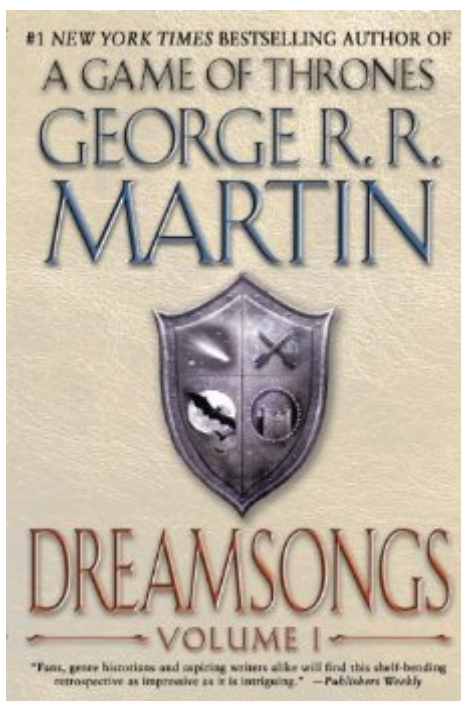


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Dreamsongs: Volume I



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

Two things before I start the review: I am a big fan of Mr. Martin's 'Song of Ice & Fire' saga (like many fans, I'm eagerly awaiting the release of 'A Dance With Dragons'). The second point is that I have never been a fan of short stories. Well, up until now. When I first heard about the release of *Dreamsongs*, I wasn't too thrilled. I knew Martin as a brilliant epic storyteller, but I was not sure whether his talents in creating complex, deep characters, exciting storylines, and magnificent settings could fit into the small world of short stories. Suffice to say that my worries about *Dreamsongs* almost kept me from being exposed to some of the best stories that I have read. *Dreamsongs* is a collection of short stories written by Martin throughout his career as a writer. These tales cover a spectrum of genres including fantasy, science fiction, and even horror. I would like to emphasize one point: Every signature element that brought Martin to the pinnacle of fame that he has today is present in this collection of his earlier works. Stories: Original, deep, and engaging are the words that come to mind when describing the tales in *Dreamsongs*. What I found surprising was how personal some of these stories were. From the fight for honor and country in 'The Fortress' to the very depths of human needs and emotions in the touching 'A Song for Lya'; From socio-political issues in 'And Death His Legacy' to war and propaganda in 'The Hero', I was hooked and pulled into the story every time. The tone of these tales can be commonly described as dark.

This review is of the Audible version of volume 1 of George R.R. Martin's *Dreamsongs*. I want to make that clear, because in this case the version severely impacts my review. I bought this as a Whispersync-for-Voice upgrade option. I did see that it was listed as "Unabridged Selections," nevertheless, I was still extremely disappointed when, only 3/5 through the book, the audio ends. What?? This can't be right! Oh yes, yes it is. Rather than recording selections throughout the entire book, they decided to record only the first 3 sections. Why? I have no idea. This choice was especially upsetting, since I paid what to me is a premium for this book - twice as expensive than the longer, unabridged recorded versions of *The Outlander* series, for instance. And of course this price is on top of the cost of the ebook version. The choice to stop 3/5 of the way through means, for

instance, that the trumpeted "Sandkings" story is NOT amongst those that are recorded. For those of us who do have eyes that work, and who purchased the book version as well, then yes, it's possible to read the story that way. But if you purchased the audiobook because you absolutely cannot read with your eyes, then you are going to be VERY disappointed. What's actually presented in the recording, however, is excellent. The readers are all good, including Martin himself. The production values are good. And of course the stories are by and large excellent. My favorite of the ones that are recorded is Song for Lya, though there are many good ones. For me, as a person preferring fantasy over SF, the choice to truncate the book where they did meant that the stories I am MOST likely to enjoy are left out. But even so, the largely SF selections at the beginning were fascinating and satisfying.

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