

time looping

The Urth list — 2 messages, 2 voices, 10 Jul 2003

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/4077>

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jonathan mann — 10 Jul 2003, 00:54

mantis wrote

Time travel "message to self" loop thingie. In Heinlein you have DOOR INTO SUMMER. In movies you have either "Groundhog Day," where the narrative hero is going through every loop from beginning to optimized end; or something like "Donny Darko," where it is the final loop only and thus more like DOOR INTO SUMMER (and Severian's Narrative).

There's also FREE LIVE FREE, in which the loops 'optimize' the person being looped. Never let it be said that Wolfe underexplores a theme. Maybe there's more than one Wolfe, and different books with similar themes are by different versions.

Actually, I just came up with a more serious idea: couldn't the looping be analogous to the auctorial drafting process?

We already know that Wolfe goes through a lot of drafts, each of which 'optimizes' and ties the books more closely together. What if each iteration of this added another iteration to Severian?

[Delurking now. Animal or animal products, right?]

James Jordan — 10 Jul 2003, 14:40 · follows jonathan mann

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--jabiru

COOL! Just like something Umberto Eco would do. I don't know about adding another Sev, but the rest is a neat thought.

Nutria