

## **TV Heroines**

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**The Hamilton Spectator**

**December 20, 2003**

Alias is my new female empowerment fix.

Last year after the Superbowl, I tuned into a special episode of Alias and saw Sydney Bristow (Jennifer Garner) kick butt and throw bad guys from a plane, just wearing heels and sexy underwear, and ever since I've been hooked.

I've notice that most of my fictional female heroes tend to come from science fiction and fantasy television series.

When I was a kid it was Wonder Woman (Lynda Carter). I remember having a Wonder Woman costume complete with a tiara, bullet deflecting bracelets and lasso of truth and torturing my younger brothers by tying my lasso around them and demanding to know if they had been in my room and touched my things.

Then there was Kira (Nana Visitor) the Bajoran terrorist on Star Trek: Deep Space Nine, and Ivanova (Claudia Christian) the latent telepath on Babylon 5, and of course Scully (Gillian Anderson) the yin to Mulder's (David Duchovny) yang on The X-Files.

Then Xena: The Warrior Princess (Lucy Lawless) came along. Xena on a quest to redeem herself from her evil past was sexy, intelligent, strong, self-sufficient, and didn't take any crap from anyone. After the adventures of Xena and her sidekick Gabrielle (Renee O'Connor) came to an end, where was I going to get my next fix?

It took me a while to discover the brilliance of Buffy: The Vampire Slayer. Originally I wrote it off as a teen angst show with supernatural elements. The title heroine, Buffy (Sarah Michelle Gellar), is a shallow

high school student who must grow up quickly when she discovers her destiny. But my favorite female character was Willow (Alyson Hannigan). Willow starts off as the awkward, nerdy, bookworm of the gang and then becomes a powerful, lesbian, witch! The sensitive development of Willow's sexuality and relationship with girlfriend Tara (Amber Benson) was a queer sci-fi geek girl's dream. Then sadly Buffy came to an apocalyptic end last year.

I hope my newest "grrrl power" heroine - the beautiful, ingenious, super spy Sydney Bristow - sticks around for a while. Until my next fix.