

Trios, cover, odds & ends

The Whorl list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 01 Oct 1999

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Alice Turner — 01 Oct 1999, 11:43

There are more threes. Three people give Horn unexpected gifts at parting, and the third gives him three gifts. Marble asks for three apples; there are three fish waiting on the stone at Mucor's Rock. This is a deliberate device to evoke a fairytale feeling that will be continued with the siren, the demon, the centaurs.

I am only 2/3 done, but I couldn't keep away from the list. The cover is wrong on several more points than the hair. At one point Horn refers to shaving, so he shouldn't have a beard. And Babbie has many too few legs (he should have eight).

I am fascinated with Horn's temperament--what a dour fellow! You pick it up right from the beginning with his terrible relationship with Sinew---who clearly loves his father though Horn can't or won't see it. I love the way this father-son anger picks up immediately with Krait--another terrific character, not least for his sardonic use of "Father." Horn admits, at one point, that he has loved only three people, Nettle, Silk and his old friend Pig. No mention of parents or children. He does have honor, he is sincerely sorry for what he did to Seawrack (and we who read fairytales know that he was not entirely responsible for that; she knows it too). But the real Silk would never allow inhumani to be buried alive; he would have insisted on a more humane death.

Does anyone think that Seawrack's Mother is an undine? The description is not so undine-like, but it's very brief and Horn did not see her well. They can swim between the stars, so why not?

One question I would like to get into later on is whether or not Wolfe is a racist. I rather think he is.

Love that Yoda crack! Mantis, have you sketched Wijzer's map yet? I bet you have!

-alga

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