

Finger #4

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 01 Jul 1998

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Robert Borski — 01 Jul 1998, 23:14

Some late thoughts on "Three Fingers."

The Harley who picks up Michael on his motorcycle is almost certainly meant to be sf writer Harlan Ellison, who has a house filled with collectable toys, including the 1943 Captain Midnight decoder ring mentioned. Amaryllis, who also rides the motorcycle, is another archetype of the big bad wolf and pirate variety--she's the shepherdess or country girl seen first in classical poetry (Virgil's Eclogues), then later in pastoral poetry, then still later as Little Bo Peep and the Farmer's Daughter.

Michael's first customer has two sons that attend Antioch University. Antioch, in the Middle East, is where Christians were first called Christians. More significantly, it was also liberated by the Army of the 1st Crusade (Michael being embarked on a crusade of his own).

The 'mafia' in 'mickey mafia' is probably meant not only to summon up the Italian crime families but also the synonymic 'syndicate' as in King Features Syndicate and its ilk, the media conglomerations that syndicate and trademark comic strips.

'Suits' is standard Hollywoodese for studio execs and lawyers--Michael's enemies in Three Fingers because they're trying to appropriate for financial reasons all the archetypes (which belong to humanity at large) they possibly can and clamp down on him for the unlicensed production of their registered properties.

Reserprine is botanically-derived from the plant *Rauwolfia serpentina* and does not cause Michael to hallucinate, but *prevents* him from hallucinating. (Symbolically, Michael the great Miltonian battler against evil has now been undone by the serpent). In the final scene the bon bons and jelly beans the "suits" (actually medics) are trying to force upon him are his medicine. Michael's always been a little crazy, you see. And clearly if he thinks he's going to win a battle of this type in the real world he's obviously off his nut.

As for the three finger/four finger discrepancy in the final sentence, we all know which finger is involved and where it's been.

The suits have been giving it to us for years.

Robert Borski/scolex