

First Mail

The Urth list — 9 messages, 5 voices, 16 Jul 2002

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/3360>

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David A Baird — 16 Jul 2002, 16:20

Hello there

I am new to the mailing list. I have just re-read the "Book Of The New Sun" and am about halfway through "The Urth Of The New Sun". It wasn't until recently that I realised that there are many other books that tie-in to the future world of Severian. I think the books are some of the finest (if not the) I have ever read. The depth of imagination, quality of the narrative and the philosophical content astounds me.

So, a bit of guidance from those of you that know better than I - what is the complete list of books related and what should I read next?

I realise that probably a lot of questions are answered in earlier postings, but there's an awful lot with obscure titles and the digests are not available. So, a simple first question - how far in the future are the novels set (if indeed they are in the future)...

Thanks!

Dave

Michael Andre-Driussi — 16 Jul 2002, 17:31 · follows David A Baird

Hello there Dave Baird, and welcome aboard!

So, a bit of guidance from those of you that know better than I - what is the complete list of books related and what should I read next?

Yay, an easy question!

- 1) THE BOOK OF THE NEW SUN
- 2) THE URTH OF THE NEW SUN
- 3) THE BOOK OF THE LONG SUN (four volumes)
- 4) THE BOOK OF THE SHORT SUN (three volumes)

Ta-da!

=mantis=

David A Baird — 16 Jul 2002, 17:55 · follows Michael Andre-Driussi

That was too easy :-)

I'd also seem some references to 'A Tale From The Wonders Of Urth And Sky'...???

Dave

----- Original Message -----

From: "Michael Andre-Driussi" <mantis at siriusfiction.com>

To: <urth at urth.net>

Sent: Tuesday, July 16, 2002 7:31 PM

Subject: Re: (urth) First Mail

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Dan'l Danehy-Oakes — 16 Jul 2002, 18:27 · follows David A Baird

Mantis replied...

Hello there Dave Baird, and welcome aboard!

Second that.

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the complete list of books related and what should I read next?

Yay, an easy question!

Actually two questions, of which only the first is "easy" (and even that somewhat quibblesome):

1) THE BOOK OF THE NEW SUN

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... plus various short stories scattered across a variety of anthologies, collections and magazines ...

... plus THE FIFTH HEAD OF CERBERUS, which, if very unlikely to be set in the same universe, is at least thematically related to the Books of the <Foo> Sun, a/k/a the Lupiverse, a/k/a the Briah Cycle ...

... none of which, however, addresses Dave's _second_ question, "what should [he] read next?"

Dave, if you want to continue with the main line of the Lupiverse, you should definitely move on to the Books of the Long Sun and the Short Sun, in that order.

tBotLS is set in the same universe, but in terms of plot, is related only tangentially to the adventures of Severian.

tBotSS is a direct sequel to tBotLS, and also relates more directly to tBotNS in terms of plot than does its predecessor.

(At least one short story, "The Map," deals with a character from New Sun. At least one, "The Night Chough," deals with a character from Long/Short. I believe -- though I haven't tracked all of them down -- that the other short stories set in the Lupiverse are simply that -- "set in the same universe.")

HOWEVER, this assumes that "what should I read next" is a simple question of continuing in the same universe. Wolfe has written a number of other novels ranging from "superb" to "Huh? What was _that_?" (and one which he himself considers an utter stinkeroo and will not allow to be reprinted, OPERATION ARES, though I rather like it). Which descriptions fit which of these novels is a matter of some debate.

If you want to branch out of the Briah Cycle, I would highly recommend either the short story collection, "THE ISLAND OF DOCTOR DEATH AND OTHER STORIES" AND OTHER STORIES, or the novels FREE LIVE FREE and PEACE. Others will have other ideas on the subject.

David A Baird — 16 Jul 2002, 18:58 · follows Dan'I Danehy-Oakes

Thanks Mantis

I read TFHOCerberud just before restarting TBOFNS and need to read it again - is that a complex plot or what!? I love the way Wolfe approaches his subject with ambiguity, it leaves a lot of room for thought on the part of the reader but does take some concentration :-)

Dave

----- Original Message -----

From: "Dan'I Danehy-Oakes" <ddanehy at siebel.com>
To: <urth at urth.net>
Sent: Tuesday, July 16, 2002 8:27 PM
Subject: RE: (urth) First Mail
Mantis replied...

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--Blattid

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James Wynn — 16 Jul 2002, 19:01 · follows David A Baird

<http://www.op.net/~pduggan/wolfestore.html>

Here's a nice listing of books in print.

Incidentally, Mantis was surely too modest to mention that that fine publication Lexicon Urthus (also plugged at the same linked site -- <http://www.op.net/~pduggan/lexicon.html>) postulates, if my memory serves rightly, that Severian lives about 97K years in the future.

But, of course, that point has been a subject of much recent debate.

-----Original Message-----

From: David A Baird [mailto:david.baird@skynet.be]

Sent: Tuesday, July 16, 2002 12:55 PM

To: urth@urth.net

Subject: Re: (urth) First Mail

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From: "Michael Andre-Driussi" <mantis at siriusfiction.com>

To: <urth at urth.net>

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=mantis=

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David A Baird — 16 Jul 2002, 20:16 · follows James Wynn

Hello James

Can't seem to connect to that server - I'll try again tomorrow.

I've seen Lexicon Urthus mentioned but I thought it was out of print. I'd dearly love a copy so I can fill in my ignorance of the abundabt words Wolfe uses that I have no inkling of at all.

Only 97K - hmmm, I'd always envidaged it as being much later, of the order of several million. But then again, I was thinking of a natural demise of the sun although in this re-read I noticed that the Hierodules have 'planted' a black hole in there to keep Urth at bay. On the other hand, I read somewhere that it was in fact from the previous divine cycle - which I assume is in fact a reference to the oscillating universe theory...

Dave

----- Original Message -----

From: "James Wynn" <crushtv at HotPOP.com>

To: <urth at urth.net>

Sent: Tuesday, July 16, 2002 9:01 PM

Subject: RE: (urth) First Mail

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The 97 Kyear figure is very debateable, and I for one hold it to be completely implausible ... we're talking a sufficient amount of time so that the ruins of ancient human civilizations have been uplifted in the bodies of new mountains (which, of course, are then carved into the figures of Urth's vain rulers). That doesn't happen in less than multiple millions of years.

Mark Millman — 17 Jul 2002, 08:29 · follows Dan'I Danehy-Oakes

Blattid,

I believe that you've forgotten "The Cat", which is told by one of the Stewards Odilo (father, son, or grandson--I'm having trouble remembering which). At least one of the Odilos, of course, appears in The Urth of the New Sun. And Inire is key to the story itself, as is Chatelaine Sancha, whom Thecla mentions at one point.

Welcome, Dave.

There are several extant brown book stories not given in BotNS or UotNS; they were mostly published as Cheap Street chapbooks. I've written about them in the past, so the full details ought to be in the archives--searching on "Cheap Street" is probably the easiest approach.

Nacre

On Tue, 16 Jul 2002, Dan'I Danehy-Oakes replied to Dave Baird, writing:

[snip]

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[snip]

--Blattid