

Hello friends, it's Sam cracking open another report for Geek Girl Riot.

Here's something you should know about me right away: I love *Scrubs*. The TV show, obviously, not the article of clothing. It's one of my very favorite shows and I'm constantly re-watching it. And if I'm not re-watching it, I'm probably making references to it that go over most people's heads because no one else I know is a really big fan, apart from my fellow Geek Girl Rioter Alex aka Vanilla Bear who lives too far away to join in. I was devastated when it ended six years ago, but luckily I discovered a show that replaces the hole in my (sacred) heart—*Brooklyn Nine-Nine*.

*Brooklyn Nine-Nine* started in 2013 and the fourth season started last month. We're currently four episodes in, and it's proving to be just as funny as the previous seasons.

The premise is pretty simple: it follows the antics of a bunch of detectives in Brooklyn, so, of course, there's a lot of crime-solving going on, whether it's a string of robberies, or a suspicious murder, or a crime boss who may or may not be after a member of the squad. But I'll get to that in a minute.

Like any good TV show, *Brooklyn Nine-Nine* makes you care about the characters, and I'd argue that they're more important than the plot itself.

Let's take a look at some of the squad members. First we have Jake Peralta. He can be cocky and self-assured, but at the end of the day, he's a really good detective who will stop at nothing to solve a case. And because he's portrayed by Andy Samberg, he has some of the best facial expressions I've seen since Zach Braff's iconic portrayal of Dr. John Dorian (I told you I like making *Scrubs* references). Peralta is arguably the main character of the show, since most of the plot lines revolve around him, plus he's literally the face of the show on ads and DVD cases, etc, but the rest of the characters get enough screen time to keep his head from getting too big.

Jake's best friend Charles Boyle is also a great detective, though he's very much Jake's sidekick. Boyle tends to be unlucky in love, but that doesn't stop him from being a romantic at heart. He's also a foodie, which has come in handy a few times when they're working a case that took place at a restaurant. He's also a little bit clumsy, but has a good heart and can always be counted on when you need a helping hand—even if that means he ends up getting stuck in a garbage chute.

The squad is led by Sergeant Terry Jeffords and Captain Raymond Holt. Terry loves referring to himself in the third person; he also loves yogurt, his children, and his squad, no matter how stressed out they make him feel—like when they interrupted his Christmas dinner because half of them ended up locked inside a store and accidentally stumbled upon a terrorist group. Terry has a ridiculous amount of muscles—he's built like a tank—but underneath the chiseled pecs, he's a big ol' teddy bear who just wants what's best for his squad. Captain Holt, on the other hand, is not as openly affectionate as Terry, but that doesn't mean he doesn't love his

co-workers. As a gay black man, he's had to work hard to be respected as a detective, and his sexuality, though a big part of his character, isn't treated like a plot point. It's just a part of who he is, like his appreciation for classical music, or his love for his vintage car named Gertie. Captain Holt is one of the funniest parts of the show because he is a master at keeping a straight face and manages to say the most absurd lines without showing even a hint of emotion. And with a voice like velvet thunder, it's easy to listen to him banter with his squad.

The male half of the squad is rounded out by Hitchcock and Scully, two veteran detectives whose biggest joys in life are eating and talking about their health problems. They're weirdly relatable that way—I too like sitting still and spend most of my free time eating—and they provide a lot of comedic relief, whether it's by accidentally setting something on fire (again) or coming up with code names like Tex Dallas and Reno Vegas.

Of course, I've saved the best characters for last. The three leading ladies are diverse and awesome and the writers deserves all the snaps for portraying such nuanced female characters. First we have Amy Santiago, often the voice of reason in the squad. She's the Hermione of the group—smart and a great lover of rules, she looks up to Holt and does all she can to gain his approval, even if that means having the rest of the squad tease her. She has a more serious approach to being a detective, but if you get a few drinks in her, she quickly lets loose and proves that she can be just as much fun as the others.

Next is Rosa Diaz. Personality-wise, I'm more like Amy, but I secretly want to *be* Rosa. She's tough as nails and super mysterious—so mysterious, even her closest friends don't know much about her, aside from her penchant for wearing leather jackets, riding a motorcycle to work, and occasionally carrying a hunting knife in addition to her regulation handgun. It's always entertaining when the squad tries to learn more about her because she usually manages to shoot them down without revealing anything, leaving them more perplexed than ever. We don't even hear Rosa talk about her feelings until season three where, in the span of ten episodes, she breaks up with a long-term boyfriend, meets another guy, gets engaged, and then has to help her new fiance fake his own death. Sounds melodramatic, I know, but it's actually one of the best storylines in the season, mostly because of Rosa's relationship with Adrian Pimento. Remember that name—I'll come back to that soon.

Finally, we have one of my favorite characters ever who may also be one of the best characters on TV in general: Gina Linetti, the human equivalent of the "100" emoji. Gina is super laid-back, but also super sarcastic—she's not afraid to speak her mind. Most of the best quotes come from Gina's mouth, whether she's referring to herself as the "Paris of people", or explaining that her mother cried when she was born "because she knew she would never be as awesome" as her daughter (I should point out that both of those quotes are from the same scene, which gives you an idea of how magnificent Gina really is). She's a civilian, working for the precinct as Captain Holt's assistant/receptionist, and while she's usually quite disdainful of the detectives she works with, she sometimes helps out with a case, if only to prove that she's smarter than everyone else.

Apart from the characters, another major part of the series is, of course, the plot. Each episode revolves around a new case which is usually solved in the allotted thirty minutes (more like 25 minutes, after all the commercials). Even if the case is something as serious as a murder, there are always enough light-hearted moments to keep the show firmly rooted in comedy. Usually, the comedic relief comes from the character development of one of the squad members, but sometimes the bad guys are the ones bringing the fun. One of my favorite bad guys is Doug Judy aka the Pontiac Bandit. So far, he's shown up once a season and manages to slip between Jake's fingers each time. I like how ridiculous Doug Judy is and the way he plays off of Jake who both wants to be his friend but also wants to throw him in jail.

A major arc at the end of season three is about a crime boss named Figgis and new squad member Adrian Pimento who was undercover for twelve years. I always feel a little worried when a beloved show adds a new character. More often than not, they end up bringing the show down or they don't fit in with the rest of the cast, but *Brooklyn Nine-Nine* somehow manages to avoid that fate—Adrian Pimento is just as hilarious as the rest of the squad, from his insistence on calling himself Paul Sneed (his undercover name) to his intense relationship with Rosa. I won't spoil it for you, but Pimento has to leave at the end of the third season and I really hope he comes back soon, if only because he provided some of the best non-Peraltiago moments.

Speaking of Peraltiago...that's the ship name given to Jake and Amy and people, I can't even tell you how much I back that relationship. The first two seasons see Jake secretly pining for his colleague before they finally share a kiss while working a case together. It's pretty romantic and they quickly became one of my favorite couples to ever exist on TV. I know this coming season will introduce some tension in their relationship, but I have faith that the writers won't make them—or us viewers—suffer for too long without any resolution.

So if you're looking for a show that has the right mix of funny and serious, with a sprinkling of romance and half a dozen quotable lines per episode, join the squad and investigate *Brooklyn Nine-Nine*. Yippie kayak, other buckets!