

5HC: Green eyes

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 15 Jun 1998

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adam louis stephanides — 15 Jun 1998, 12:01

I had been planning to put 5HC behind me for now, unless someone replied to one of my posts, but mantis's discussion of eye colors reminded me of one of the most enigmatic passages (to me, anyway) in the book. In "A Story," after Wolf has called the starcrossers down, we get the following passage:

Sandwalker looked at the last Shadow child and saw that he was weeping and that his eyes held nothing at all. He felt that way himself, and turning to Cedar Branches Waving asked, "Mother, what color are my eyes *now*?" [emphasis added]

"Green," Cedar Branches Waving answered. "They look gray in this light, but they are green. That is the color of eyes." Behind her Seven Girls Waiting and Sweetmouth murmured, "Green." And Seven Girls Waiting added, "Pink Butterflies' eyes are green too." (142-143, Ace edition)

What is going on here? My first thought was that somehow the Shadow children's "shield" made it impossible to see the color green, but that's not true (105). And it can't be just that the "shield" had caused the eyes to appear other than green, because Cedar Branches Waving knows that Sandwalker's eyes are green even though they look gray, and that green "is the color of eyes." A quick search through the text didn't turn up any references to eye color before this passage, though several to eyes.

--Adam