

"Robert" in _Shadow_ Digest urth.v024.n005

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 02 Mar 1999

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/1407>

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John Bishop — 02 Mar 1999, 15:32

I think all or most of the little asides are a reference to something; the airplane is a clue which I can't decipher, but if there isn't a (reasonably) famous Robert and Marie in a jungle in the 1920s-1970s time frame, I'll be surprised. The naked "native" is a clue; and the dialog might well be lifted/approximated.

Along those lines, there are three paintings we see described in Severian's visit to the Library: one is explained (the astronaut on the Moon), but the other two are a mystery to me. Has some other person figured them out?

I did catch that when Valeria translates the "Latin" (which Wolfe tells us is used to stand in for another language), she gets it wrong. I _think_ this is meant to be humorous, and a hint that she's trying to impress Severian; it may be also a hint to us that some things _aren't_ what they seem.

-John