

genre fiction a literary blemish?

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 28 Apr 1999

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Marc Coleman — 28 Apr 1999, 07:48

Last week, New City asked the musical question "Is genre fiction a literary blemish or good clean fun?" For the piece, they interviewed some local "genre"

authors, including Gene Wolfe, who they introduced by saying, "In the realms of

sci-fi, Wolfe is the shit."

Thus spake El Wolfo:

"Frankly, I like being discriminated against...I don't think we need a second literary fiction category, we have that. It's addressed, frankly, to quite a small audience. The audience for literary fiction wants validation for the lives

they are leading right now. The audience for genre fiction wants assurance that

lives other than the lives they are leading are possible. My objection is escapism as a pejorative term. What's wrong with saying, 'You can get out'? Nothing, if you ask me."