

Urth Digest, Vol 98, Issue 9

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 13 Oct 2012

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/6299>

Exported from an unofficial mirror of a public mailing list. Copyright in each message remains with the person who wrote it. Email addresses are obscured as `user at host`, the form the original archive published. This file was rebuilt from parsed fields rather than retained headers, so it is faithful in content but not byte-exact.

Eric Bourland — 13 Oct 2012, 13:15

John -- sounds like a good book. I'll find it and come back here with thoughts. I've been lurking in this group for some months, but paying attention to the intriguing discussions.

Eric

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

From: urth-bounces at lists.urth.net [mailto:urth-bounces at lists.urth.net] On Behalf Of urth-request at lists.urth.net Sent: Friday, October 12, 2012 4:32 PM To: urth at lists.urth.net Subject: Urth Digest, Vol 98, Issue 9

Send Urth mailing list submissions to
urth at lists.urth.net

To subscribe or unsubscribe via the World Wide Web, visit
<http://lists.urth.net/listinfo.cgi/urth-urth.net>
or, via email, send a message with subject or body 'help' to
urth-request at lists.urth.net

You can reach the person managing the list at
urth-owner at lists.urth.net

When replying, please edit your Subject line so it is more specific than "Re: Contents of Urth digest..."

Today's Topics:

1. Robert Aickman, The Model (jbarach at aol.com)
2. Re: Robert Aickman, The Model (Ant?nio Pedro Marques)
3. Re: Robert Aickman, The Model (jbarach at aol.com)

Message: 1

Date: Thu, 11 Oct 2012 19:07:12 -0400 (EDT)

From: jbarach at aol.com

To: urth at lists.urth.net

Subject: (urth) Robert Aickman, The Model

Message-ID: <8CF761C48207CBD-F28-3501A at webmail-m058.sysops.aol.com>

Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"

URTHlings --

Recently I read Robert Aickman's The Model, a book which is blurbed by
(among others) Robert Bloch, Fritz Leiber, and Gene Wolfe. Wolfe says about

it:

"The late Robert Aickman was up to something, and quite consciously. He did not title his little book *The Model* for nothing. What he has done (and knew he had done) is discover a new wonderland. I would bet that the number of people who have done that is less than one tenth the number who have discovered actual islands, inhabited or treasure; we must now add Aickman to that short list. He has told us what I think none of us had realized before -- that czarist Russia can be just as viable a wonderland as, say, Baghdad under the Caliph. And he has not merely told us; he has proved it by leaving us a model."

Some aspects of the book reminded me strongly of Wolfe (e.g., Aickman often implies things, rather than saying them outright, and you have to be paying attention as you read to catch what's really going on or being said), and I wondered about the possible influence of Aickman on Wolfe. Certainly Wolfe himself has written at least one story set in something like the wonderland he says Aickman discovered ("The Death of Koschei the Deathless: A Story of Old Russia"), and certain elements in "Queen of the Night" (the carriage journey, for instance) remind me a bit of what happens in *The Model* (though *The Model* is much less creepy and graphic).

Has anyone else read *The Model*? Thoughts?

John