

Little Wolfe Moments

The Urth list — 2 messages, 2 voices, 22 Aug 1997

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Patri10629 — 22 Aug 1997, 09:00

Thanks Dan Rabin for giving us a whole new thread.

I think it's worth pursuing, because as much as I enjoy of our analyses of various textual mysteries, I think we also need to relish and notice the bricks that make Wolfe's walls of narrative so great.

I appreciate your 2 examples from the New Sun books of unexpected violence. He's very good at it. They remind me of that moment in the tunnels when Auk lures the cannibal guy into proximity and they reminisce about old friends. "He's dead," says Auk. "You, too." Ka-POW.

So sue me. I like ka-POWS:)

I hasten to add that we don't wish to degrade the discussion into a list of America's Favorite Wolfe Moments of Violence.

So I'll mention another less gruesome passage in The Long Sun Books when (after hundreds of pages where the POV is strictly, comfortably Human, while we're still being rocked in the arms, as it were, of a soothing third person omniscient narrator--rather like Silk and his assumed theology, eh?) suddenly we're in the head of a bird who waxes pragmatic on the merits of Humans: "They throw away the best parts of fish/food? The eyeballs." Could this be a preview of the later paradigm shift when the actual narrator is revealed?

This moment staggered and charmed me when it happened. I adore Oreb. (I have a weakness for birds.) On rereading it...whew--I relearned the lesson that Wolfe is never gratuitous, and there is Always much much more going on than meets the eye:)

best

Patrick

Michael Straight — 22 Aug 1997, 11:28 · follows Patri10629

When I saw the movie Conact (very minor spoiler here) and Jodie Foster met the blind guy, and it took her a few moments to realize he was blind, and no one ever came out and said "oh, he's blind," I thought "they stole that from the first few chapters of Shadow of the Torturer."

-Rostrum