

stories in Best of Gene Wolfe

The Urth list — 10 messages, 8 voices, 11 Oct 2008

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/5176>

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don doggett — 11 Oct 2008, 01:23

Here's the list, in order, from the table of contents of my arc:

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Seven American Nights
The Detective of Dreams
Kevin Malone
The God and His Man
On the Train

From the Desk of Gilmer C. Merton

Death of the Island Doctor
Redbeard
The Boy Who Hooked the Sun
Parkroads- a Review
Game in the Pope's Head
And When They Appear
Bed and Breakfast
Petting Zoo
The Tree is My Hat
Has Anybody Seen Junie Moon
A Cabin on the Coast

And that's it. Comment, cheer, grouse, or shrug.

Don

The Evangelists: a Lesser Apocrypha

<http://profile.myspace.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=user.viewprofile&friendid=178109961>

Matthew Keeley — 11 Oct 2008, 02:00 · in reply to don doggett

On Fri, Oct 10, 2008 at 9:23 PM, don doggett <kingwukong at yahoo.com> wrote:
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Thanks for the info Don.

I'm not familiar with all the stories in here, but it seems like he's drawing a lot from his earlier stuff - three-fourths of the Wolfe Archipelago, plus "Fifth Head" and the novellas from his first two collections. I don't see anything new in here?

"Hour of Trust" — Didn't see that coming. And "And When They Appear" - people tell me that's about the bleakest thing Wolfe ever wrote. I think I read an Amazon review that said that one story made the reader stop enjoying Wolfe.

No "A Solar Labyrinth" — I'm rather surprised, as it's significant (I think) and short. Still, Storeys from the Old Hotel is pretty well-represented. I like "The Recording" quite a bit - it reads a bit like Wolfe channeling fellow Illinois writer William Maxwell. Or perhaps Bradbury in a dark mood. Good story either way.

I'll buy the book.

-Matt

Nigel Price — 11 Oct 2008, 11:02 · follows Matthew Keeley

Thank you, Don, for the list of contents. That looks like a good selection, for all that I'd argue for the inclusion of some other stories too.

The odd thing reading the list is that while some stories leap instantly to mind, I'd almost forgotten others. I wonder whether the decision to go with mostly early stories was dictated by criteria of quality or publishing commonsense? After all, the anthologies with the older stories are harder to get while the more recent anthologies are still relatively fresh on the shelves. Among other things, an anthology like this is a handy way of reviving the back catalogue.

Nigel

aaron — 11 Oct 2008, 13:13 · in reply to Matthew Keeley

I have read all these stories and own all the collections they are in. I'm not sure if Wolfe just didn't have enough uncollected material to do a 'new' collection, or if this was the publisher's idea (most likely). I suppose this will be a good intro for those new to Wolfe, but for those of us who have all the older collections already, I see little incentive for buying this. I wish they had included a couple of stories that are now near impossible to find for us older fans, but... Oh well. Can't have everything you want, huh?

On Fri, Oct 10, 2008 at 10:00 PM, Matthew Keeley <matthew.keeley.1 at gmail.com

wrote:

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James Wynn — 11 Oct 2008, 21:35 · in reply to aaron

Aaron:

I suppose this will be a good intro for those new to Wolfe, but for those of us who have all the older collections already, I see little incentive for buying this.

The purpose of this sort of collection to me is to loan out to friends who are unfamiliar with Wolfe. This way, they can experience the best of Wolfe without getting detracted by some of the more difficult or middling works.

Personally, I'm frustrated by a "best of" collection that does not include "Counting Cats in Zanzibar".

J

Matthew Groves — 12 Oct 2008, 23:55 · in reply to don doggett

Some strange choices here. Parkroads? On the Train? It's not that these are not good; they just don't seem representative. I think novel excerpts would have been good, such as the alzabo episode.

On Fri, Oct 10, 2008 at 8:23 PM, don doggett <kingwukong at yahoo.com> wrote:
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Matthew Keeley — 13 Oct 2008, 00:51 · in reply to Matthew Groves

On Sun, Oct 12, 2008 at 7:55 PM, Matthew Groves
<matthewalangroves at gmail.com> wrote:
Some strange choices here. Parkroads? On the Train? It's not that these
are not good; they just don't seem representative. I think novel excerpts
would have been good, such as the alzado episode.

Yes, but "On the Train" is (sadly) the only Wolfe story accepted by The New Yorker, so he has a
soft spot for it. Or he did when he wrote the introduction to Storeys from the Old Hotel.

-Matt

aaron — 13 Oct 2008, 14:43 · in reply to Matthew Keeley

I would rather have seen Eyebem and The Changeling than On the Train and Parkroads, but that's just my taste. Don't get me wrong, I can see the appeal of both stories, but just don't feel they are among Wolfe's best. It could be as you say that Wolfe considers On the Train to be good because it appeared in the New Yorker. I also miss A Solar Labyrinth and Silhouette. Oh well. I suppose the stories were not only chosen because they are his best, but because they show Wolfe's range and diversity.

-Aaron

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<matthew.keeley.1 at gmail.com> wrote:

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<matthewalangroves at gmail.com> wrote:

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Stuart Hamm — 14 Oct 2008, 04:47 · follows aaron

???? Mobile — (415) 786-3624

???? Skype? stuart.hamm

myspace.com/stuhamm

? ??? stuarthamm.net

--- On Mon, 10/13/08, Stuart Hamm <hammstu at sbcglobal.net> wrote: From: Stuart Hamm <hammstu at sbcglobal.net> Subject: Re: (urth) stories in Best of Gene Wolfe To: kingwukong at yahoo.com Date: Monday, October 13, 2008, 9:46 PM

thoughts..

Personally I would include

Tracking Song

Queen of the Night

Blueberry....and it's counterpart

but since it includes all of the DD stories and Forlesen I won't bitch too much

gonna go re-read Forlesen

BTW...what the heck is "Eyeflash.." all about???????

???? Mobile — (415) 786-3624

???? Skype? stuart.hamm

myspace.com/stuhamm

? ??? stuarthamm.net

--- On Fri, 10/10/08, don doggett <kingwukong at yahoo.com> wrote: From: don doggett <kingwukong at yahoo.com> Subject: (urth) stories in Best of Gene Wolfe To: "urth" <urth-urth.net at lists.urth.net> Date: Friday, October 10, 2008, 6:23 PM

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Mo Holkar / UKG — 14 Oct 2008, 11:35 · in reply to Stuart Hamm

--- On Mon, 10/13/08, Stuart Hamm <hammstu at sbcglobal.net> wrote:
BTW...what the heck is "Eyeflash.." all about???????

There's a good bit on the wiki about this story:

<http://www.wolfewiki.com/pmwiki/pmwiki.php?n=Stories.TheEyeflashMiracles>

In short: Oz.

best,

Mo

~ # ~

WolfeWiki now at:

<http://www.wolfewiki.com/pmwiki/>