

Of Mice and Milton

The Urth list — 2 messages, 2 voices, 17 Dec 1999

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/2039>

Exported from an unofficial mirror of a public mailing list. Copyright in each message remains with the person who wrote it. Email addresses are obscured as `user at host`, the form the original archive published. This file was rebuilt from parsed fields rather than retained headers, so it is faithful in content but not byte-exact.

Peter Westlake — 17 Dec 1999, 13:08

I was reading "Three Fingers" again recently, and came up with a few questions. I still don't know what it's about!

Michael shows a Snow White model to a woman who comments that she hasn't seen Snow White for years. Is this just her, or has no-one seen Snow White for years? If not, why not?

The signed photos seem to be quite dated; I don't even remember which films Tommy Kirk and Annette were in. Is it reasonable for Michael to be selling photos of these particular people at the time in which the story is set? Do we know when it is set? Snow White is also a very early Disney character.

Reserpine was once used to treat psychosis, but its side-effects include nightmares. Is it the cause of the apparent hallucinations at the end of the story, or treatment for them?

The "Queen" says that she has had good results with synthetic para-reserpine "on him". Does this mean that Michael has been treated before, if that's really what is happening?

Finally, what on earth are Harley and Amaryllis doing in the story? They come from Richard Hill's short story "To Sport with Amaryllis", published, like many Wolfe shorts, in the Orbit series of anthologies. The title comes from Milton's poem "Lycidas", where he is musing on the merits of idle pleasure versus working hard for fame. This might be nothing more than a cameo, but the associations are suggestive.

Orbit 7: <<http://www.best.com/~contento/t55.html#A1283>>

Lycidas: <<http://www.bartleby.com/101/317.html>>

Reserpine: <http://lysine.pharm.utah.edu/netpharm_98/druglist/reserpine.htm>

Spectacled Bear.

Michael Straight — 17 Dec 1999, 10:00 · follows Peter Westlake

On Fri, 17 Dec 1999, Peter Westlake wrote:

Michael shows a Snow White model to a woman who comments that she hasn't seen Snow White for years. Is this just her, or has no-one seen Snow White for years? If not, why not?

I don't know if this is still true, but for a while (I think, perhaps I'm remembering this wrong), Disney did not release some of its classic movies on video; they could only be seen when they re-released them in theatres every so often.

If I'm not just making this up out of some confused old memory, it could be part of what Wolfe is talking about there.

-Rostrum