

The mirror crack'd

The Urth list — 2 messages, 2 voices, 01 Sep 2000

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/2382>

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Tony Ellis — 01 Sep 2000, 14:06

Nigel Price wrote:

This is a story that I would like to discuss... The boy in "And when they appear" has the chance to escape by hiding in the freezer... but fails to do the sensible thing...

Ah, but does he? The sanctuary that House offers the boy has its dark side. He's a prisoner. He has no contact with other human beings or with the outside world. We're repeatedly that he wants "real things", and who can blame him, but all he's got are holograms. Shadows. Can you say "The Lady of Shallot?"

House, no doubt with the best motives in the world, doesn't want its little boy to grow up and leave home. Doesn't it strike you as just a teensy bit suggestive that House wants to 'save' the boy in a deep freeze? With the preserved bodies of his parents?

Suppose he did hide in the freezer. Would he ever have been able to open that great heavy door again? Wouldn't he find, if he did, that he was entombed under the rubble of the collapsed house?

As upsetting as the story's ending is, at least it ends with the boy still alive. The hideous Anti-Claus he's shackled-up with isn't the sort of human contact any of us would wish for him, but at least he's out in the real world now. He's escaped one gaoler, he can escape another.

One more thing. I may be reading too much into this, but:

At the start of the story, we're carefully primed with the information that Mouse has a small but deadly built-in blade. Background colour, or Checkov's Gun? At the end of the story, Mouse is under the boy's pillow, the place traditionally reserved for weapons to fend off attacks in the night.

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James Jordan — 01 Sep 2000, 13:23 · follows Tony Ellis

----- Original Message -----

From: "Tony Ellis" <tony.ellis at futurenet.co.uk>>

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entombed under the rubble of the collapsed house?

Two really good points. Thanx.

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Awww. You beat me to it, but I was going to write Anti-Santa!

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One more from me. A variety of bad as well as good characters are generated by House, and one of them is Jesus. Moving into the real world means they boy can meet Jesus as well as bad characters.

JBJordan