

Intro (00:00:00):

[Intro]

Gilcy (00:00:18):

Hello! We're your Senshi-sational hosts Gilcy and Drucilla. Welcome to the last episode of our first season of Moon Moment. Thank you for sticking around with us for so long. We are the podcast where we discuss the Sailor Moon cannon for moments that we affectionately call, you guessed it, by now you should know it, moon moments.

Drucilla (00:00:44):

Which are moments that we feel exemplify what Sailor Moon stands for and represents. Now today, we're discussing the final episodes, as Gilcy said, episodes 43 through 46. So let's start with the least devastating in this batch of final episodes...

Gilcy (00:01:08):

Oh my gosh, Drucilla I was bawling these last two episodes.

Drucilla (00:01:12):

I told you, I texted you and said, "man, this sucks". I'm bawling, yeah.

Gilcy (00:01:20):

Oh my God, and then it was like, my mom's going to walk in and she's going to be like, "Anne-anne (note from gilcy this is what my family calls me at home) why are you crying so much?" And I'll be like, "it's nothing. It's just, it's an anime, mom."

Drucilla (00:01:29):

It's just fictional characters, dying for each other.

Gilcy (00:01:33):

Oh my gosh. Okay. The least the episode that didn't give me as many tears, um, we're talking about the freelance writer episode, right? Where she's disguised as that reporter?

Drucilla (00:01:48):

Oh yeah. You said freelancer. I did not.

Gilcy (00:01:51):

I forgot your summary!

Drucilla (00:01:52):

Yeah, I was waiting, like, you just totally jumped in.

Gilcy (00:01:54):

Oh...oh my God!

Drucilla (00:01:54):

You jumped in before I said the summary and I thought you were giving me an open to jump into it again and [laughs].

Gilcy (00:02:05):

I forgot! [laughs].

Drucilla (00:02:05):

It's just too much listeners. We, we just want to jump in, but for those of you who don't really remember episode numbers 43 through 46: For episode 43, the Senshi are fighting amongst themselves and the Dark Kingdom means to take full advantage of it. But wait, it's actually a clever plan designed to find out where the Dark Kingdom's HQ is? Also, Usagi came up with it? Whaaaaat? Next up, it's backstory time as the girls travel to the moon and have a history lesson with Queen Serenity. They, and we, learn how the moon kingdom fell thousands of years ago. [Sigh] Which brings us to D-point. Our warriors travel to the Arctic circle, one by one, falling to the DD girls while protecting Sailor Moon. And before she can face off against Beryl, she's got to fight Mamoru, who's been super brainwashed this time, but our girl saves him, though he succumbs to his injuries and she goes on to face Beryl, helped by her friends. In the name of the moon, she'll punish you.

Gilcy (00:03:20):

[Squeals] Oh, chills chills. That was a good summary.

Drucilla (00:03:24):

I can't make any jokes. I can't make many jokes here. So I think it's obvious that we need to start at episode 43 and work our way to the end because it wouldn't make sense to do it any other way. I didn't have any moon moments for any of these episodes and that, I know that sounds shocking, but hear me out. The reason was I feel like most of our moon moments, or all of our moon moments, they tend to be things that we can tie into the real world somehow. Whether it's reaching out to people who, think something might be going on with them, maybe not, but you're still going to reach out and make sure they're okay. Or standing up to someone who is really terrible, trying to protect someone, encouraging someone. And the thing was in these episodes...I mean the first two episodes just don't really have anything like that. And then the final two episodes are just, I mean, if I was going to give moon moments in those episodes, everyone would have multiple moon moments because they're just all amazing, and they're smart and brilliant, and they are fine with sacrificing themselves if it means less monsters in front of Sailor Moon to get to Beryl. And I feel like you can't really relate that to a real world thing. So in my definition of a moon moment, I didn't think there were any here, but I am very easily persuaded that basically every girl is a moon moment and, uh, in the last two episodes and you know, everything that happens is just...I don't think it takes away from the fact that there are no moon moments there. It's still a spectacular...and I'm sure we'll get into it cause it's not like we're not going to talk about the last two episodes just because we didn't have any moon moments in them.

Gilcy (00:05:45):

I feel like once we start talking about those last two episodes, I'm either...you're going to see my eyes tear up or I'm just going to be really excited. There's just so many emotions running through these last two episodes.

Drucilla (00:06:01):

When I wrote the summary for these episodes, I cried. I had to read and reread the summary multiple times so I got used to it and so I wouldn't tear up while I did it on the podcast. Also, you only had to watch these episodes once. I watched the sub, then watched the DiC version, which they cut so much of those episodes up that the DiC version is actually only one episode instead of two and they cut the most brutal scenes and things like that so it's not as bad. And then, because I thought, well, I want to see how the Viz dub handled this, I watched the two episodes again.

Gilcy (00:06:48):

Drucilla, why do you do this to yourself?

Drucilla (00:06:52):

It was, it was not a smart idea, but...

Gilcy (00:06:56):

So episode 43 with the freelance reporter person: when it was revealed that it was Usagi's plan to basically try to fool the Dark Kingdom into thinking the sailor guardians were all arguing amongst themselves. That was really smart. I would have thought it would have been Rei. Maybe not Ami because she's a little more methodical in the way she thinks, but I feel like this has like Rei's brashness and go, like, "let's just do it" kind of thing written all over the plan. But when they were like, Usagi's plan, I was like, wait a second. Are you...what? Say that again? Rewind the, the last part where Rei was holding everyone back and being like, no, don't go out. Don't! Just hold on a second. And Mako was like, so you really don't care about Usagi. And then she pulls out the silver crystal and she's like, you don't think I care? Why would I have this if I didn't care? I already knew that like these episodes were going to be brutal.

Drucilla (00:08:02):

Yeah. That's, I mean, I got to obviously bring up the DiC version in our final episode. That moment is so much better in Japanese than it is in the DiC version, because in the DiC dub, Mars pulls out the moon stick with the crystal and they're like, "Mars, did you?" And she's like, "it's not what you think. The dummy just left it in my room underneath my bed." It's a much more emotional moment in the Japanese sub. But yeah, this entire episode, I couldn't help....In previous podcast episodes, we talked about...cause you had specifically given, I think, a mini-moon moment to Luna in one of the rainbow crystal episodes where you had said her giving the stick to Usagi and having faith in her was kind of like a mini-moment. And we talked about how I didn't even think about it as a mini-moon moment because I just hated this whole fake "is Usagi ready to be the leader. Should someone else be the leader and have the moon stick" plot that the anime was trying to force feed us. And I was thinking: imagine a season of Sailor Moon, where this does come up. This question of "is she fit to be a leader?" And it's sort of bubbling through various episodes of, you know, the, the episode with the painter rainbow crystal carrier, where she just leaves them in battle to go chase after Zoisite and Tuxedo Mask leaving the girls to fight this monster on their own with no way to turn her back. These moments bubble up throughout the back half of the show and then to just have this episode, and for most of the episode, think that the Scouts have actually turned on Sailor Moon and then the twist at the end that it was all a ploy. That it was, in fact, it was Usagi's plan, "Oh, well, uh, let's just pretend that you guys are coming after me for the crystal and, you know, join up forces with them." It would have been so good, but I mean, this episode is still really good. I still like it a lot. Like, they reveal their hand very quickly with that chasing

Usagi and Rei kicking her in the butt and Usagi getting mad about it scene. And it's kind of a shame. I wish they had held onto it a bit more so you had this, "oh, what's actually going on." And, like I said, if we'd had this line throughout the back half of this season of "Is Usagi capable of being the leader?", It would have been awesome.

Gilcy (00:10:55):

So I know that like anime and shows, whenever they adapt things from manga or books, they sometimes reorder events. Do you think it would have been better if they had reordered that to go right before this episode?

Drucilla (00:11:09):

So do you mean the episode where they're questioning her leadership to immediately come before this one?

Gilcy (00:11:19):

Yeah, because that event, I think...

Drucilla (00:11:20):

I think it would have worked better if the episode where they questioned her leadership was a bit different. Because at the end of that episode, Luna kind of acquiesced that, you know, you did stand up for your friend and you did defeat the bad guy. And Mako is also there I think, and sees "oh, Usagi can handle herself. Uh, mostly." I think if that episode had ended with people less happy with Usagi and then it led into the episode of them trying to chase her down for the crystal, like this episode, I think it would have worked better. It would've made a bit more sense, I think.

Gilcy (00:12:06):

Because when I watched this first episode of the set and I was low key kind of confused in the beginning, cause I was like, "oh wait, did I miss something?" And then I thought, "oh, they're probably just training. Like, Luna is probably making them fight each other to, um, practice their powers and stuff." But then they were all arguing and then it finally clicked for me that they were trying to, like, argue amongst themselves and it's not just training. So I think your idea of having that, like that seed of doubt, um, and have it carry through would have been really great, especially since like us as viewers, we know what's going on in their lives, their fighting and their civilian form. And we already know that Usagi and Rei are not always on the best of terms and Rei can be very convincing when she wants to be. So I could, I could easily be persuaded into thinking maybe Rei has said something. That's like, "oh, maybe we should step back and consider if Usagi is a good fit for the role as leader." And yeah, I do wish that seed of doubt could have carried through and then it would have made more sense for them to all be arguing instead of being just thrown into the middle of it and then, oh, there's a jewelry heist. Um, because yeah, I was just, I was a little confused in the beginning for a hot sec.

Drucilla (00:13:32):

And I think it could have worked a lot more after you get the "oh wait, Tuxedo Mask is now evil" situation. Like, there's those episodes because first, you have Usagi just not really taking her leadership seriously and she's kind of a spazz, but then once he becomes evil, she loses focus so easily in a battle when he appears and that could have compounded the Senshi's frustration with her as a leader, the idea that, "Hey, we know that you love this guy and we're going to try everything we can to bring him

back, but right now there's an innocent person at stake and you know that if he was in his right mind, he would want us to save that innocent person." Actually, we don't know that because Tuxedo Kamen doesn't necessarily, I mean, he's a, you know, he's one of the good guys, so we'll assume that's what he would, but, I think her continuously...

Gilcy (00:14:45):

Just kind of like jumping in, even though there, the girls can be like, "oh, it's a trap. Like, let's think about it for a second." She still jumps in which I think we discussed in a previous episode, it's a positive trait for her, but it's very, I think it was that episode where there was the imposter Sailor Moon, where I think we actually gave her a moon moment because she was like, "I don't care who it is. Even if it is a trap, we have to save this person." But it turns out this is also her undoing because while she still wants to save someone, and granted she is blinded by love here, it's a weakness for her because she's not listening to anyone. She refuses to think in a coherent, kind of strategic way and she basically puts herself in endless danger.

Drucilla (00:15:38):

This episode, it was really good. Could have been better.

Gilcy (00:15:42):

Oh, there was a quote that I really liked. Um, I think when Rei kicked her and Usagi was like...something about "you made a crack in my butt, like you kicked me so hard, there's a crack now." Amazing, great, great line. But yeah, this, this episode was, it was really good.

Drucilla (00:16:05):

Although I don't know, if we give an honorary moon moment to that freelancers outfit. That's straight out of the 70s. Don't know what it was doing in...I love those pants, though. I had a pair of those pants.

Gilcy (00:16:20):

I wish I had a pair of those platforms, tbh.

Drucilla (00:16:22):

So I guess our history episode where we get...so we get backstory for the fall of the Moon Kingdom. And, uh, it's a pretty heavy-ish episode because the girls are trying to find the entrance to the Dark Kingdom. They get attacked by Kunzite. The silver crystal...because he says he's going to teleport them to, like, a chaos dimension. But the silver crystal seems to co-opt whatever he does and brings them to the moon where they can speak to Queen Serenity and the things that we see, like...It's funny considering the next two episodes and how brutal those will be. This fall of the Moon Kingdom is a lot more sanitized than I would think, like, it really fits in, I think, with the tone of the rest of the series where the Sailor Scouts are all taken out at once. It's not like heartbreaking at all. Like, it's just, they're just like, Metalia, just boom. You guys are gone and then Serenity and Endymion are just like sucked up and zapped and then they're dead. It's all very bloodless. Um, and, I don't know a good way to describe it, not at all what we are going to experience in the next two episodes. And it's, so I actually never thought about it until right this second, how just, how different this episode could have been if they went the way of how, what they did for the final episodes, but something that I am forever grateful for that they did change and I don't know if this was a, "we need to change this because it's too violent or we need to change this for cultural reasons." If someone could, if a listener could let us know, I'd really

appreciate it and also I will, I will put this in the description, trigger warning for suicide. Um, Usagi kills herself in the manga and in Crystal. So when Endymion dies, so he's protecting her and who we find out later is Beryl cuts him down. Usagi picks up his sword and stabs herself with it. And then fast forward to, she's trying to break the brainwashing spell on Endymion in, like, present day, she realizes that she can't and so she picks up his sword and slashes him with it. And it's very Buffy, like I said, in, was it our previous episode? So it is very Buffy season one, but she then turns the sword on herself and kills herself. And obviously I hate this, but they make this change in the original anime and I'm curious as to why, uh, you know, maybe the sponsors didn't want it to be like this or, I don't know, this episode is a lot less bloody than it could have been because of the source material, but also because of the episode itself. That was a very long rambling...I didn't have a point to any of that. I just, like, I liked that we finally learned stuff fun about this.

Gilcy (00:19:58):

It sounds very much like Romeo and Juliet with the losing a loved one and then following said lost love.

Drucilla (00:20:05):

Which I wouldn't be surprised if that's where Takeuchi got her inspiration from because she...I can't remember. I'm sure I'm misremembering this, but it was something like she was writing a romance that just happened to have, like, magical girl aspects. That's the way she described it. Whereas the anime is more magical girl aspect show that just happens to have romance in it. Like everything is much more romanticized in the manga than in the anime. I will say we were just talking about how the whole "Usagi is the leader, and we're going to give her the moon stick and the moon stick signifies the leader"...in this episode, I believe it's Queen Serenity says only someone of royal blood can wield the moon stick. And the cats are, as far as we understand, the cats are not reincarnated. It opens like, he's thought it was just all just like a little tiny plot hole. No, it's like a huge gaping Grand Canyon kind of plot hole. Because if the cats aren't reincarnated, they should remember everything from the Moon Kingdom. And if you argue that maybe the girls don't look like their past selves and that's why Luna and Artemis don't necessarily recognize them...

Gilcy (00:21:28):

No, they look exactly the same.

Drucilla (00:21:28):

Well, I mean, you could argue that it's more...Like, what Queen Serenity shows them. It's kind of putting their current, like, faces on to make it easier for them to understand. Or a lot of what I think shows and movies, dealing with reincarnation try to do is, or when it shows people, like, in a past life, they might use the same actors to prevent confusion, but they say, "oh, I recognize your soul and so you just look the same to me." So, but I, I don't understand like why "oh, Sailor Moon can wield the moon stick. That's weird. You know, I thought only someone of royal blood...And also there apparently has never been a Sailor Moon before. Why is there a Sailor Moon now?" And I'm nitpicking. The show obviously had no idea how this was all going to play out. Um, the only other thing I have for this episode is when Kunzite is dying, he says, "You won't make me yell "Refresh."" It blew me away when he said that because it's, like, such a meta, not a joke, but it's such a meta reference. Cause I never got it as being, I don't know...I just thought it was an involuntary thing that the villains said when they got cleansed. It was, it was a great line. And then he calls out for Zoisite.

Gilcy (00:23:03):

Yah! I was going to bring that up. So he's calling out for his lost love for you. I'm going to join you. I'm coming for you. This is, this is all I need. This is all the confirmation I needed. We knew that he had feelings for Zoisite, but we didn't know, know, but now we know know because, uh, yeah, my, my heart was just, sorry.

Drucilla (00:23:25):

Well, if that's those two episodes. Before we get into these two episodes, give me your overall just, like, not moon moment related stuff, just your overall feelings, your thoughts, uh, just, uh, when you watch these two episodes, which had you seen them before?

Gilcy (00:23:51):

Not since I was young, young, so this has been the first time I've watched it since I was like 10 or whatever. I mean, watching it usually, I guess whenever people usually think of animation or cartoons, quote unquote, they don't really think of it as something that can hold very heavy themes or it's just something that's very lighthearted, something that's for children. Um, which you're all wrong. It's, um, because I think we've definitely proved time and time again, not just in this podcast, but, and other animation media, like, animation is able to carry out and have these really heavy themes and just have it hold a very heavy significance. And with these two episodes, I mean, I already told Drucilla that I was, I was crying. Like, we both said that we were crying throughout these. And it was just like, you get the girls and they're all basically newish friends because they've, I'm guessing it's around, like, the same school year. It's been a school year or, like, a school year and a half, but they've all gotten really close in a short amount of time. And then you get all this, like, backstory of, "oh, they were friends in a previous life and not only were they friends, but they were also fighting with each other" and you get, you get this in these two episodes where that kind of prevailing friendship throughout their reincarnated lives and throughout from this life to the next. Not to quote Avatar the Last Airbender, but there was a scene where Toph was asking Aang if he thought that they would still be friends in his next reincarnation and Aang was saying, "yes, I think our friendship is powerful enough and strong enough that we will be able to be friends and recognize each other in my next life." And that just, that really carried out through me for these girls. And this is such a powerful thing. They don't really remember, but they, they know that like, they're just kind of meant to be, I guess, a soulmate AU, but friends. But yeah, I think this is just the long version of me saying that I had chills throughout these, both of these episodes and it's just, it was just very, very touching. And my 27-year-old self is still quaking as much as I'm sure my younger ten-year-old self was, but even more so because it holds more of a significance, I guess, since it's so hard to stay in contact with friends, the older you get.

Drucilla (00:26:32):

It's so crazy that you bring up the mature animation aspect of it cause I was going to say the exact same thing. You know, team hive mind. As I was watching this, I couldn't help but think that the previous 44 episodes do not prepare you for these last two. Nothing comes close, not even Nephrite's death. You know, it, the entire show is basically, "hi! I'm Usagi Tsukino. I'm 14 years old and a bit of a cry baby. And all my friends are going to die for me." [laughs] The show does not prepare you for what is going to happen in these final two episodes and I was thinking about cartoons as I was growing up, but obviously anime is a completely different beast because in Japan animation is not limited to quote unquote for children like it is in the West and you know, today we are incredibly blessed, not only kids, but adults like me and Gilcy who enjoy watching cartoons. We're blessed with shows like Steven Universe and Owl

House and Avatar the Last Airbender. These shows that don't talk down to kids. That really say here's some emotional candy to chew on, I guess? That's a horrible metaphor I'm going to cut that, but you know, they don't talk down to kids. Whereas when I was growing up in the nineties, you know, I've watched shows like Rugrats and Hey Arnold which did have some kind of mature episodes. Uh, and I mean, shout out to anyone who remembers the show SWAT Kats. And then like, as I got older stuff like Codename: Kids Next Door and Kim Possible, like these shows, I wouldn't say were dark by any means or had super mature themes. But today we're blessed with shows that are not afraid to go into that territory because they trust that their audience can handle it and with Sailor Moon, it's just so crazy that this is what the show ends on. And it doesn't feel...normally when you have a show or a movie or a book or whatever that shifts tone so wildly as this, it's a disaster because it comes out of nowhere and it's very hard to follow or whatever, but it fits here. It makes sense. And maybe they could have set things up better throughout the show, but for the most part, they stuck the landing. And I can't think of another show that is like this. That for the entirety of the season is fun and light and bubble gummy and then the last few episodes, everything just gets real. The closest I could think of would be if you had a season of Miraculous Ladybug that was the normal fun, slightly ridiculous show that we all love and then the season finale, which is always a two-parter, everyone dies including Cat Noir and Ladybug has to fight the big bad on her own. Like, that is the equivalent. I mean, it was basically what happens in Sailor Moon. And I don't think we see this stuff nowadays. Shows either start off all, all like sunshines and rainbows, and that's what you expect throughout. Or you get stuff like She-Ra, who they knew exactly what they wanted to do going in and they built to it and they stuck the landing at the end.

Gilcy (00:30:27):

I'm thinking of, um, have you ever seen Star vs the Forces of Evil.

Drucilla (00:30:33):

No, but I have heard about it.

Gilcy (00:30:33):

It's really good. You should check it out, but it does start off as like very bubble gummy, very, "oh, I'm princess, I'm Star from a different dimension and I'm here to learn about Earth things" and does start off as her being very air-headed, kind of happy-go-lucky but then there's the last few episodes, they're just like, wait a minute. There's something sinister going on here. Um, but if you haven't seen it, check it out. Cause it's, it's a very magical girl-esque. I think the creator pull inspiration from Sailor Moon because she does have a transformation sequence. Shows now, especially in the animation front, and in the, in Western media, I think have been starting to realize that their audience doesn't just encapsulate younger children. I think if you've ever seen Infinity Train, they really delve into mental health and talking about the negative, like darker quote effects of it. And I think it's really interesting how, as we've progressed as a society, we've started to be more, I guess, trusting of the younger generations and what kind of truths they have to endure, and it's kind of like, maybe we're low key preparing them for what's to come. The way that Sailor Moon did it, I was just, I was just not prepared. Like, I know you texted me that you were crying, but I was like, I know I'm going to cry, but I didn't know to what extent.

Drucilla (00:32:11):

And it's just...each one, it's just, it starts out so brutal because Usagi's making food for her family and she's making it because she doesn't know if she's going to come back and so she wants to leave this one, you know, happy memory with her family. And, uh, it, it, oh my God, it starts out like that.

Gilcy (00:32:39):

Um, and you think, or at least when I was watching it, I was like, oh, that's weird Usagi is trying to make a meal for a family. And then you cut to the shrine scene where she's asking Rei, if she's kissed, Youchiro and you get the, oh, she that's her last meal. Like, that's why she made it. I that's just like you think, oh, fun and games. And then it's like, boom, darker side.

Drucilla (00:33:05):

And it gets even darker if you think about what would have happened if they hadn't been reincarnated at the end. If they had defeated Beryl, but they just were all dead in the Arctic circle. Mako lives alone so it would be a long time before anyone, maybe the school would reach out and try to figure out why their student was missing. I don't know how schools work in Japan. Um, but obviously Usagi and Rei's families would immediately call 911 missing, missing child alert Amber alert and I assume Ami would, Ami's mom would do the same. And we don't really know much about Minako's situation, but yeah, these girls just, they saved the world and no one ever knows. Their family doesn't know why they're gone. They don't know what happened to them. All they have are these two cats left and that's it.

Gilcy (00:34:06):

It's like they all of a sudden start talking and then they're like questioning their own sanity, like, wait a minute. Am I going crazy? Because my daughter just died. Is this real?

Drucilla (00:34:16):

You're right. I didn't even think about that. I don't know if Luna and Artemis would, would they just sort of leave the families and go off on their own or would they try to give some closure to the family? I don't know.

Gilcy (00:34:36):

Um, thankfully we don't have to think about that.

Drucilla (00:34:40):

Yeah! Although Takeuchi did try to kill them off, but her editor said, no, don't do that in parentheses. We're making a lot of money. Don't just kill them off. The thing about this...is your moon moment in that first episode or second episode?

Gilcy (00:35:00):

It's kind of like overarching.

Drucilla (00:35:04):

Oh, okay. Go ahead and talk about your moon moment, first. Let's actually talk about a moon moment on Moon Moment.

Gilcy (00:35:11):

So my moon moment is, I feel like it's going to be like super obvious, but it's going to be Usagi getting up and continuing to fight even after witnessing all of her friends and her love's death. I, I know that we're going to make the argument of this is this is duty versus, um, being, like, a human being. But my argument for that is that, yes, this is duty, but this is also kind of the first and in their quote, like in her

mind, like last battle and she was preparing for this even before they stepped onto that battlefield for this to be her last kind of thing. Like she had that with her family. She had that like last meal, she made that and she was making sure that the girls were able to kind of resolve any unresolved issues, like her asking Rei if she kissed Yuichiro yet and then they went around and Mako was like, "oh, I want to like, I'm going to come back and I'm going to experience my first love and experience all this love." And then Ami is like, "oh, I would love to like all of that." But she goes into it thinking this is going to be my last thing. And she, yes, she does it out of duty and she fights out of duty, but she's also doing it because she wants to protect her family. Otherwise she wouldn't have made that meal. She's been begging throughout the whole thing like, "please, I just want to give the silver crystal up. Like, I don't want anyone else to die. I don't want anyone else to suffer because of this silver crystal. Like, let's just give it to them." And she was just very willing to do what...to give that up in order to keep her friends alive. Um, and they keep dying in front of her and it has to suck. Right? It has to suck that you're seeing your close friends die and you're seeing them like, basically say their last words, like, "oh, don't worry. Just give me two minutes. I'll be back. Of course, I'm going to be okay, I'll be fine. Just go, I'll catch up with you later." And she knows, right? She knows when they die. She has, like, has this like feeling or something cause they're connected and it just keeps breaking her. And she keeps wanting to be, "just let me give them the silver crystal." And that's why I think this is duty, but this is also like "I got it. Like I care for my friends. I will, I will give this up for my friends" and the fact that she just keeps fighting, even though she's broken and has basically just been begging her friends to just let, just give, like, let her give the silver crystal. It just, I think that is a moon moment that she just keeps going.

Drucilla (00:38:00):

Um, I really want to give it to you because I want these episodes to have some sort of moon moment, but the fact that she does try...I'm fine with her trying to offer the silver crystal in exchange for her friends lives because they know that on some level, Usagi knows that something bad may happen, that's why she makes food for her family and why she's tells Rei that she should've kissed Yuichiro, but she's not prepared to see it happen directly in front of her. I think maybe in her mind, she's like, if something bad is going to happen, it's going to happen while we're fighting Berryl and we'll be together. I don't think she was prepared for her friends to get taken out one by one in front of her, especially since they're sort of protecting her. So I'm not ragging on Usagi because she tried to give the crystal up, but I think where the argument sort of breaks down...I actually did not like the scene where she's, after Mars has died and she's sitting there by herself and her friends ghosts have to come and, like, give her a pep talk. And I think this is what makes me, I did not like the scene. And I think it's what,

Gilcy (00:39:23):

Were they ghosts? Because I thought they were, it was her thinking about her friends and thinking, this is what they would say.

Drucilla (00:39:29):

I kind of assumed they were ghosts especially since in the final battle, they appear and lend their power to her. And so I assumed that they were kind of ghosts. Maybe I'm wrong. If they aren't ghost, if it is just Usagi's imagination, then maybe I'm more comfortable with the scene because, I've said it a lot throughout the season, I wish Sailor Moon just had a bit more, I don't know, agency. I'm fine with her sitting on an ice sheet, grieving her friends, but I wish it was, she was pulling from herself in order to get herself to stand up and to continue on. And if those are the ghosts of her friends telling her that she needs to get up and move on, then it's not as strong as... I'd be okay with it if it's really her imagination, these are what my friends would say to me and so that does pick her up and get her going. But there is a

line in the second episode that I think Beryl says something like your friends died for nothing. And, Sailor Moon kind of has this moment of, "okay, I'm done with this" and I think that's when she blasts Tuxedo Kamen with her tiara and I wish that kind of moment, um, had been, I don't know. I mean, I don't want it to seem like a raining on your moon moment parade because I really do want to give this a moon moment. I just think Usagi doesn't take a lot of the steps herself. It's people pushing her to take those steps. And the problem with once Mamoru dies and she has that amazing moment where she says, "I can't kiss you because my friends weren't able to kiss the boys they love" and then she stands up and goes after Beryl, but at that point it's, she doesn't have anything left to lose. You know, her friends are gone. The guy she loves is gone, yes, there's the world and the cats and her family. But at this point, there's no one beside her that can be taken away from her so she finally has the mentality of "well, this is it. Now I'm, I have to go take care of this." So I think that's why I'm not a hundred percent sold on your moon moment.

Gilcy (00:42:08):

So if they were not ghosts, if it was just Usagi thinking of her friends and thinking of what they would say in that moment would that sway you? Cause this would be coming from Usagi.

Drucilla (00:42:21):

I think so. If it was Usagi imagining what the girls would be saying to her in that moment, I could maybe let it slide.

Gilcy (00:42:41):

It's like pulling teeth from you!

Drucilla (00:42:41):

It just...because then I could argue that it is: sometimes you get to an incredibly terrible place in your life and you think that you can't go on anymore, but something, whether it's yourself or another person or a fabulous animated TV show from 1992, it gives you the strength to keep going even when you were at the lowest of the low, it is complete darkness. You cannot see a way out. Being able to take a step forward is...being able to find something that helps you take a step forward is incredibly powerful and I would say, yes, that is a moon moment. So I guess it hinges on whether we think this is the spirits. Cause if it's the spirits of the Scouts, then absolutely no way. Usagi needs to take the step on her own for it to be a moon moment. If it's just her imagining what the Scouts would say, then I think, yes, I would consider this a moon moment. And interestingly, when the Scouts surround her at the end and combine their powers with hers, it's interesting because she sees images of the girls and it's, it's almost like she's summoning them to her because she's thinking about their friendship.

Gilcy (00:44:13):

See that's what I was thinking too, there's that weird flashback, I guess you could call it? And I was thinking that this was not so much the ghosts of the girls coming back, but more of it like, in memory of them and because she is remembering them and all their good times together, that is what is giving her strength and the power to do it.

Drucilla (00:44:33):

I actually kind of liked the idea that when she's sitting on that cliff, it is just her imagination, it is not the spirits of the girls. And then when she's in that moment and she needs more power in order to defeat

Beryl and she's using her feelings of friendship...I like the idea that she, she is so powerful. She's literally dragging, okay, that sounds bad. She is literally pulling their spirits from wherever because I'm sure they're watching this happen. You know, I'm sure they're above her, watching this happen, but she is her love and her friendship. And I guess the power of the crystal is just so strong that it is saying, "Hey girls, I need your help. One last time."

Gilcy (00:45:22):

Who's to say that, do we know what the extent of her powers are with the silver crystal? Because if we draw from that idea that she might be like pulling the spirits of the girls towards her, could it be that it's also kind of unlocked another power because of the crystal?

Drucilla (00:45:41):

The silver crystal's powers are never fully explained because then it wouldn't be able to be an all power MacGuffin that Takeuchi can use it to do everything. Um, I mean, we see Queen Serenity...

Gilcy (00:45:54):

Cause it can do so much, like resurrecting. A bunch of girls would not be far off from being like all, all encompassing power.

Drucilla (00:46:03):

I think the key is something in, I don't think it's in the anime, but I think it's in the manga. They say the key to using the crystal is, it's like your heart's wish, like it uses what's in your heart to, in order to do whatever it is to do. And I mean, it takes all of your energy. You know, depending on what you're doing, it could kill you. And I think, um, with Queen Serenity, she wanted to make sure that everyone had a chance to live their life. So she sent them to a future on Earth where they would be reborn, hopefully happily, normally, but the power ultimately, you know, in, in doing that, it killed her. I think Usagi at the end of this first season gets incredibly lucky because she, she uses the crystal, Beryl was dead, Usagi in her last moments before the effort of using the crystal kills her, she says, basically, I wish everything could go back to the way it was. I wish all of us could just be normal girls again. And since that is something she's wishing with her last moments and because of the crystal is still like, I assume, like pulling energy from her to cleanse the world. It uses this wish of hers and that's why the girls get reset. I don't think it's a good gets rewarded or the crystal is inherently good and so it's making sure that its user and her friends are, you know, everything is okay. I think Usagi got incredibly F-ing lucky in this moment and that's why all of them are reincarnated at the end. Also, Takeuchi's editor was like, don't kill everyone. So, I mean, that's my personal opinion. I think going forward, it'll be interesting to see how the crystal is used in especially final battles for the rest of the seasons. But yeah, I think that is my opinion. I think she just got very lucky.

Gilcy (00:48:26):

I don't know why, like the last, the ending of this first season, when they were saying that everyone is reincarnated, it kind of felt like a cop-out? I get from the production standpoint that her editor didn't want to Takeuchi to just kill them all off so this seemed like a very good compromise, I guess, plot wise, it kind of mirrors what Queen Serenity was trying to do with reincarnating the girls, but it felt like a cop-out just because we didn't really see, there was no like little in-between of, "oh my gosh, the girls are, all of them are gone. The earth is about to perish, um, and is in those ruins." And I kind of wish there was

just that maybe five minute just peek into what a world would have been like if the Moon Kingdom was gone, was like defeated, but all of this destruction is there.

Drucilla (00:49:25):

The Dark Kingdom, you mean?

Gilcy (00:49:27):

Yes, the dark kingdom. Cause I think that would have made a little more of an impact once we find out that they are reincarnated. And also the fact that they forgot the whole thing. Yeah. It just feels like a bit of a cop-out. I kind of wished there was just a little, little bit more.

Drucilla (00:49:45):

As much as I am, I'm so happy that we get four more seasons and we have a lot more time with the girls and everything, at the same time, if this series had ended either with them all dying at the Arctic site, defeating Beryl, but all dying at the Arctic circle and that was it. Tragically, the heroes sacrifice themselves and they saved the world. But no one ever knows who they are or why and their family's never get any closure.

Gilcy (00:50:09):

Yeah! I wish there was like that little bit, you know, I feel like it would've held more weight. "Oh, like evil is defeated. Earth is okay. Oh, I wonder what happened". The family kind of goes throughout their day, not knowing that these girls sacrifice their lives.

Drucilla (00:50:27):

Yeah. I, I would've been okay with an ending like that or I would have been okay with the ending, just the end of the first season. They saved the world and they, I don't know, got rewarded. They're reincarnated after dying, but they don't remember anything and so they'll go on with the rest of their lives, without that knowledge. Maybe they'll meet each other again, like Artemis says and they'll become friends or maybe they won't because they, most of them go to different schools. So maybe they just they never meet and they never know about this bond and what they did together. Like that would be also a "what an ending." And I can just imagine a, I imagine like a Drucilla from an alternate universe that has, like, only had one season of Sailor Moon and had one of these endings and her hating me. Cause like "you get five whole seasons of Sailor Moon. Are you crazy? Like, I would have loved to have had five seasons of Sailor Moon." Sorry alternate universe Drucilla.

Gilcy (00:51:28):

Alternate reality Gilcy is probably like, "what are you talking about? Like stop, you already don't have another season of Noragami. Now you want to take Sailor Moon away from me too? Like when does this nightmare end?" But I don't know. I just feel like it would have weighed, it would have hit different to put it, to put it lightly. It would have hit

Drucilla (00:51:50):

If there had been that "wait...is this it" moment. Is this how we're really going to end things? And I agree. At the same time, I don't know how they would have done that because as the crystal's doing its thing, it's incorporating this stuff. So I don't know how you'd have this free time period where we have

like the horror, horrible alternate reality of, not horrible, but the alternate reality of the girls just being Big Damn Heroes and no one ever knowing. I'm on board with your, what you would have liked to have seen. I don't know how they would've made it.

Gilcy (00:52:27):

Yeah without, like, knowing that they would have a second season.

Drucilla (00:52:31):

Oh, I see what you're saying! So I thought you meant having this time of, "well, this is it. The girls are dead and that's that." I thought you were also incorporating the end where they are reincarnated.

Gilcy (00:52:44):

No, no.

Drucilla (00:52:45):

I see what you're saying now, having the final battle and then having the last five minutes, 10 minutes of the show, just being life without the girls and then the second season, I see what you're saying now. Now I am more onboard with it. I am now more on board with it. Because then you could have started, I mean, obviously this is rewriting huge chunks of the show, but you could have the second seasons starts with Uranus and Neptune...

Gilcy (00:53:20):

You could literally have it start the same time. Oh, I was going to say the same exact way that the first episode of the first season started.

Drucilla (00:53:30):

Oh yeah, I like that!!!

Gilcy (00:53:30):

Right?! They could have done just a little bit, and I know past me would have hated me for this, if not knowing if there was a second season, but that would have been such a good endpoint and then picking it up. Right, like full circle, kind of.

Drucilla (00:53:47):

Yeah. Like having, you know, you start the second season and you're in this Tsukino house and alarm's going off. Oh my God. Usagi's alive?! Like, how did she get there?

Gilcy (00:53:59):

Yeah. And then she's like, "oh, I'm Usagi Tsukino, etc..."

Drucilla (00:54:03):

Yeah. I really liked that now and having her go to school and be friends with Naru and then seeing Ami in the background, but she's not friends with Ami.

Gilcy (00:54:13):

As she's running to class, I don't know there was a shot of Jupiter. You just see them, but they don't interact. Like you just see them in the background.

Drucilla (00:54:22):

Yeah and Luna isn't there. She's more like, if you see her, she's sort of watching over, Usagi. Yeah. I mean, now I'm really digging this and I guess a few things that I just want to highlight from these episodes: Mako takes out two of the DD girls and Ami doesn't take out any of them, but she is so tactical in how she approaches it. I wished we could have seen more of this throughout the show. She tells Mars and Venus to go on ahead because they have more firepower than she does and she stops the first attack of the DD girls, and then doing something that no one else on the team can do, uses her bubble spray on herself in order to protect her from their second attack. And then using her computer, which is kind of the symbol of her intelligence, she breaks the gem to prevent them from using these attacks on her friends. And, and it's just Ami.

Gilcy (00:55:45):

She's so smart.

Drucilla (00:55:47):

I think Ami can often get lost because she's the quietest among the girls, but there are moments where she shines and this is one of them. This whole scene, it works so much better in the Japanese version than the DiC version because they just strip away a lot of the tactical stuff that she does. And it's just, it's just amazing. And the fact that the Venus saves Usagi. And I mean, in my opinion, it's her reaction time cause she's been a scout longer than anyone. So I think that's her previous battle experience and the fact that she's had a longer time doing this, that's why she's able to save Usagi because she's able to react, because, in theory, Rei is also looking at Usagi when this is happening. I mean, it's not, I did check to try and confirm this. I, I guess you could argue that because Rei was also tearing up when she was telling Usagi "we have to keep going." I could see if maybe she's not looking at Usagi and she's trying to remain kind of stoic or maybe not let Usagi that she's also tearing up. And so she doesn't see the attack coming up from underneath. But I like to imagine that they're both looking at Usagi, but Venus just has a much faster reaction. Because we also see it in her episode, her backstory episode, because she's standing by herself next to the bay and she's thinking about all of this stuff and she's so sad and then she sees a butterfly, I think, float by. And she's like, "huh, this is not the season for butterflies." And then immediately kicks into kickass Venus mode and she dodges an attack immediately. I think it's her reaction that saves Usagi at that point and I wish she got more of a scene, but I think the scene that she has is very telling and she also blasts a monster point blank range with her crescent beam.

Gilcy (00:58:06):

Which was badass.

Drucilla (00:58:09):

But if I had to give a, a gold star to a fight or, you know, an attack, it would have to be Rei's because she nails the monster that's coming for Usagi. And then even though the DD girl has written her off as being beaten, she just grabs her and puts everything she has into one final attack.

Gilcy (00:58:38):

Yeah. Oh my gosh. Like I have, I don't know if you can see my hairs just like standing on it. It's like, oh, that whole scene just gave me chills. Every time the girls were just about to die, they gave it their one last like, and the way that each of them carried out their last hoorah was so telling of each of the girls strengths and like personalities. Like, we talked with Ami how she was very tactical with it. And then with Rei, I could say that she she's just so cocky and so brusque, like even through the end, she is still like, "I'm going to do it. This is, this is what I'm going to do. And I'm going to defeat you no matter what." And then with Makoto, she's very, she's had like the training beforehand, right? And so she's able to do that point blank range, the perception that she's...

Drucilla (00:59:34):

Minako

Gilcy (00:59:36):

Minako yes, yes. With the position that she's like garner and through her experience with fighting. And then there's Mako, she's very, like, physically like strength, power. And so her last hurrah was kind of whole, like, thunderbolt show of strength kind of thing. Yeah. I just thought it was really cool.

Drucilla (00:59:58):

Yeah. And we also never see anything like this again, I don't think. Even in final battles to come. like the closest I think we get is maybe Stars because I think with Stars it's four episodes of the Scouts dying, but you don't see anything like this really. I think in the Sailor Moon R movie, maybe? You kind of have this sense of the Scouts falling one by one, but I don't think anything really comes close to what we have here. I think if you have someone who says that they don't want to watch Sailor Moon because there's a lot of filler or it's too repetitive or its main character is annoying and it's just so bubblegum pop kind of thing. First, smack them for me and then second make them watch these last two episodes. Usagi as a character has a lot to do with Sailor Moon's mainstay, but I think these last two episodes put the Sailor Moon anime on the map.

Gilcy (01:01:14):

So one of my friends, she, I was telling her about this podcast and she's never seen Sailor Moon. And so I was telling her how there are different versions of it. I told her about how the DiC is a little more kid...what's the...a little more kid-friendly but more, it kind of reminds me of Ghost Stories with how ridiculous it is with its dub. So I was like, I mean, if you, so I was like, if you'd like Ghost Stories and you like that kind of ridiculous feel of it or go for the DiC dub, but if you want something that's closer to the manga, like Crystal and then I was like running her through it. But so there are options is what I'm trying to say. Yeah.

Drucilla (01:01:53):

And I respect that Crystal stayed closer to the manga. That said, maybe this is a hot take: The reason people love Sailor Moon is not the manga. The reason people love Sailor Moon is the anime. And I mean, I feel like this is a wrap-up kind of conversation so I may just like put a pin in it for then. But when I finished watching Crystal for this, this re-watch, cause I've said, you know, I'm reading the manga and I'm watching Crystal. I felt drained in a bad way because of what Usagi does, because of the way it ends. I mean, the world is still saved. It's fine. I don't think the girls die in the manga, but I still felt drained and kind of icky with how it ended. I...watching these two episodes, I felt destroyed, but in a good way. Sometimes you can watch something or read something and it just be so depressing and devastating

that you just don't enjoy it and then sometimes you can watch something and it'd be so depressing and devastating, but you feel so good because it was done so well. It didn't feel cheap. It didn't feel poorly written. It felt appropriate to what is happening. I had some other things to talk about, but I feel like that's, I mean, maybe I'll mention them in the wrap up, but I just, it feels weird to talk about them now.

Gilcy (01:03:32):

So is that, is that what's going to do it for our last season one episode?

Drucilla (01:03:39):

I think so. Yeah. That's a wrap, I guess.

Gilcy (01:03:45):

We will actually be back for another episode, which is going to be, we've been alluding to it this whole episode, but our we're going to talk about a recap episode where we're just going to go through what our thoughts were on the show, how, how our views have changed since watching it from, we were younger to now and just like anything that we didn't get to bring up in the, in the other episodes that we either didn't have time for, or we just wanted to discuss a little further, but no, I know you all will miss us tre-moon-dously, but fear not sailor simps, we will be back. Don't forget to check out our social media on Twitter and Instagram @moonmomentpod. And we also have a website@moonmomentpodcast.com. There you will find our show notes and transcripts for every episode.

Drucilla (01:04:42):

And definitely let us know what your moon moment musings are, particularly for our wrap-up episode. Send us your thoughts via Twitter, through the contact us page on our website. Moments that we missed and moments that you agreed with. If you have questions for us concerning why we decided one thing is a moon moment and why one thing isn't, are you going to yell at me for not having any moon moments in these episodes? Let us know. We'll talk about it in our wrap-up episode. And of course, if you'd like to support the podcast, please rate, review, share. And of course subscribe, you know, it really helps Moon Moment stay afloat amidst the vast ocean of podcasts. I'm Drucilla.

Gilcy (01:05:30):

I'm Gilcy. We'll see you moon!

Both (01:05:34):

Bye!

Outro (01:05:41):

[Outro]