

Interlibrary Loan (no spoilers)

The Urth list — 7 messages, 7 voices, 18 Jul 2020

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/6837>

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Dave Lebling — 18 Jul 2020, 14:44

Has anyone read this, and if so, do you have thoughts?

I re-read **A Borrowed Man** before reading **Interlibrary Loan**. I had found **A Borrowed Man** to be very opaque on first reading, and much more reasonable on a second reading. (This is my normal pattern with Wolfe; each reading produces more clarity.)

I found the first reading of **Interlibrary Loan** to be even more opaque, and also a bit disjointed. It was by turns weird, scary, and funny. I believe it is actually hard SF rather than Fantasy, which seems to go against a lot of reviews. It could have used another draft. It is extremely sad we will never get one.

Dave Lebling

Ab de Vos — 18 Jul 2020, 15:33 · in reply to Dave Lebling

I read it as well and everything in the book seems to be a riddle. How many Ern's are there, is the story line mixed up, what is in the green box, what happens to the key Ern takes from dead Ern, the status of the ghosts, the relation of the book to *Borrowed Man* etc.

Fascinating but frustrating.

Op 18-7-2020 om 16:44 schreef Dave Lebling:

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Dave Lebling

Dan'l Danehy-Oakes — 19 Jul 2020, 03:00 · in reply to Dave Lebling

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I found it much easier going than *A Borrowed Man* - until the last four pages or so, where I suddenly had *no* idea what was going on, and most especially the last line. What the actual hell?

Dan'I Danehy-Oakes

*?Wherever you are, you find the sun, a blade of grass, the spirals of the dragonfly. Courage consists of staying at home, close to nature, which could not care less about our disasters. Each grain of dust contains the soul of something marvellous. -- *Joan Mir?

On Sat, Jul 18, 2020 at 7:44 AM Dave Lebling <dlebling at hyraxes.com> wrote:
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Dave Lebling

eb — 19 Jul 2020, 03:39 · in reply to Dan'I Danehy-Oakes

I've almost finished it. I'm liking it a lot. To discuss.

Eric Bourland
eb at hwaet.com
<https://www.hwaet.com/>

From: "Dan'I Danehy-Oakes" <danldo at gmail.com>
Sent: 7/18/20 11:01 PM
To: The Urth Mailing List <urth at lists.urth.net>
Subject: Re: (urth) Interlibrary Loan (no spoilers)

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Evan Pickett — 19 Jul 2020, 04:14 · in reply to eb

I read it and (I think) kept up with it until the last ~3 chapters. Does anyone know if the book was definitively finished, or was it finished enough that the publishers want ahead? Not casting aspersions; just curious. It felt like there was another 100 pages of material in the last couple chapters, that just wasn't there. With Wolfe, it's hard to say if that's intentional or not.

Evan

On Sat, Jul 18, 2020 at 8:48 PM eb <eb at hwaet.com> wrote:
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Marc Aramini — 19 Jul 2020, 04:56 · in reply to Evan Pickett

Wolfe finished it and turned it in very shortly before he died. I do feel that the sketchiness of the last few chapters might have something to do with that fact, though of course the green square is present throughout. Certainly the pace accelerates at the end.

On Sat, Jul 18, 2020 at 9:14 PM Evan Pickett <picketter at gmail.com> wrote:
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Factory Farmer — 20 Jul 2020, 01:31 · in reply to Marc Aramini

Isn't this to be expected as one or more volumes would have been forthcoming?

And of course the belief that more would have made it more understandable. Hahaha!

Listened to the audiobook which I considered very well executed.

On Jul 19, 2020, at 12:56 AM, Marc Aramini <marcaramini at gmail.com> wrote:

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