

# What To Watch Wednesday: Apartment 1303

By Corie Krisch June 4, 2014



A few months ago, I got Netflix. Well my dad lets me use his account. I love movies and horror is my favorite genre; has been for twelve years. No joke, I think I have watched every single horror movie Netflix has to offer. Since I am patiently waiting for season three of American Horror Story to be released, I put on a random movie for background noise while I was doing some writing. Apartment 1301 is what I thought to be some low-budget, B-rated horror, meaning it would be more funny than scary. It caught my attention, though, and for the next couple hours my eyes were drawn to my television screen. A few months ago, I got Netflix. Well my dad lets me use his account. I love movies and horror is my favorite genre; has been for twelve years. No joke, I think I have watched every single horror movie Netflix has to offer. Since I am patiently waiting for season three of American Horror Story to be released, I put on a random movie for background noise while I was doing some writing. Apartment 1301 is what I thought to be some low-budget, B-rated horror, meaning it would be more funny than scary. It caught my attention, though, and for the next couple hours my eyes were drawn to my television screen.

Apartment 1303 takes place in Detroit. Janet and her mom Maddie never got along. Maddie is an alcoholic and Janet has just about had enough of her mother's reckless rages, so she decides to move out of her mother's home. After packing up her things, on the way to her new home, Janet calls her sister Lara to tell her what she decided to do. When Janet gets to the floor of her apartment she meets her neighbor Emily. Janet was expecting a pleasant welcome, but Emily didn't welcome her. Emily warned her not to live in apartment 1303, because years before, a girl named Jennifer killed her mother and stuffed the body in a closet. A few years after she killed her mother she committed suicide by jumping off the balcony. Disregarding what Emily said, Janet still moved in. I will let you watch the movie to see what happens next. This movie is very suspenseful and will keep you on your toes. Released in 2013, Apartment 1303 hasn't received good reviews by other people, but don't let that discourage you from seeing it yourself. Everyone has different opinions about things they see or hear. Watch with an open mind and form your own opinions. I wouldn't say that this was the best horror movie ever, but comparing it to other recent horror movies that have been released, this one is pretty good. The plot was something new to me. I haven't seen it in any other movie. A huge pet peeve of mine is when directors try to create a "new" horror but use scenes or aspects from older horror films. This movie is completely original and deserves props for that.

If it's a rainy day, you have nothing to do or just a horror movie fanatic like I am then I would give Apartment 1303 a try. It is not totally scary, but it's very suspenseful.

# Throwback Thursday: Hey! Arnold

By Amanda Teeter 🕒 June 5, 2014



One of my favorite things about the 90s was *Hey! Arnold*. Every weekday from 1996 to 2004 after my schoolwork was done, I would be eagerly seated in front of the TV (The old box kind with the rounded screen) awaiting what was at the time my favorite show. I joyed in sharing the adventures of that little boy with the football-shaped head who always tried to do the right thing despite the wacky moral conundrums he always found a way to get involved in, and the bully girl who was infatuated with him.

I was always partial to Helga because, though she was horribly misguided and mean, she had a certain precious depth to her. She wasn't pretty, nice, or feminine in any way, but she had this secret poetic soul that she never exposed. Always overlooked for her older sister and completely neglected by her parents, Helga was a perfect contrast to Arnold whose quirky but loving family supported him in all his compulsive right-doing. Though it was always portrayed in a way that was lighthearted enough to entertain kids, Helga's story was actually a very insightful look into the life of a bully. I think, in a way, we learned more from Helga than from Arnold.

If the show hadn't given us insight into Helga's home life, she would just be the bad guy. As far as Arnold knows, she's just mean for no reason. But what the show does by exposing both her dark and bright secrets (her neglectful home life, and her, admittedly very creepy, but still rather sweet devotion to Arnold) is show kids that there is more to bullies than just their rough exterior. Helga's parents never cared about her, so she never learned to properly express affection and was never welcome to. She takes out her confusion on Arnold and his friends by being as mean as can be, so that she doesn't have to expose that softer side of herself and feel vulnerable. It still doesn't excuse the awful things she does, but it makes it a lot easier to be compassionate towards her, even when she's acting out.

Arnold inspired us to be good, remain inquisitive, and actively search for the right answers even if it means questioning authority. He was a great role model for kids because he gave them the impression that they could do something morally significant, that sometimes the perspective of a preteen was just as valuable as the experience of adults. The most important thing he does, though, is to consistently be nice to Helga. Even though she shows him a lot of unkindness, he never reciprocates, always seeming



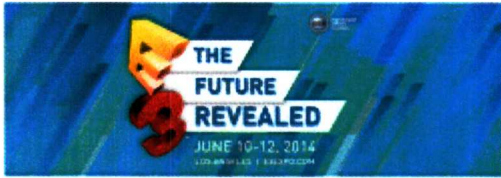
to understand that the motivation behind her behavior is personal unhappiness, and that unkindness would make things worse for her. Sure, it deepens her crush that he's so kind to her, but it also shows the kids watching that this character who always tries to do the right thing knows that it's best to meet unkindness with kindness, and that there's more to every bully than meets the eye.

What I love about this show now is that it sets such a great example for the kids watching. Everyone wants to be like Arnold. He's just awesome, because every hardship he faces he takes in stride and he dedicates his young life to helping people in any small way that he can. The show glorifies Arnold's life choices without being in-your-face about the morals it's suggesting. There's also a lot of focus on Helga, somehow it manages to portray her choices in a very negative light without forcing judgement on her. No one wants to be Helga, the bullying is very unacceptable, but there's always hope for her. It manages to make you hate Helga's behavior without hating Helga.

The show is still relevant now because the anti-bullying message is different than what we see now, and I think it's more effective. Like a lot of shows, it exposes the effects of being a bully, that she distances her friends and causes a lot of trouble for her victims. But unlike other shows, it displays her vulnerability and the reasons behind her choices. It teaches kids, like we don't really do as much even now that anti-bullying has become such a topic of concern, that mean people are most likely mean because they have their own stuff going on that they don't know how to deal with, and usually it has little to do with those they target. It's an important message, because not only could it encourage kids not to fight bullying with bullying thus making it worse, but it also reminds kids not to take those people's words too seriously, because more than likely, the mean words aren't really directed at them.

# E3 2014

By Tim Lehmann 🕒 June 18, 2014



Last year at the Electronic Entertainment Expo (E3), Microsoft introduced the world to the Xbox One. The focus was on entertainment and not so much about games. This year, Microsoft's attention was on games which wasn't a letdown. There were a decent amount of betas announced for the fall. Some games are coming out this year and others, next year. A few third party developers brought some games that look decent, and there was a special focus on third party developers for Xbox

The show opened with *Call of Duty: Advanced Warfare*. *COD* is a game series that I am not a fan of, but others are excited because they would enjoy a new story in the series with more gameplay.

Then *Forza Horizon 2* was featured. The game has over 200 cars, day and night features along with different weather. It was built on *Forza 5*'s engine, it has diverse music, and players can create communities in the game. Check this game out if you are a racing fan, it comes out on September 30.

There was a video, but no discussion on a first-person shooter called *Evolve*, after which was *Assassin's Creed Unity*. The new addition to the series takes place in Paris during the French Revolution. It will have the biggest map in the series. You can join up to three friends to play throughout the game.

One of the bigger games that was announced is *Halo: The Master Chief Collection*. This will feature every game from *Halo: Combat Evolved* to *Halo 4* with everything unlocked. You can create a custom playlist with all tank missions from all of the games or and other missions. *Halo 2*'s multiplayer style returns, which brings back a lot of fun for me. New fans can enjoy going back and replaying older stories and returning fans can enjoy their favorites. This game will be a single disc with over 100 maps and ships with 4,000 gamer score achievements. It will be released only for the Xbox One this November 11th. *Halo 5: Guardians* was also announced. The beta for *Halo 5* is out in December with new game modes among other features.

*Fable: Legends* lets you play as four heroes or an evil boss. All four heroes work together, which is a new kind of story and gameplay compared to the other *Fable* games. The villain mode is a new mode in this game, in which you can target who and when enemies attack. The story outcomes are determined by the heroes or villain in the quests.



It looks like Microsoft has learned from the mistake that they made last year and improved it for this year. They put a lot of focus on major developers and third party developers. 90 minutes of game footage showcased what is expected in the world of gaming between now and this time next year. There were a few exclusives for the Xbox One, but most games were for both the PlayStation 4 and Xbox One.

*Tom Clancy's The Division* is a game that I am really excited for. It is a third person shooter in which you work with a squad of three other people. The gameplay looks great and seems to run smoothly. The game is set in New York City after an outbreak of a sickness. From the gameplay footage, it looks like the squad works as a unit and does not just depend on the player to lead them to complete the mission. This is set for a 2015 release date.

Overall I think that Microsoft lived up to expectations this year. As a gamer, I was extremely happy to hear that the full 90 minutes would be used for games and not media stuff like last year. I know that they focused on their community of gamers. The show was outstanding.

# Throwback Thursday!: The Battle of the Boy Bands

By Corie Krisch 🕒 June 18, 2014



There's no doubt that the 90's started the trend of boy bands. The boy bands of the 90s were hugely popular, and paved the way for modern boy bands like One Direction and The Wanted. If you were like me, a young girl growing up in the 90's you had a choice to make: N'Sync or The Backstreet Boys?

At first I didn't really care of either one of them. I was really into Britney Spears – especially her *Oops, I Did It Again* album. I would listen to it religiously. Whenever my parents would check up on me, I would always be singing along with Britney. This is also when I discovered that I like to sing as a hobby. My dream was to be just like her. Okay, give me a break I was eight or nine. It wasn't too long after that when *Baby, One More Time* came out. The cycle continued; I listened and sang to it a lot. My family got tired of hearing *Baby, One More Time* and *She Drives Me Crazy*. Those were my two favorite. Her next album was the end to my Britney craze. I hated it. The only good song on it was *Toxic* and that got old really fast. It was goodbye Britney and hello boy bands. N'Sync to be exact.

It took me a while, but I got taken by the boy band trend. N'Sync was my favorite. I didn't like The Backstreet Boys, sorry not sorry. The song *Tearin' Up My Heart* is what really got me to like N'Sync. It is still my favorite song by them, along with the classic *Bye, Bye, Bye*.

Now, Justin Timberlake was the most popular, but he wasn't my favorite member. Lance Bass actually was. I would go crazy and imagine what it would be like to be married to him and what our life would be like; all of the glorious luxurious things I would have and trips I could go on. Then he announced to the world that he was gay. Well, my dreams were crushed and flushed down the toilet. I didn't start liking JT until N'Sync split up. Then I started to appreciate him and realize that he is a talented artist. I think that it is really cool that JT is still really popular today and continues to make music.

I remember once, back in my middle school years, my best friend slept over. We were just goofing around and *Bye, Bye, Bye* came on next from the playlist. She started lip syncing to it using an empty



water bottle as the microphone. She didn't know it, but I was recording her performance. She finished with a really dramatic pose and looked up at me. She realized what I was doing and said, "You bitch!" We still laugh about it to this day. Whenever we hang out after not seeing each other for a while, it always gets brought up.

Girls who grew up in the 90's will always have their memories of their boy band of choice and will carry with them for the rest of their lives. Being an N'Sync girl gave me so many wonderful memories and stuck with me through college. I'm sure they will continue as I enter adulthood.

\*unbiased editor's note- N'Sync is the correct choice.

# To Infinity and Thanos

By Matt Reed  June 18, 2014

I just read the first Annual number one of Thanos, and oh my god, it was amazing. It's basically a run-down on the history of the character but what makes it so good is that Jim Starlin weaves this amazing tale of why Thanos should have a purpose in his life and how he faces so much adversity but keeps on going (even dead, you can't keep Thanos down.) But what's more, this comic is so brilliant because it is perfectly timed, with the new Guardians of the Galaxy coming out. With Thanos getting bigger, people who don't know about this character (and many don't) will want to read more. They will want to learn and soon, stories like the Infinity Gauntlet, Infinity War, and Infinity Crusade are going to blow up and everyone will want to get their hands on it. If you have not yet read the Infinity events by Marvel, you should. Like many of the cosmic tier comics (Silver Surfer, Adam Warlock and the Infinity Watch, Guardians of the Galaxy), there are a lot of philosophical and existential questions being asked. What this Annual does is remind everybody of that.

Infinity Gauntlet is the first comic event where the character Thanos actually gets true omnipotence. He gains this godly power from six cosmic stones known as the Infinity gems. When all six are brought together, the controller of these stones gains control over space (allows controller to be anywhere or all places and can allow for movement of anything to any or all locations), time (allows for time travel and can be used to age or de-age any being), reality (allows for controller to grant any wish, even if the wish is in direct contradiction to scientific law), power (allows for controller to tap into an infinite well of all power this does, has, or will exist), soul (allows for control over any and all souls, living or dead, as well as an idyllic pocket universe that one could retreat into, or place others in), and mind (allows for increased mental and psionic power, can allow for access to the thoughts and dreams of other beings and when paired with the power gem, this power can be done with all beings in existence, simultaneously). At the end of the book, Adam Warlock gets the power of the Infinity Gauntlet and as a result must split his consciousness into two more parts (because he can't handle the power) thus making pure evil and pure righteous versions of himself. This is the set up for Infinity War, in which the Marvel Universe of characters must battle Adam Warlock's evil self, and Infinity Crusade in which the Marvel Universe of characters must battle alongside Adam Warlock's Righteous self.



# What To Watch Wednesday: Hard Candy

By Amanda Teeter 🕒 June 18, 2014



The biggest plot twist in *Hard Candy* comes about ten minutes into the film. I have forced all of my friends to watch this movie while refusing to give them any details about it and they loved it so much more for that. So I'm going to pose myself the challenge of writing a review of this incredible film and making you watch it without telling you what it's about. I'll post spoilers down at the bottom in case my case is not compelling enough for you and you really have to know the plot line, but I urge you not to read them, just rent the movie.

*Hard Candy* is a thriller from 2005 about morality. What does it mean to be a good person? At what point does justice become gratuitous or inhuman? Can one person be the victim and the bad guy all at once? And you, the viewer, at what point while watching, if ever, do you switch sides?

The most basic premise I can give you without giving anything away, is that it begins as a love story between a fourteen-year-old girl and a thirty-two-year-old man. Now, if that puts you off, know that the film in no way portrays this relationship as anything but horrifying. Even as the man sweet-talks the young girl to convince her that he's safe, the man's demeanor is the very essence of a predator. Patrick Wilson's performance as the pedophile Jeff Kohlver is haunting. He's charming and threatening all at once. His performance throughout becomes emotional, driven, desperate, and just wonderful in so many ways. But it's a young Ellen Page who steals the show.

Page portrays Hayley Stark, the fourteen-year-old, with absolute expert precision. Now, of course, a fourteen-year-old's innocence and amateur flirting may not take the most talented of actresses to get down pat, but there are aspects to this character that are much deeper than that. Page's career didn't really take off until two years later when she starred in *Juno*, but her performance in this film is exponentially better than her performance in *Juno*, which really speaks for itself, since she did a great job in that. The fluidity of the character is so great that playing Hayley Stark is like playing a range of characters. Every moment is perfect.

The film has a grand total of six characters, four of which are pretty much dispensable. Their

existence is important, but the entire film could go on without ever showing them, and in fact one is only ever shown in photographs. The majority of the film happens in one setting as well. The minimalist storytelling is contrasted by the powerful performances of the only two actors featured for most of the movie. For the most part, if the film took place in front of a blank wall, you almost wouldn't notice. It's that intense.

The content is very mature, obviously, but I will say that if you can handle your average horror movie, you can handle this. I won't give anything away, but I don't want anyone to be so put off by the topic that they miss out on this incredible film because I know they would be pleasantly surprised.

I've watched this movie six times, and each time I found more significance to it. If six times doesn't sound like a lot, know that I've only rented it once.

**SPOILER**

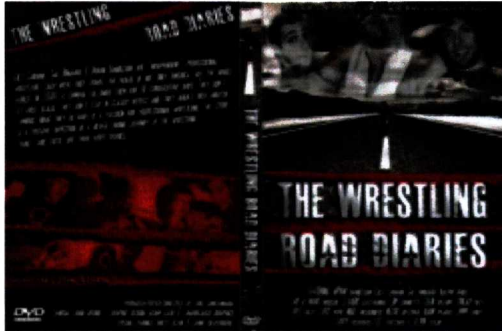
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Okay, I guess it's not that hard to figure out, but anyway. Hayley drugs and ties up the pedophile, having planned the whole time to gain his trust and then get him to confess to the rape and murder of a neighborhood girl. Her methods are completely brutal, and Jeff begins to seem so human at points, that it's virtually impossible to never question who the villain is. It's incredible, just watch it, and make your friends watch it without telling them anything, they'll love it.



# What to Watch Wednesday: The Wrestling Road Diaries

By Tim Lehmann 🕒 June 18, 2014



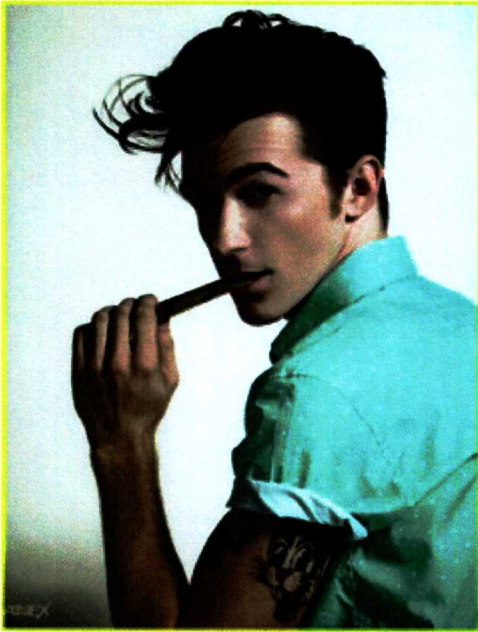
The Wrestling Road Diaries, only available at [weloveclot.com](http://weloveclot.com), is a story of independent pro wrestlers Colt Cobana, Bryan Danielson, and Sal Rinauro. This shows what it's like for an independent wrestler just traveling from one gig to another. The film takes place during Bryan's last run in the independent shows before he heads off to the WWE, after spending a great amount of time with Ring of Honor (ROH). Colt has returned from the WWE to the independents and ROH, while Sal hasn't made it to the WWE, but he seems content. Colt and Sal are jokesters and they make a great comedy team. All three wrestlers have interesting stories that are shared on this DVD. There is more behind-the-scenes footage than actual matches, but it shows what the wrestlers get to experience.

In the ten-day trip covered by the film, there are a few ROH shows and other promotions that the guys attend. It's neat to hear about and see the different places that they travel to. Most pro wrestling fans will enjoy seeing this. I am a huge pro wrestling fan and I enjoyed seeing some wrestlers that are big in either WWE or ROH today back from 2009. It just shows how far and hard they worked to get to there. Colt and the guys stay mostly at other wrestlers' homes and hardly ever at a hotel due to lack of funds, but these guys show that they can turn what most see as a not-so-great life into a fun place due to the bonds, jokes, and stories that are shared between all of the wrestlers.

\*Picture came from [welovecolt.com](http://welovecolt.com)

# Throwback Thursday!: Drake Bell

By Erica D. Lee 🕒 June 19, 2014



I'm sure we all recall the cute troublemaker with the boyish charm who played himself on the Nickelodeon sitcom *Drake and Josh*. When the show first came out in 2004, I was so taken by Drake Bell that I had my best friend order a poster of him online (because my parents were too ridiculously protective of my siblings and my internet usage for me to do it myself.) She couldn't find one that did not have his co-star Josh Peck in it as well, so when the poster of both of them arrived at my house, I did what every normal boy-crazy teen would. I cut Josh out, threw him in the trash, and pinned Drake above my mirror so I could pretend he was complimenting me on each outfit I had. Yep, one of my many teenage fantasies I am slightly embarrassed to talk about.

Here I am, ten years later, finding myself listening to Drake Bell's newest album *Ready Steady Go!* (released in 2014) on Spotify after a friend thought it would be a funny joke to send me this Nickelodeon star's music. Little did he know, the deed would force me to unearth my (not so) embarrassing crush on the 27-year-old heartthrob. Drake Bell may have held out for 8 years to release his third album, but it was well worth the wait. I have to admit that at first I was skeptical that my grown-up self would still like his music but *Ready Steady Go!* boasts an old school Rockabilly-pop sound that is a refreshing shift from the teeny-bopper tunes of today's pop artists like One Direction and the mainstream R&B sounds of Justin Bieber.

The songs seem to resonate with the happy-go-lucky vibe Drake Bell always brought to the screen. Bell's renditions of the Kink's "Sunday Afternoon" and Billy Joel's "It's Still Rock and Roll To Me" are craftily done and manage to preserve the magic of these classics while adding a modern twist that does not feel too cliché. Original songs like "Bitchcraft" and "Makes Me Happy" show off Bell's talent for clever songwriting and stay true to the do-wop and pop theme. *Ready Steady Go!* is entirely worth listening to this summer.

Bell's recent years have been plagued with news about his ongoing feud with Bieber; the two have



been taunting each other on Twitter. Recently, more unfortunate news was released about Bell filing for bankruptcy in February 2014. Releasing an album so soon after was a bold move but it could be a move that might save him financially. Fingers crossed!

I'd like to say we share the same soul, musically, and maybe, just maybe he will feel a connection states away and try to find me. Or not. No matter, I'll continue listening to his sounds and keep eager tabs on my teenhood TV crush.

I don't know about you, but I think my mirror is in need of a new Drake Bell poster.

# Throwback Thursday!: Mulan

By Amanda Teeter 🕒 June 19, 2014



I know every line from *Mulan*. I've watched it with my family and quoted it so thoroughly that my eleven-year-old cousin shook her head at me and said I watch too many cartoons. There was a point where, for variety's sake, I started watching it in French. My French improved greatly. I'm not saying I'm proud of my *Mulan* fixation. I'm not saying I'm not, because I don't like to lie, but I'm not saying I am either, because I don't want to lose my street cred. Just kidding, I'm totally proud of it.

I love *Mulan* now, and could go on about the depth of its storyline, the implications of the romance, the feminist progress Disney has shown in the past 80 years (of course if you really want to read about that, you should just check out my blog: [ow.ly/x4ntU](http://ow.ly/x4ntU)) but since this is a throwback piece, I'm going to tell you about Mulan not as 2014 Amanda sees it, but as 1998 Amanda saw it. And then, why it's still so important to me.

Shang was easily one of the hottest Disney "princes" there was, and as long as we're being honest, all of my most sincere crushes have been on animated men. Shang, Aladdin, Hercules, and Cornelius from Thumbelina have each owned my hearts more thoroughly than most of my boyfriends, and they were nicer than all of them. And, since I was seven, I didn't have a boyfriend to compare him to anyway.

Shang was just different than many of the other men in Disney movies. He seemed more real. Where most of Disney's men were wearing tights and racing off into the sunset to valiantly rescue maidens, Shang was just a dude. A soldier, yes, but he was a normal dude with an actual job besides just being a prince, and an inherent manliness. His song in the movie is not a corny love song like so many of the personality-lacking Prince Charmings of the past, it's a badass war anthem about learning to be a man. Also, in the end, when he's sweet talking Mulan after finding out she's a woman, his pickup line is "You Fight Good." I mean, really? That's so awkward, he had no game, it was adorable.

You know who I didn't think was adorable as a kid, though? Who I don't really think is adorable now, but really found repulsive as a kid? Donny Osmond. I know, he's a great singer or whatever, obviously because that song is still totally badass, but when I found out that Donny Osmond was

Shang's singing voice years later when I was thirteen, I may very well have experienced my first broken heart. I don't know where the prejudice came from, but something about Donny Osmond voicing the gorgeous Shang was a direct insult to my crush. I called my best friend and we both retched in disgust.

My apologies to Donny Osmond, he's not repulsive, and now I thank him for giving voice to that song. "I'll Make A Man Out of You" actually became a really important anthem for me. I sing it in the car, I have it on my iPod, and most importantly, it's actually what started my friendship with my current best friend, one of the most important people in the world to me, who's seen me through more through the past few years than I thought I'd go through in my life, and was happy to do it.

You know those days when there's a song that you love, that you've known by heart for most of your life, but for some reason you blank on the first line? That happened to me once at work. I thought of my song, and started humming to myself, and just as I was ready to belt that first lyric, I couldn't remember it for my life. I ran around asking my coworkers if they knew the song. Most of them just rolled their eyes, as my cartoon obsession never did go over well. There was a new guy there, so quiet and shy that I didn't even want to bother him, and went, dejected, back to my drive-thru booth.

A few minutes later, this new boy, the one whom I'd never said more than "good morning" to, sneaked over into my booth. He was very quiet back then, so he leaned in real close. I realized he wanted to speak, so I tilted my ear up to him, and he whispered, ever so faintly,

"Let's get down to business to defeat the huns..."

And I thought "Oh, we are gonna be friends."



# Throwback Thursday! Boy Meets World

By Amanda Teeter 🕒 June 26, 2014



Cory was by no means a static character. *Boy Meets World* tracked his progression from a mischievous little boy into a settled adult and became a hit based on the simple premise that watching people grow up is exciting enough. Cory and his friends were always good kids and rarely slipped into bad ways. Whenever they did, they learned from it and grew even more. The writers and performers knew their characters so well that though the plot hinged on this idea of development and growing up, the characters were always, throughout a seven season run, resolutely themselves.

But while Cory was the main character, the title character if you count “boy,” and he was a prime example of exactly what I mean, the one who influenced me most was Topanga. The weird girl with the funny name would grow to be one who struck passion into the hearts of boys everywhere and she made the transition so realistically. The girl who, in early seasons, dreamed of becoming the first woman president, equalizing the country by reverting to wearing togas, and captivating all men for “breeding stock” completely transformed as puberty set in and the promise of Danielle Fishel’s adolescent beauty came to fruition. But she did so while, somehow, remaining exactly the same character.

As Topanga got pretty and popular her weirdness faded but her unconventionality never did. She remained unafraid to be smarter than everyone else, to be defiantly feminist when necessary, and to be precisely herself. There were several episodes where her transition to adolescence was called out, and though she resists it in each one, there’s always a balance afterwards. In one episode, for instance, she insists that she doesn’t care about beauty and chops off her hair (on only half of her head) and proceeds to freak out about it. In another, she swears that her Sweet Sixteen party is silly to her, it’s a

tradition she's fulfilling for her mom's satisfaction, but halfway through she admits that it's very important to her. She feels herself changing, becoming more traditionally feminine and in some ways just traditional, and she learns throughout that transitioning as you grow up is not just okay but necessary. That if she truly has changed, it's important to accept that change. Just as it's important never to change for anyone else, it's important not to stay the same for your own stubbornness.



*"Why do you care so much what other people think? When people laugh at you, they're depleting their own karmic reservoir." -Topanga Lawrence*

She never really changed for Cory either. Their relationship was so strong because as they grew up they accepted each other exactly as they were. Topanga was scared as a teenager to be falling in love with him, but in the end he excused all her mistakes after healthy fights and very occasional, very brief breakups. Their relationship seemed so ideal to all of us, and I don't think most of us as kids could really pinpoint why, but I think I can see it now. Their growth was so realistic and each remained true to themselves, but made it a priority to make the other one happy. Topanga struggled with this more than Cory ever did, but in the end she learned to compromise. To prioritize her love with him without ever sacrificing her own ambition as he never wanted to let her. In the episode where she plans to leave him to go to a better school, he struggles throughout to even ask her to stay. In the end, though, she realizes that while she has to go to school and pursue a great life for herself, she can alter her dreams only slightly so they include him.

In their climactic wedding in season 7, Topanga says in her vows "I wasn't sure this day would ever come, but you were. I wasn't sure love could survive everything we put it through, but you were. You were always strong and always sure. And now I know I want you to stand beside me for the rest of my life. That's what I'm sure of." Their love and their vows were as simple as the show's premise. Once they learned to compromise and pursue a version of each of their dreams that centered around each other, their futures were bright and they struggled as young couples do but retained a healthy marriage.

And now they're starting over. The new series *Girl Meets World* premieres tomorrow, centering around Cory and Topanga's prepubescent daughter, around the same age that Cory was back in season one of his show. While spinoffs are so rarely successful I have high hopes that if the new show retains the simplicity and wholesomeness of the first, it could be just as insightful to today's generation of kids as its predecessor was to us.

Photos courtesy of [thelastcutiemarkcrusader.wordpress.com](http://thelastcutiemarkcrusader.wordpress.com) and [zap2it.com](http://zap2it.com)