

instant new fan

The Urth list — 29 messages, 7 voices, 19 Dec 2011

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/6148>

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Daniel Petersen — 19 Dec 2011, 00:59

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Some pretty apt comments, I thought.

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David Stockhoff — 19 Dec 2011, 03:58 · in reply to Daniel Petersen

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Daniel Petersen — 19 Dec 2011, 18:36 · in reply to Dan'I Danehy-Oakes

Yeah, that part's brilliant, Dan'I.

Oh and now I remember the line well into SotT (Chapter XVI 'The Rag Shop') that really awoke me to the fact I was reading a great writer:

'If there are layers of reality beneath the reality we see, even as there are layers of history

beneath the ground we walk upon, then in one of those more profound realities, Dr. Talos's face was a fox's mask on a wall, and I marveled to see it turn and bend now toward the woman, achieving by those motions, which made expression and thought appear to lay across it with the shadows of the nose and brows, an amazing and realistic appearance of vivacity. "Would you refuse it?" he asked again, and I shook myself as though waking.'

I remember physically shuddering at the moment of the fox mask bending toward the woman. I immediately had my wife, who happened to be sitting next to me, read the paragraph and she felt the same.

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Daniel Petersen — 19 Dec 2011, 19:08 · in reply to Antonin Scriabin

Yeah, I've been hearing about all these books and Stephenson's skills for a while and am totally hooked in already. I also saw him do a brilliant Google video talk and heard a recording of him speaking at an academic SF gathering - and he said some of the most memorable things I've heard from writers and SF industry folks. One of the most captivating speakers I've witnessed. Not all writers have this gift. Looking forward to taking a big bite out of his oeuvre, but, recommendations notwithstanding, I'm still totally puzzled about how best to begin to tackle its voluminous bulk!

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Dan'I Danehy-Oakes — 19 Dec 2011, 19:12 · in reply to Daniel Petersen

Daniel Petersen wrote:
Looking forward to taking a big bite out of his oeuvre, but, recommendations notwithstanding, I'm still totally puzzled about how best to begin to tackle its voluminous bulk!

You could do worse than to start at the beginning. *Snow Crash* is a very funny book, if you can deal with the kind of humor that names a book's main character "Hiro Protagonist." Others

really like *The Diamond Age*, but it didn't do much for me. I recommend going to the recent *Anathem*, a dark alternate-world novel.

Dan'l Danehy-Oakes

Daniel Petersen — 19 Dec 2011, 19:31 · in reply to Dan'l Danehy-Oakes

Thanks, Dan'l. I'm usually the type that at least tries to start at the beginning and slog my way through chronologically. We'll see....

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Jerry Friedman — 19 Dec 2011, 23:40 · in reply to Dan'l Danehy-Oakes

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Where are the Wolfe parodies?

Jerry Friedman

Jerry Friedman — 19 Dec 2011, 23:43 · in reply to Dan'l Danehy-Oakes

From: Dan'I Danehy-Oakes <danldo at gmail.com>

I have many favorite passages in tBotNS, all of which totally blow me away with the beauty of the language.

My favorite, however, must be the passage in _Citadel_ where he realizes that the Claw was just the thorn of a rosebush, ending with the line about throwing his boots into the sea so that he might not walk shod on holy land.

Also a favorite of mine, no one will be surprised to hear, along with the other set piece about the forms of governance.

For some friends of mine who don't like Wolfe, the style is what puts them off. They find it verbose. No accounting for tastes.

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David Stockhoff — 20 Dec 2011, 00:13 · in reply to Jerry Friedman

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Snow Crash and Diamond Age both seemed to me like skilled but hollow attempts to accomplish obvious goals. As though a teacher had assigned the writing of novels with certain plot points, topics, elements ... a feeling one sometimes gets from computer games.

His short story more or less set in the same world as Diamond Age was brilliant, however. And I loved the hoplite officer.

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Verbose, but precise, and always with a sting. Much like Avram Davidson.

Daniel Petersen — 20 Dec 2011, 10:00 · in reply to David Stockhoff

On the other hand, I often find those who love Wolfe's ornate verbosity in BotNS don't like his more bare and minimalist style in the other books. I think he's an unspeakably talented artist that he can handle so deftly these different voices and styles.

-DOJP

On Tue, Dec 20, 2011 at 12:14 AM, David Stockhoff <dstockhoff at verizon.net> wrote:
On 12/19/2011 6:43 PM, Jerry Friedman wrote:

From: Dan'l Danehy-Oakes<dando at gmail.com>
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My favorite, however, must be the passage in _Citadel_ where he realizes that the Claw was just the thorn of a rosebush, ending with the line about throwing his boots into the sea so that he might not walk shod on holy land.

Also a favorite of mine, no one will be surprised to hear, along with the other set piece about the forms of governance.

For some friends of mine who don't like Wolfe, the style is what puts them off. They find it verbose. No accounting for tastes.

Verbose, but precise, and always with a sting. Much like Avram Davidson.

_____*_*_____

Antonin Scriabin — 20 Dec 2011, 14:16 · in reply to Daniel Petersen

Well, I have never met someone in real life who has read Wolfe! I am trying to proselytize, however, and have started picking up used copies of my favorites to give away.

On Tue, Dec 20, 2011 at 5:00 AM, Daniel Petersen <danielottojackpetersen at gmail.com> wrote:
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Daniel Petersen — 20 Dec 2011, 21:16 · in reply to Antonin Scriabin

Alas, nor have I, Antonin! I was speaking of people's comments online.

-DOJP (The friend whose comments I shared that started this thread lives across an ocean from me - when I see him face to face again, I'll have finally met in the flesh a fellow Wolfe fan!)

On Tue, Dec 20, 2011 at 2:16 PM, Antonin Scriabin

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David Stockhoff — 20 Dec 2011, 22:12 · in reply to Daniel Petersen

I recently had an anesthesiologist whose wife had read *Short Sun* (he recognized the cover of my copy). That's the closest to an actual flesh encounter I have come.

Do we need to start approaching strangers in bookstores to speak stammeringly to them, plucking at their sleeves and drooling, and insisting on the superiority of our Master?

On 12/20/2011 4:16 PM, Daniel Petersen wrote:

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Dan'I Danehy-Oakes — 20 Dec 2011, 22:21 · in reply to David Stockhoff

David Stockhoff wrote:

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And afterwards sic our pets on him?

Dan'I Danehy-Oakes

David Stockhoff — 20 Dec 2011, 22:31 · in reply to Dan'I Danehy-Oakes

On 12/20/2011 5:21 PM, Dan'I Danehy-Oakes wrote:

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On the Master? Never!

Besides, I hear he has a hound of fearsome countenance who accompanies him on his evening walks. Or a yap-dog, at any rate. So says Ryan.

Daniel Petersen — 20 Dec 2011, 23:41 · in reply to David Stockhoff

On Tue, Dec 20, 2011 at 10:12 PM, David Stockhoff <dstockhoff at verizon.net> wrote:

...

Do we need to start approaching strangers in bookstores to speak stammeringly to them, plucking at their sleeves and drooling, and insisting on the superiority of our Master?

Uh, yep, looks like it.

(Hey, I've got my teenage daughter reading her first Wolfe over the holidays - Innocents Aboard. She's loving it so far. She read the opening of 'The Legend of Xi Cygnus' out loud to me because she thought it was so cool. So maybe I will have a daily in the flesh fellow Wolfe fan in my life, heh!)

-DOJP

Matthew Keeley — 21 Dec 2011, 01:19 · in reply to Antonin Scriabin

On Tue, Dec 20, 2011 at 9:16 AM, Antonin Scriabin <kierkegardian at gmail.com> wrote:

Well, I have never met someone in real life who has read Wolfe! I am trying to proselytize, however, and have started picking up used copies of my favorites to give away.

I have met many people who have read Wolfe (and the one person who wrote Wolfe), but only at a science fiction convention, and so I feel that doesn't quite count. I do have one friend who may or may not have read an unidentified work by Wolfe several years back, but he wasn't totally sure of either title or author. My attempts to convince other people to read his work have been unsuccessful.

Though at least one local independent bookstore does have Shadow & Claw next to a "We Recommend" sign.

-Matt

Antonin Scriabin — 21 Dec 2011, 14:07 · in reply to Daniel Petersen

I am trying to get people to ask about him by sticking the books on the shelf right near my front door. I have all of Wolfe's novels (multiple copies of some) and most of the short story collections. It takes up a lot of space! Occasionally I will have someone ask "So who is this Wolfe fella?" but no one has bit for real yet. Hopefully soon!

On Tue, Dec 20, 2011 at 6:41 PM, Daniel Petersen <danielottojackpetersen at gmail.com> wrote:

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