

Geneologies & Various

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 14 Apr 1999

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/1540>

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Robert Borski — 14 Apr 1999, 03:01

<I don't know why it looks so bad on the list, though it looks okay in the digest. I'll try the hard way.

<Charon + Dorcas begat Ouen. Dorcas + Severian begat Catherine.

<Ouen + Catherine begat Severian.>

I think my friend Roy may be swimming in the same pool with me and the rest of the undines. <g> Nevertheless, while intriguing, I don't think his theory holds water, haloid, interstellar or otherwise.

For starters we have a slight problem in ages. If Dorcas is pregnant (and I do believe she is), when does Sev impregnate the adult version of this child? A decade after the baby's birth he takes off to Yesod and doesn't return for 40 years. This would make "Catherine" 50 years old by the time of his return and we do not see him couple with anyone once he again trods urth. And while it's possible the adult version of "Catherine" might be able to travel back in time via The Corridors or Atrium of Time, I see no evidence that Dorcas understands how to access them (unlike Valeria, who initially lives at their terminus). You also need to account for Catherine's "old fashioned name," a fact that Ouen mentions. Dorcas, despite being two generations older than Severian, does not seem any more old fashioned than either her son or grandson's contemporaries. Lastly, it seems unlikely that Dorcas is tall enough to confer upon Severian via "Catherine" the exultant height he allegedly has--more likely with a double dose of her petititeness (one from Ouen, one from "Catherine") he'd be on the runtish side, if even viable, given the higher likelihood of paired lethal recessives.

All this being said, anyone interested in my interpretation of who Catherine's mother is should check out the April issue of THE NEW YORK REVIEW OF SCIENCE FICTION, wherein I attempt to identify her. Not that there aren't hints in the above paragraph or in my previous posts.

Re: Roy's identification of the Carina the Contessa as Catherine. Here, on the other hand, I think Roy's arguments are most sound and parallel my own. Karina, after all, is Danish for Katherine--surely this is no coincidence, eh Tony Ellis? I also believe that *all* the characters in Eschatology & Genesis have real life counterparts, but maybe that's me.

Re: Catherine = Katharine--mantis is almost certainly right here, and it's one of *many* recursive loops in New Sun.

Re: xury's question about the House Azure. Azure is how blue is designated in heraldry, and since the khaitbit prostitutes of the House Azure are allegedly blue-blood clones of exultants...well, you can probably figure out the rest.

Robert Borski