

Words and Such art

The Urth list — 18 messages, 7 voices, 25 Oct 2011

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/6084>

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James Wynn — 25 Oct 2011, 17:00

<http://liamkruger.tumblr.com/post/11311695396/heyoscarwilde-gene-wolfe-once-did-a-story-about> out "Gene Wolfe once did a story about astronauts that had birds inside of them. "

Which story is he talking about?

Marc Aramini — 25 Oct 2011, 17:17 · in reply to James Wynn

leif in the wind

--- On Tue, 10/25/11, James Wynn <crushtv at gmail.com> wrote:
From: James Wynn <crushtv at gmail.com>
Subject: (urth) Words and Such art
To: "The Urth Mailing List" <urth at lists.urth.net>
Date: Tuesday, October 25, 2011, 10:00 AM
<http://liamkruger.tumblr.com/post/11311695396/heyoscarwilde-gene-wolfe-once-did-a-story-about> "Gene Wolfe once did a story about astronauts that had birds inside of them. "

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Daniel Petersen — 25 Oct 2011, 17:18 · in reply to James Wynn

There was what I thought was a recent one that was more or less about this called 'Lief in the Wind' - collected in *Stories*, edited by Neil Gaiman. Great idea and a few finely worded moments, but not one of my favourites by Wolfe.

-DOJP

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"Gene Wolfe once did a story about astronauts that had birds inside of them. "

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Daniel Petersen — 25 Oct 2011, 17:25 · in reply to Daniel Petersen

Also, why can't the quality and style of the Wolfe-inspired art at this link ever be one of Wolfe's book covers instead of the (what is to me) atrocious genre-inbred kitsch that usually wraps up his literary art that is itself at the opposite end of the spectrum?

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James Wynn — 25 Oct 2011, 17:29 · in reply to Daniel Petersen

His short story collections typically are better, but I agree that none are as good as this. Probably, the collections are not as bad because Tor doesn't expect to make a lot of money off them and so the Art Director did not get involved. Wolfe claimed that expectations of increasing sales is the reason the covers of The Book of the New Sun volumes got worse with each release.

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Daniel Petersen — 25 Oct 2011, 17:50 · in reply to James Wynn

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James Wynn — 25 Oct 2011, 17:57 · in reply to Daniel Petersen

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Daniel Petersen — 25 Oct 2011, 18:04 · in reply to James Wynn

Hm, out of what I actually own, I guess I might go for Island of Dr Death (purple skull) or Endangered Species (stick wings). This one's probably the worst I own:

<http://www.saltmanz.com/pictures/albums/Cover%20Scans/Book%20Covers/Storeys%20from%20the%20Old%20Hotel.jpg>

(The sheer hilarity value is almost worth it.)

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Antonin Scriabin — 25 Oct 2011, 18:13 · in reply to Daniel Petersen

The art for Wolfe's books is so hit and miss! The Richard Bober illustrations for the Long Sun books are awesome, and particular favorites of mine. This one, on the other hand, not so much: <http://www.lwcurrey.com/pictures/114676.jpg>. As I recall, Severian was the opposite of nonchalant (chalant?) at that particular scene.

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Daniel Petersen — 25 Oct 2011, 18:20 · in reply to Antonin Scriabin

Yeah, that is pretty hilarious. And, yeah, I've always those Long Sun covers were not bad - especially compared to most other Solar Cycle stuff.

-DOJP

Dan'l Danehy-Oakes — 25 Oct 2011, 18:20 · in reply to Antonin Scriabin

Antonin Scriabin wrote:

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See, now, I actually _like_ that one -- and in fact, the first three Maitz covers for tBotNS. I recognize, in retrospect, that they aren't very good representations of the action, but they are associated in my mind with my first discovery of Wolfe.

I agree with who said that the story collections get the best covers. I particularly like -- I don't remember which one it was -- the one with the dog.

Dan'I Danehy-Oakes

Antonin Scriabin — 25 Oct 2011, 18:24 · in reply to Dan'I Danehy-Oakes

The one with the dog is Starwater

Strains<<http://www.saltmanz.com/pictures/albums/Cover%20Scans/Book%20Covers/Starwater%20Strains.jpg>>.

As far as bad representations of the action / plot / setting, this one<<http://library.risingshadow.net/images/books/10492.jpg>>is also really bad.

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James Wynn — 25 Oct 2011, 18:38 · in reply to Daniel Petersen

The cover on the original Operation Ares paperback pretty good. The cover on the original paperback for tloDDaOSaOS was better than the one with the purple skull. I preferred the paperback cover of "Endangered Species" with the giant pollen spore to the stick wings one. Usually, however, the original covers to the Long Sun volumes were atrocious IMO. It's the original edition novels that tend to be the worst offenders.

However the original covers and illustrations for The Wizard Knight, Pirate Freedom, and And Evil Guest are very good. Usually, it seems the best his first editions can hope for is to be unoffensive.

J.

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Gerry Quinn — 25 Oct 2011, 19:10 · in reply to Antonin Scriabin

From: Antonin Scriabin

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It's nice that they did something different. Not so nice that they did it so horribly. [] would read
on train [x] would not read on train
- Gerry Quinn

Gerry Quinn — 25 Oct 2011, 19:15 · in reply to Antonin Scriabin

From: Antonin Scriabin

The one with the dog is Starwater Strains. As far as bad representations of the action / plot / setting, this one is also really bad.

It was originally for Fifth Head of Cerberus, for which it's a nice image except that like loads of versions it has been printed with washed-out colours which really hurt that particular illustration.

My Endangered Species cover shows a boat on Gyll which is quite decent (in every respect, no nude mermaids in sight).

- Gerry Quinn

Marc Aramini — 25 Oct 2011, 19:25 · in reply to Gerry Quinn

--- On Tue, 10/25/11, Gerry Quinn <gerry at bindweed.com> wrote:

From: Gerry Quinn <gerry at bindweed.com>
Subject: Re: (urth) Words and Such art
To: "The Urth Mailing List" <urth at lists.urth.net>
Date: Tuesday, October 25, 2011, 12:10 PM

From: Antonin Scriabin

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That was the first Wolfe book I ever saw, I was like in the fourth grade or so and my father's co-worker gave me all his used sci-fi magazines and SFbook club hardback books after he was done with them. Claw of the Conciliator, book club hardback with that illustration? - I had to go look for Shadow and buy a used paperback to read it.

I might read it on the train just for the snickers, then I could start extolling his literary virtues to the disbelief of my fellow passengers.

Dan'l Danehy-Oakes — 25 Oct 2011, 19:26 · in reply to Marc Aramini

I would have no problem reading it or any Wolfe book on a train. But I generally remove the dustwrapper from hardcovers while I read them.

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From: Antonin Scriabin<<http://us.mc1618.mail.yahoo.com/mc/compose?to=kierkegardian@gmail.com>>

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Nick Lee — 25 Oct 2011, 23:33 · follows Dan'l Danehy-Oakes

You may be looking in the wrong place. By far my favorite cover of Wolfe's work, from a Japanese edition of Claw:

<http://www.elevenland.com/amano/viewA.php3?picImage=tlaClawOfTheConciliator.jpg>

Regards,

Nick