

# Echoes of C.S. Lewis's Space Trilogy

The Whorl list — 2 messages, 2 voices, 12 Jun 1997

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Michael Straight — 12 Jun 1997, 17:00

When I first read *Nightside*, there were a couple of things that reminded me of C.S. Lewis's Space Trilogy.

[Minor spoilers for *Perelandra* follow]

In the second book, *Perelandra*, the protagonist, Ransom, is in a situation where it seems the Devil himself (or his representative) is trying to do a Very Bad Thing and Ransom wonders why God seems to be allowing it...

"Had Hell a prerogative to work wonders? Why did Heaven work none?  
...he was forced to perceive that his own coming to *Perelandra* was at least as much of a marvel as the Enemy's. That miracle on the right side, which he had demanded, had in fact occurred. He himself was the miracle...If the issue lay in [God's] hands, Ransom and the Lady *were* those hands. The fate of a world really depended on how they behaved in the next few hours" (*Perelandra*, p. 140-142).

This seems so close to Silk's formulation of the Outsider's revelation, "I am to receive no help, because I am help" that I'm inclined to believe it must have been an influence on Wolfe.

The connection thing is that, especially in *Nightside* when I thought he was purely a villain, Remora's speech patterns reminded me a whole lot of Withers from *That Hideous Strength*.

Speaking of influences, people keep saying that Chesterton's Father Brown stories are an obvious one. It's been a while since I've read them, but I just don't see it - other than that the protagonists are both priests, I don't see any real similarities. What am I missing?

I know Wolfe has mentioned that he is a Chesterton fan (and here let me put in a strenuous plug for *The Man Who Was Thursday*, an amazing book), but has he voiced an opinion about Lewis's works?

-Rostrum

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Jim Jordan — 13 Jun 1997, 14:14 · follows Michael Straight

U rote:

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In his interview with me, available over on Paul Duggan's Wolfe Page, Gene said that he is quite a Lewis fan. Influence is, thus, quite possible.

Only the first book betrays a Father Brownish element, IMO, as Silk solves a crime.

Nutria