

Silk's so-called suicide

The Whorl list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 12 Feb 2001

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Robert Borski — 12 Feb 2001, 21:37

Woo-hoo! I finally found the passage I was looking for in IGJ.

What seems to have thrown many of us off in RTTW is that only Horn/Silk's arm injuries are mentioned when the farmer's wife attempts to clean him up, whereas this is how Horn describes the situation upon waking up after transfusion into Silk:

"[I] found myself upon my knees besides the open coffin of a middle-aged woman. My hands and arms and face and neck were all bleeding, and an old, worn knife covered with blood was by my hand. There was no one else in the poor little house in which I knelt, and almost nothing in it that was not torn or broken." (p. 127)

To Adam Stephanides and vizcacha: are you now still going to argue that Silk has suffered a failure of nerve and cut himself not only on the arms, but his hands, his face and his neck too? Good grief; if so, it has to be one of the strangest suicide attempts in fiction. And how also do you account for the torn and broken nature of the manse's appurtenances? That Silk, while he was cutting himself all over, decided to trash the place?

It occurs to me that a bomb might have caused both the injuries to Silk and the devastation to the manse--we know, after all, that someone has tried to assassinate Caldé Mint--but this does nothing to explain the blood-covered knife Horn finds near his hand, as if dropped at the moment he shuffles off his mortal coil.

In other words I still aint buying the suicide theory, and even if you don't buy my Pig-as-assassin alternative, I think you have to admit your argument is strained.

Robert Borski

*This is WHORL, for discussion of Gene Wolfe's Book of the Long Sun.