

Of Blog of the Fallen: "M. John Harrison, The Pastel City"

The Urth list — 6 messages, 6 voices, 07 May 2009

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/5429>

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Fred Kiesche — 07 May 2009, 01:56

Thought this might be of interest to some. From what I recall of the book (the last time I read it, my girlfriend gave me a copy...and we've been married almost twenty-five years, so do the math!):

<http://ofblog.blogspot.com/2009/03/m-john-harrison-pastel-city.html>

I've got vague recollection of this being somewhat Vance or (Clark Ashton) Smith in feel. The edition I had back then was in the "Timescape" line, which brought us...well, the Urth books! F.P. Kiesche III "Ah Mr. Gibbon, another damned, fat, square book. Always, scribble, scribble, scribble, eh?" (The Duke of Gloucester, on being presented with Volume 2 of The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire.) Blogging at The Lensman's Children and TexasBestGrok!

Matthew Keeley — 07 May 2009, 02:48 · in reply to Fred Kiesche

I've always liked that blog; I wish I had as much time to read as does the proprietor. This is saying a lot, as I read a lot more books than most people.

I haven't read Harrison, though he's on my (horribly long) list of writers to read. I almost bought Harrison's Viriconium a month or so ago, in part due to my reading of the afore-cited blog, but none of the bookstores in my area had it.

Several posts on the Blog of the Fallen mention Roberto Bolano - Has anyone here read him? Some aspects of his books, especially Amulet, bring Wolfe to mind for me. Bolano also reminds me of Wolfe in that I want to read everything by the man.

-Matt

Craig Brewer — 07 May 2009, 02:50 · in reply to Matthew Keeley

Viriconium is WELL worth the time. It might seem a touch dated in a very elusive way, however, since Harrison has often said that he wrote the stories out of his own frustration as a sf/fantasy editor in the 60s/70s. They aren't anti-genre, by any means, but some of the things he does that were "new" then will seem more familiar to Vance/Wolfe/even Moorcock fans.

But if you're just up for the "dying earth" vibe, it's also a great exercise in that game.

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

From: Matthew Keeley <matthew.keeley.1 at gmail.com>

To: recursive_loop at yahoo.com; The Urth Mailing List <urth at lists.urth.net> Sent:

Wednesday, May 6, 2009 9:48:24 PM Subject: Re: (urth) Of Blog of the Fallen: "M. John Harrison, The Pastel City"

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Adam Thornton — 07 May 2009, 03:29 · in reply to Craig Brewer

On May 6, 2009, at 9:50 PM, Craig Brewer wrote:

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The first time you see a horse's skull with pomegranates for eyes, it's really cool.

The fifteenth time, not so much,

Adam

James Crossley — 07 May 2009, 05:03 · in reply to Matthew Keeley

On 5/6/09 7:48 PM, "Matthew Keeley" <matthew.keeley.1 at gmail.com> wrote:

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I'll second the Harrison recommendation. He's an excellent stylist, in or out of genre. *_Light_* and *_Nova Swing_* are well worth a look.

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-Matt

A heartier second here. Bolano is the most interesting "new" writer to come along in years, says I. I'd say it'd be great to set up an urth-list kind of discussion group for him, but his books are strangely resistant to analysis, I find.

James

Jordon Flato — 07 May 2009, 15:57 · in reply to James Crossley

I've only read *The Savage Detectives* by Bolano, but I thoroughly enjoyed it, and will certainly read the rest of his work. Top rate stuff.

On Wed, May 6, 2009 at 10:03 PM, James Crossley <ishmael at drizzle.com> wrote:

On 5/6/09 7:48 PM, "Matthew Keeley" <matthew.keeley.1 at gmail.com> wrote:

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