

More PEACE

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 24 Nov 2012

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/6310>

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Andrew Bollen — 24 Nov 2012, 00:22

If the troll in Weer's walled-garden dream is indeed linked to gnome-prince Peacock, then its interesting to think about why it has "fallen from his little pedestal". Maybe there's a story concerning the cave he, Olivia and Weer visit: perhaps Peacock salted the cave with the skull and wall-markings, to set-up a "discovery" of a paleo-Indian site - an academic career-maker for him?

Little hints: he & Olivia chatting about Altamira, I think the first major Spanish paleolithic site discovered, and his speaking of paleo-Indians. The giant ground-sloth tooth he supposedly discovered in the area, and his lack of a satisfactory answer to Weer's question about why a grass-eater would inhabit that stony, hilly region - perhaps the sloth tooth was another salting, setting up the main discovery: paleo-Indians hunting mega-fauna etc. Peacock, having discovered the cave on his earlier trip, would surely not have waited until returning with Olivia and Weer to explore it (unless, for example, he wanted witnesses to his "discovery")?

And then Gold's analysis of the Venus de Milo as a certain modern forgery - questioning how it could have lain undiscovered in an easily-accessible cave for hundreds of years. Peacock's "discovery" is at least a little more plausible. Thematically, Peacock as forger of the distant past fits well: he, Gold, the ladies faking up an Indian treaty ...

I suggest that Olivia quickly cottoned on to his plan, and derailed it - during that little interval while they talk together in the cave in the absence of Weer. He seems that most likely of the four suitors to win Olivia, in terms of his personal attributes - "He had been young, slender, and handsome; and most important of all he had been of that intellectual and almost pedantic cast of mind for which my aunt had hungered all her life". Perhaps being revealed as a fraudster - falling from his pedestal - was one reason why things never went further for him.

And I would guess that it provides a better motivation than jealousy - for which there is absolutely no hint in the text that I can see - for why he may have killed her, if you believe he was the one who ran her down. (Which I don't - Weer is a better candidate for that, hitting her accidentally in the car he certainly possessed at the time; but I don't really believe that either.)