

Ardis Wolf and the Poppins Asphodel

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 08 May 2002

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Spectacled Bear — 08 May 2002, 16:28

At 05:34 2002-05-07, Robert Borski wrote:

I would therefore like to suggest something else to you. Is it possible that what Nadan actually notices by the ignited arrack is the burn caused by his own laser pistol and that Ardis Dahl is the werebeast he attempts, but fails, to kill on the night of the first egg?

This is a great theory. I notice that Ardis switches off the light in a hurry just as Nadan is about to undo her laces, which fits nicely.

On a more literary note, this is the Peri's Asphodel again!

On first reading the story I assumed this "literary device"

was fictional, but it's actually the plot where someone has

a fantastic or unreal experience which they conclude must surely be a dream - until some tiny piece of evidence shows it was real. It took me ages to recall where I had seen this most often: it is used in almost all the Mary Poppins stories.

In keeping with the theme of Mr Borski's post "Black Easter", the use of the device this story is a dark inverse of the norm: it is not a wonderful dream but a monstrous nightmare that is revealed to be true.

Feeling almost learned,

Spectacled Bear.