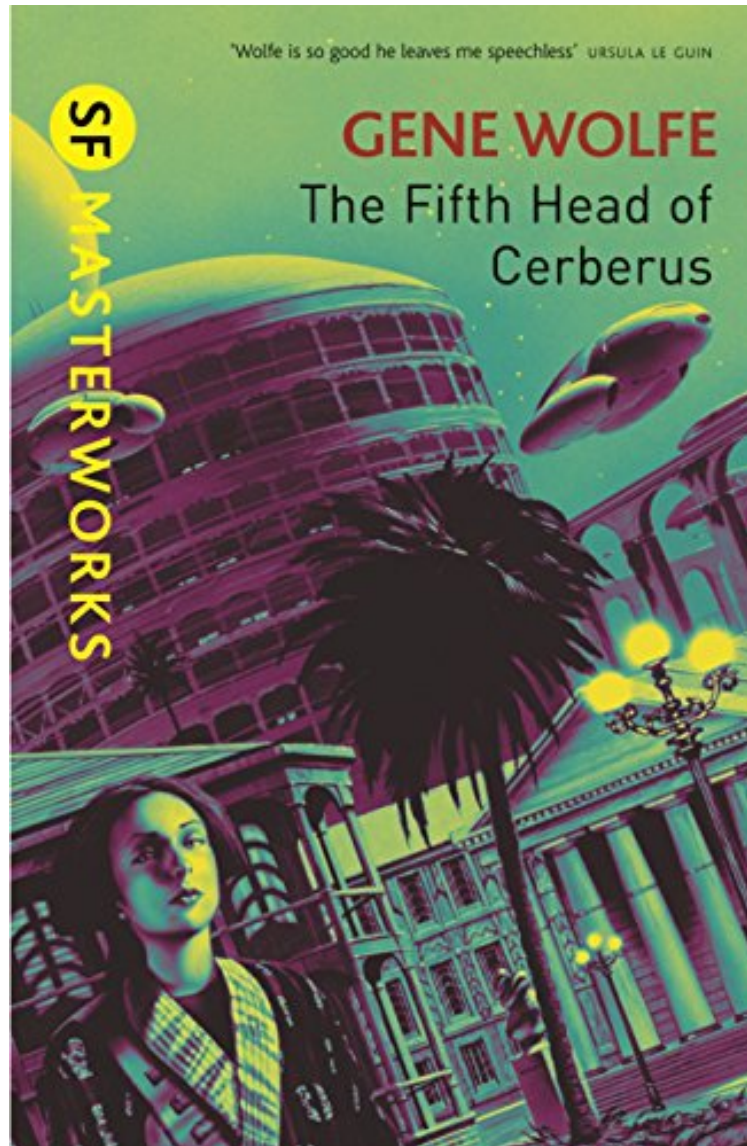


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The Fifth Head of Cerberus (S.F. MASTERWORKS) (English Edition)

Von Gene Wolfe

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Von Gene Wolfe : The Fifth Head of Cerberus (S.F. MASTERWORKS) (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Fifth Head of Cerberus (S.F. MASTERWORKS) (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Cave

CanumVon Stephen HoyGene Wolfe's *_5th Head of Cerberus_* was originally published in 1972. The Orb Books / Tom Doherty Associates re-issue is paperbound on acid-free paper. The first of the three novellas originally appeared in Damon Knight's 1972 *_Orbit_* anthology; Wolfe dedicated the book to Knight. Wolfe manipulates the reader's point of view in a three headed story that examines the themes of Personal Identity and Self-Knowledge. Wolfe is particularly adept at looking outward from within the minds of his characters, and the structure of the intertwined novellas is calculated to capitalize on this strength. The protagonist in the first novella resonates with the same qualities of dispassionate narrative that Severian uses to relate his story in the more richly-developed world of the *_Shadow of the Torturer_*. The second novella is a story within a story that follows the form of Wolfe's early other-worlds narratives. The third novella reminds us a bit of the fragmented introspection typical of *_The Doctor of Death Island_*. The behavioral sciences -- anthropology, sociology, and psychology -- form the template of the book's ideas, but Wolfe weaves many dark threads into his tapestry: a revered house of prostitution, five generations of self-cloning, a close approximation of a replicated personality, slavery, murder, cannibalism, infant kidnapping, tribal warfare, racial genocide, colonial conquest, and an imputed identity theft. Wolfe's fine writing style is a consistent delight for the thinking reader, filled with multiple layered symbols, metaphors, and wit. 3 von 3 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Outstanding BookVon Gregg Best (gwbest@juno.com)I haven't read a book this good, in any genre, in a long time. Very challenging and thought provoking reading, but not for readers who are looking to simply be entertained. Now I know why, at age 13, I was unable to get through Wolfe's *The Shadow of the Torturer* when it was originally published--both books are tough reads for inexperienced or casual readers, but rewarding if one reads carefully. I'm glad I've given Wolfe another chance, after seeing so many passionate references to his books over the years. 1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Masterly wrought fictionVon Ein KundeThe thing about Wolfe, I think, is that: although he can conjure up a breathtaking and fantastic world with hardly a misstep; although he can create smart and believable characters whose internal conflicts are absolutely convincing; although his prose and mastery of the language is practically without peer; and, although his command of the storyteller's art--the expert pacing, purposeful plotting, and even the metafictional introspection which you see in the work of nearly all great writers--is really an order of magnitude (no, two orders) beyond what typically passes for science fiction---despite all this, Wolfe's stories are not merely stories about the milieu itself, or the characters themselves. Neither are they "trick stories" or surreal experimental works, where it seems the only point is to string the reader along and then disappoint him with some banal device.No, the thing about Wolfe is not only that he is a master of all the aspects of a story, or even that he creates an almost mystical balance among these elements; the thing about him is that he is honest, and his stories ring true. He never overreaches; if he does, it is entirely forgivable, because his writing hand reaches farther than most authors' *_imagination_* can hope to extend.Don't pass this book up (or any other of his work). If you do, you'll never know why you *_should_* regret it.

KurzbeschreibungFar from Earth two sister planets, Sainte Anne and Sainte Croix, circle each other. It is said that a race of shapeshifting aliens once lived here, only to become extinct when human colonists arrived. But one man believes they still exist, somewhere out in the wilderness.In *THE FIFTH HEAD OF CERBERUS*, Gene Wolfe brilliantly interweaves three tales: a scientist's son gradual discovery of the bizarre secret of his heritage; a young man's mythic dreamquest for his darker half; the mystifying chronicle of an anthropologist's seemingly-arbitrary imprisonment. Gradually, a mesmerising pattern emerges..deA brothel keeper's sons discuss genocide and plot murder; a young alien wanderer is pursued by his shadow double; and a political prisoner tries to prove his identity, not least to himself. Gene Wolfe's first novel consists of three linked sections, all of them elegant broodings on identity, sameness, and strangeness, and all of them set on the vividly evoked colony worlds of Ste. Croix and Ste. Anne, twin planets delicately poised in mutual orbit. Marsch, the victim in the third story, is the apparent author of the second and a casual visitor whose nave questions precipitate tragedy in the first. The sections dance around one another like the planets of their settings. Clones, downloaded personalities inhabiting robots, aliens that perhaps mimicked humans so successfully that they forgot who they were, a French culture adopted by its ruthless oppressors--there are lots of ways to lose yourself, and perhaps the worst is to think that freedom consists of owning other people, that identity is won at the expense of others. It is easy to be impressed by the intellectual games of Wolfe's stunning book and forget that he is, and always has been, the most intensely moral of SF writers. --Roz Kaveney, .co.uk.co.ukA brothel-keeper's sons discuss genocide and plot murder; a young alien wanderer is pursued by his shadow double; a political prisoner tries to prove his identity, not least to himself. Gene Wolfe's first novel consists of three linked sections, all of them elegant broodings on identity, sameness and strangeness, and all of them set on the vividly evoked colony worlds of Ste. Croix and Ste. Anne, themselves twins delicately poised in mutual orbit. Marsch, victim in the third story, is the apparent author of the second and a casual visitor whose nave questions precipitate tragedy in the first; the sections dance around each other like the planets of their setting. Clones, down-loaded personalities inhabiting robots, aliens that perhaps mimicked humans so successfully that they forgot who they were, a French culture adopted by its ruthless

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