

PEACE Office, Dishes,Smokes

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 27 Oct 2000

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/2425>

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Roy C. Lackey — 27 Oct 2000, 00:49

It occurred to me that there should have been no duplicate office in Den's museum-roomed house. There seems to have been one, as real as any of the others, but I still have a problem with the fact that there was. There shouldn't have been, not if he was still using the one at the plant. The other museum-rooms, with the exception of that of his old apartment, all dated to his youth; they no longer existed in the real world, which is why he had them recreated.

This leads me to suspect that Den may not have used the office at the plant because he _couldn't_, that he was not the CEO of the plant for long, at least not in terms of overseeing the daily operations of the plant. He may, like Blaine, have ceased to function as president but remained the Chairman of the Board, for health reasons which may have been related to a stroke. In fact, he may not have died after hearing the Sidhe story, just had another "attack", which he survived, but which left him incapacitated enough that he retired to his crazy house, perhaps living for years longer than we thought. This may or may not be related to the fact that he did not live entirely alone there.

When his mother died, Den mentioned going through her things and finding a photograph of Mab Crawford and his grandfather. Speaking of Mab, he wrote: "She had something then of the appearance of a nurse, very much a nurse chosen to please an old man, a nurse who could giggle and pout until he had taken his medicine, a sort of walking regret. I cannot imagine her last illness, or someone taking care of her." (27-28) Immediately before this he wrote: "And now that I am older--myself as old now, I suppose, as he was then . . ."

Well now, Den is an old man comparing himself to his ailing grandfather, and he had a few walking regrets himself. He claims to have woke up the morning after Sherry died with his stroke symptoms. Hmm.

Who was living in Den's house? I mean, Den certainly had servants in his mansion, at the least, but there was someone else, too. Someone wondered here recently about Den possibly living with some female, though he never married. There is only one fairly oblique clue in the text, on page 11: "I don't think I have ever seen anyone wash dishes in our kitchen. There is a dishwasher there--they always used that, scraping the plates first into the sink, to go down the disposer, making the sink a kind of garbage can."

Two pages earlier he was talking about Princess Foaming Water, Hannah, washing dishes in the kitchen of his mother's house, so he was not talking about that house. The pronoun "they" almost certainly refers to servants, but what of the plural possessive pronoun "our"?

A less solid clue is his reference to the few articles in the drawers of his desk in his duplicate-office room (162). Among them are "a few stale cigarettes". Den admits to smoking an occasional cigar (108), and there is a picture of Dan French giving him a cigar lighter for his 50th birthday (79), but Den never mentions smoking cigarettes. In fact, I recall him mentioning only two people who did, Olivia and Louis Gold. So, whose cigarettes were they?

If Den had a stroke related to Sherry's death, after becoming president, where was Sherry that he would even know of it? And why should her death provoke a stroke? She was about 25 years younger than him; did she die of natural causes? Was she in his home the night she died, living there in much the same capacity as Mab served his grandfather?

Roy