

Sanderson's Abandonment

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 17 Jul 1998

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Robert Borski — 17 Jul 1998, 23:26

Earlier, in regards to my Continuing Westward post, Sean Whalen (aka prion) wrote:

"This seems to fit, but how does it fit in that he originally thought that she stabbed Sanderson? He didn't just decide to leave him, he thought that he was dead."

This may relate to some aspect of a Kipling short story (The Phantom Rickshaw?), but I'm not sure--it's been 30+ years since I read SOLDIERS THREE and the other collections. Or it may be simple irony. Paris, the Great Seducer, undone by his own lust (whereas the Paris of legend stakes a claim to the most beautiful woman in the world and precipitates a war).

Of course, all of the Homeric correspondences are rather loosely clumped together--hence the notion of Greek Odysseus and Trojan Paris as shipmates--so the search for parallels may be intrinsically flawed to begin with, at least if we expect 100% fidelity with the Illiad/Odyssey.

Also, what I forgot to mention in my Cherry Jubilee piece is that KGB agent Vera Oussenko, who, as you mention, is arrested, represents truth, which she is seeking, even though she gets it wrong (Vera = veritas), only in the inverted value system of CJ she's "punished"--not being allowed to disembark, she's spared the hell of Mars.

Robert Borski