

YetAnotherDeadWoman

The Urth list — 2 messages, 2 voices, 10 Jul 1998

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m.driussi — 10 Jul 1998, 21:05

Mark Millman,

Ah, but the dead woman in the water of "The Map" isn't Maxellindis, is it? It is the second girlfriend =after= Maxellindis, an adventuress named "Syntyche." (The first girlfriend after Maxellindis was out in the Xanthic Lands--she was killed by soldiers in a food riot.)

Maxellindis (who was about his age and first shows up in CITADEL) died first, years before. Eata says they were smuggling stuff and were caught--she jumped overboard and was never seen again (since she was a good swimmer, Eata wonders if she was pulled down by a nixie); he would've jumped but they got him with the foot tangler.

In the course of "The Map," Eata curses another map of the dead city (his own) as being a waste of his life and that of Maxellindis's too. So in addition to smuggling, they were apparently pouring all their money and energy into scavenging the ruins--all for nothing. And when he returned from Xanthic Lands, he fell back into the old quest, with the same old map but now with his new young girlfriend Syntyche and a young boatman named Laetus.

Said second enterprise came to an end the night before "The Map" begins: Eata had set it up so they could steal the map from him and run away while he was sleeping; being young and dumb they broke the lock and had to fight him. But Eata didn't anticipate that Laetus would kill Syntyche shortly thereafter.

It is Syntyche's body they find, freshly dead, watched over by manatees (link to the Lake of Birds). And then Simulato sleeps in the dead woman's bunk, which she had feigned sleep in the night before, and smells her perfume, and dreams of her, and dreams of home (which is a spooky link to all sorts of places).

So the parallel situation would be,

Valeria : Severian :: Syntyche : Eata

And =maybe=,

Dorcas : Severian :: Maxellindis : Eata

=mantis=

Mark Millman — 10 Jul 1998, 17:39 · follows m.driussi

On 10 July 1998 at 9:05 GMT mantis sez:

Ah, but the dead woman in the water of "The Map" isn't Maxellindis, is it? It is the second

girlfriend =after= Maxellindis, an adventuress
named "Syntyche." (The first girlfriend after
Maxellindis was out in the Xanthic Lands--she
was killed by soldiers in a food riot.)

You're so right. I apologize.

And my memory is so decayed.

Mark Millman

(whose memory is as perfect as Severian's;
perfectly, as opposed to imperfectly, awful)