

Bones, Chalk and Cheese

The pilot of the series *Bones*, from 2005, is a clear example of two characters who not only have distinctive voices, but are from different metaphorical planets. The show proved to be extremely successful and durable for Fox; it ran for twelve seasons, ending in 2017. When Booth (David Boreanaz) and Brennan (Emily Deschanel) talk to each other, it's clear that one is from Mars and the other from Venus—but the stereotypical roles have been reversed. Brennan is scientific and technical; she has no idea about anything to do with pop culture at all. He's exactly the opposite.

I remember watching the excellent pilot (written by Hart Hanson, the showrunner) and noticing that whenever anybody says something that has any reference to pop culture, Brennan says, "I don't know what that means." It's a brilliant, deadpan catch phrase, and what's fun about it is that she really doesn't. She is so hyper-focused on being a forensic anthropologist that it's all she really knows. She's not connected to her emotional life and doesn't understand humor—there's an element of her that's almost autistic. She lives in the world yet doesn't really notice and participate in slang and cultural references as most of us tend to do. So Brennan's distinctive voice is out of step and out of time.

Brennan and Booth are also out of step with *each other*—although she doesn't understand pop culture, he does. He's street smart and has a lot of bravado and swagger, and she's restrained, scientific and kind of emotionally shut down. They play in counterpart to each other, and it's fun to watch their exchanges.