

Wolfe appearance in _Shadow_

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 19 May 1999

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Geoff Alex Cohen — 19 May 1999, 15:29

I haven't seen this pointed out before: if so, apologies.

I believe Wolfe makes a cameo appearance in _Shadow of the Torturer_, just like Hitchcock used to appear in his movies.

In Chapter VI, Severian travels to the Library and meets Ultan the archivist. It's well understood that Ultan is supposed to be Borges.

Ultan has an assistant, Cyby, who is described as: "...a stocky, very erect man of forty or so with a flat, pale face." and "Cyby had a high square forehead, from which his graying hair was in retreat. It made his face seem small and a trifle babyish..."

Now, this is a fairly decent description of Wolfe, especially in 1980. Also, the symbolism of Cyby as apprentice to Ultan implying Wolfe seeing himself as the apprentice to Borges is too good to be an accident.

Geoff