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Okay, so as she said, I'm just, and as indicated, we're going to be talking about Helen Sparta, Helen of Troy, known equally as both.

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I for, yes.

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Oh, real quick, sorry, I wanted to check time on yours. Or you, you said you caught it at 41 min.

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40, 41. That's fine. Thank you. I do have a timer on my phone.

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40, okay, so we, we won't bother you. I'll let you know when you hit 40, but I won't like, Okay, excellent. Sorry.

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No, you're good. So just to kind of. This is big we were going to be talking about as I said it come from an engineering background so I like organization and structure with my presentation.

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We're going to be talking, starting with the many versions of Helen, specifically her mythological origins and the different ways that Greeks have told her story in the context of the Church of War over the millennia.

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And then we're going to talk about more modern interpretations of Helen up until about the year 2,000 and then look at how her interpret, how people have been interpreting her has shifted after the year 2,000 because there's a pretty interesting change in her portrayal that starts happening in the year 2,000 and then as you approach what everyone's calling like the mythological resurgent by female

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authorship. That's where it really starts to abruptly change in the last couple of years.

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So. Who is Helen? One slider version. Helen is the most beautiful woman in the world.

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She is the dummy goddaughter of Zeus, wife to King Menelaus of Sparta, mother to their daughter, Miami.

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And she is awarded to Paris as a result of this thing called the Judgment of Paris, which we'll talk about further on in this presentation.

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And Paris then arrives in Sparta and spirits her away to Troy starting the Trojan War.

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This story has been told multiple times if any of you saw the Brad Pitt version from 2,005 it's still weirdly vaguely sort of accurate in this.

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They do leave out the judgment of Paris. This is Helen as one slide. These are the basic core tenants of who she is as a character.

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These tend to be repeated over and over and over. No matter who tells this story, there are some variations though on each of these topics.

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Which is who's Helen the more complicated version. Nearly every single beat in Helen's life has an aspect of it that varies between versions.

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These are 2 different paintings of Helen being taken to Troy by Paris and one of them Paris is the Trojans are fighting off Spartans as he leads Helen onto the ship, whereas the other one Helens quite obviously being kidnapped.

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And this is true for nearly every beat of her life. And she had a very interesting life for all the fact that most people only know her as the start of the Trojan War.

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Depending of course as I said on who's telling the myth. So we'll just start with who she was when she was born.

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Most people have either heard of or read is Hamilton's mythology. It's been out for decades.

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It was one of the first mythology books I read as a child when I was into books that no longer had pictures.

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In this version, Helen was born from an egg, her divine father is Zeus who turned into a swan and then of course depending on which interpretation you get, either seduced or assaulted Lida, her mother, Queen of Sparta, and she was hatched from this particular coupling.

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Her mortal father is Tenderius, King of Sparta, husband of Lida and she had a mortal twin sister named Clyde Nestra who has her own place in the epic cycle and she also had her twin brothers Castor and Pollocks most people know them as the symbol for Gemini.

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But on the other side of this you have a version where Helen is still born from her egg. Her father still z but her mother is nemesis the goddess of revenge who turned into a swan to try to escape zeus in this version.

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Nemesis, lays her egg and then leaves this egg on the shores where Lida finds it and cares for the egg once it hatches as her own child.

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I for a fun thing that Helen got to do as a child which also has various interpretations. When she was a child she was kidnapped by Theseus and this other guy whose name I can't pronounce so we'll just call on that other guy.

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I they're essentially 2 fifty-year-old demigods both decided they needed to marry daughters of Zeus.

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Theseus chose Mary Helen and the other guy chose Persephone, which was a bad move as Hades caught him and proceeded to feed him to Cerberus for several years.

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This actually ends up being one of the labors of Hercules. Is to rescue this dude from Server versus Jaws.

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Helen, meanwhile, is rescued from Athens by her brothers Castor and Pollocks who also take Thesees.

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Sister and mother as handmaidens for Helen and revenge. I wear the variations usually come in is the age that Helen is sometimes she's a very young child sometimes she's old enough to have children in one version of the myth.

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The child if Virginia who's most commonly known as agamemnon and her sister Clyt Nestor's child is actually Helen and Dcus's child.

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But Helen of course grows up and becomes the most beautiful woman in the world and has to get married.

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I this the number of men who want to marry her is extensive but it usually varies between 21 and 36.

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This lines up with the catalog of ships, which is the second book of the Iliad.

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On And basically, Tindarius had every hero, prince, and king in his room in his throne room wanting to marry his daughter and he knew if he picked anyone he would offend someone so he had this massive problem and Odysseus, presented a solution, which is known as the oath of tenderius.

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All suitors must swear to defend a marriage, de-marriage against whoever opposes or threatens it.

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So whoever Tender is picks. Everyone has to go defend them, defend this marriage if it gets threatened in any way.

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And in the end, Menelaus, if my CNA is chosen, in the catalog of women, he didn't even attend and mostly sent presence through his, brother, Agamemnon, who was Tim Darius's son-in-law at this point.

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I and in the end his extensive gifts and his humble nature are what won him Helen is his favor and he is a to marry Helen.

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In another version, however, Helen is allowed to pick her husband amongst all the suitors in the room and she chose Menelaus out of all of them.

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So just different ways of how not only ends up her husband. And once she gets sorry and once she gets married to him, they live several years together.

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Mary, do they have a daughter, Hermione? Things proceed to pace inspired everything seemed pretty chill until this dude named Paris shows up.

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Paris is Prince of Troy, also known as Alexander. You'll see him refer to that a couple of times another notations and references.

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Basically what happened is there's a wedding for Achilles parents and Eris got his discord decided she doesn't like that she's not the you know she's it's been it's too chill of a wedding so she throws an apple at the feet of Athena Heron Aphrodite marked to the most beautiful and they proceed to have a massive blow argument about who's most beautiful

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is. And Zeus decides he doesn't want to deal with that. So he goes and at the time, Paris has his own long complicated history, but he finds Paris and says which one do you think is the prettiest and parents looks at these 3 goddesses and instead of just objectively choosing, each one of them also offers him a reward for being selected.

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Kara, does she'll make him king of Europe in Asia. Athena says she will give him wisdom and skill and war and Aphrodite promises him the most beautiful woman in the world.

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Harris is not very wise, which is why Aphrodite offered him wisdom, so he doesn't pick Aphrodite, which is the smartest choice because it gets you the other 2 and instead just goes straight for his goal which is the most beautiful woman in the world which is Helen.

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So he gets on his boat, sails to Sparta depending on the version of the myth. He kills people or he doesn't on his way to get there.

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And eventually arrives in Sparta. Menelaus is called away to go to a funeral and then we have what is the abduction of Helen.

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Obviously in this picture, Helen's not looking particularly abducted. She looks pretty, you know, chill about getting onto this boat.

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But we have different versions of how this particular story plays out. Herodotus says that Helen was carried off.

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She was literally carried onto that boat. She didn't consent. Sappho who for all the fact that She's where Sappho comes from.

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Really liked Menelaus and said that Helen deserted her most noble husband. So she went with pairs of her own free will.

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And then my favorite version of this is the one that has thrown the last 4 slides out well it's not my favorite it's the weirdest version there's last 4 slides completely out the window and insists that no Paris has been here the whole time he was so cool when they were picking suitors that everyone was in love with him and he was obviously decided over every single Greek present that he was the best choice.

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And therefore everything that follows is merely Greek aggression.

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Bye, once Helen is spirited off to Troy, the Trojan War begins.

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Most people know this through the Iliad. The Iliad Alright, is actually only a 51 day book.

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And it takes place during year 10 of the 10 year Trojan War. This is where we get Achilles, we get Agamemnon, we get Odysseus before he gets stuck on his boat.

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We get Hector, the death of Hector and a lot of really cool murals and pottery and reinterpretations specifically are for the Iliad.

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But the Homeric cycle as a whole tends to come into play, but most people know of the Iliad, which is Homer's work.

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Helen appears 3 times in the Iliad Chief Pears and books 3 books 6 and book 24 in book 24.

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She's Chief Warner at actors funeral or one she's third mourner but she's one of the 3 main mourners at Hector's funeral.

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In book 6 she mostly talks to Hector about how she kind of wishes that You know, he had been the one that had won her instead of his idiot younger brother Paris.

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But book 3 is what we're primarily going to focus on because it's her most extensive appearance in the.

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And this one, Menelaus has finally laid eyes on Paris after 10 years of fighting and challenges him to a duel for the right to win Helen back.

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Whoever wins gets to take her home. She sits down next to prime king of Troy and then points out all the Greek kings to him kind of is like a secondary catalog of ships.

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And they proceed to watch the duel Menelaus is like inches from winning when aphrodite turns into a giant cloud of smoke and sweeps Paris off.

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The battlefield. And once she dumps Paris in his rooms, she goes to Helen in disguise and commands Helen to attend to him.

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As an aside, Helen on the wall is very common artistic motif. So a lot of artists throughout the centuries have really enjoyed.

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Painting this particular chapter of the Iliad, specifically Helen's presence. Moving on to further paintings, this is usually how this is depicted.

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Helen and Paris looking lovingly at each other or I guess technically in the one on the left Helen and Aphrodite looking kind of lovingly at each other after Diet is the one that looks like she's made of smoke in both of them.

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It's overall a very gentle looking thing, whereas in the, it doesn't. Actually really play out that way.

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Neely, it, Helen is not happy. She got a glimpse of going home to Sparta and then it's kind of ripped away from her when she finds out there's going to be a duel she's like oh my gosh I get to go home to Sparta I get to go home to my husband and my daughter and my parents and my friends and this is all I

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want. So when Aphrodite commands her to go attend Paris, she essentially says the, Homeric equivalent of if you like them so much, why don't you marry him?

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And tells him, tells Aphrodite that she should attend a Paris and that it would be wrong and disgraceful to share that cowards bed once more.

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Hi, for DITY proceeds to threaten Helen essentially telling her if you don't do what I say I will turn the entirety of Troy against you for insulting my favorite.

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And so Helen. Goes to attend Paris, but she doesn't do it very kindly. When she goes to Paris, she basically says, oh, would to God, you died there brought down by that great soldier my husband long ago and tells him to go out and challenge him again.

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So maybe Menelaus will stab him. She attends to him not very happily about it which explains why later she tells Hector I wish I'd married you instead.

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I wish it had been an option. But, Obviously very disappointed without. The Trojan War is going and how this war has been fought over something that she no longer wants.

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She no longer wants Paris. We also get a really cool description of Helen considering there aren't a lot of references to women in the Iliad yes we have and we have and drama key and heckiba and things like that.

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We don't get a lot of female references, but we do get this really cool introduction to Helen where she's not being described as the most beautiful woman in the world.

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Saint of all women, she of the white neck, etc, etc. We get and there Helen sat, Helen Child of Zeus, who store shield a storm and lightning glancing away lashing out at her husband and it's pretty much matches how you expect like Achilles to talk to Hector kind of like this very like disgusted tone of voice.

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So it's just a neat little tidbit from the, that I always really enjoy.

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The Trojan War preceded the pace. We have the cycle of killing with Patroclus to Hector to Achilles to Paris to back and forth back and forth and back and forth.

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We finally get to Odysseus and his brilliant idea to build a really large horse. And sneak it in Detroit, which is where we get the sack of Troy.

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Different versions of this. Broadly speaking, appear by this point in the story, Paris has died and Helen has been remarried off to Diphobus, his younger brother.

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Instead of just, you know, giving her back to Menelaus, but in the Odyssey, I Helen describes being led around the Trojan voice, mimicking the voices of the Greek queens to try to lure their husbands out of the horse and expose a trick.

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She fails in this task, but she talks about it. Jokingly. In the, Aeneas runs into Diphobus in the underworld and Diphobus tells him about Helen dance performed doctric rights and let signal fires for the Greeks before hiding his sword so he could be stabbed in the back by Menelaus.

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He describes a very treacherous proactive woman during the fall of Troy. But, regardless of whichever version, the next part usually is pretty universal, though there are of course slight variations, which is Helen is reunited with Menelaus.

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This is another thing that everyone really likes to draw pictures of. It's on a lot of Greek pottery.

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It's in medieval tapestries, which is what's on the lower right. It's in medieval tapestries, which is what's on the lower right.

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And, it's in wood cuttings, which is what's on the lower right.

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And, it's in wood cuttings, it's in paintings Regardless of how angry, pissed or whatever plan that Menelaus had at this point, he is so distracted.

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By her beauty and he drops his sword and Helen is not killed. There's like I think one version where Helen dies at this point, but it's like.

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Very rarely referenced. No, Lance drops his sword and takes his wife back to the beaches of Troy.

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And then we move into the voyage home. I'm period. The 2 most.

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Interesting dichotomies of this particular version are 2 plays by Euripides. They're written 3 years apart from each other, but he changes his mind wildly between the 2 of them.

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The first that he wrote was the Trojan women. In this one, it's primarily the story of all the women of Troy being essentially.

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Parsed out to various Greek kings as war prizes after the war and Helen is kept separate from them, but is assumed to be kind of in a similar position to them.

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Being a signed, though they don't know if this assignment is her death. It's told primarily by Hecuba, the queen of Troy.

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And, other main characters are in dramati, Cassandra. But you have these, essentially near the end of the play, Helen is presented to Menelaus.

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She's finally come into the group of women and she makes an impassioned case for why the Trojan War was definitely not her fault.

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And if it was her fault, it wasn't completely her fault and etc, so on and so forth.

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Heck you back, we have Troy tries to refute this, calling Helen a liar, medal is assures Hecuba that Helen will face Spartan justice and death when she is returned to Sparta but the audience both and justice and death when she is returned to Sparta but the audience both then and now knows that Helen lives the rest of her life happily with.

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But the audience both then and now knows that Helen lives the rest of her life happily with, but the audience both then and now knows that Helen lives the rest of her life happily with Malaysian Sparta because most people have read the rest of her life happily with Malaysia and Sparta because most people have read the Iliad or heard the Elliot by this point.

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As an aside, all the pictures from this slide are from the Trojan women. 1971.

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It stars Katherine Hepburn as Hekiva and Irene Coppices Helen.

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It's very, very good. I will link the this particular scene in Discord or something later.

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But 3 years later your bodies is completely changed his mind on how he wanted this particular ending to go for Helen.

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He writes a version where mental is crashes on the ships on the shores of, of Egypt and Helen.

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Is there. He's a bit surprised by this because it turns out the Helen that was in Troy was just a ghost.

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She was conjured up, in revenge by, and together, Menelaus and Helen proceed to con the Egyptians and run away together back to Sparta.

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The later years of their life, I Once again, depends on who's telling it and the Odyssey tolemicus comes to Sparta and Helen and Menelaus welcome him and are completely reconciled.

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They're able to talk about the war together and. Mostly seem fairly content. They're also doing hallucinogenic drugs together, which is really where it's at.

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And arrest is also by your recipes because he changed his mind again. Apollo, is St.

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Helen from Arrestees who's come in a quest of vengeance and takes her off to Mount Olympus and then the last one has 2 different versions which is Helen sharing her afterlife with Achilles which is weird because they never really met and then the last for is Helen is killed.

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By an angry widow. And hang from a tree. This is after. So these are all the different mythological interpretations of Helen.

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She gets to do kind of not as much as, you know, we'd expect from a modern heroin, but she does get to do a lot.

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She has a lot of different versions of her story. Which is why it's interesting to see how more modern audiences have interpreted.

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I is various stories. We're probably going to be looking at things from about 1909 and onward.

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Starting with. Helen in movies and TV. Up until about the year 2,000 one that's fun is the love of 3 queens during hetty lamar and this one heavy lamar's character is trying to decide which 3 which of 3 queens she wants to dress up as for a party and Helen's last one and in this story Helen knows she's beautiful and is

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commanded by Menelaus to distract Paris. She takes it on as a task and fumbles her task by falling in love with the dude.

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And, you know, eventually she has to go home to Menelaus, but it's played off as a tragedy, but a woman who knows what she's doing.

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Helen of Troy, 1956. She's the main character. This Helen falls in love with a shipwrecked Paris who like washes onto their shores.

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It's also played out as a tragedy, but she's the main character of the plot only follows her throughout the story.

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In the Trojan horse, 1961, Helen gets to be the bad guy.

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She's a fun fatal type character. She's viewed as opportunist manipulator and since she's used as an opportunist manipulator and since she's a femme fatale, of course she gets her come up it's in the end where she's unable to charm Menelaus once again and rips her Trojan crown from her head and commands her home.

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And then the last thing we're going to be covering this section, there are of course others examples of Helen being used in films and TV.

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But the last one I thought was kind of fun because you've talked about it a couple times with this thing so far is, you know, were your princess.

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In, season one, there's not so called, beware of Greeks bearing gifts.

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It has weird beats that are in common with the epic cycle, which I always find really exciting, which details they choose to pick, but overall Helen's allowed to be more proactive in this story.

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She asked Sina for help quelling this war. She ran off with Paris because she was in love with him, but he is murdered by Diophobus, his brother, which is what makes it so exciting that in this version, Menelaus still gets to kill dip.

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But after the Trojan and she gets to kind of leave on her own recognizance. She doesn't go home to mental latest in Sparta.

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She gets to decide her own fate. By running which is pretty cool. Literature up until about 2,000, this is just a sampling.

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There are of course tons of other ones, but these are just the sampling as inside Best and you told me to mention that these 2 paintings were done by Besties, both of Helen of Troy, probably both of their same shared muse.

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But to start with in 1,909 there's a short story called the ruinous face it's available if you want to read it because it's will pass copyright expiration.

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But in this one, Helen and Menelaus, meet along the Trojan wall and essentially kind of re fall in love with each other talking at the end of the war.

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After the war, she goes home with them. They're happy for a little bit and then she kills Menelaus and his sleep and G off to do whatever mysterious murderous women do because it ends kind of abruptly after that.

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In the dark tower and other stories by CS Lewis, there's a short story called After 10 Years.

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In this one, the protagonist is Menelaus, but it's essentially a version of Europe, Jesus, Helen that's reversed in this version, the Helen that he sees.

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And Troy is real Helen, but she's aged 10 years and he's like, I don't know who this woman is.

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And when he gets to Troy, he sees a ghost of Helen that still looks beautiful and young and he chooses the beautiful young ghost as opposed to the woman who's actually his wife.

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In the private life of Pellen of Troy by in from 1,925 in this one Helen returns to Sparta and it's essentially trying to re-equalize her life as wife, queen, mother, and think about her time in Troy.

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She discusses going to Troy with Paris because she thought she loved him, but really she liked what he reminded her of this freedom that she had.

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And it's a really interesting book from the perspective of this is written in 1,925 women's suffrage was like really new and most of this book is about Helen advocating and telling women to advocate for themselves in terms of their sexuality, their wants and needs.

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What they feel they deserve. So it's like this kind of really cool. From the 19 twenties, as feminist as you, you know, getting that type, that by our perspective, it's probably not super feminist, but at the time it was really feminist.

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But at the time it was and then we have the luck of Troy, which is really cute kids book.

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It's actually about Helen and Menelaus, son who was taken with Helen to try because he was an infant at the start of the church or more.

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So it's primarily about him trying to, you know, save his mother and go home. And it's very cute, but, And this one, how long is well out of love with Paris and since she's The reason why the boy is doing everything she's adjacent to most of the action in this story.

06:15:38.000 --> 06:15:45.000

We get a lot of her thoughts and feelings and how she wishes things would play out at the end of the book.

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Menelaus shows up to kill diphibic and together they're happily reunited and get to go home together at Sparta.

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As an aside, this is one of my favorite pencil drawings that I've ever found, which is Helen being allowed to visit a really sad Okay, so it's just like as a spirit.

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It's anyway, I thought it was funny. Ellen also had 2 big stage offering. She actually had a third.

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There was another opera that was written. In like the early 19 hundreds that essentially is very Helen goes to Troy.

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Very short opera but the ones I thought were really interesting were the Egyptian Helena. Which is a German opera.

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That I'm not going to try to pronounce in German done in 1,928.

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In this one it's mostly about Helen and Menelaus's troubles when they're stuck on a metrical island together.

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Throughout this one, Menelaus is insane. I alternating between trying to kill Helen and not knowing who Helen is.

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So Helen is gifted the ability to either make Helen for make mentalize forget who she is or make him remember but they can fix their problems and in the end she picks that solution and they're able to sort out their relationship difficulties and escape this magical island.

06:17:02.000 --> 06:17:22.000

With each other. Paris, a rock Odyssey from 1990. Which is this one that looks amazing on the right here is, Helen, nurses, a shipwreck, Paris back to health and primarily in this early part, I want songs are mostly about her wanting to leave this life of constraint behind.

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She wants more independence, she wants more freedom, she wants to live life essentially. In the course of The first act of display, she proceeds to rescue Harris, stab a man and run away to Troy.

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All in the first act. So it's very proactive for her. Later on in the musical, there's a period where Odysseus usually turns into a beggar to sneak in Detroit and usually he and Helen see each other from a distance and kind of give each other like a hey.

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Suck peace not at each other and this one she actually confronts him. Like what are you doing here?

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And they have a little argument and singing in the background. But by the end of this play, Menelaus finally arrives, he kills Paris in this one.

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Thinking that Paris had actually abducted Helen and when he sees that Helen's upset about this he actually just tries to make Helen feel better the whole ending is about making Helen feel better as opposed to making every man feel better.

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Should have listened a bit earlier. But he's listening now. Can we get to kind of the next phase, the post 2,000 phase and things start to shift a little bit at this point mostly because our drive for how we interpret things changes and more importantly just how we tell stories changes a little bit at this time.

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I'm not entirely certain why movies and TV stays kind of basically the same and my thesis for that is primarily men were writing everything that was before and men were still writing these so they didn't really feel the urge to change.

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As I said, most of us or have at least heard of the 2,005 movie Troy starring Brad Pitt and Eric Banna and Orlando Bloom.

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Helen and this was played by Diane Krueger. She was main cast not name character but main cast.

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And this one, she goes with Paris, Menelaus is a CAD, and gets stabbed during the Troy, the battle, that duel that I mentioned earlier, by Hector.

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In this version, Helen, kind of takes a background role, but she's in a lot of the background and kind of forms a weird eye contacty relationship with Hector, which is kind of neat because it reminds me of books, 60 L.

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But since this is the only version where Paris doesn't die, I He, and gets to live, they get their own happily ever after.

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Them they escape alongside Aeneas, I guess, join him in room. I'm not really sure where they're going.

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In 2,003 there was a TV mini series called Helen of Troy, Helen.

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Is the main character since they named after her. I thought that was pretty cool. And this one she goes with Paris of her own free will.

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This one plays really creatively with Missology. It kind of basically once we get to Troy, it takes like an abrupt .

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Left turn and really leans into Agamemnon being super evil and everyone behaving badly and nothing really actually resembles the end of the Trojan War.

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Clayton Nestra, Agamemnon's wife and Helen sister shows up.

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Even though she never shows up, it's strange, but how long is the main character? She is the reason for the plot.

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She has thoughts, feelings, and they are showing on screen and It sucks for her because it's 2,003 and things don't go well for her, but she's still the main character.

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In 2,018 there was a TV series on Netflix code produced by BBC called Try Fall of the City.

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And this one Helen is once again a main character. She's one of 2, the other one being Paris.

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This is the only version that actually contains the judgment of Paris in it, which is interesting. And in this one she goes willingly with Paris as much as one can with the judgment of Paris being involved.

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In this story she does think she changes her mind. She decides kind of vaguely towards act 2 of this you know 12 episode series around the middle that she doesn't really want to be here anymore and tries to go home to her husband and she tries to make things better for the Trojans she tries to make things better for the Greeks she doesn't succeed at a lot of these things but she is trying and she

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has her own emotional arc however inconsistent it may be. At the end of this she does go home to Sparta but unfortunately her husband is kind of gone insane so it's not really with the husband that she wanted to go home with.

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Moving on into books, this is just a sampling. Of the books that happened up until We're gonna cover, about 5 years here.

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I categorize these as the good ones, for a variety of reasons that'll be more apparent when we get to the less good ones.

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In 2,002 there's a book called Goddess of Yesterday and this one Helen is an evil step mother.

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She gets to be kind of a villain. She makes things difficult for our protagonist in a variety of ways.

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She's written as being selfish and spiteful and wanting to do everything for herself and is mostly just mad that Menelaus is not just the dazzled by her beauty, 24, over 7.

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So she runs off with Paris who is. This book ends over the end of the Trojan War, so we don't really know how things play out if she gets her come up and etc.

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2,006, Margaret George's, Helen of Troy. Primarily, Helen is sad in this one, but it's primarily it's still from her point of view.

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So we get to know why she's sad, how she's sad, how she chooses to try to fix her happy, her sadness and make herself happy, which is running away with Paris and then we could see her view of the Trojan War.

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At the end of it, she returns home with Menelaus kind of apathetically mostly just like this is fine I'll cope with this until he dies and then I'll go be a mortal somewhere else.

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In 2,011 we have this kind of out of left field version which I like to call the modern X-men AU of the Iliad, where Helen is a teenage girl in Nantucket who's super pretty.

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Paris is a guy named Lucas and everyone has X-men powers and There's apparently something going on where it's like they're repeating the cycle of the Trojan War, but like Menelaus, Paris's uncle, it's very confusing and has very little in common.

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But howen's the main character and she gets to make bad choices all on her own like a good teenage protagonist from the year 2,011.

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In 2021 daughters of Sparta came out. This is a dual point of view book with Helen and Knight Nestra.

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In this one Helen falls in and out of love with Paris during the course of the story. She mostly thinks Menelaus is apathetic to her like doesn't really care about her one way or another, mostly because there's a big age difference between them, so they don't really start off on equal footing and they never really gain it until the end of the book when they're

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reunited. After she's like thank God you've come to rescue me. And then lastly, we're going to talk about really quickly on this section is we could beauty.

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I easiest way to explain this book series, broadly speaking, is what if the Greek gods and mythological figures were sort of like mafia bosses in like a fictional universe and all wanted to have sex with each other.

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See is this way to describe it. In this one, Helen's pretty and, daughter and everyone wants her so to do stages of massive essentially tournament to win her Helen a sexy independent woman enters herself and eventually teams up with Patroclus and Achilles so they can be happy and in bed together.

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In this one, there, Paris is her ex-boyfriend. Menelaus doesn't exist.

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It's very bare-bone similarity, but she is the main character. And the reason why I keep repeating that is because she starts rapidly becoming not the main character at around this time period or even like a point of view character.

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We're gonna cover these 3 books as kind of the same sort of thing. I refer to them as the Klyt Nestrox because they essentially tell the story of Quiet Nestra in 3 different ways.

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To remind you is Helen's sister, they are twins in a lot of versions.

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Sometimes they're just twins in a lot of versions. Sometimes they're just siblings.

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She marries, sometimes they're just siblings. She marries Menelaus's brother Agamemnon.

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She marries Menelaus's brother Agamemnon and at the beginning of the Trojan War, the gods demanded a sacrifice to allow the Greeks to sail to Troy and that sacrifice was, which is Clayton Nestra and Agamemnon's oldest daughter.

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And Agamemnon goes through with it and when he comes back from Troy, Clive Nestra kills him in revenge.

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And then Electric, like Nestra's other daughter, has to kill quite a mistress.

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It's very specific. Chain of murders that have gotten 3 different versions in the last year and a half.

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First one's electro by Jennifer St. Came out in 2022. There are 3 point of view characters Climb Master Electra and Cassandra.

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In this one at the beginning, Helen explains to Klyan Nasser that she chose Menelaus, so she did get to choose Menelaus in this one, but she chose him because she thought he'd be best suited.

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But kind Nestor doesn't really care what that means and mostly just thinks this is stupid and her sister is an idiot.

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And then from that point on, we know absolutely nothing about what Helen feels. She's You have no idea if she was taken or kidnapped by Paris because Clim Nestro decides it wasn't important to even consider which one it was because it just it wasn't important to Clytemnestra and it wasn't important to Kassagra and it wasn't important to

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Elektra. And it doesn't really matter. How she feels about Troy falling.

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It doesn't really matter how she feels about going home to Sparta. All of these things happen in the story, but no one ever asks Helen a question.

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She's there apart from that first question of why'd you pick, IS she's there to ask questions of our main characters.

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How are you feeling, Cassandra? No, Clyt Nestra. How may I help you find your, your daughter?

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It's a bunch of how may I be of service to you? Type of a character. She's in the narrative, but she's alongside of it.

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Not actively taking part in it. Clare North, Ithaca, which came out in 2,002 as well, has 3 premier point of view characters, Clyde Nestra, Electra and Penelope.

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In this book, Helen appears in short sides. There are less than 10 of them and she spends most of them On the floor crying at Menelaus feet and I'm really not being hyperbolic when I say that.

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In for variety at 1 point she's crying in a bathtub but she's mostly there to just remind people that she's sad and men are awful.

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And more importantly though, any other time she's referred to in the narrative, she's All the blame for the Trojan War is placed on her.

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Because this oaths that all the women know the men had to obey is because of her. Never mind the fact that Penelope is Odysseus's wife and Odysseus came up with the oath of to Darius.

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So really it's the oath of Tenderius and Odysseus that caused everything, not the oath about Helen.

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But as I said, she spends most of her time crying on the floor, so it doesn't really matter what she feels or thinks about anything.

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We'll just continue to blame her. In Clayton Nestra, 2,003 is 23.

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So this came out I think 4 months ago. And this one, the stated theme in the book because it's written in the back is the love between yeah.

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Sorry to drop. You get the 40 min, Mark. So she could wrap up and move to the.

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Oh, okay, cool. I'm almost done. Alright, in this Clayton Nestra stated theme is between sisters.

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In this one, it's mostly the big sister. And this one, it's mostly the big sister thinks the little sister is an idiot.

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Helen falls continually for manipulations primarily there to make Climb Master look better, wiser, and stronger.

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1,000 ships. Similar vibe, this story is primarily supposed to be all the viewpoints.

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Of the Trojan women. I are every woman affected by the Trojan War. Name a woman in the Trojan War.

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She got a point of view chapter. Minus helet. I in this story she's referred to primarily as the Trojan horror and the pollutant and everything is her fault.

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Because she ran away when she was married. Nevermind Paris was also married also. She's portrayed as being selfish, even though the judgment of Paris happens on screen and she was magically coerced.

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The women don't believe in the oath of Tindarius because they don't think the Greeks are capable of maintaining OH and throughout the course of the story she stated to be a tool for the gods but is not counted amongst the victims of the Trojan War, which everyone on that list of the right is stated to be, including Paris.

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I like to point out Paris got a point of each other. In the song of Achilles, you kind of have the same thing pop up again.

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She appears twice. She's veiled and distant and opaque stone and she's not even used as a narrative plot device.

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The oath of Tindarius can be used to force people who don't want to go to war to go to war and they don't even use it to force Patroclus to go to war.

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Madeline Miller basically said she found Helen to be one of the least vivid aspects of the story.

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Ultimately, her personality is unknowable because there are so many contradictory portraits of her she's completely opaque.

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Never mind this exact same PowerPoint presentation can be done for any of the men. In the Iliad and This continues in with Circe.

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She decided finally she wanted Helen to be described as a snake. So at least she made a decision at some point.

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About how she wanted Helen to be described, but in her summary of characters at the end of the book, she is inconsistent.

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In her book, she states that Helen chose as Menelaus, but in her summary, Helen is given to and runs away with Paris.

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Menelaus is part says when Helen is kidnapped and Paris is said when he's given Helen by Aphrodite.

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So she's not even consistent in her own ending about who she wants Helen to be. So she didn't make a choice.

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These are all the books if you type in. Mythological retellings on bernsenobel.com.

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These are all the ones that pop up. These are all the ones about the Trojan War.

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These are all the ones about Klyt Nestra.

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Have come out and also have Helen as a character in them. These are all the ones where Count Helen is a main character in them.

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I even if some of the times usually shares point of view. This is the only one where she's the sole narrator.

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And this is the only one that's come out in the last. 20 years where she's the main narrator.

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And the sole narrator where it's not mostly talking about how stupid she is. So where do we go from here?

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You have to make choices. Nora tell a story. Men have no problem making these choices because they have no problem making or female main character to project their fantasies onto.

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These choices are primarily being not made with Greek mythology retellings by women, especially in the last couple of years where we've had like 6 of them.

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They just omit her, they push her off to the side. She's not explored.

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We don't know how she feels about anything. The choice being made is they're not making choices.

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But as I said, plenty of them stories up there, where they do decide to explore. Ellen is a massive contradiction.

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She changes her mind. She does things. She doesn't do them very well, but she changes her mind halfway through.

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And every writer needs to decide if that's something they want to do. How do they want to answer the question of who Helen is and the answer is she can be a contradiction.

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But nearly every other character in the epic cycle has been allowed to be complicated with this new interest in Greek mythology except for Helen and when will it be Sounds like there's books if you want them that I can put in and then we're gonna look at Bush phone because he'll make us all happy after the end of that.

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Thank you. That was very interesting. I think we have time for one question. If anyone.

06:33:54.000 --> 06:33:55.000

Hi, I'll answer questions offline.

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One at hand and then we'll just move it to discord.

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Yeah.

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If you could.

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Sorry.

06:34:05.000 --> 06:34:10.000

We have a question from, I'm in Sled. I wonder if you know, aggression towards Helen is related to her beauty.

06:34:10.000 --> 06:34:11.000

Hello.

06:34:11.000 --> 06:34:19.000

Did you think it is a lot of them right Helen? A lot of them, the way a lot of them write.

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Helen is very You were picked on by a pretty girl in high school kind of vibes. Is the I get from it?

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I'm not saying that's universal, but there is a lot of The way they write their female characters tend to write Helen.

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Hi. They are. They, they, you know, as I said, Clayton Nesser got 4 different versions in the last year and things like that.

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Yeah.

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But the way they have Clyton Esther talk about Helen is still this kind of bitter.

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Oh my beautiful sister. Thank God she's stupid. Sort of way of just like coping with the fact that she's really pretty.

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Anyway, that's it. I do think that's. I agree.

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I do think that. Her beauty plays a huge role in how and I do think as I said I think that's why men have no problem with it.

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They're like, I wanna write a beautiful woman. Yeah.

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Okay. It works. Yelsey, could you restate your question? I'm not sure what the question is there.

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Like.

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Hmm.

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So everybody talks about, all the time. Helen, it's just everybody. So, the super female character in all of the stories of Homer.

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So what about Clint Master? Has anybody heard of her? I hadn't. That I think that might be the thing going on right now.

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So that's that's kind of that is true. Yeah, I agree. I do think that's a huge part of it.

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A lot of these other characters tend to not be. Helen is the one that is the most famous.

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We do have to, you know, she is the most famous one. But a lot of the other characters are getting like 8 different reach.

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As I said, the Clayton Esther books are all essentially the same because none of them are either in deviating from the

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1 s. Sorry.

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No, that's okay.

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Sorry. Yeah. So I, agree, I think more people should be able to tell all of these stories.

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I just think it's really weird that none of them can write about Helen without it coming off as.

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Yeah.

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Aggressive. And that's kind of where it feels to me. I do, there are some books that I do recommend.

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I also mentioned that, Trojan women movie that I mentioned earlier, that director actually did a set of 3 movies all starring Irene Papas but she plays different roles in each one.

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One of them is about Elektra. One is about the Trojan women as a whole and the other one's about Clytemnestra.

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I recommend all 3 of them if you want to know about each of those women. They're all really cool.

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Nice.

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The Trojan women especially because you get a lot of different women in that era. So just as an FYI I think and I think it's a really good adaptation of it.

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Electra is in Greek. Just as a warning, the movie is in Greek and I think I think I remember, if, is as well, but, They're all really good.

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Very cool.

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Yeah, I wonder if it's just really hard to put yourself into the character of Helen and write it.

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You know with her motivations being so cloudy and and uncertain and unclear. Does that just make?

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And it.

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Her hard to write about. I mean, I don't follow fan fiction. There's probably yeah, there's, about everything.

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Okay.

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There's probably, you know, Yeah.

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Oh well, okay, yes.

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Okay.

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There is most of it right now is being written about Patroclus and Achilles. And so most people don't even they don't even consider Helen as a person.

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Well, yeah.

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Oh yeah, cousins, totally cousins.

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Most fan fiction right now is being written by Patrick Lose and Achilles, but. Yeah, I think I think it's why I think men broadly have an easier time writing Helen because they're writing a fantasy.

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Yeah.

06:38:13.000 --> 06:38:14.000

Yeah.

06:38:14.000 --> 06:38:15.000

Right? You know, who cares about a murkyness? You know, she's my fantasy.

06:38:15.000 --> 06:38:24.000

Yeah, but I like. I like Kelsey's comment there in in the chat, our own personal uncertainties about our own beauty.

06:38:24.000 --> 06:38:28.000

Yeah.

06:38:28.000 --> 06:38:29.000

Yeah. Yeah, where you're kind of like, well, I'm not the most beautiful one.

06:38:29.000 --> 06:38:33.000

Makes her a threat or at least uncomfortable to write about. You know, you have, yeah. Yeah.

06:38:33.000 --> 06:38:41.000

I think there is also a factor of. I'm not the most beautiful woman in the world. How can I write about the struggles of the most beautiful woman in the world?

06:38:41.000 --> 06:38:42.000

Right, right.

06:38:42.000 --> 06:38:51.000

How can I ever, you know, does she even have uncertainties? Cause like, you know, joke about the universal female experience as being like.

06:38:51.000 --> 06:38:52.000

Yeah.

06:38:52.000 --> 06:38:53.000

I should not have worn this outfit, you know, or I should cut my hair this way, etc, and things like that.

06:38:53.000 --> 06:38:57.000

She doesn't have, but she doesn't have that. Yeah, exactly.

06:38:57.000 --> 06:38:58.000

Yeah.

06:38:58.000 --> 06:38:59.000

Yeah, exactly. Yeah, no, Helen doesn't have that.

06:38:59.000 --> 06:39:12.000

See, I disagree. I really, I think that of course she everybody, I mean, you know, if you've ever followed any of the more honest supermodels.

06:39:12.000 --> 06:39:13.000

Oh yeah, they have their own.

06:39:13.000 --> 06:39:27.000

Yeah, they'll tell you about their, uncertainties. And you know, I've always wonder, I didn't realize it was as stark as you put it and I really love the way you did the last slides.

06:39:27.000 --> 06:39:38.000

I knew quite to Nestor. I didn't know that she and Helen were sisters.

06:39:38.000 --> 06:39:39.000

Yeah.

06:39:39.000 --> 06:39:46.000

But I've always thought, man, people treat Helen like crap. You know, for the, she's screened for their fantasies and then for the women, you know, even though they could be equally vulnerable to everything that goes on.

06:39:46.000 --> 06:40:03.000

Whether they have any agency or not. It's like, you know, she's just some sort of whore.

06:40:03.000 --> 06:40:04.000

Hmm.

06:40:04.000 --> 06:40:08.000

Yeah, she's very good for projecting onto from both directions. And.

06:40:08.000 --> 06:40:09.000

Yeah.

06:40:09.000 --> 06:40:12.000

Yes, yes, but, buddy, so yeah, like I like Sears as a book. And if you can turn CRC into a.

06:40:12.000 --> 06:40:13.000

Okay.

06:40:13.000 --> 06:40:26.000

Relatable character, why can't you turn Helen into a relatable character?

06:40:26.000 --> 06:40:27.000

Yeah.

06:40:27.000 --> 06:40:31.000

I agree. As it's the fact that I love Klan Nestra as a character, but she's gotten 3 adaption last year and she's primarily known for murdering her husband.

06:40:31.000 --> 06:40:32.000

Exactly.

06:40:32.000 --> 06:40:36.000

And then being murdered in turn, you know, like.

06:40:36.000 --> 06:40:38.000

Yeah.

06:40:38.000 --> 06:40:39.000

Yeah, we're gonna wrap this up.

06:40:39.000 --> 06:40:40.000

Well, we actually probably, we probably got a wrap up. I'm so sorry. But it's never finished to chat.

06:40:40.000 --> 06:40:42.000

Yeah.

06:40:42.000 --> 06:40:43.000

Yes, there is a place to chat. Yeah, we.

06:40:43.000 --> 06:40:47.000

Yeah. I'm happy to talk about this in the discord and things like that. I'm very passionate about this, so.

06:40:47.000 --> 06:40:48.000

What I loved it, thank you.

06:40:48.000 --> 06:40:49.000

Okay. Exactly. Thank you, Nesta, for the presentation.

06:40:49.000 --> 06:40:54.000

We will, please, please add your questions to the discord. Thank you, Nissan. Not a

06:40:54.000 --> 06:40:55.000

Bye bye.