

File 12 p. 117 • Fans of American Series

“When I watch *This Is Us*, I know I’m going to learn something more about myself and my family.”

“It’s these powerful moments that are just real, they feel very real!”

“The show is bringing people together in ways that I don’t think any show ever has.”

This Is Us Official Promo “Stars Surprise Fans”, 2017

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We identify with Barb because she was REAL.

Just as unexpected as *Stranger Things*’ surging popularity is the way Barb Holland touched the viewers. Barb was a relatively minor character, but the impact she had was major. Netflix dubbed her an American hero, and one fan has even painted a mural in her honor.

Adapted from Liv McConnell, www.revelist.com, 2016

File 12 p. 118 • How access to more movies and TV shows might improve relationships

When Julie Spira first started seeing her athlete boyfriend, he was confined to bed following a knee replacement, and they were saved by *Breaking Bad*. Spira had never seen the hit series, but her boyfriend was hooked¹. Given there wasn't much the pair could do together while he spent weeks convalescing, they did what many modern couples do: they binge-watched.

"Some days we'd watch five episodes. It became part of his recovery²," Spira said. "We created a new memory together. We still talk about the time we spent watching that show while he was recovering."

Spira isn't alone. A new survey from media company Xfinity found that 66 percent of couples said that they felt watching TV together strengthened their relationship. Just as past generations attended dances or stuck to the old standby³ of "dinner and a movie," younger couples like to connect over an endless supply of popular shows on services like Netflix.

Chandra Johnson, www.deseretnews.com, 2016

1. addicted **2.** guérison **3.** en option

Cameron never watched the television anymore. Everything that she wanted to watch was available to stream online on her laptop through sites such as Netflix or Hulu. She became accustomed to¹ watching different episodes on the vast collection of shows on the Netflix database. When she wasn't in the mood for *Orange is the New Black* or *Gossip Girl*, she would top it off with independent, cerebral movies that were recommended to her on Hulu. Cameron decided that the only way she could properly watch a television series nowadays was to binge on an entire season in one afternoon with a hot cup of tea and a jelly donut. Cameron was about to give herself a lazy afternoon in bed with her laptop, mug of Lipton tea, and Krispy Kreme Jelly donut special, sulking² in the sad fury of her current unemployed status when Mr de la Cruz called her from the living-room.

“Cameron, look.”

Cameron's father was watching WABC³, as he did every morning.

Kelly Ann Gonzales, *Video Games*, 2014

1. *habituée à* 2. be bad-tempered 3. a TV channel

File 12 p. 119 • Binge-watching

Teenagers, adults, beware!

28% have lost sleep binge-watching their fav shows.

22% admit to not getting dressed when watching.

3% call in sick when binge-watching to watch even more!

File 12 p. 121 • British Breaking Bad fan gets Heisenberg arm tattoo in tribute

This Brit is just mad about *Breaking Bad*. So mad, in fact, that he got the image of Walter White's criminal alter-ego Heisenberg tattooed across his entire arm. John Edgerton, from Stockport, central England, said he was "devastated" when the hit show finished last month—and wanted to pay tribute¹ to its "incredible" cast of characters. "It took over my life, I watched the first two seasons in three days," he told the *Daily News*. "It was constant, I was hooked on it and I was addicted. I watched the ending with my partner Danielle, and if she hadn't been there I'd have probably shed a tear²," he added. "It was like someone close to me had died."

dailynews.com, 2016

1. homage **2.** cry

File 12 p. 122 • The Good Doctor

The Good Doctor is not the next *Grey's Anatomy*. It's so much better.

The show centers around Dr. Shaun Murphy, an autistic young doctor with savant syndrome. Expertly played by Freddie Highmore, Dr. Murphy is a brilliant physician with an incredible gift to see the hidden detail in every image, the teeny blip of sound in every heartbeat. On paper, any hospital would fight to have him on their surgical team. But for one thing. That pesky¹ autism diagnosis.

themighty.com, 2018

David Shore, producer

"I'm surprised and heartened by its success. This is a character networks would have been afraid to put on the air not that long ago. They would have thought that viewers couldn't empathize with him."

Viewer

"The show's writers manage to capture key characteristics true of so many with autism. They are often misunderstood and left aside because of their perceived lack of emotion, their poor social skills, and highly concrete way of thinking."

Freddie Highmore, main actor

"What we are trying to do is moving away from perhaps the stereotypical versions of people with autism that have been shown on television and in certain movies in the past. The number one misconception about autistic people in previous depictions is that they are somehow devoid of² emotion – and of course, that's complete nonsense."

1. annoying **2.** without

File 12 p. 127 • Don't watch Game of Thrones? Mondays at the office can get pretty annoying

Caroline Malaby works in Reston, Virginia, for an IT company. Many of her co-workers are die-hard¹ Redskins² fans and often talk about the team at the office. But that doesn't bother Malaby – she follows the Redskins herself. What she can't stand is the nonstop chatter about a certain fantasy show.

“Every Monday morning they come in and they're like, ‘Oh my God, did you see whatever?’ ‘She's come back.’ ‘I can't believe he died,’” Malaby says. “I just smile and nod.”

Game of Thrones has become the office obsession. Some of her colleagues watch the show when it airs Sunday night and again Monday, to make sure they haven't missed any plot points. During slow meetings, they send emails scheduling watch parties. Some of Malaby's officemates even go to the *Game of Thrones*-themed pop-up bar in Shaw after work. She never goes with them. She has a friend of a friend who once called in sick to catch up on the show.

“I think I watched the opening credits and I saw a dragon and I was like, ‘Nope,’” she says.

One advantage the non-watchers might have: more time to get work done.

Adapted from Maia Silber, *washingtonpost.com*, 2017

- 1.** very enthusiastic **2.** the Washington D.C. football team