



I won't bother to tell you if it is a good film. However:

Director: David Lean ( \_ B \_ r \_ i \_ e \_ f \_ E \_ n \_ c \_ o \_ u \_ n \_ t \_ e \_ r , \_ G \_ r \_ e \_ a \_ t  
\_ E \_ x \_ p \_ e \_ c \_ t \_ a \_ t \_ i \_ o \_ n \_ s , \_ O \_ l \_ i \_ v \_ e \_ r  
\_ T \_ w \_ i \_ s \_ t , \_ T \_ h \_ e \_ S \_ o \_ u \_ n \_ d \_ B \_ a \_ r \_ r \_ i \_ e \_ r , \_ T \_ h \_ e  
\_ B \_ r \_ i \_ d \_ g \_ e \_ o \_ v \_ e \_ r \_ t \_ h \_ e \_ R \_ i \_ v \_ e \_ r \_ K \_ w \_ a \_ i ,  
\_ L \_ a \_ w \_ r \_ e \_ n \_ c \_ e  
\_ o \_ f \_ A \_ r \_ a \_ b \_ i \_ a , \_ D \_ r . \_ Z \_ h \_ i \_ v \_ a \_ g \_ o , \_ A \_ P \_ a \_ s \_ s \_ a \_ g \_ e  
\_ t \_ o \_ I \_ n \_ d \_ i \_ a )

THE MT VOID

Page 2

Screenwriter: Robert Bolt ( \_ L \_ a \_ w \_ r \_ e \_ n \_ c \_ e \_ o \_ f \_ A \_ r \_ a \_ b \_ i \_ a , \_ D \_ r .  
\_ Z \_ h \_ i \_ v \_ a \_ g \_ o , \_ A \_ M \_ a \_ n  
\_ f \_ o \_ r \_ A \_ l \_ l \_ S \_ e \_ a \_ s \_ o \_ n \_ s , \_ T \_ h \_ e \_ M \_ i \_ s \_ s \_ i \_ o \_ n )

Score: Maurice Jarre ( \_ T \_ h \_ e \_ L \_ o \_ n \_ g \_ e \_ s \_ t \_ D \_ a \_ y ,  
\_ L \_ a \_ w \_ r \_ e \_ n \_ c \_ e \_ o \_ f \_ A \_ r \_ a \_ b \_ i \_ a , \_ D \_ r .  
\_ Z \_ h \_ i \_ v \_ a \_ g \_ o , \_ T \_ h \_ e \_ P \_ r \_ o \_ f \_ e \_ s \_ s \_ i \_ o \_ n \_ a \_ l \_ s ,  
\_ R \_ e \_ s \_ u \_ r \_ r \_ e \_ c \_ t \_ i \_ o \_ n , \_ A \_ P \_ a \_ s \_ s \_ a \_ g \_ e \_ t \_ o \_ I \_ n \_ d \_ i \_ a ,  
\_ M \_ a \_ d  
\_ M \_ a \_ x \_ B \_ e \_ y \_ o \_ n \_ d \_ T \_ h \_ u \_ n \_ d \_ e \_ r \_ d \_ o \_ m \_ e , many more)

Cast: Peter O'Toole, Omar Sharif, Alec Guinness, Arthur Kennedy,  
Jack Hawkins, Donald Wolfitt, Claude Rains, Anthony Quayle, Anthony  
Quinn, Jose Ferrer

Academy Awards: Best Picture, Best Director, Best Cinematography,  
Best Score

(By the way, it will be the \_ r \_ e \_ s \_ t \_ o \_ r \_ e \_ d version we are showing.)

2. Well, it happened again. I don't really apologize about it any  
more. It just happens. We were watching Michael Palin's \_ A \_ r \_ o \_ u \_ n \_ d  
\_ t \_ h \_ e \_ W \_ o \_ r \_ l \_ d \_ i \_ n \_ 8 \_ 0 \_ D \_ a \_ y \_ s and they talk about his visit to Suez.  
Evelyn  
comments about the scene in \_ L \_ a \_ w \_ r \_ e \_ n \_ c \_ e \_ o \_ f \_ A \_ r \_ a \_ b \_ i \_ a in which  
Lawrence is

in an abandoned desert town. Suddenly a boat is seen apparently  
plying its way among the dunes. That was because the high dunes  
was obscuring the fact that Lawrence was just yards away from the  
Canal. I first point out that it's the camel that is the ship of

the desert. But I also point out that Victor Hugo in Les Misérables wrote a long section about "the Suez of Paris." It is really a pun that I have probably waited for years to make. Somewhere in the back of my mind the name "Suez" and the word "sewers" have seemed similar.

Some puns wait for years, and people think they are spontaneous. Some just come up in a tenth of a second and I'm asked if I've been waiting all evening to say that. People generally are wrong as often as they are right. A pun that just comes right off the lips people accuse me of having waited hours to make. On the other hand, a pun I have been trying to get into a conversation for two hours will cause people to say I am right on my toes. Next week: a little on what we learn about the mind from puns.

Mark Leeper  
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...mtgzfs3!leeper

The more violent the body contact of the sports you watch,  
the lower your class.

-- Paul Fussell

DESOLATION ROAD by Ian McDonald  
Bantam Spectra, 1988, ISBN 0-553-27057-5, \$4.99.  
A book review by Evelyn C. Leeper  
Copyright 1993 Evelyn C. Leeper

Magical realism: it's not just for Latin Americans anymore.

What we have here is a novel of magical realism set on Mars.  
Dr. Alimantando, Mr. Jericho, Grandfather Haran, Rael Mandella, Rajandra  
Das, the Babooshka, Mikal Margolis, Persis Tatterdemalion, the three

Gallacelli brothers, and a host of other characters find their way, by chance or by design, to Desolation Road, a most unlikely settlement where the most unlikely things are likely to happen. The names alone are enough to stir the imagination of the reader, the McDonald provides the magical events to go with the names.

Magical realism is not the only influence on McDonald. In his afterword, in fact, he specifically mentions Bradbury as an inspiration--and it's not just Bradbury's M\_a\_r\_t\_i\_a\_n\_C\_h\_r\_o\_n\_i\_c\_l\_e\_s but also such other works as S\_o\_m\_e\_t\_h\_i\_n\_g\_W\_i\_c\_k\_e\_d\_T\_h\_i\_s\_W\_a\_y C\_o\_m\_e\_s as well. But other sources have been woven into the tapestry as well, and serve to make it impossible to categorize as just this or just that.

If you're looking for a book to stir your sense of wonder, D\_e\_s\_o\_l\_a\_t\_i\_o\_n R\_o\_a\_d may be just what you need to rediscover the magic in everyday life.

THE RAG DOLL PLAGUES by Alejandro Morales  
Arte Publico Press, ISBN 1-55885-036-8, 1992, \$17.95.  
A book review by Evelyn C. Leeper  
Copyright 1993 Evelyn C. Leeper

This novel opens in Mexico City in 1788. There is a strange plague that is killing thousands and Don Gregorio is sent from Spain to try to fight the disease. But all Gregorio can do is postpone the inevitable by amputating affected limbs. The novel then jumps to Los Angeles in the late 1970s where another disfiguring blood plague is beginning. Unlike the first plague, which is fictional (there was no plague in Mexico City in 1788), this one is real. But again, the Gregory of this story is unable to do anything but console the dying. Finally, in the mid-20th Century, a third plague arrives, but the Gregory of this time is finally able to solve the riddle of this plague and of the ones that came before it, though not entirely to everyone's satisfaction.

As three separate novellas (or perhaps even novelettes), these stories are interesting character studies, but as a novel it does not really hold together. For one thing, the plague of the second part is not apparently related to the plagues of the other two parts, and this makes that section seem like an awkward interruption between the other two, which \_ a \_ r \_ e related. For another, the medical details are often questionable--a female hemophiliac is extremely unlikely, for example. I wish I could recommend this book, but I can't.

