

DOORS: places and an accurate prediction?

The Urth list — 2 messages, 2 voices, 06 Mar 2003

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/3878>

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Michael Andre-Driussi — 06 Mar 2003, 23:09

In THERE ARE DOORS there's that scene at the map store where Green is trying to buy a map of Overwood and the clerk mentions maps for "Slumberland, Disneyland, Cleveland, and Heaven, Hell, and Limbo--all three on one map."

Of course we like this progression of Slumberland, Disneyland, and Cleveland, because it moves from what we take to be purely imaginary (Slumberland), to a real place built upon imaginary things (Disneyland), to a purely non-fantastical place (Cleveland).

But I've noticed that there is a "Cleveland" in fantastic fiction: in William Morris's THE GLITTERING PLAIN this "Cleveland-by-the-sea" is a village in Northern Europe. Odd little detail, thought I'd share it.

Next up, a possible strange case of the "predictive powers" of genre.

Remember how Lara is a goddess of Love, and how copper things are hers, and how, as a result of this, she is a sort of goddess of technology as a sideline? That is, she can appear on televisions, make them turn on, blow them out, things like that.

THERE ARE DOORS was published in 1988. IIRC, this was before the internet became such a public phenomenon, and unless I'm mistaken, this was long before it became clear that the primary use of the internet was and is . . . pornography.

So it seems like Wolfe made an accurate prediction, in a Wolfean way.

=mantis=

Che Monro — 07 Mar 2003, 03:53 · follows Michael Andre-Driussi

At 03:09 PM 6/03/03 -0800, you wrote:

In THERE ARE DOORS there's that scene at the map store where Green is

That is such a sweet, strange book, from the old hotel surrounded by snow which can't seem to make up it's mind whether it is open or closed for the winter and which seems to be staffed entirely by spies and secret agents (at least that's my impression) to the mental home full of men who don't want to have sex and the mystical chinese man who may be a god or a mystical messenger of some kind. It's so wolfean.

Did anyone else notice it's similarity to Folesen? ;););)

Che

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