

Gene Wolfe - some spoilers

The SF-Lovers list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 06 Dec 1984

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/sflovers/39>

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Kenn Barry — 06 Dec 1984, 21:43

... What's your opinion of Wolfe and Disch (among others) publishing unaffordable collectors editions that you'd be afraid to read for fear of damaging them, even if you could afford them... I'm not even talking about \$18 hardbacks (although those are bad enough) . I'm complaining about \$100 books, and somewhat about Disch's booklets like *_Ringtime_* for Toothpaste Press... Opinions?

Why would you want to complain? You're not required to buy the expensive collector's editions. These books almost invariably come out in large trade editions, as well, or in paperback. The only ones that don't are those which wouldn't have a mass audience. In such cases high prices are inevitable, since you're unable to prorate the costs of publishing over a large print run. The main reasons these editions are expensive is that they are limited editions, and they (usually) are better made than trade editions. The reason they're published at all is that there are collectors who are willing to pay the high prices for them. I've paid more than \$100.00 for some books, and I have no complaints.

Having roasted you adequately, let me back down a bit. I

have seen cases where there has been an unconscionably long delay between the publishing of the collector's edition, and later publishing of the trade edition. This seems to be an effort to boost sales of the expensive version by withholding the affordable copies, and I consider it a low practice. Lest the libertarians flame me, I should add that publishers have a right to do it; but I don't have to like it.

- From the Crow's Nest - Kenn Barry
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