

Writer's Ramblings

History of Dilemmas of Darkness

Both of these stories began with dreams.

One dream featured vampire children taking over some kind of establishment and the only way to cure them was to begin to kill them, to force the vampire to leave, and then abort the killing at the last moment.

The second dream featured a room with some horror underneath it, and a secret entrance to that underground room that could only be accessed via another, scary room. Music featured in that dream, strengthening the 'horror.'

Probably psychiatrist's field day, but that's how my mind works. I woke up from each one with the awareness that there was a story to be told, so I wrote down what I could remember and that was the start of each story.

They began completely unrelated to one another, and went through several metamorphoses before I began to conceive of the idea of linking them with shared characters and the concept of AMOK – all of which will be featuring in other stories, too.

Themes

The themes of both stories is 'doing the right thing in the face of adversity.'

For Stephen, the right thing is standing up for those who can't; and the adversity is *fear*. The visna trigger Fear in their victims in order to feed off it.

For Tom, the right thing is honouring his responsibilities as an adult, a mentor and a husband; and the adversity is his desire to languish in his own selfish desires.

The Immortal Ones amplify selfish desires, through temptation, in order to lure people into creating a link for them to enter this reality.

Story Arcs

Stephen's story is that of a straight-forward 'Hero': he finds himself in a dangerous position and makes the decision to fight against it.

He ends in a happier place to he started: he has found a new vocation (or even two, through the children's home and AMOK), he has earned respect and made new friends.

Tom's story is less straight-forward. In many ways, he has taken a step backwards by the end, through surrendering (or, at least, delaying) his own desires in order to accept his duties and responsibilities. He ends in much the same place to he started, humbled by his failings.

I wrote Tom's story arc as the process and resolution of a mid-life crisis:

He feels life is slipping by and there is nothing left for him. He is envious of William, just starting out in a promising life. Lynda says exactly what his ego most wants to hear and his pride is piqued by the fact that the Immortal Ones need his song to be played. He then has to step down and accept his flawed and imperfect life as being the Right Thing.