

PEACE: embedded stories

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 22 Oct 2002

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/3502>

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Michael Andre-Driussi — 22 Oct 2002, 15:30

Roy wrote:

What, then, is the relevance of Arabella's magazine article to Weer? I mean, most, if not all, of the imbedded stories in PEACE, ghostly or not, can be shown to have some bearing on his life, or afterlife, even if only indirectly as the story pertains to someone close to him, such as Olivia. Arabella's ghost story is inserted into the middle of the account of Weer and Lois going to Gold's to pick up the fake Boyne diary. And Weer heard that story when he was six, when he and his mother went to her father's for Christmas. How is that ghost story related to either of those events?

My current position on the embedded stories has shifted dramatically from my previous position. The green book stories are blueprints for Weer's life, and this because the book is magical. The two story fragments we have concern the most important people to Weer: Olivia and himself. The other stories are not in the same category, and while they have importance, I was wrong to try using the same skeleton keys that work on the green book stories with any of the other stories. So I've gone back to seeing the stories as reflecting the teller, for an immediate purpose as well as an underlying purpose.

As for Aunt Bella's article. I'm not entirely sure, but I will offer a few comments. In the past we have said it illustrates the timewarping nature of haunting (taking what she sees as being a typical automobile congested street scene of decades in her future). What I thought was funny and telling this time was grampa's argument -- at first one thinks he will say there are no such things as ghosts, but what he really says is that ghosts haunt houses and burial grounds! This seems significant. Also Bella's insistence that it was true, and that there was more that she did not write for fear that it would not be believed. (And also to point out that Santa Claus had really visited at grampa's house, when the ghost-expert had not been there! <g>)

The timewarping nature is touched again in the same section ("Gold") when Gold reads from the Necronomicon, and the litch tries to banish the unborn shades of the future from the light of his day.

There are story-tellers, like Kate Boyne, and there is a forger, Lou Gold. Weer is a writer, not a forger; but he is still just a beginning writer, only hitting his stride a few centuries after his death.

=mantis=