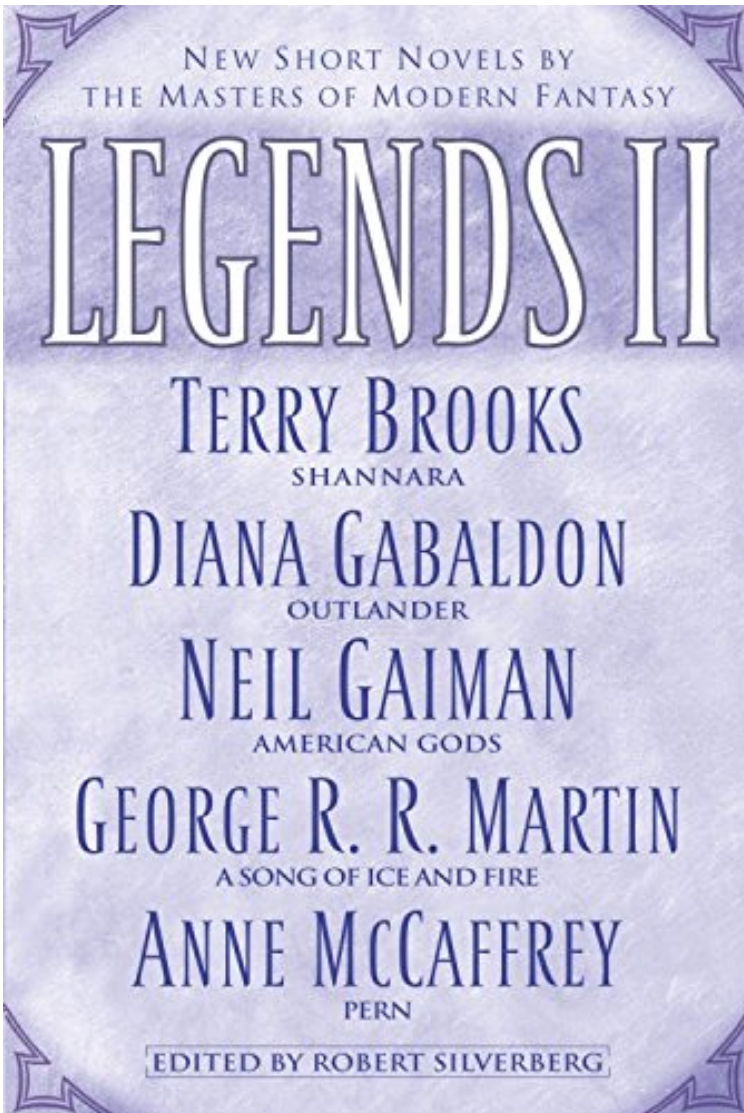


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Legends II: New Short Novels by the Masters of Modern Fantasy



*Par George R. R. Martin, Diana Gabaldon, Terry Brooks, Anne McCaffrey
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Par George R. R. Martin, Diana Gabaldon, Terry Brooks, Anne McCaffrey : Legends II: New Short Novels by the Masters of Modern Fantasy before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Legends II: New Short Novels by the Masters of Modern Fantasy:

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Description :

Prsentation de l'diteurFantasy 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-alonesperfect 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 neer-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. **EXTRACT I N T R O D U C T I O N**

The first *Legends* anthology, which was published in 1998, contained eleven never-before-published short novels by eleven best-selling fantasy writers, each story set in the special universe of the imagination that its author had made famous throughout the world. It was intended as the definitive anthology of modern fantasy, and judging by the reception the book received from readers worldwide it succeeded at that. And now comes *Legends II*. If the first book was definitive, why do another one? The short answer is that fantasy is inexhaustible. There are always new stories to tell, new writers to tell them; and no theme, no matter how hoary, can ever be depleted. As I said in the introduction to the first volume, fantasy is the oldest branch of imaginative literature as old as the human imagination itself. It is not difficult to believe that the same artistic impulse that produced the extraordinary cave paintings of Lascaux and Altamira and Chauvet, fifteen and twenty and even thirty thousand years ago, also probably produced astounding tales of gods and demons, of talismans and spells, of dragons and werewolves, of wondrous lands beyond the horizontals that fur-clad shamans recited to fascinated audiences around the campfires of Ice Age Europe. So, too, in torrid Africa, in the China of prehistory, in ancient India, in the Americas: everywhere, in fact, on and on back through time for thousands or even hundreds of thousands of years. I like to think that the storytelling impulse is universal that there have been storytellers as long as there have been beings in this world that could be spoken of as human and that those storytellers have in particular devoted their skills and energies and talents, throughout our long evolutionary path, to the creation of extraordinary marvels and wonders. The Sumerian epic of *Gilgamesh* is a tale of fantasy; so, too, is *Homer's Odyssey*, and on and on up through such modern fantasists as E. R. Eddison, A. Merritt, H. P. Lovecraft, and J. R. R. Tolkien, and all the great science-fiction writers from Verne and Wells to our own time. (I include science fiction because science fiction, as I see it, belongs firmly in the fantasy category: It is a specialized branch of fantasy, a technology-oriented kind of visionary literature in which the imagination is given free play for the sake of making the scientifically impossible, or at least the implausible, seem altogether probable.) Many of the contributors to the first *Legends* were eager to return to their special worlds of fantasy for a second round. Several of them raised the subject of a new anthology so often that finally I began to agree with them that a second book would be a good idea. And here it is. Six writers—Orson Scott Card, George R. R. Martin, Raymond E. Feist, Anne McCaffrey, Tad Williams, and myself—have returned from the first one. Joining them are four others—Robin Hobb, Elizabeth Haydon, Diana Gabaldon, and Neil Gaiman—who have risen to great fame among fantasy enthusiasts since the first anthology was published, and one grand veteran of fantasy, Terry Brooks, who had found himself unable at the last minute to participate in the first volume of *Legends* but who joins us for this one. My thanks are due once again to my wife, Karen, and to my literary agent, Ralph Vicinanza, both of whom aided me in all sorts of ways in the preparation of this book, and, of course, to all the authors who came through with such splendid stories. I acknowledge also a debt of special gratitude to Betsy Mitchell of Del Rey Books, whose sagacious

advice and unfailing good cheer were essential to the project. Without her help this book most literally would not have come into being. Robert Silverberg February 2003 From the Hardcover edition. Revue de presse 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.