

Re. Severian' reticence

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 17 Jun 1998

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/818>

Exported from an unofficial mirror of a public mailing list. Copyright in each message remains with the person who wrote it. Email addresses are obscured as `user at host`, the form the original archive published. This file was rebuilt from parsed fields rather than retained headers, so it is faithful in content but not byte-exact.

Ye Olde Mothman — 17 Jun 1998, 10:56

One of Severian's quirks as a narrator, and one which makes it quite difficult to get a grasp of his character, is his sometimes withholding an important fact about a situation until long after he has seemingly finished narrating that situation.

3) What explains, in particular, his suppression of the sexual relationship between himself and Thecla? (Severian's motives for the other two omissions are more obvious.) I can think of two, not necessarily exclusive, possibilities. Severian, as we know, has a rather unhealthy attitude towards women. He may not have wanted to contaminate

I've never attributed any underlying motive for it, just narrative effect. These facts seem to weigh a little heavier when divulged at a later time, almost as if revealed in confidentiality. Just my take on it.