

Copperhead time

The Urth list — 4 messages, 3 voices, 08 May 2001

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/2629>

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Roy C. Lackey — 08 May 2001, 01:32

Anyone else notice the temporal problems within the story? GW is on record as stating that he doesn't like to repeat himself wrt important story information. Yet, the protagonist is repeatedly referred to as the "new President" (hereafter NP). Why? He can't be the "new" President. Such an adjective could or would normally only be used for the first few months in office, yet, on the evening that the story action takes place, he has been in office for about 15 months. If we use the timeframe of the most recent election as a referent, the story yields the following facts:

A) The NP's campaign lasted most or all of the year 2000, culminating in his successful election in November. ("I had been working hard. Not only after my inauguration, but for more than a year before it.")

B) He was inaugurated January, 2001.

C) He and his wife went to their country retreat in the Spring of 2001 for R&R, but returned to Washington after "eighteen hours".

D) August, 2001, a UFO crashed.

E) Autumn, 2001, ("Fall came. Football season.") the NP receives the Changer and the naked woman appears.

F) A murder and suicide follow.

G) It is Spring, 2002. ("She rose again and went to the window, staring out into the spring night.")

The NP had this exchange with George, earlier that same evening:

"I'm sure you're right, Mr. President."

"I know I am. Fortunately we've got three years until the next election."

"Longer than that, Mr. President."

"Nearly three years until the next campaign." Although no one was watching, the new President made himself smile. Smiles showed in your voice. "That's what matters."

Now, the next election will be in the Autumn of 2004, only about 2 1/2 years in the future, and campaigning begins long before the election, so the next presidential campaign will begin, at most, two years from the day the story takes place, and definitely not "longer" than the three

years mentioned above. What's going on here?

-Roy

Jeff Wilson — 08 May 2001, 13:48 · follows Roy C. Lackey

From: "Roy C. Lackey" <rclackey at stic.net>

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I haven't read the story, but it seems clear to me that an extension of the president's current term is being implied. The Changer could be suggesting that he can keep the president in power without need of reelection.

Jeff Wilson

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"If your SecOp can see you, so can the enemy." -Cpt Law

matthew.malthouse — 09 May 2001, 14:58 · follows Jeff Wilson

On 08/05/2001 07:32:13 Roy C. Lackey wrote:

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Where does it say that a Presidential term is only four years in *that* universe?

Matthew

Jeff Wilson — 09 May 2001, 14:31 · follows matthew.malthouse

From: matthew.malthouse at guardian.co.uk

On 08/05/2001 07:32:13 Roy C. Lackey wrote:

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Where does it say that a Presidential term is only four years in *that* universe?

Indeed. Perhaps the NP is himself a replacement from another timeline where he was a junior politico. References to disasters and unrest that we don't see could be pointing to events there.

Jeff Wilson

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