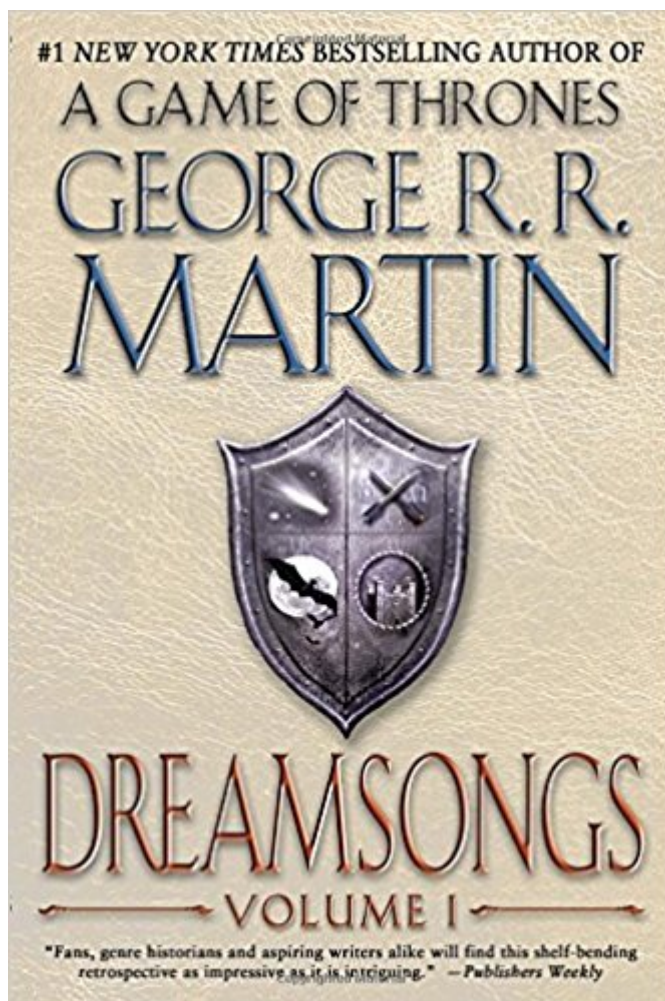


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Dreamsongs: Volume I



Synopsis

Even before *A Game of Thrones*, George R. R. Martin had already established himself as a giant in the field of fantasy literature. The first of two stunning collections, *Dreamsongs: Volume I* is a rare treat for readers, offering fascinating insight into his journey from young writer to award-winning master. Gathered here in *Dreamsongs: Volume I* are the very best of George R. R. Martin's early works, including his Hugo, Nebula, and Bram Stoker award-winning stories, cool fan pieces, and the original novella *The Ice Dragon*, from which Martin's New York Times bestselling children's book of the same title originated. A dazzling array of subjects and styles that features extensive author commentary, *Dreamsongs, Volume I* is the perfect collection for both Martin devotees and a new generation of fans. Fans, genre historians and aspiring writers alike will find this shelf-bending retrospective as impressive as it is intriguing.

"Publishers Weekly" *Dreamsongs* is the ideal way to discover . . . a master of science fiction, fantasy and horror. . . . Martin is a writer like no other.

"The Guardian (U.K.)" **PRAISE FOR GEORGE R. R. MARTIN**

"Of those who work in the grand epic-fantasy tradition, Martin is by far the best. In fact . . . this is as good a time as any to proclaim him the American Tolkien."

"Time" *Long live George Martin . . . a literary dervish, enthralled by complicated characters and vivid language, and bursting with the wild vision of the very best tale tellers.*

"The New York Times" *I always expect the best from George R. R. Martin, and he always delivers.*

"Robert Jordan

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Customer Reviews

Martin may be best known for his *Song of Ice and Fire* epic fantasy, but this mammoth collection of

short stories (the first of two volumes) highlights his work in numerous genres, including SF, horror and fantasy. Focusing on Martin's early output, volume one features *The Second Kind of Loneliness*, originally published in 1972, which chronicles a man's insanity-inducing introspection millions of miles from Earth; the 1975 Hugo Award-winning *A Song for Lya*; *The Pear-Shaped Man*, a disturbing horror masterpiece about a creepy apartment neighbor; and more obscure works like a 1967 fanzine story starring the Astral Avenger and an unconventional college term paper about the Russo-Swedish War of 1808. An insightful introduction by Gardner Dozois, illustrations by Michael Kaluta and extensive "and candid" author commentary make this much more than just a compilation of stories. Fans, genre historians and aspiring writers alike will find this shelf-bending retrospective as impressive as it is intriguing. (Nov.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Praise for George R. R. Martin and His Body of Work *A Song of Ice and Fire* Series "Of those who work in the grand epic-fantasy tradition, Martin is by far the best. In fact...this is as good a time as any to proclaim him the American Tolkien." --"Time" "George R. R. Martin has created the unlikely genre of the realpolitik fantasy novel. Complete with warring kings, noble heroes and backroom dealings, it's addictive reading and reflects our current world a lot better than *The Lord of the Rings*," --"Rolling Stone" "Mainstream readers...have a great treat ahead of them in Martin....Emotionally complex, masterfully written." --"Newsday" "I always expect the best from George R. R. Martin, and he always delivers." --Robert Jordan --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Every great writer starts somewhere, but there are few who display their first fruits in a compendium for all to read. George R R Martin, author of the soon to be legendary *A Song of Ice and Fire* series, is one of those few. *Dreamsongs*, broken into two volumes and those volumes themselves split into several sections, shows the rough and the rougher in the initial part and later the luster when time and experience serves to smooth. The first section *A Four-Color Fanboy* holds Martin's dullest stones, but even there, the spark of brilliance dwells. By *The Filthy Pro* I was immersed, and the author also gives a foreword on each section. His own admission on the first part's status prompted me to speak of it without impunity for Martin himself recognizes it as his more amateur work paving the epic way. My favorite stories in the collection were *The Second Kind of Loneliness*, *The Lonely Songs of Laren Dorr*, *The Ice Dragon* (which takes place in a similar world to *ASOIAF*, nor would I be surprised if a dragon of ice did manifest there), and *Nightflyers*, which was apparently made into

a B horror movie, more the pity, since the story deserves far better. All in all, it was an excellent volume revealing the earlier offerings and showing the upward progression of Martin's work.

A series of short stories from George R. R. Martin from his years of writing prior to the A Song of Ice and Fire series. These are mostly science fiction and horror with a smattering of fantasy. Some stories are rather frightening or disturbing; others are fascinating, endearing, wondrous, rich with metaphor, convoluted, mysterious, or just about anything else you could expect from speculative fiction. A reader of ASoIaF or a watcher of Game of Thrones, could easily find many hints, bits, and snippets that were later used in that series, from names and political structures to symbolism and personalities. These stories are, however, definitely worth reading in their own right. Contains themes of incest, death, violence, suicide, sexuality, religion, and politics.

George R R Martin is riding the crest of a wave right now. A Song of Ice and Fire is one of the most successful works of written fantasy in the English language today. However, his earlier works are also worth reading. Dreamsongs is a collection of his short stories, written early in his career. A Song of Ice and Fire have spawned an industry of theorists, pundits, and reviewers on YouTube. These commentators attempt to predict the future of the plot. Some of the most thorough and more dedicated fans and reviewers have taken the time to read some of Martin's early works to see if they can glean the future through them. For that alone, it is worth your time to read "Dreamsongs Vol 1". Martin was more open about his personal life. In this collection of short stories, Martin will, from time to time, write about his personal life. If you are interested in the author, you simply must have this book. I would not say the short stories within will tell you how "A Song of Ice and Fire" will end. Martin will want to surprise his readers. Highly recommended.

A nice collection of short stories spanning Martin's early career, it's all here: monsters, demons, ghosts, other worlds, other dimensions, fantasy, horror and lots of Sci-Fi. The collection shows his progress as a writer, my favorites were the last four, but many others had enjoyable moments.

I did not care for the way the book was written. I really like fantasy and that's what I expected. I was not a fan of Mr. Martin's. Narratives about his life. I had to wade through those to get to the next story, some of which weren't half bad, but I would not recommend it to my friends that enjoy fantasies.

It's not a bad collection of stories by this fantastic author. It's pretty much a lot of one off short stories, A few TV scripts thrown in too. Not a bad read but certainly not among his best works either. There are a few good stories in there (A Song For Lya, Ice Dragon) but most are sort of so-so.

I love Martin's writing style and how he could develop a story in such a short amount of time. I was not a fan of the comic mag short stories in the first section or 2 but LOVED all the stories after that. they syfy, horror, fantasy, was all great! I think he went in too much depth in his narratives but they were informative on his train of thought or the vague mention of the life experiences that drove the stories. Other than that all the names and dates and how many times the stories got sent back or lost was a little much. but the short stories were great.

This is a must have. A+A+A+A+A+A+A+

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