

Which Wolfe Should I Read Next?

The Urth list — 7 messages, 5 voices, 11 Nov 2014

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/6698>

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Antonin Scriabin — 11 Nov 2014, 21:04

These are the novels I still have to get through:

Soldier of Sidon

There Are Doors

Pirate Freedom

Home Fires

The Devil in a Forest

and

Operation Ares

I know this last doesn't have a good reputation, but I own it and plan on reading it for the sake of completeness. Are any of these particular favorites of anyone on the list?

Robert Pirkola — 11 Nov 2014, 21:09 · follows Antonin Scriabin

I have a particular fondness for *The Devil in a Forest*. Something about the setting and characters struck a chord with my sensibilities. Though it appears to explain away most of its mysteries, I feel there are still some hidden layers that are yet to be explicated.

Daniel Otto Jack Petersen — 11 Nov 2014, 21:15 · in reply to Antonin Scriabin

I loved There Are Doors - minor in a way, but really weird and interesting overall. Operation Ares to me is only for the completist.

On Tue, Nov 11, 2014 at 9:04 PM, Antonin Scriabin <kierkegaardian at gmail.com> wrote:

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Antonin Scriabin — 11 Nov 2014, 21:26 · in reply to Daniel Otto Jack Petersen

Is it as bad as they say?

I think I'll go with Doors, based on your suggestion and the fact that "middle-period fantasist" Wolfe is one of my favorite wolves (Castlevision, Free Live Free) then Robert's pick of The Devil in a Forest.

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Daniel Otto Jack Petersen — 11 Nov 2014, 22:04 · in reply to Antonin Scriabin

I thought Ares was a particularly unrealised apprentice novel. I might get more out of it someday when I want to delve even deeper into how Wolfe grew as an artist.

Devil is not one of my faves per se, but it was a very satisfying read, a very solid novel, if quite odd for Wolfe in some ways. (Yet quite Wolfean in others.) I think it's not one of my faves simply out of preference as to subject matter. It might actually be one of his tightest written in terms of pace and style and perhaps even plot.

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Dan'l Danehy-Oakes — 11 Nov 2014, 22:10 · in reply to Daniel Otto Jack Petersen

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Allan Anderson — 12 Nov 2014, 21:48 · in reply to Dan'l Danehy-Oakes

From that list, I've only read Home Fires and Pirate Freedom. I liked them both quite a lot. For some reason, I keep Pirate Freedom in the bathroom, and keep coming back to it in bits and pieces. I didn't think it would be a favorite of mine when I read it first, but for some reason it's dear to my heart. I hope you enjoy it, too, whenever you get to it.

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