

Gene, son of Gene

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 03 Apr 1998

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Damien Broderick — 03 Apr 1998, 10:27

Tony Ellis asks why I consider it determinable that the narrator of 'Fifth Head' is named Gene Wolfe. Well, I've forgotten the fine-grain of my reasoning - it's more than two decades since I read the book. But a quick squiz at the text shows this much (I'm using the UK Quartet pb edition, 1975):

p. 51: Father says of Number Five: 'his name is the same of mine.' And, a little earlier, Marsch says of the aunt: 'She is in reality daughter to an earlier - shall we say "version" - of yourself.'

p. 16: 'Call me Aunt Jeannine.' I take this to be a feminized form of Gene (Gene-ine). One might wish it had been Eugenia, but still.

BTW, *is* Gene Wolfe's baptismal name (as it were) Eugene? It is given in Clute/Nicholls simply as Gene.

[apologies to =mantis= for garbling his own handle in my previous rushed post]

As for the terraced folly - beats me. A wild association: while I've never been in New Orleans, the descriptions sets off movie memories of the Vieux Carre.

Damien