



Legends II: New Short Novels by the Masters of Modern Fantasy

By George R. R. Martin, Diana Gabaldon, Terry Brooks, Anne McCaffrey

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Fantasy fans, rejoice! Seven years after writer and editor Robert Silverberg made publishing history with *Legends*, his acclaimed anthology of original short novels by some of the greatest writers in fantasy fiction, the long-awaited second volume is here. *Legends II* picks up where its illustrious predecessor left off. All of the bestselling writers represented in *Legends II* return to the special universe of the imagination that its author has made famous throughout the world. Whether set before or after events already recounted elsewhere, whether featuring beloved characters or compelling new creations, these masterful short novels are both mesmerizing stand-alones—perfect introductions to the work of their authors—and indispensable additions to the epics on which they are based. Beyond any doubt, *Legends II* is the fantasy event of the season.

ROBIN HOBB returns to the Realm of the Elderlings with “Homecoming,” a powerful tale in which exiles sent to colonize the Cursed Shores find themselves sinking into an intoxicating but deadly dream . . . or is it a memory?

GEORGE R. R. MARTIN continues the adventures of Dunk, a young hedge knight, and his unusual squire, Egg, in “The Sworn Sword,” set a generation before the events in *A Song of Ice and Fire*.

ORSON SCOTT CARD tells a tale of Alvin Maker and the mighty Mississippi, featuring a couple of ne’er-do-wells named Jim Bowie and Abe Lincoln, in “The Yazoo Queen.”

DIANE GABALDON turns to an important character from her *Outlander* saga—Lord John Grey—in “Lord John and the Succubus,” a supernatural thriller set in the early days of the Seven Years War.

ROBERT SILVERBERG spins an enthralling tale of Majipoor’s early history—and remote future—as seen through the eyes of a dilettantish poet who discovers an unexpected destiny in “The Book of Changes.”

TAD WILLIAMS explores the strange afterlife of Orlando Gardiner, from his *Otherland* saga, in “The Happiest Dead Boy in the World.”

ANNE McCAFFREY shines a light into the most mysterious and wondrous of all places on Pern in the heartwarming “Beyond Between.”

RAYMOND E. FEIST turns from the great battles of the Riftwar to the story of

one soldier, a young man about to embark on the ride of his life, in “The Messenger.”

ELIZABETH HAYDON tells of the destruction of Serendair and the fate of its last defenders in “Threshold,” set at the end of the Third Age of her Symphony of Ages series.

NEIL GAIMAN gives us a glimpse into what befalls the man called Shadow after the events of his Hugo Award–winning novel *American Gods* in “The Monarch of the Glen.”

TERRY BROOKS adds an exciting epilogue to *The Wishsong of Shannara* in “Indomitable,” the tale of Jair Ohmsford’s desperate quest to complete the destruction of the evil Ildatch . . . armed only with the magic of illusion.

From the Hardcover edition.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Brimming with action and energy, wit and charm, pathos and joy, Silverberg's anthology of short novels from 11 masters of fantasy, six of whom contributed to the original *Legends* (1998), provides a dazzling display of the genre's variety and versatility. Otherland fans will welcome Tad Williams's *The Happiest Dead Boy in the World* as a chance to visit with an old friend they never thought to see again. George R.R. Martin's *The Sworn Sword*, which continues the story of Dunk and Egg that he began in the first *Legends*, will also please his readers. All the returning authors more than live up to their reputations, except for Anne McCaffrey, whose *Beyond Between*, an ill-conceived explanation of what happens when a dragon fails to return from between, strikes the book's lone sour note. Yet for all the returnees' star power, it's the new authors who truly shine here. Elizabeth Haydon's entry, *Threshold*, follows five doomed friends left to guard the remnants of a civilization about to be destroyed in a cataclysm after most of the populace has already fled to a safe haven: a stunning tale of courage and honor, duty and friendship, it may be the book's best entry. Robin Hobb's *Homecoming*, the story of the settlement of the Rain Wild River and one woman's journey to independence, is the other contender. Terry Brooks, Diana Gabaldon, Raymond E. Feist, Orson Scott Card, Neil Gaiman and Silverberg round out the all-star cast.

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From [Booklist](#)

Many contributors to *Legends* (1998), Silverberg's first collection of short(er) stories set in the worlds of their authors' successful fantasy series, return in the follow-up. Anne McCaffrey offers a freestanding tale of Pern; Raymond E. Feist, a tale from the middle of his Riftwar saga; George R. R. Martin, a direct successor to his *Legends* contribution about a squire on the way to knighthood and his peculiar boy sidekick; editor Silverberg, another Majipoor story; and Orson Scott Card, a yarn in which Alvin Maker meets some of the Alamo's destined defenders. Splash first timers include romantic historical fantasist Diana Gabaldon, of *Outlander* fame, with an episode in her Lord John Grey series; Neil Gaiman, with a story starring Shadow, hero of his award-winning *American Gods* (2001) and named after Sir Edwin Landseer's famous painting *Monarch of the Glen*; and Robin Hobb, whose creepy, *Liveship Traders*-related "Homecoming" (think H. P. Lovecraft rewriting *The Swiss Family Robinson*) opens this book and sets the bar of quality extremely high for what follows. *Ray Olson*

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Review

"A stellar compilation."

—*Booklist*

"There's enough color, vitality and bravura displays of mythmaking in this rich sampler . . . to sate faithful fans and nurture new readers on the stuff of legends still being created."

—*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

"A book that a fantasy reader would be proud to own."

—*USA Today*

"A superb Baedeker to the fantasy worlds of 11 of the field's finest writers." —*Dallas Morning News*

“An enjoyable sampler of the best high fantasy available today.”

—*San Francisco Examiner & Chronicle*

From the Hardcover edition.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Teresa Sullivan:

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Lillian Robbins:

The particular book Legends II: New Short Novels by the Masters of Modern Fantasy has a lot of knowledge on it. So when you check out this book you can get a lot of gain. The book was compiled by the very famous author. Tom makes some research previous to write this book. This kind of book very easy to read you can obtain the point easily after looking over this book.

William Stone:

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