

Little Severian and the Thing in the Jar

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 22 Jun 1998

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/841>

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John Moar — 22 Jun 1998, 11:48

<newbie alert>

I've been lurking on this list for a while, and I've finally decided to start posting (I've had trouble with finding a computer to subscribe with - it's a long story)

Anyway, I recently reread BotNS. Many of the things that might have confused me have been discussed on this list, leaving me even more confused. :-) However, there are two major points I haven't seen discussed.

The first is the thematic point of the whole sequence in *_Sword_* with Little Severian. I can see how it suggests Severian has a sister, lets Severian's development of a conscience be shown, and carries forward a few plot points with Agia and Alzabos. But Little Severian is around for a long time to be just a plot function, and I don't quite get it.

The second is the scene in *_Citadel_* with the homunculus. I have no idea what *_this_* is about, other than possibly a reference to the works of Samuel Beckett. *_The Encyclopaedia of Science Fiction_* suggests that this is Severian's sibling, but Merryn seems far more likely from previous discussions here.

I really hope I'm not asking something everyone understands so well they've never bothered mentioning... <g>

Please note, my name is *_James_* Moar, not John. (same long story as above)

"...it represents for me all that monomaniacal fabric of argument, so tightly woven that not even the tiniest objection or spark of light can escape its net, in which human minds become enmeshed whenever the subject is one in which no appeal to fact is possible" - *_Sword_*, Ch. 38