

Twist ending?

The Whorl list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 28 Mar 2001

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/whorl/1301>

Exported from an unofficial mirror of a public mailing list. Copyright in each message remains with the person who wrote it. Email addresses are obscured as `user at host`, the form the original archive published. This file was rebuilt from parsed fields rather than retained headers, so it is faithful in content but not byte-exact.

Michael Straight — 28 Mar 2001, 21:11

Several people have mentioned the "surprise" twist at the end of RTTW, some even disparaging it as Hollywoodesque. But why is this a surprise? In every other case of a spirit inhabiting someone else's body, all the characters regard the persona original to that body as the "real" person and the other spirit as a (usually transient) intruder. Horn wouldn't start calling Oreb "Scylla" and decide that Oreb was no longer present, or think that Marble was really Maytera Rose now, or say that because of Silk Inside[TM], Pig no longer exists.

All through RTTW, people are treating Silk exactly the same way, refusing to stop seeing him as Silk just because he may have a little bit of Horn in there. So why should we be surprised that Silk turns out to be Silk? (Yes I know why, yes I was surprised, I'm just marvelling at how obvious it all is and how cleverly Wolfe waved it right in front of my face the whole time.)

Horn is dead, but he doesn't know it (even though he does). Gee, Wolfe's never done **that** before. Doh!

-Rostrum

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