

Copperhead (spoilers, with luck)

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 04 May 2001

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Spectacled Bear — 04 May 2001, 17:53

At 18:15 2001-05-04, Blattid wrote:

My first reaction to "Copperhead" was roughly equivalent to my first reaction to several other Lupine shorts, notably the ever-present "Suzanne Delage": "Huh?"

I'm not ashamed to say that I Don't Get It, and (unusual for me with Wolfe) I'm not at all convinced that "it"'s there _to_ get. there's bunch of stuff at the beginning that isn't followed up at all; I have no idea why the woman with the strange voice from another dimension behaves as she does; and the ending vaguely-out-of-Genesis simply doesn't follow from the story in any way I can perceive.

The Changer swaps things with cognates, i.e. rough equivalents. The thing moving under the leaves is surely a Copperhead snake, which has been swapped with a Serpent from another universe. That also accounts for the identity of the man swapped for the president - supreme leader, big boss - at the end, and of course he's annoyed.

Things that confused me:

1. Are Boone and General Martens the same person?
2. Who gets murdered and why?
3. The dialect gets impenetrable at the worst possible moment
- what do "groose" and "gawnt" mean?

Spectacled Bear.

I suspect
the whole thing of being to some extent a venting of spleen at
Wm Jefferson Clinton, who doubtless has it coming, but would probably
not have a clue that spleen had been vented at him.

--Dan'l

*This is WHORL, for discussion of Gene Wolfe's Book of the Long Sun.