

Women at Warp Episode 77: Je m'appelle Hoshi Sato

John Trimble: Hi this is John and Bjo Trimble from the Las Vegas Star Trek convention.

Bjo Trimble: And you're listening to Women At Warp.

begin W@W * introduction theme music by the Double Clicks*

Sue: Hi, and welcome to Women at Warp. Join us as our crew of four women Star Trek fans boldly go on our bi-weekly mission to explore our favourite franchise. My name is Sue, and thanks for tuning in. With me today are crewmembers, Grace.

Grace: Hey.

Sue: And, Jarrah.

Jarrah: Hello! Or as they say in German, "Guten Tag".

Sue: Wow.

Grace: I think that technically means good morning, so...

Jarrah: Uh, yes. Well I'm not a linguist...

Sue: But *Hoshi* is.

Grace: Ahhhh no way.

Jarrah: Yes.

Sue: So we are going to be talking about Hoshi today but first we have our typical housekeeping and Grace you did want want to say something about one of our previous episodes and some stuff that's been in the news.

Grace: I do, actually. This is addressing Episode 33 [<https://www.womenatwarp.com/episode-33-feminist-supercrew/>] our feminist supercrew and as of today when we are recording this we have reached a point where a second member of my crew pick has been outed with some very problematic behaviour and for that, I wanted to apologise. It's easy for me to say that it was not my intent in the picking of my crew to hurt or offend anyone but intent in one hand and crap in the other and see what piles up first. That would be an easy way out. I want to apologise for anyone who is going back and listening to old episodes and finding anything triggering or upsetting. Again, that was not my intention but I take full responsibility if that may have happened to someone. We don't get to see the future and we've had a lot of toxic behaviour getting uncovered in past years and so for that again I apologise and hope to do better in the future.

Jarrah: Yeah it absolutely could have happened to any of us.

Grace: I don't feel like Annie Jump Cannon would have gotten exposed as a sexually harassing anyone or like bell hooks.

Jarrah: Most of our feminist super crews are still awesome.

Grace: Yeah and I will be the first to admit that a lot of my crew and a lot of my picks were based out of coming from what I thought would be funniest and what I thought would be pop culture savvy and was coming from a point where I was still very much invested in the idea of being a friendly feminist if that makes sense if you're coming from an environment where you are dealing with a lot of other non-female identifying people who you have make your ideals and your rhetoric known to it is really common to feel like you need to present a level of friendly and non-aggressive feminism and that is really hard to unlearn and it is still something that I am in the position of unlearning and hoping to keep trying and doing better at.

Jarrah: As should we all.

Sue: Well, that said, it's a heavy topic but I mean that we would rather know these things and let the truth get out there than have a perfectly clean thirty third episode, right?

Jarrah & Grace: Yeah

Sue: So, there's that.

Grace: It's just a sign of the times really that we're finding out more and more who's a jerk.

Sue: Allegedly.

Grace: But I still maintain that Master of None has some awesome feminist-friendly ideas going through it.

Sue. Alright, so what is also important is supporting your favourite podcasts.

Jarrah: Nice segway!

Grace: Nice.

Sue: And you can help support us over on Patreon at patreon.com/womenatwarp or you can help keeping this content coming by donating anywhere from one dollar a month up to as much as you'd like and basically get our thanks up to us talking about random silly things or even at some levels helping us choose an episode topic or joining us on an episode so we really appreciate your support over at Patreon. Also you can help support us if you leave a rating or review on Apple podcasts or even on Facebook. Ratings and reviews on any platform help drive traffic and help the algorithms of those sites show our stuff to more more people. So it helps to spread the word.

Grace: Tell the machines that we're worth telling others about.

Sue: Yeah, it helps Facebook decide that they should show our stuff to people because Facebook has a consciousness now.

Grace: Spoooooooookeeeeyyyyy.

Sue: The actual day of the twenty fifth anniversary of Deep Space Nine came and went and we did not release a watch-a-long but we are hoping to do so.

Jarrah: It was very quick after the New Year and so it caught all of us off guard but we are planning on doing our next watch-a-long for Emissary [Star Trek: Deep Space Nine S01, E01-02] and we'll get that out to you and celebrate Deep Space Nine in other ways over the course of the year.

Grace: Remember, you're celebrating DS9 every day that you question the concept of a utopia that exists in a bubble.

Jarrah: *laughter*

Sue: Now let's celebrate Enterprise.

Grace: Wait, that doesn't sound right.

Sue. No. Hold on. Let's celebrate, Hoshi.

Grace: Yeah, alright, I can do that.

Jarrah: Ok.

Grace: Look, we gotta let our feelings show here.

Jarrah: So, this week we are going to take a look at one of these two main women characters in Enterprise, Hoshi Sato, a linguist, exo-linguist. She is a code-breaker, she is one of the very few Asian women characters of note in Star Trek and she is played by the lovely and talented Linda Park and we are going to go through some of her high points, her low points, maybe some of the missed potential there and...

Grace: Some missed points.

Jarrah: Yeah. Do we want to start with the premiere "Broken Bow" [Star Trek Enterprise S01, E01-E02]. So, premiere. First appearance of Hoshi.

Sue: There is not a lot here but what we do get of her introduction here is in Brazil and makes it seem like she is going to be a really interesting character.

Grace: It really is a strong start for her. We first see her teaching a class and doing some grade A trilling on her linguistics skills and I gotta say that it really is a skill as an actor to be able to sell just completely nonsensical dialogue and jibber-jabber and make it sounds like you're taking it seriously and like there is actual intent behind it. We see a lot of that in Star Trek and Linda Park is aces at it.

Jarrah: Yeah, I noticed that rewatching a bunch of episodes that she is really good at Treknobabble. It didn't feel boring to me at any point.

Sue: And we have her teaching this class here, showing I think more confidence than we see for a few seasons from this character and she is clearly highly sought after but she has, if you want to call it, the integrity to not want to leave her class before their test, whatever test it is that is coming up but Archer intrigues her with a recording of Klingon. So what is getting her to do that? What is getting her to leave early to go on this mission is wanting to learn more about her field. It's an opportunity that she would never get again.

Grace: Which is again, such a great starting off point for the character of that being her main motivation, this desire for knowledge and wanting to go out and learn more.

Jarrah: For sure.

Grace: How promising is that?

Sue: Yeah, so the second episode of the series actually features Hoshi pretty prominently right and that is "Fight or Flight" [Star Trek Enterprise S01, E03].

Jarrah: So this is where we learn that Hoshi is afraid of space.

Grace: Which is an interesting dichotomy character-wise for someone who wants to go out and learn all these new things. Space is scary.

Jarrah: I mean to be fair, she walks into a room filled with upside down bodies who are having fluids drained out of them so like, scary.

Grace: It's not the best first week at work.

Jarrah: No.

Grace: So you can't blame her.

Sue: But it starts off with "the stars are going the wrong way".

Jarrah: Yeah, and she doesn't like her uniform and it's like all of these little things at first that she's, as I learned in my French class, *elle est mal à l'aise dans sa propre peau* she is uncomfortable in her own skin and I found that...

Sue: Good thing she has that slug friend.

Grace: Sluggo!!

Sue: For that incredibly heavy-handed metaphor.

Jarrah: Yeah, 'cos then at the end they find a planet for Sluggo 'cos Sluggo is sick on the ship and then she's feeling better being on the ship and she tells Sluggo "this isn't exactly like the place you came here from but it's close enough. It's not that hard to adapt, you're going to do just fine here."

Grace: But Sluggo goes on to found a very successful cola company.

Sue: But is she though, 'cos you don't know if there are predators so you don't know what there is to eat. That's not Sluggo's planet. What if she is an invasive species? What if she destroys the ecosystem?

Grace: That is Hoshi comforting Hoshi right there.

Sue: But wait wait wait Grace what if Sluggo is the ingredient in Sluggo cola? Oh my God, it was Slurm all along?

Jarrah: But they all just started harvesting Sluggo and Sluggo's descendants to make into Ferengi drinks.

Grace: Holy crap, this just got dark.

Sue: But you can't just leave an animal on a different planet and be like "Peace.". What. Ug. Contamination. Ridiculous.

Jarrah: Yeah, I mean it's either not going to be good for the planet or it's not going to be good for Sluggo odds are but ok.

Grace: Sluggo's dead.

Jarrah: I found Hoshi unfortunately kind of whiney in this episode and I know that that's an often gendered critique but I just thought that not every character needs to be massively confident but I think at this point she hadn't had a chance to really demonstrate her talents so it's leading off on a really weak foot.

Grace: Most definitely.

Jarrah: I mean it does introduce a relationship with Phlox though which I think is one of the most interesting parts of her character's scenes throughout the rest of the show.

Grace: Yeah, they have a pretty interesting dynamic with her being interested in the memetic patterns of language in alien cultures and him being from an alien culture.

Jarrah: She seems to be one of the more open minded members of the Enterprise crew; she is interested in learning more about other cultures versus like "Gee, these Vulcans are really boring."

Grace: "What? You're not eating meat? Way to go, you space hippy."

Jarrah: Yeah, pretty much.

Sue: But she goes from such a strong introduction to being whiney and fearful and timid and just a laundry list of stereotypes.

Grace: Yeah, it feels like a pretty good example of how one writer can carry a character pretty well and the other cannot really know what to do with them.

Jarrah: Yeah, I'll say that the intent behind the character I think, this is what Fred Dekker who was one of the producers on the first season and also wrote I think three of the first season episodes he said that

Hoshi was the audience's way in "Because she was not comfortable being on the ship and that was a great way of bringing a character on to a show that in the previous iterations of Trek everyone was comfortable on that ship and now you have this person that says "We're going faster than the speed of light to somewhere that we don't know what will be there. It's terrifying and the only thing preventing us from exploding is this big hunk of metal that we're sitting in." I thought that was very compelling."

Grace: Did this person not see any of the Barclay episodes?

Jarrah: Yeah, it seems like that was not a terrible intent but I just think it undermined her in like an already very male dominated environment.

Sue: Yes.

Grace: Absolutely.

Sue: A perfectly valid thing for a character. It is just unfortunate that they chose a woman and above that, an Asian woman to be the timid and afraid character.

Jarrah: Yeah.

Sue: Because you're playing into not only stereotypes of women, but of Asian women and of Orientalism and of model minority issues and it's just one thing upon another with this one character decision.

Jarrah: And also on like when you take a step back to the crafting of the character to begin with, so Rick Berman is quoted in *The Fifty-Year Mission* as:

"We wanted an Asian actor to play the role of communications officer and go back to a little listening device like Uhura had had in the original series. We also wanted her to be a translator of almost magical abilities. And Linda nailed it. We wanted somebody very vulnerable and someone who was not into flying on spaceships. In the first audition she completely got it and did very well. "

[*The Fifty-Year Mission: The Next 25 Years: From The Next Generation to J. J. Abrams: The Complete, Uncensored, and Unauthorized Oral History of Star Trek*. Written by Edward Gross and Mark A. Altman]

So, I think that that captures what you're saying both about model minority that she is preternaturally talented at languages but vulnerable or submissive. I don't think she is particularly submissive but definitely that vulnerability stereotype about Asian women being like demure or soft-spoken. Being afraid is just another side of that coin.

Grace: And again, we see more of that model minority later on when we have just kind of out of nowhere established that she can break codes and is a whizz at math and it feels very telling that we get the "Oh yeah, I totally know martial arts" and "I'm actually very good at math" reveal at the same time, it's just kind of like wow, you guys were not even trying to play against type here, were you?

Jarrah: Mmm hmmm.

Sue: Yeah.

Jarrah: Well, let's take a look at some of her other episodes because in season one we have, actually this is my least favourite Hoshi scene although there are really two really terrible ones but one of them is in "Breaking The Ice" [Star Trek Enterprise S01, E08] where basically everything is going really badly on the ship and then Archer is like "Hoshi, you know what I need you to do? I need you to find out what flavour of cake Reid likes for his birthday 'cos we want to surprise him with a birthday cake. "

Sue: Party Planner. Add it to the Communications Officer job.

Jarrah: Um. She's like "Maybe I could try fixing/recalibrating the communications grid?" and he's like "Oh, no, no, no, this is way more important. Start calling Earth, What flavour does Reid like. 'Cos there are only two women that we know of on this ship, one of you has to do domestic chores I guess."

Grace: That is such a gendered microaggression right there to delegate the more stereotypically feminine tasks to the women in the group. You hear all the time about women saying "yeah, people just assume 'cos I was the one woman in the group I wanted to do the party planning for all the office parties".

Jarrah: Or I was going to take notes in that meeting. Or I was going to go and get everyone coffee.

Grace: Yeah.

Jarrah: And she does and she seems annoyed about it but she finds out that he likes pineapple and everyone's happy.

Grace: And that is just *such* an important sub plot.

Jarrah: And it's like jeez, Archer, you want cake so much why don't you make him a goddamn cake yourself.

Grace: Or you could just straight up ask him. Just sayin'.

Jarrah: But I think the other episode where Hoshi is prominent in season one is actually like one of her better ones which is "Sleeping Dogs" [Star Trek Enterprise S01, E14] which is the one where her and T'Pol are on the ship with all the Klingons that are in stasis.

Grace: Oh yeah, I actually really enjoyed that episode for a season one of any series of Star Trek it's a pretty good one, it's where we get to see the beginning of that possible, hinted mentor relationship between T'Pol and Hoshi and they have a very good dynamic in this episode with T'Pol as the seasoned veteran and Hoshi again as that person who is still not very comfortable in this environment she has been put in but is trying to still do her very best.

Sue: And we finally see her standing up for herself and her ideas.

Grace: Yeah, it's a very good episode for both characters.

Sue: I do like on that ship that we see her reading the Klingon.

Jarrah: Yeah.

Sue: And figuring it out as it was kind of disappointing when we knew we were going to have this communications officer before Uhura who would be doing more actual translation and then we got the Universal Translator right away.

Grace: Yeah.

Sue: It was in what episode two wasn't it?

Grace: Yes, so being able to have her on the away teams and still being a pro-active member of the group is cool to see.

Sue: Right, and they reinforced at some point that it was still a prototype and they needed her more but I feel that like got lost a little bit later.

Grace: Yeah.

Jarrah: Yeah, It comes and goes I mean they use it for convenience but they occasionally make it harder to translate things when it works for the story but I think this is a good example of her abilities and also it shows that she is still freaked out but also I like the way that T'Pol helps her through it. I think it is a really nice moment between them and she ultimately shows her skills are indispensable and they are in this pretty tense situation and they come out on top and it is because of both of them and I really like that and this is a show like has doesn't pass the Bechdel Wallace Test that much 'cos Hoshi and T'Pol really don't get a ton of scenes together and I think this shows a bit of a missed opportunity later that they didn't have a stronger kind of mentor mentee relationship.

Grace: But again we get an episode where I can see both of them being competent in different ways.

Jarrah: Absolutely.

Grace: Although I will say when she is doing target practice at the beginning why shouldn't she hold the phaser with both hands? I mean I know they are saying there is no kick back to it but you might want to steady your grip if you're aiming.

Sue: It looks cooler. So, how about "Vanishing Point" [Star Trek Enterprise S02, E10]?

Jarrah: Oh man.

Grace: Oh ...

Sue: Oh soooo frustrating actually the next two are both frustrating.

Jarrah: Yeah.

Grace: We get to see an episode based around a character where from the get go we've got to have concerns about her being played as demure and underutilised where she is literally disappearing before our very eyes.

Sue: Right. It is sort of a combination of “Remember Me” [Star Trek: The Next Generation S04, E05] and one of the Barclay transporter episodes, which the title is failing me, where he sees things in the transporter beam.

Jarrah: Right.

Sue: But in both of those TNG episodes the characters were listened to.

Jarrah: And they were right.

Sue: And they were right and in this episode, it is all in Hoshi’s head and even when it was in her head her captain and her doctor were just telling her “this is in your head”. Yeah, like the whole time, nobody believed her. Even when she was imagining it.

Grace: This episode is the whole Cassandra Fear personified in the sense that she is genuinely afraid, she has a genuine concern and the first notice we get that something is really wrong is nobody is listening to her.

Jarrah: Yeah, we’ve talked about “Remember Me” [Star Trek: The Next Generation S04, E05] and about that Barclay episode before which I also can’t remember the name but we talked about it in our Barclay episode.

Sue: “Realm of Fear” [Star Trek: The Next Generation S06, E02].

Jarrah: Yeah and the reason that “Remember Me” [Star Trek: The Next Generation S04, E05] is so powerful in that especially a lot of women feminists like that is a really good episode is that it is an episode that counters gaslighting. It counters this tendency to refuse to believe women like I mean I was sitting up and watching X Files recently ‘cos X Files is back on like the number of times Mulder is like “There are sasquatches!” and they’re like “Okay, Mulder we’ll go after your thing.” and Scully is like “but I’m having visions.” and Mulder’s like “that’s not possible.”.

Sue: Right.

Jarrah: So yeah.

Grace: Pot. Kettle. Black. Mulder.

Jarrah: Yeah it’s like undermining women’s confidence through questioning their sanity and refusing to believe them until they start to question themselves and this episode just reinforces it ‘cos she is afraid of using the transporter and then thinks she is going crazy everyone tells her she is going crazy and in the end it turns out she kind of was.

Grace: Transporter are a fricking death trap.

Sue: There are so many times that we see Hoshi go to Phlox and say “Something’s not right, I feel uncomfortable.” and Phlox runs one scan and says “Nope, you’re fine.” and she replies “Are you sure? Can you run another test ‘cos I really don’t feel right.” and he says “No, you’re fine.” so she leaves and

then something terrible happens and he literally says at one point to Archer "I should have listened to her." and it's so frustrating.

Grace: Phlox you're not a very good doctor are you.

Jarrah: Except for I understood that it was all in her head because at the end when they beamed her on board...

Sue: It's not just in "Vanishing Point" [Star Trek Enterprise S02, E10] it happens in other episodes too.

Jarrah: Yeah, yeah absolutely and the other problem with even it happening in "Vanishing Point" [Star Trek Enterprise S02, E10] where everything is in her head is what makes it so disappointing is that it doesn't have to end that way 'cos it actually looks like she is sort of between dimensions and she is just out of phase with the rest of the ship and she is actually like about to prevent the ship from being exploded by an alien who is also out of phase it is super exciting she gets to...

Grace: And you get that whole SOS system that she works together with the blinking lights that is really cool.

Jarrah: Yeah exactly so she is doing all this super cool stuff like contacting Archer through Morse code on a light panel and then it just like none of that ever happened so and at the end you have to take as your tiny consolation that Archer is like "But like you're getting braver because in your head you stepped on a transporter pad and you were really scared of transporters so like you're conquering your dumb fear."

Grace: Archer, now was not the fricking time. Read the room, man.

Sue: Oh man.

Jarrah: I just I found that one, it's just so disappointing 'cos like ninety percent if you haven't seen it like ninety percent of the episode you can get carried along by the end ending you're like what? No.

Sue: It's really like the last three minutes.

Jarrah: Yeah.

Grace: I will say one thing about this episode though and that is with the character of Hoshi they find a lot of excuses to show her in midriff outfits but in this one where she is hallucinating that there are aliens invading the ship they are the ones with midriff too so it is equal opportunity midriff.

Jarrah: But also isn't she in like...

Grace: She is in her workout clothes and she is wearing the most early 2000's Skechers/Kicks you will ever see in your damn life and it is incredible.

Jarrah: I will say for what it shows of what it is like in Hoshi's head if you go back and read it that way it is interesting like it reinforces her insecurities that she is and she ends up on the ship and she can't translate basic things and on the bridge she gets relieved from being on the bridge and I think that is would be a fair depiction of her character in terms of their fears but also their strengths so.

Grace: Also as far as Hoshi is concerned Tripp's workout routine just is getting whirled around in a big spherical arcade machine; why do they have that on the ship?

Jarrah: Tripp is just spinning around practicing not throwing up; that's a muscle.

Grace: Did they have a DDR machine in the next room?

Jarrah: Well it does make me hopeful that the workout routine of the future will include a breathing up and down while the cat lies on my chest 'cos that is my exercise preference right now.

Sue: A+.

Jarrah: Anyone have other thoughts on "Vanishing Point" [Star Trek Enterprise S02, E10]?

Sue: I am still really mad that even in the 2200's doctors don't listen to women.

Grace: Which is all well and good for us to laugh about and be like "but no one's listening to her." but it is a very real problem that a lot of people with chronic medical conditions have to deal with.

Jarrah: Mmmm hmmm.

Sue: Yeah.

Jarrah: I mean to be fair Phlox doesn't really listen to most people but ...

Grace: Again, Phlox is just not a very good doctor.

Jarrah: I mean her and T'Pol I would say are the two best, most commonly go to Phlox and go "What's going on?" and Phlox is like "Nothing, you're just imagining it or you're just a Vulcan so it's probably just a thing that happens."

Grace: "This isn't a thing for you? I think it's a thing for you."

Sue: Ugh, so, so mad. Alright. Let's be mad some more.

Grace: Our next episode is going to make you even madder.

Jarrah: Ok, so we did have a comment about another early episode from Elizabeth and the episode is "Vox Sola" [Star Trek Enterprise S01, E22] and Elizabeth just commented "As as a translator I can't help but think of the stupid scene where she starts the episode complaining about a culture having words that can mean a dozen different things in different contexts. As if that if that isn't how English or Earth languages function. As if Japanese isn't one such language; as if the word 'Hoshi' isn't one such word."

Grace: Someone didn't do their homework.

Jarrah: Yeah it's like this whole like "Well she's Asian and we'll give her a Asian name and stuff but let's not actually do any research about."

Grace: Yeah.

Sue: It reminds me of Celebrity Homonym on 30 Rock.

Grace: I hope they have that future.

Sue: It's always the other one, alright.

Jarrah: Yes so the next one, oh man, this is a goodie.

Grace: Oh this is a doozy.

Jarrah: We're going to jump to season three the episode "Exile" [Star Trek Enterprise S03, E06] which is Bluebeard or Beauty and the Beast in space. The one comment I was going to make that I was confusing this "Vanishing Point" [Star Trek Enterprise S02, E10] because in both of these she is like walking around in outfits that you would totally wear a bra with and she isn't wearing a bra.

Grace: She is wearing a fricking slip dress. And this it's one of those really creepy part matters of that trope of "I've provided you with something creepy to wear."

Sue: And you know what this episode is really missing is like a weird dude with a Scottish accent.

Sue: It is definitely along the lines of "Sub Rosa" [Star Trek: The Next Generation S07, E14] for sure.

Grace: Don't go in the shuttlecraft! (in comedic Scottish accent)

Sue: Don't go in that house!

Jarrah: Dinnae go in tae the castle in the side of the cave! (in comedic Scottish accent)

Sue: It is really missing the rose with the petals falling off.

Jarrah: So brief synopsis of the this episode is Hoshi is contacted telepathically by a super ugly alien but he makes himself seem like he looks like a decently attractive human and he is exiled on this planet and he can use his telepathic abilities to learn more about the Xindi weapon that they are trying to track down so he is like "If you come, I will help you." and they initially say Hoshi is crazy afterwards they are like "No we actually believe you, that you were psychically contacted but is probably super dangerous." and she is like "No I wanna go if there is any way he can help our mission I wanna go." So they go down there and like buddy is like super creepy the whole way through and she is clearly creeped out like there is no point in this episode where you can feel like she is like "Yeah, I think I might like to stay here."

Grace: It's all very Indecent Proposal [1993, <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0107211/>].

Jarrah: And he's all mad like that she brought people with her and then he's like "I will work on your artifact." and like trying to detect Xindi psychic traces to learn about it but "Hoshi has to stay with me." and Archer is like "That sounds like a bad idea." but Hoshi is like "I wanna help if that is only way I don't think he is going to hurt me." even though he is creepy and even though he is like [in comedy Scottish accent]

“Dinnae go in to the part of my castle that has the creepy graves of my ex wives.” and I can’t do a Scottish accent.

Grace: Just don’t go in *that* room.

Sue: The West Wing.

Grace: There is nothing you want to see *there*.

Jarrah: Yeah. But she does. And she finds all the graves of his ex companions. There’s Rose, there’s Martha, there is Donna Noble. No that would be too poor.

Grace: Donna Noble just left and forgot.

Jarrah: “But basically like I have been summoning, I have been reaching out and summoning people across through telepathic means they have all been super sceptical at first and they have all come around and wanted to stay with me cos together I can introduce new ways of seeing the universe.”.

Grace: I’m not sure I believe that.

Sue: Then he tries to convince her by like projecting again as the attractive human which felt very TOS to me like “Will you want to stay if I’m hotter?”.

Jarrah: “Should I just pretend to be Archer and trick her into staying?”.

Grace: Which if that’s not going to convince you, you need to leave right away, then what is?

Sue: I mean the only thing I guess I can say for this episode is that I did appreciate Hoshi standing up for herself but you can’t call this a feminist retelling of Bluebeard or a feminist retelling of Beauty and the Beast.

Grace: Absolutely not, her standing up for herself is just too little, too late.

Jarrah: It’s like a bad situation basically a replica of those pretty anti-feminist fairytales where you know in most of those fairytales the woman gets what’s coming to her for snooping but she’s basically has to stay with her captor and that’s the way it should be. Just because she happened to get out, I don’t consider that enough of a twist on the tale. It was still gross.

Grace: It’s really icky.

Sue: And then she’s like “Oh he’s nice, and he actually gave us the information at the end.”.

Grace: He still kind of took your crewman captive and made her wear a slip dress.

Jarrah: Yeah. I liked when she was like threatening to destroy his little psychic transmitter thing. Also, the Enterprise just goes off and leaves her cos she’s like “There’s a war on and we can’t just do one thing at a time so you guys have to go off and do this whole separate mission.”.

Sue: That's just a really bad idea, Hoshi.

Jarrah: That was really dumb. They should have at least been like "We insist on leaving two other people." or like "We insist on leaving a shuttlecraft."

Grace: And make Tripp stay behind. Make him wear a slip dress too.

Jarrah: I'm sure it would be gorgeous.

Sue: I did think it was interesting thing that she was ready to make the sacrifice though.

Jarrah: Yes.

Sue: That he was "You'll be with me here forever." and she like what "For sixty more years and then what."

Jarrah: When she thought it was Archer telling her to stay she was like "Okay, I guess I'll stay like I get my duty. I'm not super happy about it." but she was ready to do that but that is also very much a repeat of the Beauty and the Beast you know "I'll stay because it is the only way my father will be okay."

Sue: Right.

Grace: Mmm hmm also women of the episode, the Asian of the series just being like "Well that's what you want me to do, okay."

Jarrah: I didn't feel bad for him and all I feel like there was something that the audience was supposed to feel bad for him or maybe feel... I don't know. I feel like there was no almost no tension; you knew the that he was going to have to let her go or that she was going to escape. Oh well, just like more people with bad Scottish accents. More of the psychic ball that could have been a candle. Alright, later in season three Hoshi becomes a master code-breaker as she is kidnapped by the Xindi.

Sue: Aren't all linguists all master codebreakers?

Jarrah: I don't know, I don't think so. (in a comedic Scottish accent)

Sue: I was being sarcastic.

Grace: Yeah. It feels like a cop out again and we get that episode where she just says "Yeah, math is just another kind of language.". Noooooo.

Sue: Noooo.

Sue: It's a little different.

Grace: And again you're just making the one Asian on the show really good at math.

Sue: That's why you have a language section of the SAT and a separate math section.

Grace: Yeah.

Sue: And when your score is 200 points apart you have to undergo an investigation.

Sue: It happened to me.

Grace: Aw no way.

Sue: Yeah, anyway.

Jarrah: So this is in the three episode arc "The Council" [Star Trek Enterprise S03,E22], "Countdown" [Star Trek Enterprise S03 E23] and "Zero Hour" [Star Trek Enterprise S03, E24] and at the beginning, there's actually it's like kind of cool, they take Hoshi down to help with the negotiations because she's one of the only people that can translate Xindi Aquatic and we had a comment from Brandon

Grace: Stick her head underwater to hear it naturally.

Jarrah: Ha ha ha Brandon said "I loved that Hoshi created created a universal translator that could translate Xindi Insectoid it showed how amazing she is at languages so the other Xindi were having trouble understanding Insectoid and then the Insectoids were having trouble understanding impressed that she could also translate Aquatic." so they kidnap her and brainwash her and force her to work for them to make a weapon that will destroy Earth. It's painful. Little bit.

Grace: She gets kidnapped a lot.

Jarrah: I am going to say that I think that the character was similar to Harry Kim where they had similar problems with minority Asian stereotyping, with making the character kind of like too good, a little uninteresting, and also putting them in peril a lot, and she basically ends up in a situation similar to like Chekov in Wrath of Khan [Star Trek: The Wrath of Khan] where they put parasites in her that force her to work for the Xindi and clearly hurt a lot you see the agonising screams scenes. And like how would you not feel like horribly traumatised after being put through that and like being forced to do this work that almost led to the destruction of your planet.

Grace: But of course we don't see that really followed up on, I imagine.

Jarrah: Mmmmm, nope, not that I remember.

Sue: Not really. Well she does...

Grace: It was just the trauma of the week.

Sue: She does try to stop the Xindi weapon by killing herself.

Jarrah: Duncan, on our Facebook said that he found that moment very heroic and I can agree like it's frustrating as she's put through the wringer so often but like she does occasionally do these really brave things that are would be even more remarkable if she was allowed to be an instrumental part of things at other times.

Sue: Mmm hmm.

Grace: If she had more to do in a wider range.

Jarrah: Yeah, mostly I think they squandered a character who should have been given more respect. She is clearly a linguistic genius.

Grace: Yeah.

Jarrah: Yeah I mean I did like sorta like the diplomat role and I think it would have been cool if they used that more when they were going and interacting with alien species if she had been there to be more of a diplomat translator that would have been cool. Alright so we're basically in to season four although I wanted to mention we had another comment from Janet who said "My favourite Hoshi moment is when she is in charge of the ship and stands up to Samuels." which we think is in the "Terra Prime" [Star Trek Enterprise S04, E21] episode Terra Prime storyline there Janet says "It might not be realistic to make an ensign acting captain but it really shows how far she came from the reticent person she was in the beginning that it's I agree with the other comments that she was wasted by the writers."

Sue: No argument there.

Grace: No.

Jarrah: Yeah and I mean Linda Park also said in Fifty Year Mission [The Fifty-Year Mission: The Next 25 Years: From The Next Generation to J. J. Abrams: The Complete, Uncensored, and Unauthorized Oral History of Star Trek. Written by Edward Gross and Mark A. Altman] that she feels she got a lot more confident as a person over the years that the show was on air because she was twenty three when she first got hired. She says that she just like accepted everything she was told to do and took an inferior stance on both like business and acting decisions and that as she grew as a professional she also grew as a character; she helped Hoshi grow as a character. So in to season four which maybe not the best example but "Observer Effect" [Star Trek Enterprise S04, E11].

Sue: "Observer Effect" [Star Trek Enterprise S04, E11] is yet another one of those episodes where characters are given random backstories late in the run of a show.

Grace: Things are just kind of tacked on there to be like "Oh no they were interesting all along, we just didn't show it to you."

Sue: Yeah, so Hoshi was a great gambler and cleared out a poker game full of senior officers and also has a black belt in I think it was Aikido.

Grace: Again, just randomly saying that your one Asian character has known how to do martial arts all along. Little iffy.

Sue: But also never using it.

Jarrah: I would be in to having seen her in more away missions fight scenes.

Grace: Yeah.

Sue: Mmm hmm.

Grace: I mean it's not like she's been kidnapped multiple times or anything.

Jarrah: Yeah.

Grace: It's not like that would have come in super fricking handy.

Jarrah: It would have been great if she had just beat up the wierdo alien that was basically holding her hostage.

Grace: Oh that would have been amazing.

Jarrah: I know she was trying to get the information and so she was all in her duty mode so I'm not necessarily saying don't get the information but definitely when he pretended to be Archer she should have kicked his ass.

Grace: Yeah, I absolutely would have.

Jarrah: But like I am in to them at least you know even near the end of the show they didn't know they maybe did but at that point in the season that it was going to be the end and you know I do appreciate there is no giving her more characteristics and actually they didn't know by that episode 'cos the episode they found out they were cancelled was "In A Mirror Darkly" [Star Trek Enterprise S04, E18 & 19] which is the next one we're going to talk about. I would say this would be another Hoshi highlight actually.

Sue: Which is a totally different character.

Grace: Yeah?

Sue: Yeah.

Grace: Let's go in to that.

Jarrah: Well. I mean the ending.

Grace: Well yeah.

Sue: Heh heh.

Grace: We get to see her do the coup d'etat thing, don't we?

Jarrah: Yeah we talked about this in our Mirror universe episode "Ripped and Machiavellian" [Women at Warp Episode 55 <http://www.womenatwarp.com/episode-55-ripped-and-machiavellian>] but she basically starts out as Archer's captain's woman where she lies around in his quarters in lingerie the whole time and she ends up the empress of the Terran Empire so that's pretty sweet and she's like weilding a knife, and commanding the bridge, and she destroys this other ship, and takes over the Defiant.

Sue: I mean it's the last instance of the episode.

Grace: Yeah.

Jarrah: I mean that was a bit disappointing in I mean they actually at that point they were like "This is episode is so good, we like we love how the actors are all just like playing off each other better, if we do a season five we should just set the whole thing in the mirror universe." which maybe would have been cool and I would have definitely been in to more Empress Hoshi stories.

Grace: Oh definitely.

Jarrah: I mean I do, we talked about this a bit in the mirror universe episode I mean I don't love that Hoshi ends up like in a very girlie fight with T'Pol where they are just like slut shaming each other while fighting ineffectually.

Sue: Yeah that was not great.

Grace: No.

Jarrah: No.

Grace: Up until the point where Hoshi gets to be Empress Hoshi a lot of it is pretty negative on her character's part so in the sense that her being the captain's woman really plays in to that stereotype of Asian women being like oversexed kittens and all that.

Jarrah: Mmmhhhhmmmm.

Grace: Not great especially when you have so few women on your show already.

Jarrah: Yeah. Does anyone want to read the quote by Linda Park about "In A Mirror Darkly" [Star Trek Enterprise S04, E18 & 19] Linda said "I really did like being the aggressor and being more, I want to say strong, because Hoshi was strong in her own way but the Mirror Hoshi was strong in a way that Medea is strong, in the way that Clytemnestra is strong; in a very archetypal warrior women way and truth be told I think at that point in my life I was really growing out of being a kid and wanted to grow and really stretch my legs as a woman and that started with the Mirror Hoshi and continued with the two characters I played on tv after Enterprise. When I started Enterprise I was using a lot out of student and drama school going in to the real world attitude which was what was going on in my life and by the end I was starting to play a stronger woman becoming a stronger woman and I wanted to do more of that."

Jarrah. Yup.

Sue: It would have been good to get to see more.

Grace: It really would have.

Sue: And yet how she is seen by her audience is summed up in Gender and Sexuality in Star Trek by David Greven [Gender and Sexuality in Star Trek: Allegories of Desire in the Television Series and Films] I believe is how it's pronounced a professor said "Ensign Hoshi Sato was an Asian American linguist and

communications officer prone to fearful fits and generally seen as ineffectual in any terms other than the linguistic aspects of her job. Hoshi is the resident screamer.”.

Jarrah: Yeah, I don't think she literally screams super super often but probably more than most of the other characters. In the finale we learn that she eventually marries a man named Takashi Kimura and retires from Starfleet with the rank of lieutenant commander.

Grace: I feel like the character could have done better.

Jarrah: She doesn't even make it to like captain or admiral or anything like we're kind of accustomed to seeing.

Grace: Or ambassador would have made a lot of sense.

Jarrah: I mean Sulu; obviously Sulu gets a pretty big boost from the beginning of TOS to the end of his cannon career but Kim and Hoshi really get kinda shafted and it's unfortunate.

Grace: Yeah.

Sue: We also learned from that episode that Hoshi stays with Archer for as long as he is a captain as his communications officer. Does he never promote her?

Jarrah: I guess she gets up to being lieutenant commander so...

Sue: Well presumably he went on to be an admiral before she left Starfleet right?

Grace: Hmmmmmmmm.

Jarrah: Oh poor Hoshi, like she's holding her own career back out of loyalty to her captain, that sucks.

Sue: Just like Riker.

Jarrah: You know, Uhura and staff were still serving under Kirk but they got like definitely bumped up to much higher ranks Scotty got Captain Scott, like yeah I don't know I mean maybe like it just got easier to have promotions after those early days of the Federation and before it was just like the wild west of space and they're like "Promotions? Pssshhhhhssh no one gets those." I don't know.

Grace: Maybe it was still just a white dudes club and that's unfortunate to think but we don't get a lot of reason to see otherwise.

Sue: Yeah I mean they definitely I think it's generally agreed that Hoshi was underdeveloped, underutilised, and there could have been so much more done with that character especially at a time in a universe when we are supposed to be discovering new planets and encountering new aliens that we haven't seen before and figuring out the universal translator and that was just something that really wasn't put in stories very often and I just wanted to bring up because again the problems when starting to put together some notes for this episode I wound up on the Trek BBS of course and in the ultimate Hoshi Sato appreciation thread, the name of the thread, the third sentence of the first post called her a 'feisty

little piece of eye-candy' so that is a stereotype that they were up against from the very beginning with this character.

Grace: Not to mention, such a diminuatizing term I mean have you ever heard John Cena called feisty? Really? Really?

Jarrah: Yeah, it's something you call like someone you don't take that seriously, right.? Like "Oh like you're like a dog yapping at my snapping at my ankles" kind of thing.

Grace: Oh this is a feisty one.

Jarrah: Ugh.

Sue: I mean I am sure that Enterprise did not help with decon (decontamination) scenes, things like that.

Grace: No.

Jarrah: They were certainly making the most of their their braless, gelled-up lady characters.

Sue: Well if you believe George Lucas there is no underwear in space.

Jarrah: Yes.

Grace: I don't believe that at all.

Jarrah: But do you guys have ideas for things that you would have liked to see Hoshi do had maybe had there been a fifth season or just you know or changing the way that things went for the first four seasons?

Grace: Well I think for one thing it really tells how much the writers as a group see a character based on what in universe is established as having happened to them after the event of the show. I feel like there was so much that could have been done there with her skill set and just us getting to see her grow more as a character what little to get there was a lot that could of been done there but no Hoshi went on to do great things but just having her retire at lieutenant commander seems like a cop out. It's upsetting.

Jarrah: I also don't know that it would have helped necessarily but are several of the other characters we get to learn stuff about their family like Archer from the very beginning we learn about Tripp's sister, we get to see Travis on his family's ship, we learn about Reid doesn't really talk with his parents, and Hoshi we get to see her Dad in her brain being told that she is dead the thing where she is not actually disappearing she is actually crazy.

Sue: And he is kind of aggressive.

Grace: And he is kind of a stereotypical angry Asian dad.

Sue: Yeah.

Jarrah: But you know maybe there could have been something there that could of expanded her character to show a bit more of her relationship with her family in a hopefully not horribly stereotypical way.

Sue: Yeah I mean we do learn a little bit in "Exile" [Star Trek Enterprise S03, E06] that you know they realise she was gifted so they took her out of school and she had private tutors so she was always alone and always studying.

Jarrah: Yeah they could have played with that a bit more too because you know when "Exile" [Star Trek Enterprise S03, E06] creepo dude keeps saying "you know are like feel so alone on Enterprise" and I think we are supposed to buy that that she feels isolated because she has always felt isolated because she is gifted and she isolates herself from the Enterprise crew but we don't really see that we see her go to the movie nights and chat with people in the restauranty thing like the galley, where does the chef eat? The mess? Uh.

Grace: The galley.

Jarrah: But they we uh see her hitting on that dude on Risa in "Two Days and Two Nights" [Star Trek Enterprise S01, E25].

Sue: Oh yes.

Jarrah: We see her befriending aliens all over the place so I don't see her as an introverted loner character.

Sue: That quick scene is actually one of my favourite things with Hoshi is that she is seriously I know it is terrible episode but when she is on Risa and she is just sitting there like having lunch by herself I appreciate that then just listening and trying to learn the language just because she's curious about it. I love that.

Grace: Yeah.

Jarrah: Yeah, I'll go down to this planet and I will have a good time and that may mean several things but also gonna keep brushing up on my languages. Tee hee. Yes so I didn't really buy that in "Exile" [Star Trek Enterprise S03, E06] and I think her relationships with other characters on the crew are decent but they don't really go super deep. I really would have liked to see more relationship with T'Pol, it would have been cool if she was someone who could help T'Pol out with a lot of the issues T'Pol deals with with Vulcan, maybe Hoshi has different insight as she speaks the language so well 'cos like language and culture are closely interconnected so maybe Hoshi could help her you know navigate the situations that she has to deal with through various seasons of being treated poorly by Vulcan society. Also more Hoshi in fights scenes.

Sue: Yeah with her Black Belt.

Grace: Since apparently she has this Black Belt.

Jarrah: We can always imagine and read the books and actually if anyone has a good suggestion of a book that features Hoshi I would be into hearing about it so please do comment.

Sue: Yeah I haven't read many of the Enterprise books but I would be interested to find more.

Jarrah: Yeah. I understand there are some good ones about Empress Hoshi but I don't know about first of all which ones those are and I also don't know about good prime universe Hoshi storylines.

Grace: Fair enough.

Sue: Alright so do we have any more final thoughts on Hoshi?

Grace: I have a ranking I can give her.

Sue: We usually don't rank our characters but...

Jarrah: Whataya got Grace?

Grace: As a linguist I give her 8 out of 8 hovercrafts full of eels. It loses something in the translation.

Sue: Sure. I don't know what's happening but I'm going to wrap up this episode. Grace, where can people find you on the interwebs?

Grace: You can find me on Twitter @bonecrusherjenk

Sue: And Jarrah?

Jarrah: Vous mais trouvais sur Twitter a jarrahpenguin (spells it in French to the amusement of the crew). En anglais.

Sue: Jarrah is learning French.

Jarrah: This is why we need a Hoshi more than ever I am just trying to prove her meaning.

Sue: I am sue you can find me on Twitter @spaltor that is s p a l t o r and you can follow the show on Twitter @womenatwarp on Facebook at facebook.com/womenatwarp or you can send us an email to crew@womenatwarp.com and of course again over on Patreon at patreon.com/womenatwarp and for more the Roddenberry podcast network you can visit podcasts.rodnenberry.com/

Thanks so much for joining us.

Exit music End WAW

