

Jahlee's End

The Whorl list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 14 Feb 2001

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David Lebling — 14 Feb 2001, 08:49

From: Michael Andre-Driussi <mantis at sirius.com>

Putting aside the godling issue as the lesser, I'm still working on how alga is bugged by Jahlee's death.

I find Jahlee's death very straightforward, if disappointing. Jahlee attacks Nettle because she has always loved Horn, and she will never have him because Horn loves Nettle. Horn kills Jahlee because she violated the agreement never to touch his family, not to mention his obvious rage that his wife is being attacked (no Michael Dukakis, he). (Yes, this agreement was made with Krait, but that's a legal quibble; as Rajan his agreement with her was all-encompassing, too). Jahlee is clearly a loose cannon, almost as much so as Jugurna. Doesn't the attack happen the morning after Horn/Silk and Nettle spend the night together? Jahlee has no way of knowing there was no "warm commerce" involved. She is a woman "trapped in the body of a blood-drinking reptile," and she will never be human, never experience the kind of love Horn has for Nettle. The tragedy of the inhumis is that they are humans who will never be human.

I wonder if Wolfe's "failure" to provide a satisfying conclusion to the problem of the inhumis is that there is none. The inhumis, like evil in the abstract, are created by people. If people solve the problem of evil, they will solve the problem of the inhumis.

Not your usual SF resolution, where Silk would have found the Seekret Formula for Inhumis-bane hidden away in Mainframe (virtual reality sword-fight with Pas optional). I see Keanu Reeves as Silk.

Dave Lebling
aka vizcacha

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