

Pandora + new reader questions

The Urth list — 5 messages, 4 voices, 02 Oct 2019

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/6824>

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Adam Greenhill — 02 Oct 2019, 18:07

Hi all,

Recent fan and first time mailer here. I've been working my way through Wolfe over the past months -- slowly, as I tend to survive on secondhand shops for my fiction reading, in which I have found slim pickings.

Through these means I picked up Pandora and read it (in a day) yesterday. I was surprised by the seeming earnestness of the book, and the lack of sci-fi elements, and a quick search through the list indicates it's not held in very high regard by some past contributors.

One contributor quoted another writer as saying, to paraphrase, that every writer must write a Sherlock Holmes pastiche sooner or later. But while reading I wondered whether it was a pastiche of Nabokov's *Lolita**. Firstly, the narrator's triple H initials are surely a tribute to Humbert Humbert. Secondly, the Foreword 'spoils' some of the ending in much the way that Nabokov's does (though I suppose this kind of structure is itself a pastiche of real narrative accounts that do similar things). Thirdly I think there are some similarities in theme, such as the corruption of youth (where HHH is a sort of Lolita and Aladdin Blue a sort of HH/Quilty), and in content, such as the Carmen references (explicitly invoked by the narrator in chapter 6, but also echoed by the character of Larry Lief (another alliterative name) -- military background, womanizer, etc).

This isn't to say that I think it's a particularly deep novel, but I do wonder if Wolfe threw a few things like this in to add interest to what is otherwise a fairly pedestrian crime story. Couldn't find this discussed in the list before.

On a separate note: as I mentioned, it's hard to track Wolfe books down without engaging the daunting marketplace websites like eBay. I was wondering if anyone in the UK had any recommendations for where to find good copies of his works (preferably all of the same edition and all from the same dealer). I'm mainly looking to continue reading the Urth books after devouring the New Sun series earlier this year, though I might try to pick up the Best Of too.

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Hope this reaches everyone okay and looking forward to continuing correspondence with you all,

Adam (Thrax)

matthew.keeley.1 at gmail.com — 02 Oct 2019, 18:16 · in reply to Adam Greenhill

I don't know how many UK readers are here, but if you're looking for reliable dealers, maybe check on the Tartarus Press website which stores carry their books? Wolfe never published with them, but I expect they'd be a *lot* of overlap between dealers that carry Tartarus stuff and dealers that carry Wolfe books. And I have had very good experiences with dealers I found through Tartarus.

You could also special order most of the in-print titles at most bookstores.

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 2, 2019, at 2:07 PM, Adam Greenhill <thrax at fastmail.com> wrote:

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Ab de Vos — 02 Oct 2019, 19:28 · in reply to matthew.keeley.1 at gmail.com

Hi,

Don't you buy books through search engines like Eurobuch and AddAll or a platform like Amazon? I order often from Amazon UK, Germany and Abe books. In fact both new and second hand books for the last 10 years.

Op 2-10-2019 om 20:16 schreef matthew.keeley.1 at gmail.com:

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I don't know of any dealers who would specialize in this kind of thing.

best,

Mo

At 20:28 02/10/2019, you wrote:
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boundary="-----C74F7E87A41BF2C53FA42B97"
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Adam Greenhill — 07 Oct 2019, 16:02 · in reply to Mo Holkar

Thanks all. The Tartarus Books rabbit hole was a good shout for future reference. Somehow I'd not heard of AddAll before either!

Adam

On Sun, 6 Oct 2019, at 10:24 AM, Mo Holkar wrote:
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