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The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 21 Nov 1999

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Alice Turner — 21 Nov 1999, 18:39

Rostrum said, a while back:

I was just thinking about recommending Lewis's book *Till We Have Faces* to fans of Wolfe's *Solider* series. It is a re-telling of the myth of Cupid and Psyche, but also a tale of adventure and intrigue set in a small barbarian kingdom on the outskirts of Greek civilization. It has a little of the same flavor as the *Solider* books, featuring inscrutable gods meddling in the lives of the characters. TWHF also attempts to answer the question of why God, if he exists, does not simply show himself to us, but the book is much less overtly Christian than Lewis's other fiction. I think it's a great story, but would be interested to know what folks who aren't Christians think of it.

Which intrigued me enough to go back to TWHF to see if I could give it a Christian reading. And I couldn't; in fact, I kept forgetting that I was trying to wrinkle out a Christian sub-text. What did amaze me, however, was how close Lewis's tone here is to Wolfe's in *TBOYNS*. There are many paragraphs where, proper names aside, you would scarcely know which writer had penned them. Also, Orual as monarch seems to me very similar to Sev as monarch. And there's even a hallucinatory judgment, based on the old story, to be sure, but having something of the feel of Sev's judgment.

Those of you who love NS for its tone will surely like this book. The rest of you might like it too.

-alga