

Gene Wolfe's "Book of the New Sun"

The SF-Lovers list — 1 messages, 1 voices, undated

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John Redford — undated

The third book in the series is "The Sword of the Lictor", and not "The Citadel of the Autarch", as was previously reported. TCotA is the fourth (and last) book. "The Sword of the Lictor" is out in hardback, and should be out in paperback in a matter of weeks; I saw a sample cover for it in the Science Fantasy bookstore in Cambridge. I recommend it. Our torturer-hero, Severian, is once again forced to flee for committing the crime of mercy. He loses his second love, meets his first (in monstrous form), and confronts aliens ("cacogens"), a king and a giant. Like a lot of Wolfe's words, "lictor" sounds made-up, but isn't. It means "a Roman officer who bears the fasces as the insignia of his office", i.e. an enforcer.