

Notes on _The Wizard_

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 03 Jan 2005

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Dan Rabin — 03 Jan 2005, 21:55

What an outpouring of pent-up commentary we've had! Here are some short notes I myself have been saving up:

1. "Arthur Ormsby". My reaction was "What, again?", thinking of "Oh Wrangler, oh _Artie_" at the end of _Castlevia_. So Able is really Wrangler Dunstan, right?
2. "Arthur Ormsby". I thought the surname smelled of Significance, so I did a Google search. <<http://www.ancestry.com/search/SurnamePage.aspx?html=b&ln=Ormsby&sourcecode=13304>> says the -by suffix is a Norse word for settlement. The suffix occurs, I've heard, in those areas of Great Britain conquered by the Vikings. <<http://www.ormsby.org/genie/Australia/Origin.html>> has Orm as a big strong hero from Scandinavia. I don't know how much to trust such web sites, and I would welcome any scholarly confirmation of the authenticity of the legend.
3. The acceleration of the last part of the book. I think this is a bad habit of Wolfe's. I thought _Exodus from the Long Sun_ was rushed, and it really just sets up the _Short Sun_ series rather than ending. For that matter, _The Citadel of the Autarch_ just zooms about once it's well past the stories that were put in to pad it out after Wolfe split it off from _The Sword of the Lictor_. _The Urth of the New Sun_, too, changes locales like a slide projector.
4. Queen Idnn. The giantesses were prepared for very carefully in the narrative, but they still seem to come out of nowhere. I just found it hard to buy the notion that a brief marriage, not known to be consummated, would be taken as conferring authority on a foreigner. And maybe I missed why the female Angrborn live apart, and why the males prefer human women.
5. The Black Knight was obviously Duke Marder. Didn't surprise me.
6. Org's near-invisibility wasn't memorable from _The Knight_, and was perhaps a tad overused.
7. Mani was a continued delight, and I missed him when the thickening of the narrative could no longer accommodate his speaking role. Does anyone think he was G. Gordon Kitty in a previous life :-)?

-- Dan Rabin