

Urth Digest, Vol 115, Issue 7

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 13 Mar 2014

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/6519>

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Andreas Johansson — 13 Mar 2014, 08:52

I bump Craigs recommendation!, great start for "Southern Reach" trilogy.

"Jagannath" by Karin Tidbeck is a short story collection, in summary it's new weird in nordic countries setting (mostly, not all), very fresh, disturbing, and yet sweet sometimes. Also the stories originally written in swedish Karin translated herself, that impressed me very much.

Glad to see Karin getting some international attention! I loved that collection, and I really hope her debut novel Amatka will be translated soon enough - it's a surrealist dystopia, somehow inspired by both Vilhelm Moberg's classic (if you're Swedish at least) novels about the hardship of Swedish immigrants in USA in the 19th century, the dystopia of Fahrenheit 451 and We (mind control, re-write history etc), but drifting away into complete surrealism - a lovely authorship in its early stages! I'd encourage more people to check her out: <http://karintidbeck.com/>

Myself I've just started on Peace, for a second time - can't say that I'm making much of it after merely 30-40 pages but I'm sure it will unfold into something spectacular, as Wolfe always does... a recent book sale landed the Latro omnibus on my shelves alongside some nice Surrealists (Jarry, Burroughs, Leonora Carrington, Dorothea Tanning) so I have way, way too much to read. Finished Alastair Reynolds' last opus some day ago, On the Steel Breeze, the 2nd part of his new trilogy Poseidon's Children. Carved out asteroids as generation ships, personalities divided into triplicates or invested in artefacts - some slight Wolfean inspiration perhaps? Reynolds' characterizations and narrative structures are slowly growing better and more complex, but it's still clear that he's a hard SF writer to the core - chapters reading like spaceship manuals, long chunks of prose explaining the movements of celestial bodies... lovely in one sense, but after delving deep into Wolfe & Philip K Dick I feel an urge for SF that doesn't depend on actually _explaining_ the tech stuff to feel plausible. Which is exactly why I had to pause reading Peter F Hamilton's monster-brick of an epic The Reality Dysfunction (1200+ pages!).

Hope this message comes out alright, this is my second time posting on the list so pardon any mistakes :)

yrs
Andreas