

NPR Results

The Urth list — 26 messages, 10 voices, 11 Aug 2011

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/6049>

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Antonin Scriabin — 11 Aug 2011, 14:39

<http://www.npr.org/2011/08/11/139085843/your-picks-top-100-science-fiction-fantasy-books>

The Book of the New Sun clocked in at #87. Appalling original list, and terrible final results, but at the end of the day, maybe people will check out Wolfe after seeing his book listed here.

Greg Bates — 11 Aug 2011, 14:54 · in reply to Antonin Scriabin

Well, at least it beat the EU Star Wars tripe. By one spot. :-(

On Thu, Aug 11, 2011 at 10:39 AM, Antonin Scriabin <kierkegaurdian at gmail.com

wrote:

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Lane Haygood — 11 Aug 2011, 15:09 · in reply to Greg Bates

This has shaken my faith in the correctness of democracy.

I mean, would it be SO terrible to force people into good literature gulags? Eighteen hours a day, reading away, lulled to silence by the gentle crack of the overseer's whips?

I mean, people put "The Sword of Truth" and those drecky "Forgotten Realms" novels ahead of Wolfe and Mieville? They NEED re-education.

LH

On Thu, Aug 11, 2011 at 9:54 AM, Greg Bates <gregory.a.bates at gmail.com> wrote:

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On Thu, Aug 11, 2011 at 10:39 AM, Antonin Scriabin

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Antonin Scriabin — 11 Aug 2011, 15:16 · in reply to Lane Haygood

I agree about the gulags!

Anyways, this list is especially embarrassing since NPR listeners have a (vague) reputation for being intellectuals, and a cut above the typical reader. Guess not. I see a lot of stuff on the list that I was really into when I was 8-10 (Terry Brooks, David Eddings, etc.), then quickly outgrew when I realized that there was vastly superior science fiction and fantasy out there. I think a lot of the voting that went into this list was fueled by the nostalgia of people who never "grew-up" out of the formative junk that a lot of us cut our sci-fi teeth on as kids.

On Thu, Aug 11, 2011 at 11:09 AM, Lane Haygood <lhaygood at gmail.com> wrote:
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Jeff Wilson — 11 Aug 2011, 15:36 · in reply to Lane Haygood

On 8/11/2011 10:09 AM, Lane Haygood wrote:
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But who will spin the looms in the interim?

Jeff Wilson - jwilson at clueland.com
Computational Intelligence Laboratory - Texas A&M Texarkana
< <http://www.tamut.edu/CIL> >

Dan'l Danehy-Oakes — 11 Aug 2011, 15:40 · in reply to Jeff Wilson

People, it's just a popularity contest...

On Thu, Aug 11, 2011 at 8:36 AM, Jeff Wilson <jwilson at clueland.com> wrote:
On 8/11/2011 10:09 AM, Lane Haygood wrote:

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Greg Bates — 11 Aug 2011, 15:40 · in reply to Jeff Wilson

That's what audiobooks are for.

On Thu, Aug 11, 2011 at 11:36 AM, Jeff Wilson <jwilson at clueland.com> wrote:
On 8/11/2011 10:09 AM, Lane Haygood wrote:

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Lane Haygood — 11 Aug 2011, 15:44 · in reply to Dan'l Danehy-Oakes

All civilization is a popularity contest. I just wish smart things were more popular than pabulum.

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 11, 2011, at 10:40 AM, "Dan'l Danehy-Oakes" <danldo at gmail.com> wrote:
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Jeff Wilson — 11 Aug 2011, 15:45 · in reply to Jeff Wilson

On 8/11/2011 10:36 AM, Jeff Wilson wrote:

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or er write the new books I guess. sorry, still decompressing from a 5 week lit crit bootcamp

Jeff Wilson - jwilson at clueland.com
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Matthew Keeley — 11 Aug 2011, 16:00 · in reply to Antonin Scriabin

On Thu, Aug 11, 2011 at 11:16 AM, Antonin Scriabin <kierkegaurdian at gmail.com

wrote:

I agree about the gulags!

Anyways, this list is especially embarrassing since NPR listeners have a (vague) reputation for being intellectuals, and a cut above the typical reader. Guess not.

As I recall, the thriller list from last year had writers like Stieg Larsson and Dan Brown in or very near the top spots, when really they shouldn't be within a thousand books of the top of the list.

The top ten-odd choices on the sf list aren't all fantastic (I wouldn't put Hitchhiker's, Ender's Game, or GRRM there) and they reflect an unfamiliarity with the field at large, but they're mostly good books. If nothing else, I think the right book came in at number one.

-Matt

Lane Haygood — 11 Aug 2011, 16:12 · in reply to Antonin Scriabin

Also, NPR only seems more intellectual because its competition is pop music and "morning shows" run by two aging burnouts named Jack Dingo and Toadstool.

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 11, 2011, at 10:16 AM, Antonin Scriabin <kierkegaurdian at gmail.com> wrote:
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Anyways, this list is especially embarrassing since NPR listeners have a (vague) reputation for being intellectuals, and a cut above the typical reader. Guess not. I see a lot of stuff on the list that I was really into when I was 8-10 (Terry Brooks, David Eddings, etc.), then quickly outgrew when I realized that there was vastly superior science fiction and fantasy out there. I think a lot of the voting that went into this list was fueled by the nostalgia of people who never "grew-up" out of the formative junk that a lot of us cut our sci-fi teeth on as kids.

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Son of Witz — 11 Aug 2011, 16:41 · in reply to Lane Haygood

I'm surprised how much of this I've read. I didn't think I've read that much SF.

So, for whatever reason I've been tempted by those Elric books recently, even though they look like trash.

Are they fun trash? Are they better than that Sword of Truth trash that was a bit of fun for a very short while?

They were apparently a big influence on a writer I've begun collaborating with on a graphic novel. I feel like I should know the stuff, maybe if only to know if he's ripping something off from Elric, hehehe.

Son of Witz

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out Wolfe after seeing his book listed here.

Lane Haygood — 11 Aug 2011, 16:47 · in reply to Son of Witz

The Elric books (ANY Moorcock, for that matter) is in a different time zone than Goodkind's trash.

Moorcock was a very subversive counterculture figure in the 60s and 70s and his books reflect it. Elric was written as the Anti-Conan, a sickly intellectual who concerns himself too much with ethics and turns to violence and demonology only as a last resort. But they are adventure tales in the grand S&S fashion. Still, they defined the dark heroic fantasy genre.

I recommend all of the Eternal Champion books, actually.

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 11, 2011, at 11:41 AM, Son of Witz <sonofwitz at butcherbaker.org> wrote:

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Dan'l Danehy-Oakes — 11 Aug 2011, 16:50 · in reply to Son of Witz

Son of Witz wrote:

I'm surprised how much of this I've read.

I on the other hand was not surprised to learn that I'd read the overwhelming majority of these -- 76 of 100, and that's not counting a few that I started and gave up on.

Dan'l Danehy-Oakes

James Wynn — 11 Aug 2011, 16:51 · in reply to Lane Haygood

Isn't this the punishment Thecla had to endure until her execution?

J.

On 8/11/2011 10:09 AM, Lane Haygood wrote:

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Dan'l Danehy-Oakes — 11 Aug 2011, 17:02 · in reply to Lane Haygood

On Thu, Aug 11, 2011 at 9:47 AM, Lane Haygood <lhaygood at gmail.com> wrote:
The Elric books (ANY Moorcock, for that matter) is in a different time zone than Goodkind's trash.

Well, *almost* every Moorcock -- there was his ERB ripoff written purely for money.

I recommend all of the Eternal Champion books, actually.

I can't go quite that far.

It helps to understand that there appear to be two writers living in Michael Moorcock's head. One writes quick-and-dirty swords'n'sorcery like the majority of the EC books. These are not bad books by any means, but they don't go an inch beneath the surface. These would include -- just off the top of my head -- the Corum books, the Hawkmoon books, and the books simply labelled "eternal champion."

Then there's the Moorcock who writes elegant "comedies" like GLORIANA, the Pyat quartet, and "the Dancers at the End of Time." These are remarkably good books, full of satire and wit. And there are quite a few of them -- I want to mention BEHOLD THE MAN, and THE WARHOUND AND THE WORLD'S PAIN, and the Oswald Bastable books (which are steampunk), and BREAKFAST IN THE RUINS, and and and...

But, somewhere in the middle of these, are Elric and Jerry Cornelius ... oh my. Elric is a witty swords'n'sorcery series, almost a parody of s&s, but never failing to take its matter seriously in context. And Jerry Cornelius... well, some days I think Cornelius is Moorcock's crowning achievement; other days I think it's a vast hoax. Either way, I wouldn't be without the ten or so books that constitute the greater Cornelius Chronicles. Amazing stuff.

To make things more confusing, Elric interacts with characters from both the "lower" tier and the "upper" tier (appearing now with Corum and Hawkmoon, and then in the End of Time...), and both of them (as well as a few characters in the "upper" tier) are aspects of that damned Eternal Champion.

Dan'l Danehy-Oakes

Son of Witz — 11 Aug 2011, 17:39 · in reply to Dan'l Danehy-Oakes

On Thursday, August 11, 2011 at 10:02 AM, Dan'l Danehy-Oakes wrote:
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Dan'I Danehy-Oakes

Thanks.

I'll definitely need me some Moorcock :D

I also found some Elric comics but I haven't read them yet.

~witz

Dan'I Danehy-Oakes — 11 Aug 2011, 17:48 · in reply to Son of Witz

On Thu, Aug 11, 2011 at 10:39 AM, Son of Witz

<sonofwitz at butcherbaker.org> wrote:

Thanks.

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I also found some Elric comics but I haven't read them yet.

If they're the ones published in the '80s by Pacific/First Comics, they're very true to the stories.

Dan'I Danehy-Oakes

Son of Witz — 11 Aug 2011, 17:53 · in reply to Dan'I Danehy-Oakes

On Thursday, August 11, 2011 at 10:48 AM, Dan'I Danehy-Oakes wrote:

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Dan'I Danehy-Oakes

I don't know the date but they have digital coloring, so they're not that old. They're written by Moorcock though. Walter Simonson art. They look promising enough.

Dan'l Danehy-Oakes — 11 Aug 2011, 17:55 · in reply to Son of Witz

Hunh. Not the ones I'm familiar with. Simonson art, eh...

On Thu, Aug 11, 2011 at 10:53 AM, Son of Witz

<sonofwitz at butcherbaker.org> wrote:

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Son of Witz — 11 Aug 2011, 18:00 · in reply to Dan'l Danehy-Oakes

On Thursday, August 11, 2011 at 10:55 AM, Dan'l Danehy-Oakes wrote:

Hunh. Not the ones I'm familiar with. Simonson art, eh...

yeah. I don't love his art, but it's solid enough.

Dan'l Danehy-Oakes — 11 Aug 2011, 18:01 · in reply to Son of Witz

H'mmm. I've liked his art since his run on "Thor." Granted, he's not in my top ten or anything but his art definitely gets the job done.

On Thu, Aug 11, 2011 at 11:00 AM, Son of Witz

<sonofwitz at butcherbaker.org> wrote:

On Thursday, August 11, 2011 at 10:55 AM, Dan'l Danehy-Oakes wrote:

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Jerry Friedman — 12 Aug 2011, 05:10 · in reply to Lane Haygood

From: Lane Haygood <lhaygood at gmail.com>

To: The Urth Mailing List <urth at lists.urth.net>

Sent: Thursday, August 11, 2011 9:09 AM

Subject: Re: (urth) NPR Results

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The overseers being Seekers of Taste and Penitence?

Jerry Friedman

Lane Haygood — 12 Aug 2011, 05:28 · in reply to Jerry Friedman

The overseers being Seekers of Taste and Penitence?

Jerry Friedman

Papa Gene would't have it any other way.

Gerry Quinn — 12 Aug 2011, 09:02 · in reply to Lane Haygood

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

From: Lane Haygood

Moorcock was a very subversive counterculture figure in the 60s and 70s and his books reflect it. Elric was written as the Anti-Conan, a sickly intellectual who concerns himself too much with ethics and turns to violence and demonology only as a last resort.

The Hamlet of Swords and Sorcery?

I recommend all of the Eternal Champion books, actually.

I have maybe a blind spot for Moorcock. The Jerry Cornelius and related stuff turned me off, and much of the rest seemed slight. Probably I should take another look.

I actually liked his non-SF effort, Mother London.

- Gerry Quinn

Antonin Scriabin — 19 Aug 2011, 01:36 · in reply to Gerry Quinn

That is very fun! I might bump Home Fires up a notch or two on my Wolfe-to-read list.

On Fri, Aug 12, 2011 at 5:02 AM, Gerry Quinn <gerry at bindweed.com> wrote:

**

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

From: Lane Haygood <lhaygood at gmail.com>

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