

"The Blue Mouse"

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 24 Feb 2002

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/2987>

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.

Michael Andre-Driussi — 24 Feb 2002, 01:09

I was looking for something else at a cavernous used bookstore. A Bova anthology popped up, and it had the Gene Wolfe story "The Blue Mouse" in it. Reading the first page I couldn't remember reading it before, so I read the whole thing. Then I bought the book (hardcover \$3), supposing that there was a slight chance it was one of those uncollected stories (or one I had in magazine form, or best of all, one I did not have at all).

Well of course it is in GENE WOLFE'S BOOK OF DAYS (aka CASTLE OF DAYS).

Anyway, I can see why I didn't remember it: it has some "Packerhouse Method" and "Many Mansion" elements to it that would easily befuddle my wormwood software. (I might even have lumped it in with "HORARS of War.")

Still, we've been talking about "Hour of Trust," so it is an interesting case of comparison and contrast.

The setting appears to be a United Kingdom undergoing internal conflict. The hero is an American member of a UN army "Peace Force" there to put down the insurrection that threatens to bring back nationalism and war. When asked his country of origin, he says "Sector ten . . . South of nine, close to the Great Lakes." (But this may be more obfuscating jargon than natural talk.)

The army itself is divided into Techs and Marksmen. Questions of loyalty and ability come up, as well as tidbits on which group is more abusive of the other.

In the beginning there is an interview with an old woman, followed by an interview with an officer. There are some more conversations (with a friendly and an enemy). There is a last minute conversion. In the end there is a flame-throwing weapon.

=mantis=

Sirius Fiction

booklets on Gene Wolfe, John Crowley

Now with UPDATES!

<http://www.siriusfiction.com/>