

Pirate Freedom

The Urth list — 3 messages, 3 voices, 28 Aug 2007

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/4899>

Exported from an unofficial mirror of a public mailing list. Copyright in each message remains with the person who wrote it. Email addresses are obscured as `user at host`, the form the original archive published. This file was rebuilt from parsed fields rather than retained headers, so it is faithful in content but not byte-exact.

Nicholas Gevers — 28 Aug 2007, 20:10

Interesting! There is a case for seeing *Pirate Freedom* as SF, actually--Chris's story begins in Cuba some years from now, the Communists having fallen, and he remarks somewhere on his father having "had him built" a certain way (genetically, I assume), explaining his height and who knows what other abilities, including perhaps time travel?

--Nick Gevers.

"As a boy," Gene Wolfe has written, "I was very fond of pirates," and his latest offering seems written expressly for that boy. In fact, the intended audience for this one seems even more YA than *_Wizard Knight_* though it's not being marketed as a juvenile, but as fantasy. *_Pirate Freedom_*, however, has **no** fantasy elements unless you wish to count Father Chris's temporal displacement (curiously unexamined by the narrator), nor is there much in the way of metaphysical or spiritual dithering, considering Chris-the-pirate has taken Holy Orders. Instead, we're treated to a very straight forward historical adventure with many asides about the true nature of piracy (as opposed, say, to pop versions) and the narrative voice will probably remind you of *Wizard's* Able. Wolfe seems to have lots of fun with his *dramatis personae*, incorporating not only two characters from *New Sun*, but also naming a pirate after one of his fellow writers. But far and away, *_Pirate Freedom_* is Wolfe's least challenging and unoblique novel, with virtually no unsolved mysteries or (for me) lingering resonance. As such, I took it to be the literary equivalent of a sorbet -- something to cleanse the pallet in preparation for more substantial fare to come

(though I'm not encouraged by the early word on his next two novels).

--

Rex Lycanthrosaurus
lycanthrosaurus at fastmail.fm

stilskin — 28 Aug 2007, 20:23 · in reply to Nicholas Gevers

--- Nicholas Gevers <vermouliau at yahoo.com> wrote:
Interesting! There is a case for seeing *Pirate
Freedom* as SF, actually--Chris's story begins in
Cuba
some years from now, the Communists having fallen,
and
he remarks somewhere on his father having "had him
built" a certain way (genetically, I assume),
explaining his height and who knows what other
abilities, including perhaps time travel?

--Nick Gevers.

Also, in no other novel that I can think of has Wolfe
written as overtly about Christianity and the Catholic
religion. That alone, to me, makes it something more
than a minor work.

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

aaron — 29 Aug 2007, 23:42 · in reply to Nicholas Gevers

If you don't mind my asking, why are you not encouraged about the upcoming novels? Just
curious.