

PEACE-ful tangent

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 10 Aug 2000

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Michael Andre-Driussi — 10 Aug 2000, 19:37

GENTLE-men, discussion of PEACE belongs on the Urth list, not the Whorl list.

A-hem.

Right, I'll agree that the librarian is more up-in-the-air as a murder victim. The icehouse worker, yes, Bobby Black, certainly.

The thing about the worker is this: there is so much going on in the telling of that story to the reporter, I start to get some strange notions. For example, the events of the story start happening again (which itself is a common element of ghost stories, "it was on a night just like tonight . . ." " . . . it's happening again!!") when they can't find the reporter. But just before that, Den asks Dan French if he had ever been locked in the freezer himself (Berkley 232); Dan says "I'm here, ain't I?" (which is both a negative ["I'm alive, so I couldn't have been"] and a positive ["Why yes, because I'm the ghost that haunts this freezer"]).

Den says, a bit later, "You remind me of somebody, but I can't recall who it is Someone who's dead now. I can't remember" (234).

Well in PEACE that could be anybody or nobody, sure. (And if anybody has a better candidate then by all means, let me know,) But within this very specific context it sure seems to me (at times) as if Dan French physically looks like the man who died in the freezer--thus, he is the son, grandson, nephew, or otherwise male relative of the dead man. Telling the story to the killer, like a ghost looking for a confession. (Dan doesn't know, I don't think; Den avoids figuring it out.)

After the freezer bit, Dan French gives a bit of his genealogy, and whack! if he ain't a Doherty (who slide like sidhe through the truth and lies of that town), probably even related to Kate Boyne.

On to the case of Bobby Black.

The thing that gets me about this one, right now, is the way that the portrait of little Joe, which starts off the whole tussle, it is just so creepy: like a family curse (just as Joe died so young, so will Bobby die) as well as a ghostly revenge story (as if Bobby or Bobby's ancestor were somehow responsible for Joe's death), as well as a weird sacrifice (as if Joe hungers for blood or company).

Just a few thoughts.

=mantis=