

RTTW impressions SPOILERS

The Whorl list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 01 Feb 2001

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/whorl/1090>

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Joel Priddy — 01 Feb 2001, 17:58

So I've finished RTTW, and enjoyed it as much as I thought I would (lots), but I was surprised by... well, let me add some Spoiler space here...

Okay.

I was surprised by how many of the big revelations had been pretty well chewed over in this forum. In fact, I was a little let down, because I was assuming the answers would be so much weirder than anything mentioned here. Like the inhumani secret, f'rinstance.

I spent a lot of the book really annoyed at "Horn" for being so dense about why people thought he was Silk. I had trouble getting emotionally involved with "Horn's" quest for Silk. Even if he couldn't figure out where he was, bodywise, why didn't he take better advantage of Pig as a resource? When he was talking to the divine Silk, why waste time having one of those Wolfean-detective conversations where he explains how he knew it was Silk in there, and not just go straight to the relevant issue? You'd think after everything he'd been through, he'd have some eager questions to ask.

It wasn't 'til pretty far in that it occurred to me that the man doth protest too much. I'd been wondering how much Silk there was in Horn. Now I'm trying to figure out how much Horn was in Silk. Interesting that even after Hoof and Hide read the same books we read, and get to know the guy well enough to have maybe paternal love for him, they still don't seem to think he's their real Father. Anything more than a set of Horn's memories in there?

Oh, and as a tangent, regarding Silk's eating habits, I assumed it was part of the Silk-super body just not needing as much fuel as others. Silk spends a lot of time feeling hungry and desiring food in Long Sun, but it never seems to take much to fill him, and he gets a lot done for a guy with his diet.

I'm curious to piece together what the circumstances were that brought "Horn" and Jahlee to the Matachin Tower. Which brings me to two questions (one is persnickety, the other genuine):

Persnickety: Are we really meant to believe that Severian, who writes about Master Ash, and the Green Man, and being a white fountain hundreds of years before he's born is going to consider "Horn" too much of a stretch for his readers to believe because he's got the love-vibe and walks through walls?

Genuine: Some time ago when we were putting questions to Mr. Wolfe, somebody asked if either Severian or his sister would show up in the Short Sun series. And received, iirc, a not-so-specific answer. Turned out to be right on the money, possible twice. So my question is to the original asker, what made you ask if Severian's sister would appear? Intuition, or did you see clues?

I'm looking forward to the conversations to come,

cephalothorax