

PEACE: tryst, diary, gold

The Urth list — 2 messages, 2 voices, 01 Nov 2002

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/3538>

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Michael Andre-Driussi — 01 Nov 2002, 18:05

Roy quoted me and wrote:

That is not the verbatim of the diary text. If you prefer, it is the image of the "story behind the veiled text" that Weer imagines as Kate reads it, but I think it is too close in style to the intrusions of Ghost Kate interacting with Hannah at the end of the banshee tale (where Hannah speaks in italics) to be anything else but a ghostly "story behind the veiled text."

Kate never read from the diary; Lois did.

Right, I meant "Lois." (Or are you just giving me a hard time?) <g>

Kate **couldn't** have read from the diary for some very good reasons, chief of which is the fact that **the diary didn't exist until Lou Gold wrote it** in the 1950s. Secondly, Kate never kept a diary. She couldn't have, because she couldn't read or write. As Weer told Lois, the old Kate was "illiterate, or nearly so". (167)

Right, the diary is a forgery by Lou Gold.

Roy quoted me and wrote:

The Boston detail is a difference, especially when Weer is so certain. OTOH, when teenager Hannah Mills presumably returned with mother and sister to the farm and discovered that bandits had been there, had locked up her dad and the hired man and maybe done something unspeakable to beloved Kate, well that would understandably put a dampener on the whole trip, perhaps even to the point where the trip would not be mentioned by Hannah.

This all presupposes the contents of the forged diary were true.

No, not at all: it presupposes that the tryst (that is, the non-verbatim version of the story in/behind the diary entry that we get from an omniscient/third-person point of view) is true. As true as Hannah talking to Ghost Kate about Den and the mysterious other: which is to say, absolutely true.

As you keep pointing out, the tryst material is hardly "the content" of the forged diary: there is the stuff on how she got the diary, and so on, and so forth. The tryst material is a tiny fraction of the whole.

Aside: If the tryst (section 4) is true, and if Kate had Q's child (we know she had offspring), then the appearance of Dan French (as Q's biological heir) in section 5 is parallel to the appearance of Charlie Turner in section 4 (having been a minor character in Tilly's "tall tale" of section 3).

Roy wrote:

Or are you suggesting that the fictional account Lou Gold authored in the 1950s somehow **changed the course of history in the 1860s**? That just because Gold wrote it that way in his forgery, that Hannah, who died before Gold ever even heard of her, who had never in her life "been a hundred miles

off from that little house" she was born in (10), had the facts of her life changed, posthumously, so that she *did* go to Boston and Quantrill *did* come to the Mill farm?

No, you are avoiding what I wrote (I quote myself):

Furthermore, this means that Lou Gold, even while "forging" the diary, was in some sense channeling Kate. Seems outrageous, I know, but then the fact that his forged Necronomicon somehow "works" is a pointer; as well as the fact that, as I've written above, Ghost Kate is already established in the text.

That is to say: Gold is a necromancer (however accidentally it might be). He did manage to get it right with regard to the tryst because Ghost Kate influenced him.

Both Roy and Stone Ox take me to task for the fact that Hannah claims to have never been 100 miles away from the house. I stand by my point: a teenage girl returning to her family farm to find such horrible things had happened in her absence would very likely feel conflicting relief (that she had not been there), guilt (that she had not been there), horror (what the bandits would have done to her, her sister, and her mother if they had been there), shame, and compassion (tend to those who suffered). To put it into modern terms, suppose the mother and daughters had gone to DisneyWorld and come back to find their farm had been raided and their nanny had been raped: how likely is the teenage girl to blather on and on to the nanny (in a rural area with no neighbors, no telephones, etc.) about what a great time she had experienced at DisneyWorld? She will say nothing about it, and the whole family will try to put it =all= behind them: DisneyWorld and the raid, two events linked together because they were contemporaneous.

=My Position=

Diary: forged

Tryst: real (Ghost Kate)

Boston trip: real

Q's Gold: not there

Lois: not murdered

=mantis=

Roy C. Lackey — 01 Nov 2002, 21:11 · follows Michael Andre-Driussi

mantis wrote:

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[snip]

=My Position=

Diary: forged

Tryst: real (Ghost Kate)

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I take it that we agree that Kate never kept a diary?

Let me see if I understand you correctly. I don't understand your emphasis on the importance of the tryst, but we agree, I think, that it **was** a consensual sexual encounter, not rape. Whiskey loosened the tongues of the seven men and Kate overheard them talking about what they had been doing down by Sugar Creek to get their boots muddy. Later, when one of the men (I think Quantrill himself to have been the least likely of the seven) encountered her alone, she took "him to the haymow, and bribed him with such talk as she knew how to make, and kisses and more. She was not that ugly a woman by moonlight." She used sexual bribery in an attempt to pump him for more detailed information than she had overheard earlier about what they had buried in the creek. Am I right so far?

What was it that so peaked her interest that she was willing to trade sex for information about it, if it wasn't treasure? If it was treasure, then why is your position (above) "Q's Gold: not there"? Wasn't that the whole point of the tryst? Wasn't it to stash his gold that Quantrill ever came near the Mill place in the first place?

I'm not trying to be difficult; I just don't understand.

-Roy