

The Land Across

The Urth list — 3 messages, 3 voices, 10 Mar 2013

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/6347>

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Antonin Scriabin — 10 Mar 2013, 00:34

<http://upcoming4.me/news/book-news/gene-wolfe-the-land-across-cover-art-and-synopsis-reveal#.UThFLk3ZXxc.twitter>

Looks like we have a release date, synopsis, and cover art. So excited! Looks like something of a change for Wolfe, I am very intrigued. My two favorite writers have new novels coming out in the fall / winter. 2013 will be a good year!

Gwern Branwen — 10 Mar 2013, 03:33 · in reply to Antonin Scriabin

On Sat, Mar 9, 2013 at 7:34 PM, Antonin Scriabin
<kierkegardian at gmail.com> wrote:
Looks like we have a release date, synopsis, and cover art.

Synopsis:

A novel of the fantastic set in an imagined country in Europe
An American writer of travel guides in need of a new location chooses
to travel to a small and obscure Eastern European country. The moment
Grafton crosses the border he is in trouble, much more than he could
have imagined. His passport is taken by guards, and then he is
detained for not having it. He is released into the custody of a
family, but is again detained. It becomes evident that there are
supernatural agencies at work, but they are not in some ways as
threatening as the brute forces of bureaucracy and corruption in that
country. Is our hero in fact a spy for the CIA? Or is he an innocent
citizen caught in a Kafkaesque trap? Gene Wolfe keeps us guessing
until the very end, and after.

I'm not sure why, but for some reason I thought that _The Land Across_ was going to involve
time travel or dinosaurs!

gwern
<http://www.gwern.net>

Gerry Quinn — 10 Mar 2013, 13:52 · in reply to Gwern Branwen

From: Gwern Branwen

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At least he can plausibly argue that cellphones, internet etc. are not available to the public in this setting.

This is not a criticism of Wolfe — he has been criticised for ignoring such things in *Home Fires* but in truth perfect communication is a plot-wrecker. I suspect few novelists/scriptwriters etc. like what cellphones do to their *mise en scene*.

- Gerry Quinn