

Christmas sf/f? (Craig Brewer)

The Urth list — 2 messages, 2 voices, 20 Dec 2013

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Michael Conrad — 20 Dec 2013, 03:39

"Can anyone recommend good sf/f about Christmas, barring Wolfe stories? (Those I know.) I see a few collections online, but they look bland. You guys have better taste than Google, so I'd rather listen to your advice."

I like Gene's stories a lot (just reading through "No Planets Strike" and "And When They Appear" for a project - as usual with Gene, you find more and more layers with each reading, and researching the odd and unfamiliar words and references reveal whole new levels of meaning - lots of stuff I didn't notice on first reading!)

For non-Lucan Christmas stories, I would recommend:

"Happy Birthday, Dear Jesus" by Frederick Pohl - both a sweet love story and a view of the increasingly corporate nature of Christmas.

"Nackles" by Donald Westlake - a modern view of the dark companions of St. Nicholas in European folklore like Krampus and Knecht Ruprecht (who also makes an appearance in "And When They Appear")

"Into Egypt" by Stephen Vincent Benet - a Nazi officer makes a surprising discovery among the hordes of displaced Jews relocated to the death camps.

"Bless me Father For I Have Sinned" by Ray Bradbury - A priest on Christmas Eve receives and makes a confession on the great sin of his life - an incident that Bradbury himself has noted as autobiographical.

"The Fellowship of the Ring" by J.R.R. Tolkien - well, the Fellowship left Rivendale on Christmas Day! (Tolkien wrote an annual letter to his children, by the way allegedly from Father Christmas, that grew more and more involved each year, and were charming. My kids loved reading them every Christmas. They're collected as "Letters From Father Christmas."

"The Selfish Giant" by Oscar Wilde - a beautiful story for children and adults.

Craig Brewer — 20 Dec 2013, 16:57 · in reply to Michael Conrad

Awesome! Thank you! I've read a couple of these, but the others sound wonderful.

And thanks to Dan! for the Willis recommendation. I remember now having heard about that, but I'd completely forgotten. Now I have presents for myself!

Craig

From: Michael Conrad <mickjeco at gmail.com>

To: urth at urth.net

Sent: Thursday, December 19, 2013 8:39 PM

Subject: (urth) Christmas sf/f? (Craig Brewer)

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