

Gene Wolfe - some spoilers

The SF-Lovers list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 08 Dec 1984

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Laurence C. Roberts — 08 Dec 1984, 05:09

I've enjoyed the recent discussions of Gene Wolfe's

_Book_of_the_New_Sun_. I've read (and re-read) this and a fair ammount of Wolfe's other work. Has anyone out there read

_The_Fifth_Head_of_Cerberus_? Has anyone read both that book and Silverberg's

_Lord_Valentine's_Castle_? Did it seem to you as if LVC lifted certain concepts from Fifth Head - note the similarity of the Annese to Silverberg's Metamorphs, and the underlying theme in both books of metamorphosis - in Fifth Head from generation to generation of clones (#5) and from VRT to Marsch , and in LVC from the old Valentine to the new. And, although I'm no Heinlein fan, what about Michael Valentine Smith's Castle? Well, perhaps I'm paranoid.

Is it possible that there never was a Marsch in the first place, that VRT made him up? I haven't re-read the book since I heard this hypothesis, but even if there aren't any contradictions to it, it sounds kind of shaky. Of course, you've probably noticed the marsch-men pun in "A Story" . Then again, how about March's green eyes? Was there a handwriting change in the journals in part 3?

One analysis I read mentions that scenery in "A Story" also appears in "VRT" (part 3). I never noticed this before - I'll have to watch next time.

Now a few New Sun things... What about the second time the Green Man was supposed to save Severian's life? Has anyone heard when _The_Urth_of_the_New_Sun_ is coming out? What is _The_Wolfe_Archipeligo_?

Does anyone out there read Thomas Disch or Somtow Sucharitkul? They are both marvelously literate authors. 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?

Laurence Roberts

ihnp4!stolaf!roberts!

"Ifrit first you don't succeed, fly, fly a djinn!"