

Short Story ID?

The Urth list — 5 messages, 4 voices, 02 Jun 2006

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/4640>

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Michael Straight — 02 Jun 2006, 17:07

I'm trying to remember the name of one of Wolfe's older short stories. It's told from two points of view - one, some sort of archeologist type character writing a report and seeing the action of the story from a scientific point of view, the other, from the native alien's point of view who sees the action as magical/mythical. I think maybe the alien point of view is in italics throughout.

I'm pretty sure it's not in Endangered Species, Island of Doctor Death and Other Stories and Other Stories, or any of the collections after IODDAOSAOS.

I'd been calling it "Thag" in my head, but just realized that "Thag" is a totally different story.

Jesper Svedberg — 02 Jun 2006, 17:26 · in reply to Michael Straight

Michael Straight skrev:

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This might be "Trip, Trap", found in Storeys from the Old Hotel. I haven't got the collection with me at the moment, but I seem to remember it being told alternately from the rational viewpoint of the visiting human and the magical viewpoint of the native alien.

// Jesper

Matt Sab — 02 Jun 2006, 17:29 · in reply to Michael Straight

I was just looking over Aquarius Records' (a record store in SF) mailing from a week or so ago and discovered a surprising GW appearance. Here is the record review in full:

BLOODHAG "Hell Bent For Letters" (Alternative Tentacles) cd 12.98

It takes a LOT for a joke band to impress us.

First, the joke has to be really funny. Second, the

music STILL has to rule. Or at least be good enough to make the joke worthwhile. Nothing worse than a joke band that relies totally on their gimmick. No need to worry about the mighty Bloodhag, the very heavy masters of all things Edu-Core. For those new to the 'Hag, imagine four nerds, white collared shirts (tucked in of course), totally obsessed with science fiction, so much so that each song is the name of an author, and of course the lyrics discuss the authors and their finest works, live the band hurls sci-fi paperbacks into the audience, and they even did an entire tour playing only in libraries!! It stops being a joke when it's this well researched and executed. Check out the cover too, a headless demon, laying atop a pile of books, the band dead with an 'overdue' notice stuck to one of their corpses, a warrior librarian, wielding a sword, clutching the demon's head, wearing sexy librarian glasses and of course with her library ID still around her neck. Awesome. Plus it's called Hell Bent For Letters! Fuck yeah! Check the Cavalier review elsewhere on the list for a rant on punny band names. What do they sound like? Sort of like a thrash metal Karp, sludgy guitars, galloping drums, shouted vocals, sometimes thrashy and noisy, sometimes gloriously epic, sometimes sort of grunt and death metally. But pay close attention, you might learn something.

The tracks this time around (and Andee's take on the books by the authors referenced):

"Gene Wolfe" (you must read his Book Of The New Sun series, so massive and dense and epic. One of the weirdest worlds ever written)

"Robert Silverberg" (just read Book Of Skulls on the recommendation of AQ pal Barbara D., disturbingly racist and misogynistic and homophobic (like many books written in the seventies) but if you can get past that, it's really intense and fucked up and so strangely mysterious. Being made into a movie which seems like a bad move)

"Douglas Adams" (recently re-read the Hitchhikers Guide 'trilogy' and it's still pretty darn funny. The movie was pretty good too)

"Orson Scott Card" (the Enders series is the series that made me love science fiction, just don't read any of the introductions or you'll realize what a Mormon kook he is and it might ruin it for you)

"Greg Bear" (The Forge Of God and Anvil Of

Stars: one of the best sci-fi one-two punches ever.

So epic and amazing!)

Okay, we could go on and on, the rest of the tracks / authors:

"James Blish", "Anne M. Caffrey", "Iain M. banks",

"Edgar Allen Poe",

"Philip Jose Farmer", "Michael Swanwick", "Frederik Pohl", "Thomas M.

Disch", "Franz Kafka", "Madeline L'Engle" and "Jack Womack".

If you like metal, you'll like Bloodhag. If you like science fiction, you -might- like Bloodhag. But if you love metal AND love science fiction, then pick up this slab of crushing edu-core, you just might learn something!

Michael Straight — 02 Jun 2006, 17:46 · in reply to Matthew King

Yes, I'm sure that's right. At least I remembered the 'T'. Thank you.

Matthew King — 02 Jun 2006, 19:43 · in reply to Jesper Svedberg

On Jun 2, 2006, at 10:26 AM, Jesper Svedberg wrote:

Michael Straight skrev:

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it being told alternately from the rational viewpoint of the visiting human and the magical viewpoint of the native alien.

That is definitely Trip, Trap from _Storeys_. IIRC, that is also the story Wolfe is referring to when he says Damon Knight grew him from a bean.