

# Bye Silk! ... fusion ... and Escape from the Airship

The Whorl list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 03 Nov 1998

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Mark Millman — 03 Nov 1998, 13:19

On 3 November 1998 at 5:39 pm GMT, Alex David

Groce wrote:

Greg Neyman wrote:

Rostrum - Hammerstone said in  
Lake that making a child takes at least  
two years, and maybe as long as twenty  
(as they get the parts, presumably) ....  
does the couple enter the "love-trance"  
for twenty years? there's no way they  
could be productive citizens and produce  
children simultaneously if that were the  
case.

And even if it was the case, I'd imagine  
that black mechanics would be able to find  
a way to circumvent this.

Well, it wouldn't have to be a "trance"--humans  
don't necessarily go into a trance to make a kid,  
but don't have conscious access to the workings  
of it. But it does seem odd the black mechanics  
can't get at this if they can mess with programming  
as much as they seem to be able to (maybe Pas  
had this a lot better guarded, especially the fusion  
pack part--as that would seem to be the really  
dangerous part.)

And, as Alex implicitly points out, when bios make a new child, they're not at it 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The "love-trance" could manifest in a way analogous to sleep or (perhaps better) dreaming.

"Hey, Rocky! Whatcha up to last night?"

"Well, Ruby and me was . . . well, ya know. Makes  
the night go by awful fast, though. Seems like I just  
left here. By the way, you got one a' them widgets  
I told you about?"

"Something like it, I think, but I'm not sure. How's it look to you?"

"Umm . . . yeah, it looks a little off. That's OK, though; I think I can figure something out."

Or maybe Rocky just buys a lathe and a drill press  
and then goes sorting through the scrap heap.

When Incus altered his soldier (was it Sand? I can't remember), the soldier became Incus' best

friend; but was Incus able to alter the standing orders, or did they still take precedence? If the black magicians weren't able to interfere with the orders (I'm tempted to call them hard-wired, but I'm not sure of that) then they also may not be able to crack the reproductive routines.

Nacre

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