

DOORS: sirens, nurses, death or escape

The Urth list — 2 messages, 2 voices, 09 Feb 2003

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Michael Andre-Driussi — 09 Feb 2003, 03:54

Andrew Bollen wrote:

"Leucothea" was also the name of one of the Sirens. I've always thought that

it would have been a good name for Seawrack.

I forgot to make the obvious point that a Siren's name is appropriate for the lover of Billy the sea captain.

The only quibble I have is that, very technically, the real Greek "siren" was not a mermaid but (yet another) woman-headed bird (see also harpies). I often make the mistake of thinking of sirens as naughty mermaids, as salt-water Loreleis, etc., and I can blame this in part to the visual arts of popular Western Civilization (from the Roxy Music album cover to anywhere else, like the barmaids in Joyce's ULYSSES, but that ain't visual).

Well, another quibble: is it really Leucothea? One source I'm looking at says "Leukosia."

But this to one side: yes, Leucothea is (also) a marine goddess; yes, Lara says she is the storm and her world is the sea; so all is good.

Stone Ox wrote:

Does anybody else think the nurse let him out of the hospital in exchange for sex? It doesn't matter whether she thought he could survive afterwards or whether she just thought he was nuts; there's adequate motivation either way. And this adds extra significance to North's comment "Not a word about her, you notice? They're afraid they'll make them quit using nurses on the men's floor."

Oh, I like that! I was almost there but did not make the connection myself. Nice call.

=mantis=

Andrew Bollen — 09 Feb 2003, 04:18 · follows Michael Andre-Driussi

Mantis wrote:

The only quibble I have is that, very technically, the real Greek "siren" was not a mermaid but (yet another) woman-headed bird (see also harpies). I often make the mistake of thinking of sirens as naughty mermaids, as salt-water Loreleis, etc., and I can blame this in part to the visual arts of popular Western Civilization (from the Roxy Music album cover to anywhere else, like the barmaids in Joyce's ULYSSES, but that ain't visual).

Well, another quibble: is it really Leucothea? One source I'm looking at says "Leukosia."

Blah! You're right; I was muddled.

Leucothea the sea-nymph rescued Odysseus, so I guess it's still an appropriate name for the lover of Cap'n Billy.