

Brother and Sister

The Whorl list — 2 messages, 2 voices, 18 Aug 2000

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/whorl/952>

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Robert Borski — 18 Aug 2000, 23:08

Fernando Gouvea having previously written:

<Clearly the events at the very end of OBW are very important. Who are the Brother and Sister?>

As I briefly mentioned in a previous post I'd like to suggest that Brother may be the lost child Bricco from Fava's first story. Given how Wolfe has previously analogized real world events in his little embedded tales I don't think this is unreasonable.

Here are the correspondences:

1) Brother does not know his real name. ("Two children are living alone there: they call each other Brother and Sister, and if they have ever had other names they do not know them.")

In Fava's tale, "[The boy] didn't know his name or if he did he wouldn't tell it."

Notice also how both Brother and Bricco begin with B-R.

2) Fava in her tale passes through "a perfectly lovely forest" the morning before she later happens upon Bricco and his mother further up in her jaunt.

Horn discovers Brother and Sister in "a hovel in a forest."

3) It is hard to tell the ages of Brother and Sister, but from Fava's tale, where Bricco appears to be about three years old, Brother could now easily be five. (The tale takes place two years earlier.)

4) Bricco, allegedly, has been kidnapped by the Vanished People. ("They said...That a highborn woman of the Vanished People had taken a fancy to him and stolen him away.")

Brother and Sister "see the Vanished People sometimes...Sometimes the Vanished People even help them."

In addition, we have the following admission from Fava in regards to maintaining her youthful composure: "It's been so hard staying young for you while I dined with your grandmother. I kept having to stop on the way to Duko Rigoglio's palace, or on the way back, to find another child." Certainly, Hansel and Gretel--er, Brother and Sister--would be appropriately snackable, especially as the inhumani tend to return to previous sites to feed, frequently victimizing the poor because they live in dilapidated housing. From what Incanto later tells Mora, it appears that he believes that Fava has probably killed Bricco.

As for Sister, perhaps she's even the original human Bean, whose essence provides vampiric

Fava with her identity; according to Inclito "[Fava's] father is away," implying maybe that her mother is dead, as indeed are Brother's and Sisters; this or Sister's indigent mother passed away, and Fava chanced upon the orphaned child in the wilderness and decided to take advantage of the situation, bringing Brother/Bricco to her for company.

Then again maybe none of the above is valid since as Fava tells us, "All stories are false, and none are false than those that are supposed to be true."

Robert Borski

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

Peter Westlake — 24 Aug 2000, 11:03 · follows Robert Borski

At 23:08 2000-08-18 -0500, Robert Borski wrote:

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I see what you mean about Bricco, but Brother and Sister live on an entirely different continent to Fava. She is finding children (different ones each time, by the sound of it) between Incanto's farm and Soldo.

SBear (which almost sounds Italian, doesn't it? I hope it isn't rude ...)

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