

Hamster Gong

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 30 Jun 2001

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Dan'l Danehy-Oakes — 30 Jun 2001, 15:31

William Ansley --

First, I defer to your analysis (and your copy of `_Peake's Progress_`); my impressions were from a copy of `_Sometime, Never_` that I haven't read in several years.

Actually I knew that `_Titus Alone_` was unfinished and that Peake intended to have Titus return to Gormenghast eventually. But, the book was published the way it was, with the ending it had. I don't see how I can judge it as what it might have been but wasn't, rather than what it is, a book with a (to me at least) quite unsatisfactory ending.

Seems to me that there is another option to consider here, which is not to judge it as a finished work at all, but on the same basis one might judge the varied texts in (say) the `_History of Middle-Earth_` or `_Stephen Hero_`.

The fact that TA didn't take place in Gormenghast didn't bother me particularly, in fact I rather liked the weird, science-fictional, somewhat Kafkaesque world in which Titus found himself.

Puts you in a definite minority among Peake fans -- most seem to dislike the environment of TA (I've known folks who call it "depressing." Yeah, like Gormenghast was such a cheery place...)

--Dan'l