



Legends from the End of Time

Michael Moorcock , Tom Canty (Illustrator)

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Legends from the End of Time Details

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From Reader Review Legends from the End of Time for online ebook

Nathan says

This is a book that I loved, and yet can't ever recommend to anyone as it would entail saying, "Here, this book is great, but before you can understand it you need to read this trilogy of mid-to-mediocre novels." The world of the novel is one where all the characters have techno-rings that can change any and all matter based off the wielders' thoughts, making them effectively gods. Part of the problem with the Dancers at the End of Time trilogy is that all the interesting characters – such as Mistress Christia, the Everlasting Concubine (Who lives to have sex with everyone and has a dozen breasts), Lord Mongrove (A sad hulking giant that lives only to be as miserable as possible and his home is a brooding castle in a storm ravaged land), Lady Charlolina (Lives under lake Billy the Kid, and has rainbow colored skin), Bishop Castle (Obsessed with religion and wears a Pope-hat ten feet tall), Duke of Queens (Makes the most outrageous animal creations, puts wings on everything) – are relegated to the background as they watch the main character travel through time to find true love. So we have this extraordinary world, that is set aside for the most ordinary of stories.

Legends from the End of Time rights this by telling a series of short stories about the characters of this far flung future of the 43rd (I think. Can't find the actual date) century. They get a chance to strut their stuff and explore what people would do given unlimited power, unlimited decadence, and want for nothing. The twist in Werther de Goethe's story left me stunned and disturbed with its brilliant setup.

Sikkdays says

I gave this book 3 stars because it lived up to the free book bin standards that I rescued it from. The cover art & title were ridiculous my 70s and the stories within even stranger. So much of the "future" in this book is an exercise in surreal boredom. I can't tell if the author is trying too hard or not at all. Yet, I was entertained and continued to finish each of the tales. I don't know that I am curious enough to pick up another Moorcock however.

Nikola Pavlovic says

Jako jako zanimljiva knjiga.

Ideja i Murkokov stil pisanja su nesvakidasnji.

Pored dobre zabave koju nosi ovo slobodno bih mogao da kazem naucno/epsko, mada po meni vise epsko fantasticko delo, knjiga je i veoma poucna i naterace vas da se malo preispitate kakav to zivot vodite i u kom smeru on ide. Dekadencija, aja dodajem i patetika, najveći su neprijatelji coveka i ljudskoga roda u celini.

Nicolas says

Sadly the only worthy novella of this pack is the third one, too bad, Moorcock could have written so much better stories about the end of times...

Shannon Appelcline says

"Pale Roses". A short, shallow story about sin. It almost wins me over with its ending, but before that it never manages to strike enough of a spark to make me sit up and notice [5+/10].

"White Stars". An OK story that repeats some of the main themes of the End of Time, but doesn't have a lot of depth beyond that [5/10].

"Ancient Shadows" The best story in the book, perhaps because it's got more time to breathe, and perhaps because its tragedy is more vibrant and believable. [7/10]

Overall, the three Legends are no Dancers at the End of Time, in part because it feels like the stories lose a lot of their comedy, and in part because they don't have the same depth. Still, they're a nice coda to the series.

Tamcamry says

After the last two books that I've read, it was pretty much impossible for this book to be worse. It was ok. Most of the stories in it were a little predictable. It was also more of a companion story to his first End of Time story. I was surprised that he brought back the Fireclown character. From what I've read, no liked the stories involving him. He also set up the character of Miss Mavis Ming to be very annoying. That was his intention with her. The problem is that he did the job a little too well. I hated reading about her. I did think that the Elric story was fantastic and very funny. I think that the reactions Elric had to the End of Time were exactly realistic. In the general timeline of the Eternal Champion, this story really had no effect. I do hope to be able to read the last two books in the series, but if I don't get to, this was a nice little ending.

Randolph says

One of the weaker offerings in the White Wolf omnibus of the Eternal Champion. Dafnish Armature, the Fire Clown Emmanuel Bloom, and even ol' Elric are here to join in on the festivities. The Elric offering is the weakest almost seeming like it might have been written on a dare. The other stories feature most of those whacky denizens of the End of Time interacting with a cast of characters thrown in mostly through time travel. Moorcock makes his heavy handed points about existentialism, nihilism, religion and the like in the usual farcical EoT fashion but leaves a little room for us to see even these lunatics as human as well.

I'm not a very big fan of real over the top humor in sf or fantasy, seeming to be the only person who doesn't find Hitchhiker's Guide funny, so these already were running in the mud before I started them. They are also decidedly weaker than the Dancers at the End of Time volume. And we get no Jherick Carnelian to boot.

This volume seems almost tacked on just to get these leftover EoT Eternal Champion stories into the series somehow. There is a feeble and quite unnecessary attempt to connect the stories with a background narrator's voice. Still the stories are never dull, just forgettable in the overall Eternal Champion Saga.

Squire says

More shenanigans from those wacky EoT residents.

Steven R. says

I honestly think Moorcock's "End of Time" is equal to a book like Dune in its scope and vision.

Charles Dee Mitchell says

They're back! Those wacky hedonists Moorcock first wrote about in the trilogy *Dancers at the End of Time*. Those novels were published between 1972 and 1976. *Legends* has had various incarnations. The 1976 Daw paperback I read contains three stories, but later editions have additional material.

Moorcock's end of time is P.G. Wodehouse crossed with Douglas Adams and something more sinister that he himself brings to the mix. I am not sure how much sense any of what happens in the stories would make to some one not familiar with the novels. Moorcock tosses in some background material by way of explanation, but the reader is pretty much expected to already understand the situation Earth is in these millions of years in the future. The population, as far as we can tell, has been reduced to a handful of humans who can alter the landscape as easily as they can change their hair color. They have adopted high-sounding names of dukes and lords and ladies and live a life dedicated to entertainments put on for one another. They are bored, thoughtlessly cruel, supremely self-satisfied. They have their internal disputes, some desultory love affairs, and just go on. Even death, if dealt with quickly enough, is merely a temporary inconvenience. The planet is dead and on life support from machines that still function in the ancient cities, machines that can suck the energy from entire star systems. This leaves the night sky, when they choose to make it visible, barely dusted with stars.

Time travelers and the occasional alien provide much of their entertainment. Those who don't mix in well get put in menageries. Going home is not an option because of something called the Morphail Effect. It seems the past doesn't want you back and is likely to reject you like a transplanted organ. In one story a squadron of soldiers fighting Earth's war against Alpha Centauri find themselves among this fun-loving batch. Their resolve to keep in training for a war that has ended, in our favor, thousands of years in the past, is slowly eroded by the pleasures on hand. In the longest story, Daphins Armatuce, from the 24th century, arrives with her son, a sixty-year-old known as Snuffles. She comes from a time that has only recently survived a near extinction event, and she lives by a spartan, secular, puritanism. She is outraged by the self-indulgence she witnesses, but can young Snuffles resist the temptations. After all, he is nearing his manhood.

These three stories are entertaining but probably for End-of-Time completists only.

Peter says

Well there's not much to say other than another delight. If you enjoy old Bogart movies than this book is priceless for one of the most amusing wall decor descriptions ever; an event from ancient history, (by their standards), of Sam the one eyed man and his Spade taking on the Malted Falcon. That's only part of it.

A surefire delight.

Audrey Buchman says

Although it wasn't as good as the first three books, I did really enjoy getting more background story of some of the other characters from the end of time.
