

The Opened the Heavens

*In Commemoration of the Launching of the Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope
Kennedy Space Center - August 30, 2026*

By L. M. Levie, Poet Laureate and Trustee, The Explorers Club

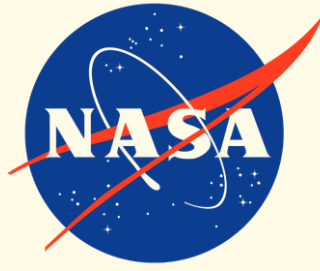
As a child she would gaze at the glittering night,
And she loved what she saw, a spectacular sight.
But they told her the heavens were never for girls.
Still she followed the stars and the far-away swirls.

And at NASA she pried a great gate open wide,
An example to millions, a beacon and guide.
Then she stood before Congress and pleaded her case,
So the Hubble was born and the heavens were traced.

It has measured the infinite, pierced the unknown,
Shown the whole of creation forever has grown.
It has plumbed the far reaches, to galaxies deep,
And unmasked the black holes with its optical sweep.

Now her namesake ascends, with a field of view wide,
With a hundredfold power to scan in its stride.
It shall find in our universe planets unseen,
And shall map out the shape of the dark in between.

And the wonders are boundless, the marvels galore,
Who can say what we find there, what treasures in store?
So we honor the woman who carried us far,
It is Nancy Grace Roman we see in each star.



The Opened the Heavens

*In Commemoration of the Launching of the Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope
Kennedy Space Center - August 30, 2026*

By L. M. Levie, Poet Laureate and Trustee, The Explorers Club

As a child she would gaze at the glittering night,
And she loved what she saw, a spectacular sight.
But they told her the heavens were never for girls.
Still she followed the stars and the far-away swirls.

And at NASA she pried a great gate open wide,
An example to millions, a beacon and guide.
Then she stood before Congress and pleaded her case,
So the Hubble was born and the heavens were traced.

It has measured the infinite, pierced the unknown,
Shown the whole of creation forever has grown.
It has plumbed the far reaches, to galaxies deep,
And unmasked the black holes with its optical sweep.

Now her namesake ascends, with a field of view wide,
With a hundredfold power to scan in its stride.
It shall find in our universe planets unseen,
And shall map out the shape of the dark in between.

And the wonders are boundless, the marvels galore,
Who can say what we find there, what treasures in store?
So we honor the woman who carried us far,
It is Nancy Grace Roman we see in each star.