

PEACE: Bell Witch rings a bell

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 21 Oct 2002

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/3498>

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 — 21 Oct 2002, 23:03

Roy wrote:

Also, the Lorn's strict religious observances make me doubt that they would desecrate a grave or use a gravestone for a doorstep. Neither do I think a strict country preacher would enlist the aid of a heathen "wise woman" to lay a ghost.

Maybe. First off, what are/were the Cardiff Bretheren, anyway, who sent missionaries to China? (Sounds more like free masons to me!) Granted Mr. Lorn is an Approved Methodist, but still I'm not certain. The bit about the stone being a gravestone could be a lie and the rest somehow true.

As for the girl's own sense, whoa, Margie fantasizes that the China egg, with pictures of the resurrection, will hatch a freaky sharp-toothed demon! In her own way, she is a little Wednesday Addams (and thus a perfect match for Weer); but I will agree in another case that her religion might make her repelled by the subtext of the Tilly Tale which was so alluring to the non-religious Olivia.

My question is: what is a Bell Witch?

Check out this site: <http://www.bellwitch.org/>

The short answer is "it" started haunting in Tennessee in 1817, and it is a bit like the ghost of Tilly's wife (using poison at least once), a bit like the banshee, and it seems quite likely that Gene Wolfe knew all about it.

I only read the main text and there was nothing about a ceremony for quieting the witch.

(And no, the witch doesn't ring a bell -- it is named after the family it persecuted, the Bell family.)

=mantis=