

Cherry Jubilee and the novel Red Star

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 10 Feb 2001

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Marc A Aramini — 10 Feb 2001, 11:20

A few years ago I had to read an old russian science fiction novel called "Red Star" by Bogdanov for a Russian History class. In it, a young political activist in Russia is taken in a space ship by a "youth" to Mars where he sees a true utopia based on socialism. He falls in love with the youth, who turns out to be a female alien. Wolfe has definitely read this novel, but I can't make many connections with the story Cherry Jubilee, which so obviously has the ship Red Star captained by Bogdanov. Has anyone else read this novel? Do you see any parallels in the stories? Is there an alien masquerading as a youth in the short story?

And one more thing: even though this doesn't belong here, it isn't a spoiler and I do not subscribe to the whorl list. I just finished GK Chesterton's "The Man who Knew Too much" in which the bald "hero" Horne Fisher knows too much about everthing. At one point he is called a real fisher of men, and at the end when he finally performs a self-sacrificing act to save England, Chesterton says, "the man who knew to much knew what was worth knowing." Well, at the end of a recent Wolfe novel, fishing seems to play some important, but mysterious part. Could the bald Horne Fisher from Chesterton have influenced Wolfe?

I would appreciate any input you all have. (Of course, I peruse both lists, so if you think some responses would be more appropriate on the other list, please post them there) Marc Aramini