

# Haunted Boardinghouse

The Urth list — 3 messages, 2 voices, 25 Jan 2000

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/2089>

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.

---

Jim Jordan — 25 Jan 2000, 12:14

Now, is there anyone who would be so kind as to translate all the Latin bits in "The Haunted Boardinghouse"? [I know that some of it is explained in context, but I can't come up with a good guess for some of the phrases towards the end].

William Ansley

Now there is a story that left me confused! It reminded me of an episode of the Simpsons, starting at one place, moving a lot of other places, and winding up a different story altogether. I've got to reread it and see if I can pick up thematic continuity. Anybody want to share an analysis with us?

Any connection with the boardinghouse in \*Free Life Free\*? Both are "America." Are there Wizard of Oz allusions in "Haunted B."?

Nutria

---

Jim Jordan — 16 Feb 2000, 10:17 · follows Jim Jordan

Maybe someone made this point already, but I'm pretty slow these days.

At any rate, in this story we have a labyrinthine building, a library, a murder mystery, and lots of latin phrases. Sound a famous novel by another Roman Catholic writer? Anybody find any roses in "The Haunted Boardinghouse"?

Nutria

---

Jack and Melissa Holcomb — 16 Feb 2000, 22:09 · follows Jim Jordan

Maybe someone made this point already, but I'm pretty slow these days.

At any rate, in this story we have a labyrinthine building, a library, a murder mystery, and lots of latin phrases. Sound a famous novel by another Roman Catholic writer? Anybody find any roses in "The Haunted Boardinghouse"?

Nutria

Hi. I'm new here, and I haven't yet read the story in question, so this is an impertinent response from the get-go--but those elements (labyrinth, library, murder mystery) are bits that Eco borrowed (intertextualized?) from Borges for *The Name of the Rose*. The labyrinthine building/library thing is a very big deal for Borges-- see "The Library of Babel," "The Garden of Forking Paths," "Death and the Compass," all in *Labyrinths*. (Also, the librarian in *Rose* is George de Burgos, or something like that -- an alter ego for Borges. Blind, too.)

I've been thinking about Borges and Wolfe a bit recently -- it's actually one of the reasons I subscribed to this list. I just got hold of the *Lexicon Urthus* and was kind of surprised to see no mention of "The Circular Ruins" in the

discussion of the Theseus story from the brown book. The first few pages seem like a very clear allusion to that Borges story, to me. Plus there's Baldanders, and the Book of the New Sun is set mostly in Argentina, Borges' homeland. Can anyone point me toward a more thorough treatment of Borges and Wolfe, esp. in the Book?

Thanks for listening.

Jack Holcomb  
jackandmel at socket.net