



# Lambda Sci-Fi

## DC Area Gaylaxians

(202) 232-3141 – Issue # 354 – September 2019

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### The LSF Book Discussion Group

If you're interested in lively discussions of F&SF books (with an emphasis on elements of interest to the LGBT community), we invite you to join the LSF Book Discussion Group. Each month, we conduct fascinating round-table discussions of works by significant F&SF authors.

The LSF Book Discussion Group usually meets on the 4th Thursday of every month, starting at 7:00 PM, at Peter & Rob's home: 1425 "S" St., NW – for directions or more details, call 202-483-6369. The next book discussion will be held on September 26.

Here are the details for the next five discussions:

**Sept. 26** – *All Systems Red* by Martha Wells (moderator: Greg).

**Oct. 24** – *The Ballad of Black Tom* by Victor Lavalle and "The Horror at Red Hook" by H.P. Lovecraft (moderator: Carl).

**Dec. 5** (combined Nov/Dec discussion) – *Meddling Kids* by Edgar Cantero (moderator: Teresa).

**Jan. 23, 2020** – *The Power* by Naomi Alderman: Teresa.

**Feb. 27, 2020** – *Wonder Woman: The Golden Age, Vol. 2* (moderator: Claire).

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### LSF Autumnal Equinox Gaming Party Saturday, Sept. 21st

Come celebrate the Autumnal Equinox a few days early (and hope it doesn't bring fire raining down from the heavens) at an LSF Gaming Party!

**What:** It's a gaming party. There's plenty of room for gaming, so please bring your favorite games (cards, board, etc.).

**When:** Saturday, September 21st

**Time:** 2:00 PM to 11:00 PM

**What to Bring:** Bring your favorite table game (or two). Also, please bring munchies and/or soft drinks.



**Dinner:** For those who are interested, we'll order pizza. To get in on the pizza order, please bring \$10 in exact change. If you don't want pizza, you can order take-out or go forage for food. There are a lot of food choices in the Mid-city (14th and "U") Corridor. Also, delivery menus will be available at the party.

**Where:** Home of Peter and Rob, 1425 S St NW, Washington, DC. Their home is in the Mid-city (14th and "U") neighborhood between Dupont Circle and Logan Circle.

**Directions** (with Metro and parking advice) at:

<http://lambdascifi.org/club/PeterRob.html>

**Questions:** Contact Peter at:

[PeterPKnapp@gmail.com](mailto:PeterPKnapp@gmail.com)

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### <<<<< September 2019 LSF Meeting >>>>>

The next LSF meeting will be held on **Sunday, September 8th**, at Peter and Rob's home, **1425 "S" Street NW, Washington, DC**. The meeting will begin at 1:30 PM. The "group watch" will begin about 3:00 PM. Hope to see you there!



### What's Inside?

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**Rutger Hauer**  
1944 – 2019

In the film *Bladerunner*, the replicant Roy Batty died in November 2019. Rutger Hauer, the actor who portrayed Roy Batty, almost made it to that date – he passed away on July 19, 2019.

Rutger Hauer was born in Breukelen, the Netherlands (near Amsterdam). Both his parents were acting teachers; but this didn't mean he headed straight into the acting profession. He ran away from home at the age of 15 to join the Dutch merchant navy. When he returned to Amsterdam in 1962, he briefly studied acting – but then quit school again for a stint in the Dutch army. Eventually, he came back to acting, joining the Noorder Compagnie, a touring experimental troupe in which he acted, directed, and was a costume designer and translator for several years.

Then came his big break. In 1969, Dutch director Paul Verhoeven cast the handsome, energetic young actor as the title character in the Dutch TV series *Floris*, a knight who gets mixed up in various court intrigues when he returns from the Crusades. Hauer worked with Verhoeven on four more films, including *Turkish Delight*, a 1973 “sexually explosive drama” that became a box-office smash and got an Oscar for Best Foreign Film. [Ed note: I first saw Rutger Hauer in *Spetters* (1980), a film about Dutch professional dirt-bike racers – very sexy!] The Verhoeven films became art-house favorites in the US; and Hauer transitioned to a career in Hollywood, beginning with his role as a flashy terrorist in the Sylvester Stallone thriller *Nighthawks* (1981).

Hauer's second American film role is perhaps his most memorable for

sci-fi fans. He portrayed replicant Roy Batty in the Ridley Scott film *Bladerunner* (1982), also starring Harrison Ford and based on Philip K. Dick's 1968 novel *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?* He famously improvised the touching “tears in the rain” lines in his final speech for the film. Director Scott liked it so much that he kept it in. The film didn't last long on the Big Screen; but it has come to be considered a landmark of F&SF film.

Over the years, Rutger Hauer appeared in dozens of films, including many projects based on WW2 themes, such as the concentration camp story *Escape from Sobibor* (1987, for which he was nominated for a Golden Globe for Best Supporting Actor).

But Hauer kept on coming back to F&SF. He starred in *Ladyhawke* (1985) and *The Hitcher* (1986). He played the vampire lord Lothos in the film version of *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* (1992). In 1994, he appeared as an SS officer in the alternate-history TV drama *Fatherland*. In the 2004 miniseries adaptation of Stephen King's *Salem's Lot*, he was Barlow the vampire. In 2005, he portrayed Cardinal Roark in *Sin City* and the corporate villain running the Wayne Corporation in Christopher Nolan's *Batman Begins*. During Seasons 1-5 of *True Blood* (2008-2014), he played Niall Brigant, the king of the tribe from which the Stackhouse family descended. And in 2013, he starred as Van Helsing in Dario Argento's *Dracula 3D*.

Hauer received other accolades in addition to his 1987 Golden Globe nomination. In 2008, he received the Golden Calif Culture Prize for his contributions to Dutch cinema, both as an actor and for his efforts to aid the development of young filmmakers and actors. In 2013, he was made a Knight of the Order of the Netherlands Lion. He was also active in various social causes. He was an outspoken sponsor of Greenpeace and founder of the Rutger Hauer Starfish Association, an AIDS awareness organization.

## Minutes of the August LSF Meeting taken by Scott



It's the month of August! Five people attended. It was noted that some LSF members were absent today, since they are attending WorldCon in Dublin. We look forward to hearing about the tales from the 77th World Science Fiction convention.

David and Paul attended a special Fathom event at Gallery Place of the 10th annual anniversary of the last two David Tenant *Doctor Who* episodes. The presentation included an interview with David Tenant.

Karl is enjoying the *Good Omens* series.

David reviewed the list of genre TV programs not returning and new programs. Genre TV shows not returning this Fall: *Big Bang Theory*, *I-Zombie*, *The Passage*, and *Midnight Texas*. New genre network TV shows: CW's *Batwoman*, CW's *Nancy Drew*, ABC's *Emergence*, CBS's *Evil*; Fox's *NeXt*, NBC's *Zoey Extraordinary Playlist*. *The Orville* is moving from Fox to Hulu.

Wess likes the snips of Amazon's original *The Boys* series with Karl Urban; the first season has been shown. Scott is enjoying the current season of *Handmaid's Tale*.

Upcoming movies: *Angry Birds II*, *Freaks*, *Ready or Not*, *It Chapter 2*, *Depraved*, *Ad Astra*, *Abominable*, *The Hunt*. David and Wess ran down the list of actors in the *Dune* 2020 movie – and compared them with the original movie and TV series. The movie is now slated to be released December 2020.

Karl recalled the 1988 South African *Space Mutiny* movie, which was featured on an MS3TK episode

Lots of banter about non-genre topics, but a good time was had by all.

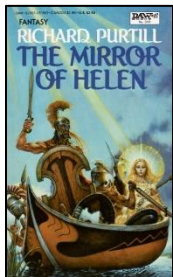
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## Women of Greco-Roman Myth & Legend

short reviews by Carl

Greco-Roman myths and legends mostly focus on men, particularly warriors, monarchs, and male deities. With very few exceptions (such as the mythological runner Atalanta), the ancient myths don't give mortal women much time "center stage". Some of the goddesses get "starring roles"; but mortal women seldom do. Yes, Greek tragedians occasionally gave important roles to mortal women – for example, *The Trojan Women* and *The Bacchae* by Euripides – but it's more the exception than the rule. Modern fantasy writers seem more willing to center their novels around the women of Greco-Roman myths and legends; and I've recently been reading a number of them. Most of them involve characters from the Trojan War, so that's a good place to start this series of reviews.



*The Mirror of Helen*  
by Richard Purtill

I found this book at the table of a used book dealer at Balticon this year. It's one of the old "Fantasy" titles from DAW Books; and I was instantly attracted by the really cool Don Maitz cover art. It's the third book in Purtill's trilogy of Fantasy novels based on Greek mythology; but it also can be a satisfactory read as a stand-alone novel.

*The Mirror of Helen* is, of course, the story of Helen of Sparta, from her youth through her elopement with Prince Paris of Troy and concluding with her eventual return to her husband Menelaus after the fall of Troy. Uniquely, it consists of a series of first-person narratives by people of consequence in Helen's life. There's a prologue from Theseus of Athens (of "and the Minotaur" fame), who tells the story of his abduction of the 10-year-old Spartan princess as a hostage to discourage her father from invading Athens. This is followed by three novelette-length narratives. The first is narrated

by Alcmena, who had been a bull-leaper with Theseus in Crete: she tells the story of how the young Helen is courted by all the Greek kings and eventually chooses Menelaus, thus making him the next king of Sparta. The second novelette is narrated by M'pha, daughter of Alcmena, who is Helen's most trusted servant: she tells the story of Helen's life during the last days of the Trojan War, after the death of Hector. The concluding novelette is narrated by Menelaus, who tells the story of what he and Helen experienced after they left the devastated city of Troy and traveled to Egypt on their way back to Sparta. When considered together these four narratives reveal the life-changes that Helen goes through.

Helen's life is one long series of hand-offs. As a desirable, beautiful, royal female, she is a pawn in the schemes of both men and gods. Theseus abducts her as a child to use her as a hostage against King Tyndareus of Sparta. Later, Tyndareus himself uses Helen to advance his own political schemes, as he dangles her before all the ambitious Greek princelings as a potential bride (as well as a way to inherit the throne of Sparta through her). Most famously, the goddess Aphrodite gives her to Paris to ensure that the Trojan prince will declare Aphrodite "most beautiful" in her contest with Hera and Athena. (This part of the myth doesn't actually appear "on stage" in *The Mirror of Helen* – it's only alluded to in the third novelette.) When Paris is killed by Ajax, King Priam of Troy hands Helen off to another of his sons, Deiphobus, who's had a crush on her ever since Paris brought her to Troy. After the fall of the city, the reader finally learns of Aphrodite's *hidden* plans for Helen – but she is ultimately handed back to her estranged husband Menelaus by his pushy brother Agamemnon. Helen is shown to be an intelligent and competent woman who, throughout virtually all of her life, has no control over her own destiny until... but that's a "spoiler" and I'm not telling you.

There's something else Helen has wanted throughout her whole life: she wants to be loved, truly loved – for her talents, for her intelligence, for her very *self*. But her beauty always stands in the way of this. After all, Helen is reputedly the most beautiful woman in the world, the half-mortal child of Zeus and Queen Leda of Sparta. (Remember the myth of Leda and



"I've seen things you people wouldn't believe. Attack ships on fire off the shoulder of Orion. I watched C-beams glitter in the dark near the Tannhäuser Gate. All those moments will be lost in time like tears in rain. Time to die."

- Replicant Roy Batty, Nov. 2019 -  
(portrayed by actor Rutger Hauer)

the swan/Zeus?) It's her incomparable beauty that every man wants to possess, but none of them really respect her – or even like her – for any other reason than *having* her. Except, as it turns out, for the shy and socially awkward Menelaus. And it's in the final sections of the book that author Purtill deals with an aspect of Helen's life that continually perplexed the Ancients: After apparently eloping with Paris and causing 10 years of devastating warfare, how did Helen suddenly become reconciled to Menelaus and "live happily ever after"?

Three cheers to Purtill's *The Mirror of Helen*, says I! I found it to be a most satisfying read; and I'm certainly glad I decided to pick it up at Balticon.

[to be continued]

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The Trojan Horse, by  
Willy Pogany



**\*\* INFORMATION ABOUT LAMBDA SCI-FI: DC AREA GAYLAXIANS \*\***

**Lambda Sci-Fi: DC Area Gaylaxians (LSF)** is an organization for gay men, lesbians, bisexuals, and trans-gendered (GLBT) people, and their friends who are interested in science fiction, fantasy, horror and related genres in all forms (SF/F/H). LSF's primary goals are to have fun, to provide a community, and to:

- promote SF/F/H, with particular attention to materials of interest to GLBT people and their friends;
- provide forums for GLBT people and their friends to share their interest in SF/F/H;
- promote the presence of GLBT elements within SF/F/H and within fandom; and
- promote SF/F/H within the GLBT community.

Annual membership fees are \$10, for which you will receive an e-mailed copy of this monthly newsletter and a membership directory. (Hard copies of the newsletter cost an additional \$15 per year.) Newsletter submissions are always welcome.

Meetings are usually held on the second Sunday of each month at a private residence. The next Lambda Sci-Fi meeting will be held on Sunday, **September 8th, at Peter and Rob's home, 1425 "S" Street NW, Washington, DC.** Hope to see you there!

Lambda Sci-Fi: DC Area Gaylaxians is an affiliate of **the Gaylactic Network**, an international organization for gay people and their friends who are interested in science-fiction and fantasy.

**\*\* Con Calendar \*\*** by Carl

Aug. 30 – Sept. 2, 2019 (Labor Day Weekend) **TCEP 26** ("Gaming A to Z"). Hampton Inn & Suites (Washington-Dulles Airport, Sterling VA). Membership: \$40 (25% discount if you register by 7/31/2019). On-line registration available at: <https://tcep-barkingmad.org> (their website).

October 18-20, 2019 **GAYLAXICON 2019**. Doubletree Hotel by Hilton Minneapolis-Park Place (Minneapolis MN). Membership: \$65 (ends 10/1/2019). On-line registration via EventBrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/gaylaxicon-2019-registration-51438596226>  
Homepage: <https://www.facebook.com/MNGaylaxicon/>

October 18-20, 2019 **CAPCLAVE 2019**. Hilton Washington DC/Rockville (Rockville MD). Guests of Honor: Martha Wells, Robert J. Sawyer. Membership: \$70 at the door. Make checks payable to "CAPCLAVE" and send to: Capclave 2019 Registration c/o San Scheiner, 1518 North Edison Street, Arlington VA 22205-2638. Website: [www.capclave.org](http://www.capclave.org) For information: [info@capclave.org](mailto:info@capclave.org)

Nov. 1-3, 2019 **ANIME USA 2019** ("Of Otaku, By Otaku, For Otaku"). Washington Marriott Wardman Park (Washington DC). Guests: various voice actors and others. Pre-registration: \$70 for the weekend (daily rates available).  
Website: [www.animeusa.org](http://www.animeusa.org) Registration site: [animeusaregistration.org](http://animeusaregistration.org)

Nov. 8-10, 2019 **PHILCON 2019**. Crown Plaza Hotel (Cherry Hill NJ). Guests: Tim Pratt (Principal Speaker), Stephanie Pui-Mun Law (Artist GoH). Membership: \$50 through Sept. 30; \$55 from Oct. 1 thru Nov. 1; \$65 at the door. On-line registration.  
Website: [www.philcon.org](http://www.philcon.org) Facebook: [www.Facebook.com/Philcon.PSFS](http://www.Facebook.com/Philcon.PSFS)



## Gaylaxicon 2019

[www.gaylaxicon.org](http://www.gaylaxicon.org)

It's next month!

Minneapolis MN – Oct. 18-20



We are once again at the DoubleTree Minneapolis Park Place and once again have two ballrooms for three tracks of programming, an art show, and a dealer's room. Gaming will again be in the Season Suites and will be open throughout the con and stocked with lots of games for you to enjoy throughout the convention. Our fabulous con suite will be filled with good food, hot and cold beverages and conversation, as well as the annual Chocolate Symposium.

Registration for the convention is available at our web site. Hotel rooms are also available linked from our web site. We are looking forward to seeing you all and please be sure to spread the word about what a great convention Gaylaxicon is.