

# tongue in cheek (?) wolfe profile

The Urth list — 7 messages, 5 voices, 17 Nov 2017

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/6766>

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Marc Aramini — 17 Nov 2017, 13:47

Here is a kind of strange profile of wolfe at the top ... I suppose it is supposed to be a little tongue in cheek but considering that Wolfe was drafted and both my parents served in the military I didn't appreciate the "killing babies in Asia" line even if it was a joke ... a bit tone deaf.

<https://newpoplitinteractive.wordpress.com/>

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Eric Bourland — 17 Nov 2017, 14:46 · in reply to Marc Aramini

You know, I just wasted ten minutes of my morning to scold this young man in the comments. I do not know if my comment will persist. I might have gotten a little hot under the collar myself.

Friend,

Wolfe was drafted in his early twenties and sent to war. If you read his Letters Home, you will learn more about that: a collection of loving, reassuring letters that he wrote to his worried mother while he was stationed in Korea. He was barely twenty-one or twenty-two. He's not fascist in the slightest and not even particularly conservative; his reflections, in books like Peace or Free Live Free, on the nation of America are loving of America and its people and the people of the world. If anything, he laments the foolishness of politicians. In books like Home Fires and A Borrowed Man, you can tell he has put a great deal of thought, and a lot of reading, into the results of fascism, nationalism, populism, capitalism. It might come off as small-minded to bring up his very early work in the 1960s; it's not fair or advisable to judge the tone or intention of a writer by his juvenalia. He was drafted by the military-industrial complex of America and sent to war. He shot at people who were shooting at him, and none of them, I imagine, wanted to be there. I am not trying to offend you, but the sarcastic tone of your text comes across as anger, rather than an appreciation. You mostly just sound angry. It's OK to be angry, but I don't know if it's useful to take it out on Gene Wolfe. Yours,

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On 11/17/2017 8:47 AM, Marc Aramini wrote:

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Marc Aramini — 17 Nov 2017, 14:57 · in reply to Eric Bourland

I think it is supposed to be a joke, but damn it just isn't funny. Sorry to point your attention to something so frustrating ...

On Friday, November 17, 2017, Eric Bourland <eb at hwaet.com> wrote:  
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Eric Bourland — 17 Nov 2017, 15:00 · in reply to Marc Aramini

Yeah. It's not slightly funny. The kid is just angry. I'll turn him over my knee. ;-)

On 11/17/2017 9:57 AM, Marc Aramini wrote:  
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Ab de Vos — 17 Nov 2017, 17:22 · in reply to Eric Bourland

Don't forget the plastic gloves.

Op 17-11-2017 om 16:00 schreef Eric Bourland:

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Matthew Keeley — 18 Nov 2017, 00:42 · in reply to Ab de Vos

I know many of you have seen this already, but I've written two posts on Wolfe for Tor.com, with more to come soon:

<https://www.tor.com/2017/10/16/approaching-gene-wolfe-with-awe-and-trepidation/>

<https://www.tor.com/2017/11/09/how-gene-wolfe-starts-a-story-and-where-to-start-reading-his-work/>

At no point in the writing did my tongue approach my cheek.

Best,

-Matt

On Fri, Nov 17, 2017 at 12:22 PM, Ab de Vos <foxyab at casema.nl> wrote:  
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David Stockhoff — 18 Nov 2017, 12:16 · in reply to Marc Aramini

Yeah, I appreciate the hyperbolic Wolfe as human wolf angle, and the closing is spot on, but much of the roasting is simply too inaccurate to be humorous.

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