Contents

Mars Investigations’ Philosophical Case Files

Acknowledgments

Introduction: The PI and the Philosophers


1 Getting Past the Velvet Ropes: Status Anxiety in Neptune
   William Irwin

2 “That’s Really Criminal of You”: Why It May Be Okay for Veronica Mars to Break the Law
   Paul Hammond

3 “Got Any Enemies You Know About?” … “Well, There’s the Klan”: Race, Rancor, and Riches in Neptune, California
   Rejena Saulsberry
Part II  Veronica Mars Is a Triple Threat—Girl, Teenager, and Private Detective: Investigating the World of Noir  45

4  Breaking Bad in Neptune: How “Cool Guys” Become Psychopaths  47
   George A. Dunn

5  Noir Neptune: Genre and Gender Bending in Veronica Mars  61
   Daniel Wack

6  “Don’t Forget about Me, Veronica”: Time, Memory, and Mystery in Veronica Mars  72
   Paul Hammond

Part III  Veronica Mars Doesn’t Hang with the Evil and Morally Bankrupt: Investigating Vice and Virtue  81

7  “I’m Old School, an Eye for an Eye”: Veronica and Vengeance  83
   George A. Dunn

8  “We Used to be Friends”: An Aristotelian Analysis of Veronica’s Friendships  96
   Catlyn Origitano

9  Does Veronica Trust Anyone?  109
   Jon Robson

Part IV  Veronica Mars Is No Longer That Girl: Investigating Women in Society  123

10  Veronica’s Trip to the Dentist: Don’t Blame the Victim  125
    James Rocha and Mona Rocha
11 “Grow a Sense of Humor, You Crazy Bitch”: Veronica Mars as a Feminist Icon 136
Kasey Butcher and Megan M. Peters

12 On Not Being a Slut (Even When Everyone Thinks You Are) 147
Jordan Pascoe

Part V Veronica Mars Is Smarter Than Me: Investigating How and Why We Investigate 157

13 “I Used to Think that Solving the Case Was the Key to Our Happiness”: The Value of Truth in Veronica Mars 159
Dereck Coatney

14 “Have You Ever Heard of Occam’s Razor?” Veronica’s Use of Inductive Reasoning 170
Andrew Zimmerman Jones

15 “Not Pictured”: What Veronica Knew but Didn’t See 184
Daniel A. Wilkenfeld

Part VI Veronica Mars Is a Marshmallow: Investigating Veronica’s Quest for Identity 199

16 Veronica Mars—She’s a Marshmallow 201
James B. South

Notes on Contributors: Under Investigation 215
Index 219