

The Cat and significance to BOTNS

The Urth list — 5 messages, 2 voices, 03 Feb 2009

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/5330>

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O'Donnell, Tim BOSI — 03 Feb 2009, 12:37

Hi all,

I was just thinking on the story of The Cat in Endangered Species. Set in the same universe as BOTNS.

Specifically, the following occurred to me:

The titular moggie is tossed carelessly through Father Inire's mirrors by Sancha and comes back as a

phantom cat. The cat cannot be seen by anyone though it does leave evidence of its existence.

The cat

also has the power to invade the dreams of Leocadia.

This provides us with some evidence of at least one mode of return from the mirrors. As some sort of invisible

entity that can (to some extent) occupy the thoughts of others. You see where I am going with this...does this

tie in with Jonas as Miles? Could Jonas have simply popped out of the mirrors as an invisible entity (with no

need for a body). He may have bonded to Severian in much the same way as the cat bonded to Sancha.

Then, when Severian re-animated the body of Miles spirit-Jonas saw an opportunity to occupy a new body

and possessed Miles.

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Jeff Wilson — 04 Feb 2009, 04:28 · in reply to O'Donnell, Tim BOSI

O'Donnell, Tim (BOSI) wrote:
Hi all,

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Specifically, the following occurred to me:
The titular moggie is tossed carelessly through Father Inire's mirrors by Sancha and comes back as a phantom cat. The cat cannot be seen by anyone though it does leave evidence of its existence. The cat also has the power to invade the dreams of Leocadia.

I'm not convinced this is the same cat transformed; IIRC it could more easily be a catlike creature Inire supplied to distract the girl from her loss with novelty. Bonding ensues between the girl and the feline that turns out to have pookalike qualities.

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

O'Donnell, Tim BOSI — 04 Feb 2009, 10:16 · follows Jeff Wilson

Yeah, well, that is fair, it is not clear what happens, this is Wolfe after all!
Whether Inire conjures up some kind of cat or whether Inire summons the cat back through the mirrors is unclear.

Me, I favour the theory that Inire summoned the cat back through the mirrors and this has a bearing on Miles/Jonas.

I think this story tells us more about the mysterious mirrors and that is (one of) its purpose(s).

Also, I wonder if Hethor doesn't just call up his creatures with his mirrors, what if he creates them in this way
as well? By putting an innocent slug through the mirrors he could get a snuffling beast that leaves a slimy trail,
the salamander could originally have been a newt and so on. All this is wild speculation of course with no textual evidence... :)

Jeff Wilson - jwilson at io.com wrote:

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Jeff Wilson — 04 Feb 2009, 10:29 · in reply to O'Donnell, Tim BOSI

O'Donnell, Tim (BOSI) wrote:

Also, I wonder if Hethor doesn't just call up his creatures with his mirrors, what if he creates them in this way as well? By putting an innocent slug through the mirrors he could get a snuffling beast that leaves a slimy trail, the salamander could originally have been a newt and so on. All this is wild speculation of course with no textual evidence... :)

Jonas' recognition of the notules from his travels to other planets is textev that the creatures are summoned, rather than conjured or transmogrified.

The possibility remains that some kind of exchange of creatures might be necessary or at least facilitate the process; that might explain what happened to Hethor's paracoita as well as the cat thing.

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

O'Donnell, Tim BOSI — 04 Feb 2009, 11:00 · follows Jeff Wilson

Of course! [Slaps head]

Thanks for that Jeff, of course the creatures are summoned.

OK, so maybe what happens is that something comes back and whatever it is takes on some of the properties that the person to whom it was summoned expects.

Nah, I am heading off into no-man's land here...

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