



Songs of the Dying Earth: Stories in Honor of Jack Vance

By Glen Cook, Gardner Dozois (editor), Neil Gaiman, Tanith Lee, George R. R. Martin (editor and author), Paula Volsky

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- Sales Rank: #57078 in Audible
- Published on: 2009-11-24
- Format: Unabridged
- Original language: English
- Running time: 1738 minutes

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Amazon Best Books of the Month, December 2010: Sixty years ago, in *The Dying Earth*, Jack Vance introduced his own version of the distant future, where the sun has become a red giant, powerful wizards fight over the scraps of ruined civilizations, and a handful of colorful and eccentric characters insist on having a few adventures before oblivion descends. In *Songs of the Dying Earth*, 22 sci-fi and fantasy writers, from newcomers like Liz Williams and Byron Tetrick to established names like Neil Gaiman and George R.R. Martin, each offer their own snippets of Vance's Dying Earth. In one story, an apprentice architect stumbles into a duel between two powerful mages, for example, while in another a poet-philosopher tries (and fails) to forget the coming apocalypse in a drunken haze. Some stories capture Vance's style and inventiveness, while others recreate his perfect combination of black humor and creeping dread. *Songs of the Dying Earth* is both a respectful homage to a sci-fi master and a whirlwind tour of a world that readers will want to revisit. --Darryl Campbell

From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. This stellar anthology features 22 original stories set in the far future of Grand Master Jack Vance's 1950 classic *The Dying Earth*, wherein sorcerers, rogues and demons squabble for power beneath the waning light of a bloated red sun. Some of the field's most talented writers successfully adopt Vance's convoluted style, ironic dialogue and amoral protagonists, as in Dan Simmons's epic novella The Guiding Nose of Ulfänt Banderoz, which relates the desperate quest of Shrue the diabolist to find a dead wizard's Ultimate Library, and Liz Williams's excellent Caulk the Witch-chaser, concerning a minor wizard forced to ally himself with his quarry. Exquisitely illustrated by Tom Kidd, these are tales to savor and a fitting tribute to one of the field's finest authors. (Oct.)

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From [Booklist](#)

When well-known writers vie to create short stories to honor a fellow writer, great things can be expected. Without exception, each of the stories included here would stand on its own, but when taken together, the collection is astounding. All are set in a world that Jack Vance created 50 years ago, a world whose sun is dying and, therefore, whose end is near. These are not apocalyptic tales of the horrific end but rather stories of the lives of those who live knowing that their sun is going to destroy their world. This anthology will appeal to both fans of Vance and to those who may never have heard of him. These fantasy adventures are compelling in their own right, and for those who haven't read their inspiration, they may send them in search of that book, Vance's *The Dying Earth* (1950). --Rebecca Gerber

Users Review

From reader reviews:

John Townsend:

This Songs of the Dying Earth: Stories in Honor of Jack Vance book is absolutely not ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you will get by reading this book is information inside this publication incredible fresh, you will get data which is getting deeper you read a lot of

information you will get. This specific Songs of the Dying Earth: Stories in Honor of Jack Vance without we know teach the one who reading through it become critical in considering and analyzing. Don't become worry Songs of the Dying Earth: Stories in Honor of Jack Vance can bring once you are and not make your handbag space or bookshelves' turn out to be full because you can have it in your lovely laptop even telephone. This Songs of the Dying Earth: Stories in Honor of Jack Vance having fine arrangement in word in addition to layout, so you will not really feel uninterested in reading.

Mary Lee:

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