

hirsute sev

The Urth list — 10 messages, 8 voices, 01 Nov 2008

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/5203>

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Marc Aramini — 01 Nov 2008, 17:19

The description of Sev is one of paleness punctuated by dark head hair - Thecla says he must stay out of the sun or his pale skin will burn terribly. This does not seem to jive in my mind with someone who has excessive body hair that would take away this paleness and cover him from the sun - and it is the veins on the back of his hands that make him a man, not his hairy chest.

But I have no chest hair and it is certainly possible I am projecting a narcissistic image upon him that has no basis in the text.

Pedro Pereira — 01 Nov 2008, 17:24 · in reply to Marc Aramini

If I rememeber correctly there's those hairy humans in the caves that Severian meets and scares with the light of The Claw who are supposedly humans who "regressed" to earlier evolutionary stages. I don't think there's any scientific basis for this at all, it's another example of Wolfe's Science Fantasy take on things. As for Severian, no, he's not hairy at all and there's no reason to believe humans in general are hairier in TBotNS, not only on a scientific basis, but also no textual evidence whatsoever.

Adam Thornton — 01 Nov 2008, 18:22 · in reply to Marc Aramini

On Nov 1, 2008, at 12:19 PM, Marc Aramini wrote:
But I have no chest hair and it is certainly possible I am
projecting a narcissistic image upon him that has no basis in the
text.

If it helps, I'm quite hairy, and I've always imagined Severian as a body-hairless metrosexual skinny white boy.

Adam

James Wynn — 01 Nov 2008, 19:25 · in reply to Pedro Pereira

Pedro says:
If I rememeber correctly there's those hairy humans in the caves that Severian meets and scares with the light of The Claw who are supposedly humans who "regressed" to earlier evolutionary stages. I don't think there's any scientific basis for this at all, it's another example of Wolfe's Science Fantasy take on things.

IIRC, Severian believes that they are normal humans who have been artificially modified for the purpose the Autarch puts them to. He even posits that they might be aware that they have been misdeveloped in this fashion and resent it. Their Neanderthalishness might might havbe only a coincidental element of a utilitarian design.

J.

Pedro Pereira — 01 Nov 2008, 19:27 · in reply to James Wynn

thanks, didn't remember the case very well.

Pedro

From: crushtv at gmail.com To: urth at lists.urth.net Date: Sat, 1 Nov 2008 14:25:01 -0500 Subject: Re: (urth) hirsute sev

Pedro says:

If I rememeber correctly there's those hairy humans in the caves that Severian meets and scares with the light of The Claw who are supposedly humans who "regressed" to earlier evolutionary stages. I don't think there's any scientific basis for this at all, it's another example of Wolfe's Science Fantasy take on things.

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J.

Son of Witz — 02 Nov 2008, 19:24 · in reply to Marc Aramini

Ha.

I almost had started a new thread with this title. but I wasn't sure I remembered the definition of hirsute properly. so when I googled it, it was all hairy porn links.

yeah, Sev's a paie whiteboy by the text, as well as by the meta logic you've pointed out.

I hate drawing body hair anyway.

"skinny" though. he says he's muscular, so I figure he's at least very athletic looking. strapping young lad material.

and Adam, thanks for your hairy perspective.

~witz

On Nov 1, 2008, at 10:19 AM, Marc Aramini wrote:

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Craig Brewer — 13 Nov 2008, 20:58 · in reply to Marc Aramini

Just a small point on Severian's coloring, but I was just looking back over Cyriaca's story in Sword, and, at one point, Severian mentions looking down at his "brown fingers." She also of

course mentions the dark hairs on his hands, but the brown fingers seems interestingly different from Thecla's comment about his pale skin.

So...pale with ruddy hands because his hands aren't covered by a mask/cloak, as is the rest of his body? Is "brown" here just a loose rendering of "vaguely beige" skin color? Or is this a contradiction? Or is Thecla's "pale" a relative pale rather than actually white or devoid of color? Why, in the end, would it matter, and what would Severian's skin color signify? An illustrator is of course naturally interested, but is Sev's skin color supposed to indicate something about his ethnicity, which would of course be filtered through years of Urth history. I'm simply trying to figure out if Sev's coloring is actually significant, or if I should stop worrying about it.

I also thought I should mention that Thecla's worrying about a sunburn under a pale, dying sun seems odd. Yes, ultraviolet need not be accompanied by a "bright" light, but a deliberate mention of worrying about the harmful effects of a dim sun seems to stand out.

----- Original Message -----

From: Marc Aramini <marcaramini at yahoo.com>

To: "urth at urth.net" <urth at urth.net>

Sent: Saturday, November 1, 2008 12:19:21 PM

Subject: (urth) hirsute sev

The description of Sev is one of paleness punctuated by dark head hair - Thecla says he must stay out of the sun or his pale skin will burn terribly. This does not seem to jive in my mind with someone who has excessive body hair that would take away this paleness and cover him from the sun - and it is the veins on the back of his hands that make him a man, not his hairy chest.

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John Watkins — 13 Nov 2008, 21:03 · in reply to Craig Brewer

I just figured Severian was sun-browned from his travels by the time he meets Cyriaca, but pale from his time in the Citadel back in Shadow.

On 11/13/08, Craig Brewer <cnbrewer at yahoo.com> wrote:

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----- Original Message -----

From: Marc Aramini <marcaramini at yahoo.com>
To: "urth at urth.net" <urth at urth.net>
Sent: Saturday, November 1, 2008 12:19:21 PM
Subject: (urth) hirsute sev

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Craig Brewer — 13 Nov 2008, 21:17 · in reply to John Watkins

It's always nice to be reminded of your razor, Mr. Occam.

----- Original Message -----

From: John Watkins <john.watkins04 at gmail.com>
To: The Urth Mailing List <urth at lists.urth.net>
Sent: Thursday, November 13, 2008 3:03:50 PM
Subject: Re: (urth) hirsute sev

I just figured Severian was sun-browned from his travels by the time he meets Cyriaca, but pale from his time in the Citadel back in Shadow.

Jeff Wilson — 14 Nov 2008, 08:15 · in reply to Craig Brewer

Craig Brewer wrote:

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ozone levels could be low after chiliads of neglect and seepage from old refrigeration units or Erebusforming.

Jeff Wilson - jwilson at io.com
< <http://www.io.com/~jwilson> >