

pure Wolfe

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 21 Jul 1998

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Dan Parmenter — 21 Jul 1998, 08:17

Prion writes:

Yet another piece of evidence that Aunt Jeannine in The Fifth Head of Cerberus is really an abo impostor.

On page 52 of the Orb edition, No. 5 describes her withered legs as "like the sticks David and I used as little boys, when doing parlor magic, we wished Mr. Million to believe us lying prone when we were in fact crouched beneath our own supposed figures."

He's comparing her legs to devices used to deceive and make one thing seem to be another, to conceal.

It's also a wonderful image: two little boys putting on a magic show for a robot.

I must say that some of R. Borski's wilder speculations sometimes leave me scratching my head, this one, with the supporting points of others, such as this post, are starting to convince me about the Jeannine-as-abo hypothesis.

But I still have this niggling feeling that 5HC, more than the other major Wolfe novels that I've read is actually ambiguous: that there might not be a right answer, just greater or lesser probabilities.

D