Grace.

Grace: Hey, nerds.

Sue: So, before we get into our main topic, we have our little bit of housekeeping to do first. Our show is entirely supported by our patrons on Patreon. Thank you, patrons. If you'd like to become a patron, you can do so for as little as \$1 per month and get awesome rewards from thanks on social media up to silly watchalong commentaries. To join us, you can visit patreon.com/womenatwarp. That's P-A-T-R-E-O-N dotcom slash Women at Warp. You can also support us by leaving a rating or review on Apple Podcasts or wherever you get your podcasts.

And our final announcement is that our book club pick currently is the book compiled by Gene Roddenberry's secretary, Susan Sackett, called *Letters to Star Trek*. So, we're really looking forward to talking about that in the future.

Grace: We're always thinking about the future as a sci-fi podcast. It's kind of our thing.

Sue: So, for our 100th episode today, we will be speaking about the greatest *Star Trek* movie of all time, *Galaxy Quest*.

Andi: [laughs] It is so good.

Jarrah: It has been voted that at Star Trek Las Vegas before.

Sue: Well, it was voted seventh best at Star Trek Las Vegas.

Grace: Yeah. It's a sliding scale.

Jarrah: Yeah. [Sue laughs]

Grace: Also, we've got to have larger polling numbers I think, aside from just the one group of people who were in that room that one time at Star Trek Las Vegas.

Sue: At that one panel, in that one room, at that one convention. [laughs]

Grace: No joke. I know two people who just wandered in and out during that panel. They were like, "If we knew this was going to be reported on so much, we would have done some." [Sue laughs]

Andi: I do think it's like, I think it's cute that it made the list, but it's not a *Star Trek* movie. Just saying.

Grace: If it's not a *Star Trek* movie, why are we talking about it on our Star Trek podcast?

Andi: Because we can do what we want. We can break any rules we want. This is our podcast.

Jarrah: We've put in 99 episodes, guys. [laughs]

Grace: That's true. [Sue laughs] This is the we do what we want level. [Jarrah laughs]

Sue: Even if you don't consider this a *Star Trek* movie, I think that there is a very strong argument that this is a movie about *Star Trek* and *Star Trek* fandom.

Grace: Oh, absolutely.

Andi: Yes. Oh, 110%, for sure.

Grace: If you haven't seen the movie, you might want to pause the episode and go watch it first. Otherwise, this whole episode is just going to be very confusing and not that entertaining for you.

Jarrah: Full of spoilers.

Andi: Also, why haven't you seen *Galaxy Quest*, and what is wrong with you?

Grace: Seriously, what nerd are you? [Andi laughs] Bad one. I'm calling you a bad nerd.

Andi: Shame.

Grace: Fake. Fake.

Sue: Okay. Are we done yelling at our audience?

Grace: Do I get one more? Do I get one more?

Sue: We're waiting for it.

Grace: I rebuke thee.

Sue: Okay then. [laughs] So, this is the 1999 film starring Tim Allen, Sigourney Weaver, Alan Rickman, Tony Shalhoub, Sam Rockwell and Daryl Mitchell that clearly parodies *Star Trek* and Star Trek fandom. It won the Hugo Award for Best Dramatic Presentation, and the Nebula Award for Best Script and was also nominated for 10 Saturn Awards, including best sci-fi film, best director, best actress, etc., etc., etc. And as we mentioned, voted seventh best Trek movie by a panel at Star Trek Las Vegas 2013. This is a beloved film in the *Star Trek* fan community, and even among the actors as well.

Jarrah: Yeah, it might not be a *Star Trek* film, but you have to have watched at least some *Star Trek* to get it.

Grace: Or, be familiar with the with Trekkies, in general.

Andi: I watched it several times before I saw *Star Trek*, and enjoyed it.

Grace: That must have been so surreal though.

Andi: It wasn't. It wasn't. I feel like *Star Trek*, as a cultural phenomenon, is so recognizable to anybody who has any sense of fandom anyway. I saw it several times before I'd ever seen an episode of *Star Trek*, and it's still really funny and enjoyable.

Jarrah: Oh, for sure. But do you feel like you notice more things now that you're like, "Ah, I get the reference."

Andi: Oh, yeah. The meaning is much deeper, and then a lot of the jokes land a lot better now that I know what they're making fun of. Like, the Grignak is so hilarious to me now. I've watched it several times before I saw *Star Trek* and I watched it once when I had seen *TNG* and some of *TOS*, but not *Star Trek V*. So, the more of *Star Trek* I see, the more that movie is hilarious. But it is nice that they did make it. So, it's understandable even if you are not a Trekkie, because I've certainly saw and understood and enjoyed it a lot. So, that's nice. That's hard to do, I think.

Grace: And even beyond the subject matter, the movie is held together by such a good ensemble cast. I'm as shocked as you are to hear myself saying, "Wow, nice work" about Tim Allen, but there you go.

Sue: [laughs]

Grace: Everyone involved is funny in a slightly different way, but it all works together. So cool. And you get to see a bunch of up-and-coming actors who, obviously, weren't up and coming then, although I guess they were. This was their uprising. We'll leave it at that. You could see Justin Long, Rainn Wilson, and wee little baby Corbin Bleu is even in there, *High School Musical*.

Sue: Well, and for our main NSEA Protector cast, pretty much everybody is a sci-fi noob, except for Sigourney Weaver, [Andi laughs] who had to fight to be seen for the role, because they wanted them all to be sci-fi noobs. And her reasoning was, "Who better to make fun of science fiction than me?"

Andi: Yeah, it's true.

Grace: Really true. Although I really appreciate this was Sam Rockwell's break into sci-fi. It's so weird to watch his role and then just every now and then stop and go, "This was the guy in *Moon*" when he's completely freaking out and just hysterical. "This was the guy in *Moon*. This was the guy in *Moon*."

Andi: I also like the meta commentary of having Sigourney Weaver, who has played some of the best written female science fiction parts, having to play off of this horribly written female part. [Sue laughs] I just love it. You had Sigourney Weaver in your show, or rather whatever her real name is in this, and you had her be Tawny Madison [laughs] actually repeating after the computer. I just find that extremely funny. She does such a good job of mocking the misogyny. It's pretty great.

Sue: Well, that's what I think is so brilliant about this film, because they're poking fun at *Star Trek*, but they're also poking fun at the culture surrounding *Star Trek*. They're obviously making fun of the bad writing and how she's just repeating the computer. Obviously, she has one job and she's going to do it. But also right at the start is the line, "My TV Guide interview was six paragraphs about my boobs and how they fit into my suit."

I remember reading those interviews with The Women of Trek in TV Guide. Those were real things. They can point it out and be funny, but also make you go, "Oh, yeah, that's a real thing. It's a real thing."

Andi: And at the same time have her tits be out for a solid third of the movie. [laughs]

Grace: There's a deleted scene where they explain why they're out, but it's pretty ridiculous. And I'm glad they cut it.

Andi: It's funnier the way it is. It's really the same joke as I see you've got your shirt off. Like, it's that joke. [Sue laughs] It doesn't need explanation. [laughs] It's very funny. It makes me laugh. Everything about her character makes me laugh. I think she is the voice of reason through the whole thing, which is great. She's just got such a solid presence that holds them all together.

Grace: Plus, Sigourney Weaver really is underrated in her ability to give a comedic performance, which she totally gets to do and is great.

Andi: Yes, absolutely. Put Sigourney Weaver in more things.

Grace: Yeah.

Sue: Or, just all the things.

Grace: Sigourney Weaver forever. Sigourney Weaver 2020.

Sue: Also, Alan Rickman forever.

Grace: Oh, my gosh.

Sue: He's this weird amalgamation of Patrick Stewart and Leonard Nimoy, because he's the serious British actor, but he's also the logical sciencey alien.

Jarrah: Yeah.

Sue: And it's just so wonderful.

Grace: I'm guessing that Alan Rickman is a Shakespearean trained actor, has had no shortage of interactions with these great classically trained performers who just can't believe the cards they've been dealt as far as popular performances. Because it reads so true. And Patrick Stewart being like, "Oh, yeah, that was totally me Season 1 of *TNG*." I was like, "I am classically trained and I am wearing a onesie,-

[laughter]

Grace: -staring into a green screen, this is my life now. How did it come to this?"

Andi: It's so good.

Jarrah: I also just love how he wears the head piece, the whole time. I know it's partly a device because they all have to be wearing their uniforms at the convention or else they wouldn't be wearing their uniforms on the ship.

Grace: Yeah.

Jarrah: But it's funny when even him and Sigourney Weaver as Gwen is in her bathrobe, and he's just still in his headpiece in his hotel as they're talking on the phone. And you're like, "You love it." [laughs]

Sue: But that is also now becoming a thing at conventions.

Jarrah: Yes, that is true.

Sue: Get your photo up with them in makeup.

Jarrah: Yup. But I don't think it-- Certainly, I've never seen an entire cast all in costumes and signing autographs that way. They're wearing the costumes a lot more than you would normally see at conventions.

Grace: Well, that definitely is playing up the weirdness of the whole thing for the-- doesn't actually go to conventions portion of the audience, which is probably a big part of it.

Jarrah: Yeah. Of course, with the Alan Rickman stuff where the whole thing with Quillock and the moment, where he changes and decides that he's going to say the line and everyone cries.

Grace: I think I'm trying to remember who wrote it, but there was an article in Cracked ranking some of the funniest performances of all times from the perspective of their writing staff there. And I think they voted one of the funniest ones of all time was just Alan Rickman's delivery of the line when they're having to do the electronics store opening.

[laughter]

Jarrah: By Ogden's Hammer--

In Unison: What savings.

Andi: [laughs]

Grace: Just see the light go out of his eyes.

[laughter]

Andi: It's so funny. And it really shows Alan Rickman range. There are dramatic actors and there are comedic actors and then there are actors.

Grace: That dude had such range.

Andi: Right. So, he can give that line, "What a savings." It's got so much, bitterness in it, but it's so funny. And then, when he says it later, it is genuinely heartbreaking. He says it so perfectly and you're just like, "Yeah, by Grabthar's Hammer." And it works. I just think that's beautiful that you can have that one performance encompass the same line in such different contexts and have them work perfectly both times. It's so great. They could have really messed up if they had put a subpar actor in that role.

Sue: Oh, yeah.

Grace: Although that could have been a different kind of funny.

Andi: Yeah, it's true.

Grace: They were just a terrible actor the whole time.

Sue: So, there's an article on a website called Rogue's Portal called Galaxy Quest A Celebration of Star Trek Fandom. And this article posits that one of the main stories and/or themes of the film is the actor's journey to embrace the fandom. Because at the beginning of the film, we see them like, "This is just a job. They show up, they're signing the autographs. This is how they're making their money." It couldn't care less. And by the end, they're seeing what they've inspired people to do and really coming to care about them. Whether it's Alan Rickman really wanting to avenge thermion or the kids telling them how the ship works, so the fans can save the day.

Grace: I love that so much.

Sue: It's just really poignant when you think about it that way, which you don't expect from a sci-fi comedy.

Andi: Yeah, absolutely.

Grace: You definitely don't expect, especially in a movie that's whole concept is, it's about Trekkies but not really and about *Star Trek*, but not really. You expect there's going to be a lot more of the finger pointing of, "Oh, look at the dweebs." It really is just such a love note. It's not all that judgmental. It's affectionate really. Whereas we have actual documentaries like *Trekkie* that are very much like, "Oh, man, look at these weirdos."

Andi: Yeah. I was thinking when I was watching the movie, I was like, "Really? This whole movie is about how the show is real," and not necessarily real in the sense of, "Oh, they're talking later, the ship is--" No, it's real to people and it means something to them. The effects that it has on everybody's lives is completely real. It's like, this long journey of everything becoming real. I just think it's such a cool idea and so beautiful.

Grace: It's also part of the beauty of having the denouement of the movie be them crashing into a convention, and coming out in costume, and all that and them being like, "Oh, my God, it's real." And the audience, it was real to them all along.

Andi: Yeah. That's why they hear but they're not surprised.

Grace: Yeah. Also, could we talk for a minute about I'm definitely going to say his name wrong, but Enrico Colantoni's performance as Mathesar.

Jarrah: Oh.

Grace: Supposedly, the entire way of speaking for the aliens was him.

Jarrah: "We need your help."

[laughter]

Andi: Okay. So, Enrico Colantoni is one of my favorite actors of all time. If you are only-

Grace: Oh, my gosh.

Andi: -aware of him in this movie as Mathesar, you need to see some of his other stuff, including what I think is his best performance in *Veronica Mars* as Keith Mars.

Grace: And as a bad guy and a really good one on *Person of Interest*.

Andi: He has a really great recurring role on *Person of Interest* that is just chilling. It's chilling, but-- Yeah, he's so good. He's such a good actor. I feel like he's super underrated. So, I'm glad that people love him in this movie. But also, you should definitely go check him out and some other things, because he's brilliant.

Grace: He also got to play Gianni Versace in a Lifetime original movie [Andi laughs] about the Versace family. That felt like the kind of trivia I'd whip out for this.

Andi: But his performance really is very important, because he goes so over the top weird with it, which is, obviously, he's trying to make it as alien as possible.

Grace: But you still definitely feel for the character and you don't want him to be disappointed.

Andi: Right. He has such heart that even when he's being super weird and even when they don't know he's really an alien, it's still so endearing. Even if you just thought he was some weird nerd, he would be still so cute, you know? And then, how much he cares about his people and the true emotion that his character holds is so good. It's really important, because the entire arc, I guess, of Tim Allen's character hinges on the fact that he ends up caring about this guy for real and he can't abandon him to his fate. That is so great. He is so great. I love this movie so much. [chuckles]

Grace: So, I think this is the first movie appearance of Missi Pyle, who's a fabulous character actress. She shows it off very well in this, and just her big-eyed stare and how much she's able to say with it.

Andi: One thing I've always loved about Missi Pyle as an actress, is she's mostly a comedic actress. But the thing is, is she's also like model.

Grace: Yes, she is--

Andi: She's ridiculously gorgeous.

Grace: She is gorgeous.

Andi: But all of her roles are super weird and out there and her comedy is very hardcore physical comedy. It's lovely to see someone not take themselves so seriously. Like, the number of times she's had a performance where she has a unibrow or something is it's pretty great. I do wish that, we have Laliari. I can't remember how--

Grace: Laliari, I think. Yeah.

Andi: Laliari, whatever her name is. And then, we have Sigourney Weaver. That's really the only two female characters.

Grace: Yeah. Apparently, they realized how much of the script with a woman character was only Sigourney Weaver's character. So, they expanded on Missi Pyle's character some more to try and make up for that. It's still not great though.

Andi: Yeah. But it's like she's still just a love interest character, really.

Grace: Yeah.

Jarrah: Yeah. Actually, she wasn't going to be and that's how they expanded it. Don't get me wrong, I think that the scene where she's making out with Tech Sergeant Chen after the transporter thing is amazing. I love that she stays with them. But yeah, it wouldn't be our show if we didn't mention it. No, this movie does not pass the Bechdel-Wallace Test. There's one scene where Gwen and Laliari have lines like one after another, but it seems like Laliari is talking to the group.

Andi: Yeah.

Jarrah: So, they're not having a conversation.

Andi: I think the only other maybe speaking part is that dude's mom.

Jarrah: Yeah.

Grace: Or, the fan girl asking about whether there was a romance going on between Sigourney Weaver and Tim Allen's characters on their show.

Andi: Yeah. It's like, the female parts are very small. Now part of that is definitely a metacommentary, because I-- [crosstalk]

Grace: We hope. Let's hope that.

Andi: No, but it definitely is because Sigourney Weaver's character is very obviously supposed to be Uhura like, and Uhura is the only female character. It's like, there's definitely a part of that.

Jarrah: Yeah. But for instance, in the group of nerds that end up saving the day, there's one young woman. She really doesn't say much. They could have swapped one of the guys out. So, I think that they also were trying to do a metacommentary on fandom and that there's a stereotype that the fandom is male dominated. Certainly, having the MCs at a convention be men, that would be pretty accurate. But in the fan community, having some more of those speaking roles go to women would not have been remiss.

Andi: I will say that I did notice right off the bat that they do the first panning shot over the crowd in the first convention scene. There were a lot of women in that shot, and there were black women in that shot and they were dressed up. I thought that was pretty cool. It was just crowd diversity is something that people don't really think about very much. But crowd diversity is a good way to set the tone right away.

Jarrah: Yeah, for sure. There's also some background scenes one where Tim Allen comes up to Sigourney Weaver when she's doing those shots with the cosplayer of her character. So, that is totally stuff that happens now.

Grace: It's so cute.

Sue: This idea of the stereotype of fandom is something that is not recent.

Jarrah: No.

Sue: In boldly writing, Joan Marie Verba even points out that at that point, the idea of the Trekkie was so fanatical, and they were seen as, specifically Trekkie, as a person who was distanced from reality, who didn't know the difference between the show and their life. And that's when Trekker came into being.

But part of that stereotype was that your Star Trek fan, your Trekkie, was a teenage boy, and those were the type of people who attended conventions when, in fact, the majority of fans attending conventions were women over the age of 21. So, there's always been this disconnect between what the outside society thinks what a *Star Trek* fan is, and what a Star Trek fan actually is when represented within that community.

Grace: Yes, absolutely. There's a difference between what the fandom is and what the normie perception is.

Sue: Yes.

Andi: Even some fans perception of themselves, really.

Grace: Oh, yeah. Who here hasn't met a Trekkie who felt like they were supposed to be embarrassed about admitting they were a *Star Trek* fan?

Andi: Oh, yes.

Jarrah: Who here was not that Trekkie?

Grace: [laughs] I don't think we'd be here if we were.

Andi: To be fair, I never was. But I didn't come into the fandom in the normal way.

Grace: We all come into it honest.

Andi: One of the reasons why I avoided *Star Trek* is I once told somebody, I was like, "I know that I'll love it too much and then I'll end up at a convention with fracking Spock ears. [Sue laughs] That's what's going to happen." And then, finally I was like, "Okay, it's time to bite the bullet." And now, I don't have Spock ears, but I do have a tattoo. So, I knew it. [Sue laughs] I knew it and I was right, but I'm not ashamed.

Jarrah: I have three pairs of Spock ears, so you can have one of mine. Would you like one of my three pairs?

[laughter]

Sue: All right. So, when we're talking about this film, we've been jumping all over the place. But specifically, what does *Galaxy Quest* have to say about *Star Trek*?

Andi: That it's inspiring.

Jarrah: The good guys win.

Grace: That in spite of its flaws, there's still good things to draw from it, and that it doesn't detract from those if you acknowledge those flaws.

Jarrah: That crew is more than just the captain.

Grace: That the idea that Tony Shalhoub could be Asian is a joke in and of itself.

Sue: Oh, sorry. [laughs] It just reminded me. Tony Shalhoub has talked a lot in interviews, and the one that pops to mind for me specifically is NPR's-- Wait, don't tell me. But he talks all the time about how when he was growing up, he was in a very white community and he

was the closest thing to a person of color. Like, he was the most color of a person of color in his community.

Grace: He was a swarthy chap, but upstretch.

Sue: So, when he was in theater department, anytime a show called for a POC, he was cast in the role.

Grace: Oh, my God.

Sue: Like, anybody. [laughs] So, I wonder how much input he had into that. Like, "Yeah, cast me as an ethnicity that I clearly am not in, because that's my entire life."

Jarrah: At least they didn't have him say, "I'm Korean," or--

Sue: [chuckles]

Grace: Yeah.

Jarrah: -try to mimic it in any way. It was literally just his name. So, it could have been some sort-- [crosstalk].

Grace: And him saying, "That's not even my real name," at one point.

Jarrah: Yeah. I do love how he's basically stoned and carrying around that bag of snacks the entire movie.

Grace: I appreciate that a lot.

Jarrah: Like, even when they're getting the sphere and he's carrying the paper bag in his mouth.

[laughter]

Andi: I just really love how chill he is when everybody else is freaking out, he's just like, "What's wrong with them?" [Jarrah chuckles] He's so ready to embrace it. That's cool.

Jarrah: He's like, "Oh, right again. Come on, bring it in. Bring it in."

Grace: [laughs]

Andi: I also like that whenever they have the scenes where he's doing his engineer thing, he's like, "Yeah, this happened. They're saying this." He's like, "Right. I said that right, right? Okay. Bring it in, guys. Big group hug."

Jarrah: I really want to channel that energy all the time.

[laughter]

Grace: According to the audio commentary for the first of the JJ Trek movies, the bit of him seeing the girl and being like, "Nope, now I can save the day." Apparently, him getting to have that huge save was an inspiration. I don't never know quite how to describe it aside from drill diving scene in the first of the JJ Trek movies.

Andi: That's funny.

Jarrah: Funny.

Andi: But the other thing I was going to say before we moved off of it of what is this movie saying about *Star Trek*, it's saying that how people see you can affect how you see yourself. So, a huge part of this movie is these actors who don't think very much of themselves and then having someone believe in them helps them become better people. That's what that whole thing is is like having Missi Pyle looking at you lovingly apparently can make you feel like you're a really strong dude that can do anything. [chuckles] That plays out on a much larger scale over the plot of the movie. I've always found it very nice. It's one reason why at the very beginning, Taggart, Nesmith-- I can never remember which name is which. Tim Allen's dude.

Sue: Tim Allen plays Jason Nesmith, who plays Peter Quincy Taggart.

Andi: Yeah, whatever [Sue laughs] that Tim Allen overhearing that people are making fun of him, why that hits him so hard, because his validation is all external. So, then having good external validation helps him become a better person. But yeah, you see that throughout the movie. I don't know, I think it's an interesting theme.

Grace: Especially when you're talking about actors.

Andi: Yeah. Because actors are very much-- They're trained to react to other people. That's how half their craft works, is reacting to another person in their scene and tailoring that to people.

Grace: And that can make you very emotionally fragile.

Andi: Sometimes.

Grace: Well, it can also make you a jerk.

Andi: Sometimes. [laughs]

Sue: Well, I think that the convention they show us and the huge crowds, they show us the popularity of the show and then that it comes back, basically its next generation is saying that there are always people who are looking to hope for the future, and if we keep trying, we can keep doing better.

Andi: Yeah.

Grace: They got to make more sacred texts.

Andi: Historical documents.

Grace: Yeah, that's it.

Sue: All right. So, then what does *Galaxy Quest* have to say about fans and *Star Trek* fan culture?

Andi: That we rock.

Jarrah: They are not wasting their time.

Andi: Yeah. [Sue laughs] That we can save the universe in between taking out the trash.

Jarrah: Sometimes we get outside.

Andi: Yeah. He went outside.

Grace: We have friends, we have stuff we do. It's mostly very specifically sci-fi related, but we do stuff.

Sue: I mentioned it a little bit before that it's this kid fan group that saves the day. We're getting deep into this now. [chuckles] But because of this show, these characters have gone out and learned the skills necessary to do this. It's a bit of an extrapolation, but you can see a parallel with all of the fans of *Star Trek* throughout the years, who because of Dr. McCoy, became a doctor, because of Spock, became a scientist, because of Kirk, became an explorer. All of the fans who were inspired to do different things, to pursue different interests because of *Star Trek*.

Jarrah: Even fan experts like Robin Stewart, who's the woman who is the foremost Klingon expert, who then got hired to do the Klingon coaching on *Discovery*. So, it doesn't always lead us to become people who are going to revolutionize a scientific field, but sometimes does and that's awesome. But sometimes also, just like the time and effort you put into being an expert on part of *Star Trek* can come back, and make you friends and help you educate people on different aspects of the fandom. Sometimes you get to go and teach people how to speak Klingon on a new series.

Andi: If you go even more basic, like look how many people made friends that way.

Grace: Yeah. And that alone is something to be proud of.

Andi: Yeah.

Jarrah: Certainly, in the early con scenes, the only thing that people really admire about Jason Nesmith is that he's good with the fans. And you can see him, like he is patient with them and he's telling them stories that they're going to think are funny and that they're going to laugh at. He's entertaining them and not just like, "Ugh, I can't believe I'm forced to be here at this convention. Why are you wasting your time? Go get a life. Give me my money."

Andi: Yeah.

Jarrah: So, I think the message is that like, regardless of what you're passionate about that that is something that's valuable and worthy of some respect and care.

Andi: Plus, it's fun.

Grace: Yeah.

Andi: If you're doing fandom correct. You should be having fun. I think sometimes where we start to get into the dark side of fandom is when it does not become fun anymore. When people take it so seriously and they're so rigid that they don't remember that this is all a TV show that we like and we want to enjoy.

Jarrah: I'm really glad that was not part of this movie.

Andi: Yeah.

Grace: Yeah. So glad.

Andi: Because I don't know how you make that funny really, but--

Grace: It's only funny for a minute, and then it becomes really depressing. Anytime someone's good time is dependent on someone else having a bad time.

Andi: Yeah. Something that we haven't talked very much about is the plots that were taken from *Star Trek* that they used to comedic effect.

Jarrah: Oh, yeah.

Grace: Oh, yeah.

Andi: We talked briefly about the Grignak. But were there any others that people really liked or thought were really funny?

Grace: I just appreciated the Chompers so much and her going, "This is a bad idea. This makes no sense."

Andi: "It was badly written. I hope the writer of this episode dies."

[laughter]

Jarrah: Yeah. I don't remember too much of the *Enterprise* having booby traps in it in quite that way.

Andi: [laughs]

Grace: I don't know. They had that elevator where you weren't supposed to use the handrail. That was pretty ridiculous. [Sue laughs]

Jarrah: Certainly, I thought that the rudimentary lathe comment--

[laughter]

Jarrah: -was an homage to Arena.

Grace: Oh, totally.

Jarrah: But the idea of the ground and you might be able to construct a thing.

Andi: Well, because at the time he was fighting a space lizard, so the whole thing was Arena really,-

Jarrah: Yes.

Andi: -which is, by the way, the rudimentary lathe is my favorite line in the whole movie.

[laughter]

Andi: You fashion some rudimentary lathe is brilliant beyond belief, and Sam Rockwell is a genius and the whole thing is wonderful. [Andi laughs] I literally laughed until I cried today at that part. [chuckles] So funny.

Grace: There are points when you're watching it and you go, "Yeah, he earned his Oscar."

Andi: Yeah, he did. Should have gotten it for this.

Grace: Right.

Jarrah: Also, I think this happened in more than one episode, but where Tim Allen and Alan Rickman are fighting to throw off the guards, making them think they're fighting with each other, we did just witness a version of that in the *Enterprise* incident that we watched for a watchalong last night, where Kirk's yelling at Spock to try to deceive the Romulan Commander into thinking that they hates each other.

Andi: Mm-hmm.

Grace: I hate you, Spock. I hate you.

Sue: There are a bunch of little things they threw into that aren't necessarily plot points taken from Trek, but Serris' eyepatch is a nod to General Chang from *Star Trek VI*. [laughs] *Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country*. Guy Fleegman was named after Guy Vardaman, who played several no name characters on *Next Gen*, including occasionally standing in for Brent Spiner and Wil Wheaton.

Andi: Well, Guy, in general, is a good example of this because he's a red shirt.

Sue: Yes.

Grace: Yup. He's a self-aware [Andi laughs] red shirt, which means he's constantly horrified.

Andi: Let's get out of here before they kill Guy. [laughs] This movie is so brilliant.

Jarrah: Also, we haven't really talked a lot about Daryl Hall's character, but was he supposed to be a little bit of Wesley, but by the fact that he was--

Andi: Daryl Mitchell, yeah?

Jarrah: Oh, yeah. Sorry.

Sue: Yes.

Jarrah: Not Daryl Hall and John Oates.

[laughter]

Grace: I'm glad we brought him up. He's the only member of the main cast we haven't talked about, and he's an underrated performer.

Jarrah: Yeah. Was he supposed to-- I don't know, I was like, "He could be a bit Wesley-ish," because he's basically a little kid navigator prodigy.

Grace: Oh, that's totally what I got from it that he was the cute child and now he's an adult

Sue: To be Wesley and Jordy.

Grace: But did you notice when they're at the point where they're talking about how they fixed everyone their favorite meal, he's got a freaking ice cream sundae and French fries.

[laughter]

Andi: I also love how when they introduce him to the aliens, they go, "How you've grown."

[laughter]

Sue: So, there's a quote from Wil Wheaton, and he says, "I loved *Galaxy Quest*. I thought it was a brilliant satire not only of Trek, but of fandom in general. The only thing I wish they had done was cast me in it and have me play a freaky fanboy who keeps screaming at the actor who played the kid about how awful it was that there was a kid on a spaceship." [Andi laughs]

Jarrah: I feel like Tommy-- Tommy's the character's name, but I feel like he was a bit of a mishmash of a Wesley Crusher and then an 1980s TV black sitcom kid from the pedal to the metal captain.

[laughter]

Grace: Like, a little bit Webster. [Andi laughs]

Jarrah: Yeah. It was adorable. I don't think he stands out as much as the others just because everyone else is so amazing and has more, I guess, nuance and also just more screen time.

Andi: My favorite part with him is [laughs] when he breaks his arm and-- [laughs] Is it Mathazar who bodily picks him up and he's just screeching.

[laughter]

Andi: So funny.

Grace: Also, for the record, he was in a movie they filmed at my high school. [Jarrah laughs]

Andi: Is that the things I hate about you?

Grace: Yes, it is. Yes, it is.

Andi: Yeah. He plays the English teacher in that.

Grace: Oh, he was great.

Andi: I don't even really think we could consider him the weak link. He's just as good. It's just a smaller part.

Jarrah: Yeah.

Grace: Yeah.

Jarrah: Mm-hmm.

Grace: Yeah. That's part of the problem with an ensemble cast. Some people are more ensemble than others.

Andi: Yeah.

Grace: Also, Robin Sachs as Sarris as freaking Ethan Rayne from *Buffy*.

Andi: Yeah, I saw that. I didn't even realize under all that makeup until I saw that IMDB.

Grace: Right.

Andi: Sarris, in general, is an interesting villain because he really has no reason to be horrible. He's just being a douche. I find that endearing. There's no real motivation. He just is like, "They have something and I want it."

Grace: He's such an intense mishmash of sci-fi villains that that's the only way you can go with it.

Andi: I just want to be mean to them, and kill them and make them sad. [laughs]

Grace: And make them realize their favorite TV show isn't real. [Andi laughs]

Sue: Well, when he realizes that that's where the real evil comes from.

Andi: Yeah.

Sue: Like, "You've done more harm than I ever could."

Grace: He's the gatekeeper. Oh, my God, you, guys, he's the gatekeeper. Holy crap.

Andi: He's also a horror movie villain, because he keeps dying and coming back for one last shot.

Grace: He's Michael Myers the Gatekeeper.

Jarrah: But also, the work on the costume and the special effects-- I mean, his costume is prosthetics and then the special effects in general hold up really well.

Andi: Yeah, they've got his costume up here in Seattle at MoPOP. It's pretty impressive up close. It holds up.

Jarrah: Nice.

Sue: So much so that you could say he inspired some Xindi-Reptilians.

Jarrah: Yeah.

Grace: You could say that.

Sue: [laughs] You'll get there, Andi.

Andi: I believe you. [Sue laughs]

Grace: You'll get there and then wish you hadn't. [laughs]

Andi: See, the thing is it had to look good, because part of the joke is how crappy the *Galaxy Quest* looked. So, it had to look good. I guess it could have been funny that way too, but it's better this way.

Jarrah: Oh, yeah. I agree. I just mean that if you look back at the *Star Trek* that was being made at the time, and obviously this would have had a much larger budget, like the average episode of *Voyager* or *Enterprise*, this holds up a lot better.

Andi: I really liked the special effects of the goo and then shooting through the-

Jarrah: Oh, yeah.

Andi: -planets, because can you imagine how terrifying would be? [Jarrah laughs] But it also just looked really good.

Grace: It's also neat when you remember that one of the screenwriters-- Let me see, which one. Robert Gordon also was the screenwriter for *Men in Black II*, where you also get some neat space or just physical space travel, albeit via water slide, but still.

Jarrah: I also liked Sarris' ship.

Grace: Yeah, that was like the holodeck planet thing. That was cool.

Sue: Also, let's not forget that this was Rainn Wilson's first movie.

Grace: Yeah, our current Harry Mudd, his first big role.

Sue: But can we talk about the marketing they did for this film a little bit?

Jarrah: Oh, my gosh, the website.

Grace: Yes. [Andi laughs]

Sue: So, they created this website that was like a fan website for *Galaxy Quest*.

Jarrah: Yeah.

Sue: Jarrah, you spent more time on it than I did.

Jarrah: It's amazing. So, it's set up like an old GeoCities page. And so, you can still go to it. It's archived, but all the pieces don't work anymore. But it has an intentionally terrible design that looks a lot like my very first *Law & Order* fanfiction website that I made from HTML by teaching myself that when I was 11.

Grace: First, there were multiples.

Jarrah: Well, I redid it several times. It also has fake episode synopsis by a fan. So, it's called Travis Latke's *Galaxy Quest*. So, the fake fan is named Travis Latke. It has one of those old site counters. It has late breaking news, and terrible tiny little images and animations, and there's a screensaver you can download. But it's all engineered to look like a terrible fan website. And it is the best. So, we'll share the link in our show notes.

Andi: That's funny.

Sue: They also created a mockumentary that aired on E! Entertainment Television about the cultural impact of the *Galaxy Quest* TV series. So, all of the actors are in character as the actors. [laughs] Just talking about--[crosstalk]

Grace: Acting as actors.

Sue: Yes. Just doing the talking head interviews you see on all of these features about *Star Trek*. And it is wonderful and ridiculous. And available on YouTube.

Andi: That's amazing. I'm going to have to look that up.

Sue: The link is in our notes. [Andi chuckles]

Grace: Also, if you were just a big fan of this story specifically and the characters, there's a comic book also. It's by Erik Burnham, who is pretty good. So, check it out.

Sue: Well, there have been multiple rumors about a *Galaxy Quest* TV show coming to us.

Grace: Apparently, there was talks for a sequel up until Alan Rickman's death, which would put a hinder on things.

Sue: As far as I know, that's where things stalled. Because there were talks of a film sequel and there were talks of a TV series.

Andi: I don't know. I don't even feel like it needs one.

Grace: No, it really does stand alone on its own very well.

Andi: I get it. Like, it's a good thing, so you want more of it.

Grace: But we've seen how well that can go.

Sue: It's just so good.

Andi: It's just so perfect the way it is.

Grace: And believe us, if any group of fans knows about taking a good thing and drawing it out longer than it has to. *Star Trek* fans have seen some stuff.

[laughter]

Grace: They really have.

Andi: This movie is one of my absolute favorites. I hadn't seen it in a couple years. And rewatching it today, it's just so much fun. I just love it so much. Because it's so funny, but it's also like real. The emotions are real, and it says some real things about art and about fandom and about family and loving each other. I just love it. It's so good. 10 out of 10.

Grace: 10 lathes out of 10 lathes?

Andi: 10 rudimentary lathes.

Sue: Well, speaking about family and loving each other, I just want to point out how supportive what's his name's parents are.

Grace: Yeah.

Andi: Yeah.

Sue: Like, they want him to take out the trash. Yes, but they know that maybe their son is not the most popular kid in school.

Grace: “Okay, honey. Have fun with your thing.”

Sue: Yeah, they don't try and change him. They encourage him to do his thing. Maybe they're a little bit happy that he's outside and that's a bit of a joke. But they're not hoping that he's someone else. They're in the movie very briefly. But from what we see of them, they are supportive of their kid and his interests, and that's important.

Andi: And nice and I wish I had that.

Sue: Mm-hmm.

Jarrah: Do you want to hear a couple of the fake episode synopses from the website?

Sue: Yes, please.

Grace: Yes, absolutely.

Jarrah: The two lovers of Medusa playing mediator between the warring Gdonks and the Ssazzbatts. Ssazzbatts is spelled S-S-A-Z-Z-B-A-T-T-S.

Andi: Oh, wow.

Jarrah: Commander Taggart becomes the object of affection for each of the opposing female leaders. Unfortunately, for the commander, both Gdonk and Ssazzbatts lovers dismember their mates after copulation [Andi laughs] to save the universe from another cataclysmic war, as well as his well-worn fanny. Taggart has to make both females lose interest in him, escape from the planet Medusa in one piece and still broker a peace accord.

Andi: Wow.

Jarrah: So, basically, angel one plus favorite son plus [chuckles]-- [crosstalk]

Grace: And the proms tomorrow.

Jarrah: It reminds me of an animated series episode.

Grace: Oh, they really hit the nail on the head.

Jarrah: The men are in another compound. [Andi laughs] I also like the hair shirt after the NSEA protector chases a Zach Ski battle barge into a polluted wormhole. The crew of the ship find themselves plagued with accelerated hair growth. Fortunately, Dr. Lazarus must find antidote before the ship's drains clog for good.

[laughter]

Grace: That does sound such a *TNGP* plot.

Jarrah: Yup.

Sue: Oh, my.

Jarrah: Yeah, they're pretty good. Again, we will share the link in the show notes. There's some that you can basically tell. It's like, they just replaced the names from *Star Trek* episodes [Andi laughs] and changed the aliens to sound slightly sillier.

Andi: Man, only someone who loves *Star Trek* that much can roast it so hard.

Grace: Its true.

Sue: But still love it.

Andi: Yeah.

Jarrah: Yeah.

Sue: Like, at no point in this movie am I offended.

Grace: A roasting like that takes intense love.

Andi: Yeah.

Jarrah: Yeah, exactly.

Sue: Even when Sigourney Weaver and Tim Allen kiss at the end, and the girls faint in the convention, like I know I'm being called out, but I still love it.

Andi: I'm not going to pretend I did not think of you in that moment, Sue.

[laughter]

Andi: I legitimately was like, "What if Gates and Jean-Luc made out in front of a convention hall? What would happen?" And I was like, "There would be screaming."

Sue: They've done it more than once. And there is. [laughs].

Andi: I did think that Tawny Madison is clearly Uhura-ish, but she's Gates-ish too. Something about her design, her hair, she looks like her.

Grace: The cheekbones help too.

Sue: See, and I've always felt there was some Troi in her too with repeating the computer.

Andi: Oh, yeah.

Sue: Because early Troi just does so much. He is angry captain. [Andi laughs] All right. Do we have any final thoughts to share on *Galaxy Quest* this evening?

Jarrah: Never give up. Never surrender.

Sue: And do we have any final thoughts to share about the last 100 episodes of *Women at Warp* this evening?

Grace: Holy crap. We've been talking for over a hundred hours.

Sue: Right. Then that doesn't even count our supplemental episodes and our patron content.

Andi: Oh, it's a lot of work.

Grace: Yeah.

Sue: I love you, guys.

Grace: I love you, guys.

Andi: I love you too.

Jarrah: I love you too.

Andi: And our audience, we love you too.

Sue: Yeah.

Jarrah: I don't know you all, but I'm sure you're great.

Grace: Obviously, you have very good taste, if you're listening. So, we've got that in common already.

Jarrah: Yeah. Looking forward to the next 100.

Andi: I'm tired just thinking about it, but I'm so excited.

Grace: We're going to have to make our own parody movie if another one hasn't come out between--

Jarrah: Yeah, they keep talking about the *Galaxy Quest* TV show or *Galaxy Quest* movie sequel and remake. I don't know. I don't know that I need another one. I think they remake everything now. I feel like a TV show could work, maybe because it could be different, but I don't know, I don't feel like it's old enough to need to be remade yet.

Sue: That's never stopped them before.

Grace: I was getting at is that we should make our own parody of ourselves.

Jarrah: Yes. Oh, yeah.

Grace: That's what we're going to do for the 100th episode. We're going to do our own parody version of *Women at Warp*.

Jarrah: Mm-hmm. [Andi laughs] Call it, *Girls at Impulse*. [Andi laughs]

Grace: It sounds like it's something slightly different.

Jarrah: [chuckles] *Ladies at Light speed?*

Andi: Ooh, that's not bad.

Grace: That's a good one.

Sue: That's our *Star Wars* podcast.

Grace: Aww.

Andi: Ah, yeah. Jarrah chuckles] I hope that people are ready for me on a Star Wars podcast in which I just talk about *Rogue One*.

[laughter]

Andi: There are other movies in *Star Wars*. I don't think so. That doesn't seem right.

Jarrah: Also, did they ever make action figures of *Galaxy Quest*? Because I want them now.

Grace: That's what kit bashing is for.

Jarrah: Yup. I don't care if they're custom. Someone should make some. I mostly just wanted Dr. Lazarus, to be honest, but I don't really need a Tim Allen action figure. He's great in this movie.

Grace: I feel like he'd have to pay me to own a Tim Allen action figure.

[laughter]

Grace: And he'd have to pay me more every day. [Jarrah laughs]

Sue: There do seem to be some collectibles over on Entertainment Earth, but we're not going to delve into that right now.

Jarrah: No, I'll do that on my own time.

Sue: Yes. But I think we are done for this evening. So, Jarrah, where can people find you on the internet?

Jarrah: You can find me on Twitter, [@jarrahpenguin](#). Or, just passed the Chompers. [laughs]

Sue: Grace?

Grace: You can find me on Twitter, [@bonecrusherjenk](#). And trying to figure out if Grabthar's Hammer is a location or an object.

Sue: And Andi.

Andi: Easiest place to find me is on Twitter, [@firsttimetrek](#). I am spending my time trying to fashion a rudimentary lathe. [Jarrah laughs]

Sue: And I'm Sue. You can find me on Twitter, [@spaltor](#). That's S-P-A-L-T-O-R. Or, trying to locate a beryllium sphere. To reach the show, you can find us on Twitter [@womenatwarp](#). On Facebook, [@womenatwarp](#). Or, even Instagram, [@womenatwarp](#). You can find our show notes and blog at [womenatwarp.com](#) and send us an email to crew@womenatwarp.com. For more from the Roddenberry Podcast Network, visit [podcasts.rodnenberry.com](#). Thanks so much for joining us.

[Women at Warp theme]

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