

***SPOILERS* Gene Wolfe's "Book of the New Sun" annotation, Part I**

The SF-Lovers list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 22 Aug 1995

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Geoff Alex Cohen — 22 Aug 1995, 04:40

This is the first of probably many postings of an attempt to annotate Gene Wolfe's magnum opus, "The Book of the New Sun." Needless to say, this contains many major spoilers. You shouldn't read this until you've read the series three times.

Your help and submissions will be very appreciated. I will archive these in my web site, <http://www.cs.duke.edu/~gac/wolfe.html>.

SPOILERS

The Book of the New Sun Annotation Initiative (BONSAI)
The Shadow of the Torturer, Chapter I

Compiled by Geoff Cohen, gac at cs.duke.edu
Version 1.0

Epigraph: "A thousand ages in your sight..."
Part of the poem "Psalm XC" by Isaac Watts (1674-1748) [Otter]

Chapter I: Resurrection and Death
The title reverses the usual order of things.

"We are the volunteers... we come to protect our own dead."
The intruders who are about to appear will steal the bodies of the dead to ingest them and absorb their knowledge. See _Claw_, Chapter XI.

"I... collided full tilt with a man in a black coat."
This is Hildegrin the Badger. He is properly introduced in Chapter XXIII.

"A woman said, 'Open the lamp.'"
This is Thea, Thecla's sister, who is first named in _Shadow_, Chapter VII, and Severian meets in _Claw_, Chapter X.

"...I have backed into the throne."
Severian becomes Autarch.