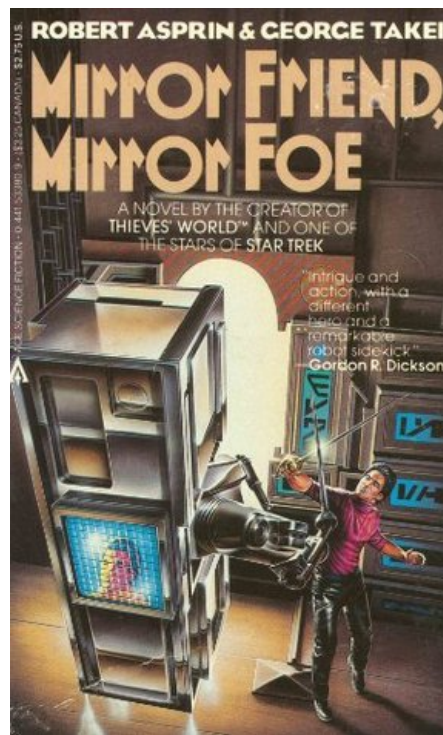




Mirror Friend, Mirror Foe

Robert Lynn Asprin , George Takei

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Based on an idea from George Takei, Written by Robert Asprin.

One man Hosato a professional killer, and fencing master must fight for his own survival and that of his friends and loved ones, when a robot reprograms all robots to kill the human race.

Mirror Friend, Mirror Foe Details

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Author : Robert Lynn Asprin , George Takei

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From Reader Review *Mirror Friend, Mirror Foe* for online ebook

Ben says

A book based on an idea by George Takei and written by the late, good Robert Asprin. How can this not be great?

The answer is not great. The book actually probably only deserves two stars, since it's more than a little cliché (though how can you go wrong with a Japanese ninja/fencing master?). The futuristic technology feels particularly dated. But in any case, I had fun reading it, so make of that what you will.

Tina says

Meh. 2.5/5. The best part about this book was that it was written by George Takei (which was also why I bought it in the first place). Aside from that, there really wasn't anything overly special about this book. The characters were believable but lacked depth. The setting, albeit perfect for the plot, was a little off to me. I mean, I get that it would be cheaper to ore for the minerals that you need to build your products on the planet itself, but shipping robots across the galaxy doesn't seem all that cost-effective either. Anyways, the pace was very quick, which made it a super fast read. It was pretty amusing, especially if you imagine George Takei reading it to you as you go along.

John says

Grade C+. GoodReads book record lists co-author George Takei, but doesn't list in shelf author column, nor does this book turn up for him in personal shelf search.

Jonathan Lee B. says

Mirror Friend, Mirror Foe is melted ice cream cake.

Jefferson says

Would make a great movie.

Samuel Lubell says

SF/Action. PB. 223 pages. Fun quick re-read about a secret ninja who is hired as a saboteur and winds up facing an army of killer robots. I first read it when it came out 30 or so years ago.

Bev says

Decent read. Not the greatest science fiction out there but not bad. Interesting the number of classic Trek actors who have put pen to paper (with or without help) to do SF or Trek (Takei...Shatner...Koenig....).

Marianne says

A quick sci fi book of fencing and robots that doesn't overstay it's welcome. Not deep, but a nice popcorn affair.

Peter says

Ok read

Scott Nieradka says

Its written by the guy who played Sulu, and its hard not to imagine the main charecter as a comic book hulked out super-sulu. Which makes one wonder about Takei's mental state, but thats just a distraction from how poor this book is.

Randy says

MIRROR FRIEND, MIRROR FOE came out in 1979. At StellarCon in Greensboro, N.C. that year, I met both authors, though I'm not sure they were promoting this one as the first Trek movie hadn't been out long and I never actually saw them together the weekend. Asprin was holding court in a lounge the first time I saw him and every other time he was addressing large audiences, telling Isaac Asimov anecdotes and speaking on his relationship with Gordon Dickson, another guest at the Con, how they were drinking buddies for a year before he even knew he was a writer. Asprin was still in business at the time.

The story here is of a Japanese named Hosato(just one of three separate identities he maintained), a saboteur and a duelist, part of his family's business going back seven hundred years.

He was on Gunbecker's Planet to sabotage a business. Ravensteel had hired him to hit McCrae Enterprises. Both manufactured robots and controlled ninety percent of the market. Once one company, after the partners had had a falling out, it split into two companies and Ravensteel wanted the opposition put out of business. He got a flat fee for going in and a matching fee for every moth thwey were out of business up to a maximum of one hundred thousand credits.

His cover identity was as Hayama, a fencing instructor for James, the fifteen year old son of one of McCrae's executives. The boy is a bit spoiled not interested, "Let security take care of it," is a standard answer to almost everything. The security chief, a young woman named Sasha, is suspicious of him.

James' father has stalled in his rise and is looking for a way to move up, planning a series of security robots. Told to drop it, not possible, he goes ahead anyway. Not possible for them to work security as they follow Asimov's Laws of Robotics(they're mentioned), he makes a fatal mistake in his programming and suddenly the robots are on a killing rampage. Anything human.

Now it's just Hosato, Sasha, and the boy James to stop them before they can escape the planet.

The best I remember, this was supposed to be a series. The ending is certainly open for it. But no other volumes appeared. Maybe it didn't sell enough. Certainly a fast moving readable title.

Laura says

He llegado al punto en el que los libros a mi alcance en mi propio idioma no bastan. No recuerdo si fue en la revista Ñ, pero sé que algo de verdad tiene la frase "traductor traidor": una obra pierde algo de su ser cuando se la lleva a otros lenguajes. Fue por eso, y por la falta de traducciones al castellano, que he comenzado a leer obras en otros idiomas. Y la primera que elegí fue "Mirror Friend, Mirror Foe", escrito en tándem por Aspirin y Takei y publicado en... 1979.

Lo primero que llamó la atención fue la mezcla de elementos en la novela: todo comienza con un instructor de esgrima, Hayama, demostrándole a James, el hijo adolescente de un complejo de la empresa McCrae en Gunbecker (un planeta dedicado a la construcción de robots para diversos fines), por qué es necesario que tome lecciones de esgrima. Luego de convencer a James, Hayama se encuentra con Sasha, una de las integrantes de la seguridad del complejo, quien sospecha de él. Sin embargo, pronto se nos confirman las sospechas que Hayama no es simplemente un instructor de esgrima, sino un espía enviado por una empresa rival, Ravensteel, para dejar fuera de servicio las instalaciones, por tanto tiempo como se pueda.

Sin embargo, cuando comienza a investigar las instalaciones, y lo que se hace dentro de las mismas, descubre que hay bastante más que una simple rivalidad entre dos empresas líderes en la construcción de robots. Robots de seguridad, por ejemplo, que no sirven para la tarea debido a las leyes de la robótica de Asimov, a menos, claro está, que se modifiquen para que sí sirvan. Con ayuda de su colega Suzi, un robot diseñado para ayudarle en sus misiones de sabotaje y espionaje, desencadenan una serie de acontecimientos que los llevan a enfrentarse a una posible destrucción de toda la humanidad. E, incluso si logra evitarlo, tiene muchos problemas complicados que solucionar.

Empecé a leerlo para ver cómo los autores podían hacer funcionar una historia sobre un ninja en un entorno de ciencia-ficción. Es agradable ver que evitan la mayoría de los tópicos, y moderniza otros (el traje fue una de las cosas que más me gustó). Hosato lleva años asesinando, espionando y saboteando, y sabe bien lo solitaria que es su existencia (él mismo dice que su única amiga es Suzi, su robot) y las consecuencias que puede traer ser descubierto. Lo pone muy en claro cuando habla con James, y en las decisiones que debe tomar ante la avalancha que se aproxima. ¿Lograron hacerlo funcionar? Sí, y la segunda mitad del libro (que se lee rápido en su totalidad) fue mucho más emocionante que la primera. Es extraño ver a un personaje como Hosato-Hayama como protagonista, y conocer su forma de pensar fue algo interesante. Se suponía que iba a ser el primer libro de una serie, pero al parecer no vendió lo suficiente.

Dato extra: Takei fue el actor que le dio vida a Hikaru Sulu (quien practicaba esgrima) en la primera generación de Viaje a las Estrellas.
