

Embryonic Wolfe

The Urth list — 2 messages, 2 voices, 23 Feb 2006

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/4540>

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mournings glory — 23 Feb 2006, 03:35

Some terrific discussion taking place lately over in the Asimov's Message Board:

<http://www.asimovs.com/discus/messages/2/4857.html?1138501545>

Among other things Gardner Dozois is currently reading (or more likely has probably finished by now) Wolfe's Soldier of Sidon which according to Gardner *will be out in a couple of months.* But even more fascinating, Dozois admits to having rejected a very early Gene Wolfe novel -- quite possibly his first.

Dozois: <As for the early novel of Wolfe's that I did indeed reject (or, to be more accurate, that I recommended that the editor not buy, since I was just a lowly slush-reader), it was hardly a hard SF novel--it was a metaphysical novel about strange occult happenings in a small town, narrated by the unborn fetus of one of the characters, who dies in a miscarriage at the end of the novel (in fact, as I recall, the last line was "And then I died.").>

<Gardner, I've never heard of such an early novel by Gene Wolfe. Did it precede 'Operation Ares'?>

<Yes. And he never did sell it to anybody, although after he became famous, he probably could have, at least to some small press. >

Could, I wonder, this possibly be Frieda from the Fire mentioned in Urth-Man Extraordinary as a phantom title? If so, it sounds similar to one of my favorite all-time reads, Thomas Keneally's Passenger.

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aramini1 at cox.net — 23 Feb 2006, 07:23 · follows mournings glory

In correspondence, Wolfe once indicated to me that he had written a novel before Operation Ares, that had "entirely too much plot" that was more like a mystery novel than SF. He says he does not know where the manuscript is or what happened to it. Sniff

I am sad, it sounds like it could be interesting, even if it isn't "great" Wolfe.

From: "mournings glory" <mourningsglory at hotmail.com>
Date: 2006/02/22 Wed PM 10:35:16 EST
To: urth at lists.urth.net
Subject: (urth) Embryonic Wolfe

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