

Free Live Free, the unnamed city

The Urth list — 2 messages, 2 voices, 02 Dec 2002

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/3635>

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Michael Andre-Driussi — 02 Dec 2002, 15:30

Roy wrote:

But I think you're looking in the wrong place for the city. It's not in the Midwest, if it exists at all; it's on the East Coast. I have only the Tor paperback, so I don't know the HC page number, but on the second page of chapter 59 Free looks out the window of the cockpit and sees the "tossing waters of the Atlantic".

Good catch! That does narrow things down quite a bit.

The _High Country_ doesn't stray from protected US airspace--that's why it was built. It seems to circle, more or less; at least it doesn't seem to ever be out of a short-range flight of the shuttle B-17, and the B-17 takes off and lands from the old military base near the modern airport.

I agree, but rather than "circle" I think it more kind of hovers. (For the time travel from High Country 1942 to High Country 1952, I think it really has to be as "in place" as a building on the ground. It is in a "geo-synchronous orbit" while still being within the atmosphere.) There is that talk of the atmospheric winds blowing from west to east, and gliding.

And the Flying Carpet is near the airport. The flask and the matches point to New York City. I don't think that is the city, but the city is probably close to NYC. The television commentator said it was a major US city. It's definitely not Philadelphia. It's far enough north to get cold and have snow. If the shuttle used in 1942 operated under the same conditions as in 1982-3 (never too far from _High Country_), then that plane landed at Langley Field, Virginia. The high and mighty aboard the _High Country_ probably wanted to stay close to the center of government power in Washington DC. The city, if it exists, should be between there and NYC, as I see it.

That narrows it down dramatically! There are not that many major cities between DC and NYC, and tending toward the coast: Baltimore, Wilmington (major?), Philadelphia, Atlantic City (major?), and Trenton (major?).

=mantis=

Jerry Friedman — 02 Dec 2002, 22:54 · follows Michael Andre-Driussi

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

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(major?), Philadelphia, Atlantic City (major?), and Trenton (major?).

I think Newark is a possibility too. And why not a little bit north/east of New York? Say New
Haven, or more likely Providence, home of Lovecraft. For some reason I always suspected it was
B'more, but that may be only a reflection of my ignorance.

Jerry Friedman