

Crossing Over

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Answer: SPINOFF

Step 1. Each of the “stories” is a summary of a fictional crossover episode between two television shows. Figure out from the embedded clues which two shows cross over in each episode:

Episode #	Show 1	Show 2
1	Star Trek	Upstairs, Downstairs
2	I Love Lucy	Night Court
3	Rhoda	Three's Company
4	Lois & Clark	YuGiOh
5	Seinfeld	Doogie Howser, M.D.
6	The Nanny	Get Smart
7	MacGyver	Murder, She Wrote
8	That 70's Show	Hill Street Blues
9	The Rockford Files	Ellen
10	The West Wing	The Osbournes
11	All in the Family	Desperate Housewives
12	Roseanne	Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman
13	Star Trek: The Next Generation	The Bob Newhart Show
14	The Office	The Apprentice
15	ER	Babylon 5
16	Diagnosis Murder	The X-Files

Step 2. There is still a lot more information in the stories than is necessary for identifying the shows. You must now use this information to determine the titles of the fictional crossover episodes.

But how? The trick is that each fake episode title is a combination of two real episode titles, one from each of the two combined shows. The combination always links two episode titles where the last word of one is the first word of the second. The combination title starts with the first episode title and ends with the second episode title, with the linking word used only once.

To aid in finding these episodes, the season numbers of the first and second episodes are given at the beginning of the summary. Also, the first clue for the first episode’s show always appears before the first clue for the second episode’s show. For instance, because Star Trek’s episode title comes first in the combination with Upstairs, Downstairs, the first clue for Star Trek (“Jim and Spock beam down”) precedes the first clue for Upstairs, Downstairs (“twentieth-century London”).

The episodes are:

Ep #	Show 1 episode	Show 2 episode	Combined title
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1	Mudd's Women	Women shall not Weep	Mudd's Women shall not Weep
2	Lucy Thinks Ricky Is Trying to Murder Her	Her Honor	Lucy Thinks Ricky Is Trying to Murder Her Honor
3	Call Me Grandma	Grandma Jack	Call Me Grandma Jack
4	Neverending Battle	Battle for the Bronze	Neverending Battle for the Bronze
5	The Smelly Car	Car Wars	The Smelly Car Wars
6	A Kiss Is Just a Kiss	Kiss of Death	A Kiss Is Just a Kiss of Death
7	The Invisible Killer	Killer Radio	The Invisible Killer Radio
8	The Acid Queen	Queen for a Day	The Acid Queen for a Day
9	Just a Coupla Guys	Guys or Dolls	Just a Coupla Guys or Dolls
10	The State Dinner	Dinner with Ozzy	The State Dinner with Ozzy
11	Super Bowl Sunday	Sunday in the Park with George	Super Bowl Sunday in the Park with George
12	Chicken Hearts	Hearts and Minds	Chicken Hearts and Minds
13	Q Who?	Who is Mr. X?	Q Who is Mr. X
14	Booze Cruise	Cruise Control	Booze Cruise Control
15	Random Acts	Acts of Sacrifice	Random Acts of Sacrifice
16	Food Fight	Fight Club	Food Fight Club

Step 3. The flavor text suggests that what's really important is the links between the words. Use the "star rating" to index into the linking word for each episode, as follows:

Ep #	Linking word	Rating	Extracted letter
1	WOMEN	1	W
2	HER	1	H
3	GRANDMA	3	A
4	BATTLE	3	T
5	CAR	1	C
6	KISS	3	S
7	KILLER	2	I
8	QUEEN	5	N
9	GUYS	3	Y
10	DINNER	2	I
11	SUNDAY	1	S
12	HEARTS	5	T
13	WHO	3	O
14	CRUISE	1	C
15	ACTS	4	S
16	FIGHT	2	I

The extracted letters read **WHAT CSI:NY IS TO CSI.**

Step 4. Since the TV show CSI:NY is a spinoff of CSI, the answer is **SPINOFF**, a fitting answer to a puzzle about crossover television episodes.