

5HC: hiding which celestial

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 23 Jan 2001

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Michael Andre-Driussi — 23 Jan 2001, 08:28

Rostrum wrote:

Reading "A Story," I got the impression that the field was hiding St. Anne from an already-settled-by-humans St. Croix, not shielding the whole system from Earth. In the story, the humans show up almost instantly after Shadowchild terminates the song (which seems odd, even if they were just on the sister planet), and I also thought it odd that no one on St. Croix mentions St. Anne suddenly appearing out of nowhere - if that had happened, you'd expect it to be known as "the planet that suddenly appeared out of nowhere." On the other hand, I guess the astronomers might have thought they simply hadn't noticed it until then.

Am I misinterpreting all this?

Granted many details: the "just in time" arrival of the French greatly strains realism; that the inhabitants of Ste. Anne sense the cloaking effect as something in the sky (makes it seem located more in the atmosphere than in far orbit); and probably more. It is just a story (anthropological reconstruction/romance), even within the context of the larger story of Ste. Anne/Ste. Croix.

Still, the place is called "Frenchman's Landing." The system had been passed over for worlds many light-years further away (i.e., Ste. Croix by itself would not have been passed over). The cloaking itself may have only changed the appearance of the star rather than actually hiding the planets, but as I'm saying, since the sun looks the same cloaking on/cloaking off, then the cloaking effect must be projected beyond the orbit of the twin planets (they orbit inside the field and see the star as it really is). The rest of the universe sees the system as completely incapable of having habitable planets.

While I can understand the notion that the cloak just hides Ste. Anne from Ste. Croix, built from those details (and convincing within the confines of "A Story"), I never really considered it for long.

=mantis=