

Changeling

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 17 Jul 1997

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Ron Crown — 17 Jul 1997, 12:27

Thanks to Nutria and Mantis for your respective tours de force of Changeling. A couple of additional observations to buttress the Catholic Church scenario: in addition to the reference to "papa's" infallibility, there may be a reference to Mariolatry (as it might appear to some outside the Catholic church) in the statement that "mama" Palmieri often appeared to dominate "papa." I don't see papa Palmieri as Jesus or God; in Rome the pope is "il papa." No luck on connecting either Cassonsville or Kanakassee with the St. Louis region (I checked a gazetteer) but is the Cassonsville Tourist Lodge code for the CaToLic church? Peter's impulsive action in stabbing the frog could also be paralleled by the apostle Peter's action in the garden of Gethsemene (the apostle is traditionally noted for his changeable nature and impulsive action; note the three denials of Christ).

Another question: why are grasshoppers mentioned twice? The first time, it's describing the sign on the cafe attached to the motel (the sign says EAT "like Buddha commanding the grasshopper") and, later, as Paul and "Pete" are walking out to the river, "Grasshoppers fled in waves before [them] through the dry grass."

And if character names are so important in this story (as they appear to be), what does anyone make of "Ernie Cotha?"

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