

Marble, off her?

The Whorl list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 19 Feb 1997

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/whorl/108>

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Ranjit Bhatnagar — 19 Feb 1997, 10:54

mantis:

Re: the smashed door, okay, I like it! However, there's this problem in that it seems like Marble was dreaming that scene . . . the text has the surreal quality we associate in the Long Sun text with dreaming

Well, um, I think it was less a dream than a daze; she's overheating, fanning herself; internal alarms are going off; she's awake, but having trouble seeing and thinking. In fact, the description reminds me of when I fell off my bike and smashed my head; my vision faded to little dots and I couldn't figure out which way to go to get home.

If she dreamed accidentally smashing Rose's door, going in, finding Rose dead, and stripping her down for spare parts, well, the door DID get smashed, and Marble DID end up with the parts.

(II, 263-266 in the paperback edition)

I got another noodle I want to trace. Crane, Silk, and Mamelta are ejected from the Ayuntiamiento's submarine, but only Crane and Silk seem to make it to the surface. Silk seems, dimly, a "monstrous mottled face, black, red, and gold," with a "gaping mouth that closed upon the splayed figure he had seen," presumably Mamelta. This description, along with the comparison of Silk to a doll in the previous paragraph, reminds me of the Brides of Erebus back on Urth. I can just imagine Typhon letting a few of them go for the ride. On the other hand, if you're underwater looking up, what you'll see 'cause of refraction is a big circle of golden sunlight surrounded by darker hues; and if you're running out of breath you'll see red and black dots. Maybe all Silk saw was Crane floating to the surface, where he would've been lost in the glare. Silk thought the face was below him, but he might've got turned around like Severian did in Gyoll.

I guess I'm just hoping to see Mamelta again. The coast guard picked her up in their snappy red-and-gold submersible, yeah, that's it!

(II, 308-309, paperback edition)

Oh yeah, which Niven novel was that? Where the crew set themselves up as rulers before thawing out the sleepers. Um, it was, er, *_A Gift from Earth_*. (Thanks, Altavista!) Novel's set several generations after landing; society is strictly divided into ruling Crew and underclass Colonists; even mixed marriages are discouraged. In a somewhat Lupine touch, they use one of the two original spaceships as an office building, hospital, and... prison.

While we're on the topic of other authors, I recently read Greg Bear's *_Songs of Earth and Power_*, which is a wonderful and imaginative "fantasy" novel that's not a Tolkein clone or a

sword-swingin' barbarian epic. Recommended. Hmm, I'd like to hear book recommendations (in any genre) from all of you, but don't want to clutter up the list. Tell you what: send book recommendations, any time you want, as many as you want, to me or to ultan at moonmilk.volcano.org and I'll make a web page for 'em. Please include short descriptions, not just a list of titles.

-rat

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