

Late night speculation!

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 15 Feb 2001

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/2568>

Exported from an unofficial mirror of a public mailing list. Copyright in each message remains with the person who wrote it. Email addresses are obscured as `user at host`, the form the original archive published. This file was rebuilt from parsed fields rather than retained headers, so it is faithful in content but not byte-exact.

Nigel Price — 15 Feb 2001, 01:38

Marc A Aramini wrote:

I haven't read anything by her (C J Cherryh) even though I have a copy of Kutath and Chanur's Legacy lying around somewhere. Is she worth reading? If so, is there a good place to start?)

This is a question which potentially takes us way off-topic, so I will, if I may, give you a brief answer here and respond to you more fully off-list.

Yes, C J Cherryh is very much worth reading. "Downbelow Station" would be the best place to start.

Others - let me know if you want see a copy of my more verbose reply to Marc.

Bit to return to matters more obviously Lupine, and arising from my theory that "Cherry Jubilee" is in some measure a Cherryh pastiche...

Wolfe loves to pastiche other authors. He's very good at it. He's done Dickens and he's done Poe, and of course he's done Proust - amongst others.

Thematically, he's very interested in his literary works in concepts of spiritual possession, of people being possessed by gods, and of the living incorporating the personalities of the dead. Severian's mind is also inhabited by Thecla, and by the personalities and memories of his predecessors as autarch. There are possessions in the "Soldier" books, and, well, Long Sun and Short Sun are just full of it. Horn becomes Silk and vice versa or perhaps they both become Horn-Silk or - well, I'm still not sure.

But, I wonder...

Is literary pastiche connected to this interest in any way?

Wolfe the author likes to ingest other writer's spirits through reading their works and then allows their personalities partial reincarnation by allowing them to write through him, expressing his thoughts in their style. It would be a very elegant matching of means of composition to content. Wolfe as the autarchial author; the creator of Severian himself inhabited by the myriad previous literary masters whose works he has studied and whose mannerisms he has mastered.

Nigel

Minety, Wilt, England