

Ending of The Knight

The Urth list — 9 messages, 7 voices, 11 Jan 2005

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/4298>

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Kieran Mullen — 11 Jan 2005, 11:57

Is this the right venue for discussions of The Wizard-Knight series?

Very minor spoilers:

A small note about the ending of "The Knight." Able/Art ends up with Disiri in Aelfrice when Michael comes to call. I think this is a reference to the story of Arthur ending up in Avalon, ready to return to England when the Land is under a great threat. (Admittedly Able is not simply equivalent to Arthur.)

Do we have a list of FAQ (perhaps even with a few answers...) for the series? I have a few.

Kieran Mullen

James Wynn — 11 Jan 2005, 12:05 · in reply to Kieran Mullen

Do we have a list of FAQ (perhaps even with a few answers...) for the series? I have a few.

Welcome Kieren,

You'll find everything said recently about The Wizard Knight at:
<http://listserver.dreamhost.com/pipermail/urth-urth.net/>

If you have a FAQ, please post it. :-)

The Wizard Knight series? I consider this a single novel that is meant to be read that way. In a couple years it will no doubt be offered that way. Unlike the Latro books, I don't consider it a "series". Does anyone disagree with that? Does anyone think the books were intended to be ultimately read as self-standing novels?

Gregg — 11 Jan 2005, 15:39 · follows James Wynn

Message: 9

Date: Tue, 11 Jan 2005 15:05:05 -0500

From: "James Wynn" <thewynns at earthlink.net>

Subject: Re: (urth) Ending of The Knight

To: "The Urth Mailing List" <urth-urth.net at lists.urth.net>

Message-ID: <00d601c4f818\$d8d4e130\$4c1e4b0a at vcorp.ad.vrsn.com>

Content-Type: text/plain; charset="iso-8859-1"

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James Wynn — 11 Jan 2005, 15:57 · in reply to Gregg

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Hm. Well, okay. The Knight ends rather precipitously and unsatisfactorily for a stand-alone and the "series" is called "The Wizard Knight" which the opposite of the actual order. What can I say? Should I presume "everyone else" includes his editor? ;-)

~ Crush

Gregg — 12 Jan 2005, 15:11 · follows James Wynn

Message: 2
Date: Tue, 11 Jan 2005 18:57:31 -0500
From: "James Wynn" <thewynns at earthlink.net>
Subject: Re: (urth) Ending of The Knight
To: "The Urth Mailing List" <urth-urth.net at lists.urth.net>
Message-ID: <016501c4f839\$505134a0\$4c1e4b0a at vcorp.ad.vrsn.com>
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="iso-8859-1"

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stilskin — 12 Jan 2005, 15:23 · in reply to Gregg

--- Gregg <gwbest328 at RCN.COM> wrote:

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I wouldn't be so quick to accept Wolfe's statements at face value here (or anywhere else, for that matter). Wolfe, like Able, holds loyalty to be a prime virtue, and whatever went on between him and TOR in the

process of bringing TWK to publication, he is likely to regard it as private, and would probably not say anything publically that might seem, whether to him or to others, disloyal to his longtime editor and friend, David Hartwell. But it seems unlikely to me that an artist of Wolfe's caliber could consider The Wizard to be a book capable of standing on its own, without The Knight. What I believe to be the case is that Tor split this book in two for commercial reasons, as they have done with a number of other books they consider too long (many of which, coincidentally or not, are also edited by Mr. Hartwell). And let's not forget his role in the expansion of Wolfe's original Torturer ms.

paul

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<http://www.sff.net/people/stilskin>

Alan Lewis — 13 Jan 2005, 05:00 · in reply to Gregg

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Now that I have finally caught up, I can contribute to TWK discussion. I take exception to the terms posed in this question. Since Knight and Wizard the books in the same series, by no means should we expect them to read like self-standing novels. If they were, then I would argue they are not so much books in a series, but books set in the same book-world, like Long Sun/Short Sun are.

Of course length of material inevitably has a part to play in this. No doubt once Wolfe realized his story was going to take at least x many words, he would have realized he was probably looking to two books for all intents and purposes. But I would argue he then wrote them that way, that there are fundamental differences between the two books. For one thing, Able pre-Skai, and Able post-Skai are different characters. In the first book he is the true neophyte, a complete outsider; in the second book he is (as essentially an Overcyn) the ultimate insider, a pro. In Arthurian terms, in the first book he is Parsifal, and in the 2nd he is alternatively Lancelot/Arthur. In each book he complains at different times that he's "just a kid." In the first book we believe this is true, even though the other characters treat these statements as ironic self-reflection -- when he complains so in the Wizard, I think we take those statements the same way, and aren't buying him as a kid anymore.

Also the narrative structure is different in Wizard, with considerable narrative occurring outside his POV.

So I agree with GW on this one, even though it seems like I have little to no company.

Alan

Thomas Bitterman — 13 Jan 2005, 06:37 · in reply to stilskin

stilskin wrote:

--- Gregg <gwbest328 at RCN.COM> wrote:

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I wouldn't be so quick to accept Wolfe's statements at face value here (or anywhere else, for that matter).

I took this as a joke. "Everyone else" thinks it's one book for literary reasons. He thinks it's two books because, well, physically there are two books.

paul

Enamel

Dan'l Danehy-Oakes — 13 Jan 2005, 10:10 · in reply to Alan Lewis

On Thu, 13 Jan 2005 08:00:44 -0500, Alan Lewis <alanarc at frontiernet.net> wrote:
So I agree with GW on this one, even though it seems like I have little to no company.

Definitely not "no" - I completely agree with your reasoning and your conclusion.

www.livejournal.com/users/sturgeonslawyer
Freedom has no barcode.
--J.G. Ballard