

Dating Pandora

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 17 Apr 2002

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/3162>

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.

Christopher Culver — 17 Apr 2002, 14:09

Adam Stephanides wrote:

The Encyclopedia of Science Fiction (iirc) said there had been speculation that PANDORA was actually written early in Wolfe's career. Can anyone confirm or deny this?

I wouldn't be too surprised. We have Larry Leif the returned Vietnam veteran, who's nonetheless young enough to have a sister in high school, so that makes me suspect the story is late-1970's. Nonetheless, Holly listens to tapes instead of records (unless Wolfe changed that when he submitted the story to Tor), so it could be early to mid-1980's.

I always thought that Wolfe's turn-of-the-90's trilogy of fantastical works (DOORS, CASTLEVIEW, PANDORA) were written quickly by a writer trying to get a little rest from complicated drawn-out sagas like the BotNS and the Soldier series. So, people disappointed in Pandora because of their lightweight nature shouldn't just try to automatically conclude that it was written earlier in Wolfe's career. Nonetheless, having a young Vietnam veteran in the book does complicate things...

Christopher Culver