

ot: recommendation

The Urth list — 4 messages, 3 voices, 07 Sep 2009

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/5482>

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don doggett — 07 Sep 2009, 20:54

Again, because it's slow, I thought I'd throw something out that I believe some of you will be interested in. My good friend, Jay Hochstedt has begun a blog, Young Gerontius (<http://jayhoch.blogspot.com/>). Jay is a brilliant mind, a liberal Catholic intellectual, and an owner, if not yet reader, of TBotNS. I am certain that at least a few of you will enjoy his writing.

Don

"How long shall I be with you? How long must I endure you?" - Jesus

Doggerel

www.don-doggett.blogspot.com

James Wynn — 08 Sep 2009, 21:42 · in reply to don doggett

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On Sunday he had solo panel: a general Q&A. I did not have the guts to ask questions on the level that the Wolfe List did for "Book of the Long Sun." I do know from experience that Wolfe can be very dismissive (not in a mean way, but dismissive none the less) when you ask questions he doesn't want to answer or does not interest him to answer. This inevitably has the effect of the questioner "losing face" among the rest of the audience and slinking back into his chair. So you've been warned.

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I don't know if everyone got their books signed (I did). The moderator had to make an announcement that people should not waste time schmoozing to ensure everyone in line got a chance to have their books signed before the time ran out. Now that I think about it, perhaps I should have gone to the end of the line attempted schmooze after everyone else went through.

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"The Sorcerer's House" is due out in April. He has finished the 3rd re-write of an additional novel (one more re-write to go). The protagonist of the latest novel (not TSH) is an attorney named "Skip Ricen" (I don't know the actual spelling). I asked him if the similarities in the last names (Ricen/Riese) meant that the novel was in the same universe as AEG. He didn't say 'yes' or 'no'. He said that he didn't see how the two names are similar. This is an example of the sort of dismissiveness I was talking about. I didn't initially slink back to my seat. I said "Really"? But he didn't respond that so did at last I slinked away.

Instead of elaborating on the new novel, he went on to remark that using the name "Bill Reise" in AEG and in "The Other Dead Man" was "just me dropping the ball."

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* "Write 10 minutes everyday. If you do that, you will never have 'The Novel I Once Tried to Write'. It will always be 'The Novel I Am Writing'.

* "When I started, I got up early and wrote for a couple hours until Rosemary got up and made me breakfast. Then I went to work and then <spent time with my family>. I went to bed early because I knew I would get up early. On Saturday and Sunday I would write about 2 hours."

* "When someone says they want to become a writer, the best answer is "Don't". Because, if they really have the desire to be a writer they will do it anyway. I would have been inspired by advice like that."

* "I read negative reviews, but I don't let them affect me. If you cannot do that you should not read negative reviews."

Incidentally, most of the other writers on the panels apparently read negative reviews even though it greatly affects them. They compensate by imagining the reviewers as small meaningless people who are beneath contempt, yet are held in contempt anyway. Wolfe also pointed out that by the time a review comes out, he hasn't even looked at the book in question for a year or more.

He told lots of stories about being an engineer:

* "Has anyone heard the one about when I blew myself up and thought I'd blinded myself?"

* "I was on the team that designed the cooker part of the machine that made Pringles" (He went into detail about how they are manufactured.) And he said that one of his coworkers was from Idaho and was fetted as hero when he went home because Pringles was making them all rich (P&G was buying up lots of potatoes.)

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I'll post again as I remember stuff.

J.

James Wynn — 08 Sep 2009, 21:49 · follows James Wynn

Hmm...this posted weird on the Urth site so here's a more readable one:

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Matthew Keeley — 09 Sep 2009, 12:56 · in reply to James Wynn

James,

Thanks for the very good and thorough account.

On Tue, Sep 8, 2009 at 5:49 PM, James Wynn <crushtv at gmail.com> wrote:
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If I recall correctly, he said he'd done two rewrites of this next book, apparently called Home Fires, when I spoke to him at Readercon. Guess he's been working hard.

-Matt