

PEACE: Charlie Turner, Doris, 1963

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 28 Oct 2002

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/3523>

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 — 28 Oct 2002, 23:13

Roy wrote:

That sentence I mentioned is one of those long, convoluted ones Wolfe uses from time to time. Those kinds of sentences are always hard to puzzle out.

In my recent re-reading I was struck by the Proustian quality of the sentence structure, and paragraph structure. The sentence structure is very dense and noodly; the paragraphs flow through unseen channels. Makes quoting the text even more of a challenge than usual, since the "conceptual units" get pretty big (to the point where whole sentences are like single letters of a long word).

Anyway, I'm back to the 1963 node of the three visitors . . .

In the past we spoke of Charlie Turner's motive. Someone at one point wrote that Charlie was seeking freak-making medicine from Weer; with the implication that Smart had been running that old carny deal from the backdoor all those years.

This makes a lot of sense. Charlie is testing Weer to find out if the same deal can still be done with the new president. But Weer does not seem to have the knowledge of freak-making chemistry, so the whole thing falls through.

Now then, on to Doris.

Doris may be real or she may be fictitious. But here's the point (and I think this part is new, but maybe not): the best solution for Doris is

=not= marriage to Tom Lavine the Canadian Giant (which is what Weer comes up with), the best solution is to give her the stuff to make her a freak. After all, the story is being told by a freak who knows he has had a better life because he was made a freak; whose mother knew she was giving him a better life by making him a freak. This is part of the test or trial balloon that Charlie is using on Weer and Weer flunks.

The news of Doris's death seems to really upset Weer. I sense that he feels responsible, if only for trying to dream up a happy ending for her; he may also feel impotent, since here he is now king of the town and he cannot even help one little orphan in another state (again, not to get into any details about what he might have done beyond just talking with Charlie). It may be the mundane world trigger for the "nervous breakdown" I alledge he has in 1963. Having read that one letter he is too upset to read the Peacock letter, or so it seems to me.

=mantis=

Sirius Fiction

booklets on Gene Wolfe, John Crowley

29 copies of "Snake's-hands" until OP!

<http://www.siriusfiction.com/>