

Cybele, with bluebonnets

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

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Ron Crown — 06 Aug 2003, 14:53

Has anyone read this book by Charles Harness (published by NESFA Press)?

I mention it because it's reminiscent of *There Are Doors*--written in a kind of magic realism with classical allusions, the same themes of lost love, death, and transcendence, etc., etc. Which may explain why Gene Wolfe was asked to provide a blurb which he did in highly laudatory fashion ("There are perhaps a thousand wonderful books. Most of us are fortunate if we so much as hear the titles of them in the course of a lifetime. Very few of us ever touch the covers of more than half a dozen. This is one of them.") Exaggerated but it's still a delightful little read. It's also a lot more overtly (ostensibly) autobiographical.

I especially enjoyed the hilarious description of the Battle of San Jacinto--the first person narrator is a Texan (as are both Harness and Wolfe, for that matter).

Ron Crown
Saint Louis University

Dan'I Danehy-Oakes — 06 Aug 2003, 15:51 · follows Ron Crown

H'mmm. I'll have to look for this. Harness's *THE ROSE* is, imio, one of the absolutely indispensable books of the stfnal heritage.