

Pirate Freedom revisited

The Urth list — 7 messages, 4 voices, 03 Nov 2012

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/6304>

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Ed EDson — 03 Nov 2012, 11:24

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has plotted, of course, so for a man of his resourcefulness ripping off both his younger selves shouldn't be a huge problem.

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C = A+13 (approx: he went to school "a few years" after arriving in Cuba). D = A+16 (approx: "A year seems like a lifetime at that age, so three or maybe four lifetimes passed before I went from being a student to being a novice ...") E = A+17 (a novitiate normally lasting one year?) F = A+19 (or less: the pirate-time doesn't seem to have been more than this to me.)

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And so, assuming he goes to Cuba at around "B", when Chris1 and his father go, the date of his appearance from the past must have been around about "A".

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Daniel Petersen — 03 Nov 2012, 16:55 · in reply to Ed EDson

The Chris who is writing the story seems a bit more complex than some cunning greedy mob boss type. His commentary on both his pirate adventures and his current Catholic and urban context suggests a very theologically, morally, and spiritually engaged character.

(Amazing effort trying to map out that chronology by the way.)

-DOJP

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Jerry Friedman — 03 Nov 2012, 18:14 · in reply to Ed EDson

Very interesting.

For Chris's parents to be himself and Novia is genetically drastically unlikely. ?Even if you make Novia Chris's daughter (!), the odds are worse than 1 in 70 trillion that the baby would get the right set of chromosomes. ?I'd prefer for Chris to be a clone of himself, which would be amusing. ?(It's been suggested that he's a clone, since he calls himself a "half-human monster" and never mentions his mother.) ?That would leave the problem of when he was engineered to be tall.

A difficulty with all of these, maybe not insurmountable--can you get mobbed up if you don't have a family?

Jerry Friedman

Ed EDson — 03 Nov 2012, 20:10 · in reply to Daniel Petersen

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David Stockhoff — 03 Nov 2012, 21:49 · in reply to Daniel Petersen

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The idea starts with my observation that Chris seems to return to the future in the same year he was born, around 2007. This leads to thinking about Chris' transitions. We are told nothing about how or why these occur, but I think at first it is natural to suppose the transition of the past has something to do with Chris being at the monastery. However, there are objections. First, only Chris and Ignacio appear to make the transition - Chris is convinced he would not be able to return to the monastery, for example. Second, his return to the future happens from a different place, out in the sea - so at least that transition doesn't depend on the monastery.

What if the transition is personal to Chris, dependent on time and not on place? Wherever Chris is in ~2024, he would be sent to the past, and wherever he is in ~1675, he would be sent to 2007. But Ignacio is Chris, so he goes back when Chris goes back - but also, he goes forward when Chris goes forward.

Now the direction in which this is heading should be obvious - perhaps Chris is his own father. If the baby Novia is carrying is in fact Chris, it (and hopefully she herself!) will be carried forward from 1675, along with Ignacio.

Obviously we don't know exactly what happens then, but we can make up plausible stories. Perhaps Novia-in-the-future dies, perhaps Ignacio sells her or kills her. In any event, whatever he says or believes of himself, Chris' actions are motivated, overwhelmingly, by money. (Eg: see what happens when he meets Lesage before the massacre at Rio Hato - he hugs him; he *thinks* of Valentin, but it

"didn't seem to be the time to bring it up", because he was too busy pulling gold off the mules.) To me it's surely the case that Ignacio-in-1675 was working with Ignacio, sealing a bond by killing Valentin for him, and then plotting with him the hijack of the gold and the massacre.

So when Ignacio and Chris meet at the end of the book, I think it's clear enough that Ignacio has a share of the Rio Hato gold stashed somewhere and of course plans to dig up Captain Burt's treasure also.

But then he gets snatched back to 2007, totally unexpected. Imagine how pissed he must have been! Back to the drawing board. He's now ~36 years old. He'll spend the next 10 years getting mobbed up and raising Chris in NJ, sans Novia. Sent to Cuba to run the casino, he'll do what needs to be done to "engineer" Chris, by making sure he is under the wing of his younger self at the monastery, and setting in place the events leading to his own birth.

When Chris goes back, he does too, as a ~53 year old, and does what needs to be done to make sure that all the treasure is someplace where he can retrieve it in the future - he knows everything that Ignacio has plotted, of course, so for a man of his resourcefulness ripping off both his younger selves shouldn't be a huge problem. Returning to 2007 as a ~55 year old, with access to treasure worth many millions, and knowing everything that "Chris' dad" knew, perhaps on this run-through he becomes some kind of mob top management, in a position to send his younger self to Cuba to run the casino ... Does he go back again, or does he die sometime before the clock ticks on 2024 again - who knows?

Post from 2007:

"I come to the following conclusions:

- Chris1's "birthday" is around about now; 2007.
- Chris2 is writing in about 2017.
- Chris2 appeared from the past around about the same time as Chris1 was born, so 2007 again (interesting ...)
- The pirate-action happens in about 1675.

Here's how I get there. First, we have some information about various events in Chris1's time-line:

- A: "Born"
- B: Goes to Cuba
- C: Enters monastery school
- D: Begins novitiate
- E: Ends novitiate & goes to past
- F: Goes forward again

We know:

- B = A+10 (he goes to Cuba at age 10).
- C = A+13 (approx: he went to school "a few years" after arriving in Cuba).
- D = A+16 (approx: "A year seems like a lifetime at that

age, so
three or maybe four lifetimes passed before I went from
being a
student to being a novice ...")
 $E = A + 17$ (a novitiate normally lasting one year?)
 $F = A + 19$ (or less: the pirate-time doesn't seem to have
been more
than this to me.)

For Chris2, we know he is 28 or 29 when he goes to Cuba to
become
Ignacio: he's 28 at the time of his interview with Bishop
Scully,
with maybe a birthday before he finishes writing. Assuming
"F"
above is right, he was 19 when he appeared from the past,
so that
was about ten years before he heads to Cuba.

And so, assuming he goes to Cuba at around "B", when
Chris1 and his
father go, the date of his appearance from the past must
have been
around about "A".

In other words, he comes back at about the same time he
was "born".

We have reasonable dating for the "past" action. Captain
Burt
speaks of Drake in the Golden Hind sailing around the
world "almost
a hundred years ago". This voyage lasted from 1577 through
1580.
Let's say "E" = 1675.

We can use this to kludge up an estimate for the "present"
datings.
At the very end of the book, Chris2 says: "Today .. we
have been
dead 300 years". This is rubbery, but let's assume that
Chris2
assumes he's going to live a three-score-and-ten. That
gives him
another 41 or 42 years at the time he's writing. So, back
in the
"past", he would live until about $1675 + 42 = 1717$. Three
hundred
years on from then is 2017.

That fixes an approximate date for "B", the date when
Chris1 and
(presumably) Chris2 both arrive in Cuba - about 10 years
into our
future. And Chris1 is being decanted from his test-tube or
whatever

just about now."

Andrew Bollen — 08 Nov 2012, 13:18 · in reply to Jerry Friedman

On Sun, Nov 4, 2012 at 4:44 AM, Jerry Friedman <jerry_friedman at yahoo.com> wrote:
Very interesting.

For Chris's parents to be himself and Novia is genetically drastically unlikely. Even if you make Novia Chris's daughter (!), the odds are worse than 1 in 70 trillion that the baby would get the right set of chromosomes.

That's a fair criticism, of course. I wish I were more comfortable than I am with the counter-argument that the genetic odds are surely far greater than the probability of Chris' time-travel - so if one, why not the other?

You can avoid the problem by making one of the other sailors the biological father, but there's just about nothing in the text to hang that on. Some lack of absolute confidence on Chris' part concerning Novia's total fidelity to him; the big fight they have while battling through the straits of Magellan ... Weak.

I'd prefer for Chris to be a clone of himself, which would be amusing.
(It's been suggested that he's a clone, since he calls himself a "half-human monster" and never mentions his mother.) That would leave the problem of when he was engineered to be tall.

I've never liked the cloning idea for Chris - it would have to happen in ~2007, as far as I can see, not at some future date when the technology might actually exist - and anyway I don't think there's much in the text to support cloning. Some kind of genetic engineering fits better - Chris constructed in a test-tube as a monstrous hybrid between human and, say, wolf. Sometimes St Christopher was depicted as having the head of a dog, and at least to me, Chris has some of the characteristics of an animal predator - whatever empathy he has for his victims is irrelevant with respect to his actual ruthlessness, but on the other hand there is no hint of sadism or psychopathy. This would deal with lack of mother, "engineered" and "half-human monster" but not the technological implausibility or the basic question of why his "father" would want to do such a thing.