



The Road to Dune

Frank Herbert, Brian Herbert, Kevin J. Anderson

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Frank Herbert's *Dune* is widely known as the science fiction equivalent of *The Lord of the Rings*. Now *The Road to Dune* is a companion work comparable to *The Silmarillion*, shedding light on and following the remarkable development of the bestselling science fiction novel of all time.

In this fascinating volume, the world's millions of *Dune* fans can read--at long last--the unpublished chapters and scenes from *Dune* and *Dune Messiah*. *The Road to Dune* also includes some of the original correspondence between Frank Herbert and famed editor John W. Campbell, Jr., along with other correspondence during Herbert's years-long struggle to get his innovative work published, and the article "They Stopped the Moving Sands," Herbert's original inspiration for *Dune*.

The Road to Dune also features newly discovered papers and manuscripts of Frank Herbert, and *Spice Planet*, an original novel by Brian Herbert and Kevin J. Anderson, based on a detailed outline left by Frank Herbert.

The Road to Dune is a treasure trove of essays, articles, and fiction that every reader of *Dune* will want to add to their shelf.

The Road to Dune Details

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From Reader Review The Road to Dune for online ebook

Silvio Curtis says

So Brian Herbert and Kevin J. Anderson found Frank Herbert's early drafts for *Dune* and *Dune Messiah*, including a long and very deviant outline for the original novel. I hoped they would publish them in a format something like Christopher Tolkien's History of Middle-Earth series. They didn't. They rewrote the early *Dune* variant into a complete novel, but one with no value whatsoever - none as part of the *Dune* canon, of course, and also none as insight into how *Dune* developed, because there's no way to recover the actual outline from Herbert Jr. and Anderson's rewriting. The deleted chapters from later but rejected drafts are barely treated any better. At least they aren't rewritten, but Herbert and Anderson don't give any indication of what kind of draft each was part of, let alone what motivated the changes. Then they include some of their own *Dune* short stories, connected with their ginormous prequel project, but not particularly relevant here. The only decently illuminating reading here was a summary of Frank Herbert and his agent's correspondence with prospective publishers and others before and immediately after *Dune* was published, including Herbert's ill-fated proposal for a magazine article on sand dune stabilization that started the whole thing, but that's a paltry few tens of pages out of nearly 500. If Christopher Tolkien's work is like a carefully documented archaeological excavation of his father's writings, this is more like a looter's collection.

Rmando says

Interesting collection of short stories and odds and ends. The Spice World outline adaption gives a lot of insight into the evolution of *Dune*. The back and forth letters between Herbert and his editor was pretty revealing too.

The short stories were enjoyable. They show that Brian Herbert and KJA can be good in small doses but just like their novels they can long winded as well. The only problem with the short stories is that Whipping Mek takes place in between the Butlerian Jihad books. I haven't read those so I didn't have the knowledge to really enjoy it. Maybe I'll come back to it later.

The excerpts that were cut out or revised for *Dune* and *Dune Messiah* weren't bad, but *Road to Dune* doesn't give much context for the excerpts and unless you recently read the books you might have a hard time remembering where they would've fit in.

I would've preferred an unabridged version of *Dune* with all the cut material edited back in, kind of like the unabridged version of Stephen King's *The Stand*.

John Bruni says

If you love *Dune*, this is essential reading. It explains how that novel came to be and all the trials and tribulations Frank Herbert went through to cement his vision. The correspondence is great. The short stories near the end are OK. It was interesting to see what got cut out of *Dune* and *Dune Messiah*. However, the thing I was really interested in was *Spice Planet*. This was the book Herbert originally wanted to write. He outlined it but never did it. His son Brian and Kevin J. Anderson wrote it from that outline, and it's pretty amazing. It's shorter, but it's pulpier. It's a swift punch in the gut. It's interesting to see how similar and yet how different it is to *Dune*. A lot of the political intrigue is gone, but we have just enough to feel the Dune-ness of it all. I didn't like the prequels all that much, but if you're a *Dune* purist (ie. You only count the ones

Frank Herbert wrote), then this is very much up your alley.

T.I.M. James says

Yet another Dune book released by the duo of Brian Herbert and Kevin Anderson, but this one is a lot different from their normal milking of the cash cow.

In many ways this is a fascinating read, presenting discovered material from Frank Herbert himself, allowing an insight, not only into the way that books come together, especially in the pre-digital age, but also in the way that Dune itself came into existence.

The Road to Dune is divided into different parts, first and foremost the science fiction story/novel that was the precursor to Dune, unpublished but where one can clearly see Herbert's imagination percolating as ideas fall into place.

Duneworld is a SF romp, lacking much of the depth of the final novel, but is a fun read all the same. Apparently the manuscript was a rather vague affair and Herbert jr. and Anderson have reconstructed it. In the broadest strokes it tells the Dune story, but many of the names are different, or not quite the same – and then there are those that are the same and it is a warm glow to see that some of them made it through from these early stages.

There are no Fremen (but there are Freemen!), no Bene Gesserit, so consequently no messianic outing, the main character is the Duke not his son and the properties of the spice are still being discovered.

There are notes on Herbert as a journalist trying to get interest in an article based on something he had discovered from a scientific gathering, how sand was being knitted together by one certain type of grass, slowing or stopping erosion in deserts and uh, other sandy areas.

It is obvious that the writer was incredibly intrigued by the idea and it is almost certain this was the genesis of an idea that would evolve into Dune.

The next part of the book contains letters going back and forwards between publishers, both magazine and book, as interest is either shown or not shown in the novel. It is interesting to note that one of the reasons Dune was such a hard sell was the size of it, far too big apparently. 600 pages is probably quite standard for many novels these days, but back then it was excessive and broke the mould.

There are also chapters from the first two Dune novels that were cut. These are interesting reading, and although perhaps irrelevant, give an insight into the way the book was written and edited. Had they been included, particularly those from Dune Messiah, would have given a totally different ending to the novel.

The final part of the book are a selection of short stories, all written by Brian Herbert and Anderson, all set in the Duniverse, and all become hard to come by in their original published format. All the stories are solid and well told, with only one seeming to have no point. Even those that seem a little far-fetched are told well enough, for me they seem to step outside the elements that make Dune, Dune.

It does not stop them from being entertaining and well told tales.

This could be an invaluable guide and insight for anyone wanting to be a writer, showing different aspects of the publishing world, from the genesis of an idea, to the development, to the attempted publishing, unprecedeted success and the continuing process of creation as others continue your work.

In this instance though, it probably helps if you are a fan of the original novel.

Richard says

The Dune that might have been called "Dune Planet" is included which makes this work worth the read. A good read.

Gaelan D'costa says

If you are a Dune nerd, you will enjoy this book.

It gives you

- 1) A first draft of Dune, significantly different from the final product and about 50% smaller in content and themes.
- 2) A set of letters between Herbert, his agent and Joseph Campbell (the science fiction giant) giving some insight into how a story that seemed to have mostly began with an ecological bent turns into this sprawling epic with political and religious and metaphysical implications.
- 3) A set of out-takes from the Dune and Dune Messiah books, the latter outtakes suggesting a very different path than the one we saw.
- 4) A set of short stories written not by Frank Herbert but his son, Brian ... these will form various bridges to the sequels and prequels that Brian Herbert and Kevin J. Anderson have undertaken ... and have left me wanting. I did not read them because I have not really paid attention to post-Frank books.

Frank Herbert's dune universe is of such import to me it's hard to say why you should read this book ... you already know that you will, or you won't.

It is a really interesting thing to read the short draft, to see the basic form of Dune that is so etched into my mind start off as this relatively mundane tale of ecology and economy, where the spice is not yet imbued with its mystical essence, where the Fremen have not of the deep Islam-steeped culture they would eventually get, or to see a Lady Jessica spelled out the way she reads in my heart but is, in the actual Dune universe, written far more obtusely (as generally everyone in the book is ... it's incredibly odd reading a draft that is brisk and with characters who don't feel opaque and mysterious)

Chris says

This was a very entertaining collection of deleted scenes, short stories, and letters about the novel Dune and its sequels. It's definitely one for the Dune enthusiast and probably won't be much use to the casual fan.

"Spice Planet" takes up most of the first half of the book. The cover advertises this as a "new" novel by Brian

Herbert & Kevin J. Anderson. In reality, it is a short novel length work that they put together based on an outline by Frank Herbert. This outline was a very early draft of what would eventually become Dune. Dubbed "the alternate Dune" novel, this is really an early vision of what might have been. The story itself is much different than what Frank Herbert eventually published, though there are many recognizable plot points and characters that are kept in the final product. This story on its own was a fun read. The writing is bad in places and quite adolescent in many spots. It seems to lack any kind of editing, which surprised me since Kevin J. Anderson is also a professional editor as well as author. It read like a rough draft. But that being said, the story was very engaging. The characters had cheesy dialogue, but were otherwise well detailed. Perhaps the parallels to Dune helped make them likable, but "Spice Planet" on its own is an entertaining story. But let's all be thankful that Frank Herbert kept expanding on his ideas and polished them up to produce the true masterpiece that Dune was.

The letters of Frank Herbert and those sent to him about the Dune publishing experience were interesting. It was cool to see the path that the novel took before being accepted and finally published. And you know some of those publishers that rejected the manuscript have to be beating their heads on the wall to this day.

The deleted scenes. Well, I compare this section to the typical part of a DVD that has extras. The scenes that were cut from Dune were interesting to read, but there really wasn't anything awe inspiring. In short, they were cool to read but the original novel didn't lose anything by having them cut. I won't say the same about the scenes from Dune Messiah, though. The last two "alternate ending" chapters included here were very interesting, beautifully written, and quite surprising. I think the original Dune Messiah ending was just fine as it was, but these two scenes show how it could have ended. They would have been a good way to end the novel as well, except that they would have screwed up the next novel, Children of Dune.

The short stories. Now, these were fun to read. The first one, "A Whisper of Caladan Seas" tells the story of a troop of Atreides fighters in the Harkonnen attack in Dune. It's sad and poignant, while giving an air of mystery and intrigue. The writing is a little jagged, which is understandable as it is the first collaboration work between Brian and Kevin.

The other three short stories deal with the Butlerian Jihad era, occurring some 10,000 years before Dune. These focus on the war between the "thinking machines" and the oppressed humans. I feel sure that Herbert's original ideas for this era were a big influence on later works by movie producers such as Battlestar Galactica, The Terminator and The Matrix. These three stories serve as an appetizing introduction to the Legends of Dune series written by Brian & Kevin. As entertaining as they were, I've pushed those books up on my TBR. Great stuff! These stories probably pushed The Road to Dune up to a 4-star rating for me, from the 3-star I was thinking it would get until I read those.

My only complaint about this book: the paperback edition was released about a year later and it included a new short story left out of the hardcover edition: "Sea Child". Those that buy the more expensive hardcovers should not get less than those that wait a year and buy the cheaper edition. The only way I can get that story now is to buy the paperback. I don't want to spend that kind of money on a single short story, and I don't want to give up my copy when I have the entire Dune library in hardcover. They did this again with the release of their next book, Hunters of Dune. They should at least make those stories available for free as ebooks or something to those that bought the hardcovers.

Suzanne says

A decade after the death of Frank Herbert, his son Brian and Brian's co-writer Kevin J. Anderson, stumbled upon a safe deposit box containing a cache of the author's unpublished manuscripts, *Dune* chapters and letters. Brian Herbert relates their excitement, not just from the standpoint that they were preparing to continue writing about Herbert's Dune Universe, but also from the standpoint of a fan of the series. They compiled these newly found writings, and published them in *The Road to Dune*.

When I started reading this book, I completely understood their excitement. The first piece is a novella called *Spice Planet*, which *Dune* was actually based on. Some of the names were changed: Leto Atreides was known as Jesse Linkam; his concubine Jessica was known as Dorothy Mapes; and Paul went by the name Barri. But the story was terrific, and despite the name changes, any *Dune* fan would immediately slip into the comfort of familiar characters and places.

I also enjoyed reading some of the missing chapters (although they might have been better added to subsequent publications of their respective books) and the letters responding to Frank Herbert's original publication of *Dune*. This is definitely a must-read for any *Dune* fan.

Cat says

Loved reading the deleted scenes from Herbert's original trilogy. If you are a Dune fan this is a great window into Frank Herbert and how the original book got published.

William Sayers says

If you've read all the Dune books and want a fix, then here it is. Just don't expect another Dune book! Contains a version Dune before Herbert re-wrote it. Interesting but not as good.

Rafal Jasinski says

Je?li wierzy? dwóm panom, K.J. Andersonowi i B. Herbertowi, i w oparciu o ilo?? zb?dnego materia?u, jaki uda?o im si? wyprodukowa? na bazie "domniemanych", cz?sto "cudem odnalezionych", zapisów Franka Herberta, to mo?na uzna?, ?e twórca "Diuny" by? jedynym swego rodzaju pisarzem, który odniós?szystki ogromny sukces na polu literatury science-fiction, pisa? by? wi?cej "do szuflady" ni? z my?l? o publikacji.

Przyjmuj?c w dobrej wierze, o?wiadczenia nieclubnych spadkobierców znakomitego pisarza o tym, z jakim zaanga?owaniem kompletowali szkice, konsepty i porzucone przez twórc? "Diuny" skrawki wydanych i niewydanych cz?ci monumentalnej sagi, si?gn??em swego czasu po "Legendy Diuny". Z trudem zachowawszy zdrowe zmys?y i w poczuciu wielkiego niesmaku, dane mi by?o zdzier?y? dwa pierwsze tomy grafoma?skiego popisu, bodaj?e najbardziej obrazoburczego duetu autorskiego w historii literatury science-fiction.

To by?o z?e! Okropne! U?ywaj?c analogii - twórczo?? K.J. Andersona i B. Herberta by?a dla oryginalnej "Diuny" tym, czym dla "Gwiezdnych Wojen" by?a trylogia prequel. A mo?e czym? du?o, du?o gorszym?... Nie zwa?aj?c na krytyk? i fal? oburzenia licznej rzeszy fanów, ale maj?c za motto stare powiedzenie, ?e "pieni?dz nie ?mierdzi", Anderson & Herbert Junior, pope?nili jeszcze kilka "gwa?tów" na oryginale,

dopisuj?c prequele, midquele, sequele (w których, komiksowym zwyczajem, wskrzesili i ogo?ocili z resztek honoru, postaci ukochane przez fanów oryginalnego sze?cioksi?gu) i mas? szmirowatych opowiada? ze scenkami rodzajowymi z ?ycia, nic nieznacz?cych i nic niewnosz?cych do kanonu, postaci.

Od ostatniego zetkni?cia si? z pisanin? dwóch d?entelmenów, którzy posiadaj?c prawa do spu?cizny Franka Herberta, zapewni?o sobie ca?kiem przyzwoite ?ród?o potencjalnie niewyczerpanego dochodu (o dziwo, istniej? na tym ?wiecie ludzie, którym ich podej?cie do science-fiction i ?wiata "Diuny" si? podoba i gotowi s? za te bazgro?y p?aci?) min??o kilka lat a ja podlecz?em si? troche z traumy, w jak? wpad?em po przeczytaniu "Legend Diuny" (i szoku, po zapoznaniu si? ze skrótnym opisem tego, co wyczynia?o si? w kontynuacjach). Kiedy ukaza?a si? "Droga do Diuny", opis której sugerowa?, ?e w tej ksi??ce wi?cej znajdzie si? ?ród?owego materia?u, który wyszed? w stu procentach spod r?ki Franka Herberta, postanowi?em na chwil? powróci? do uniwersum "Diuny". Pomy?la?em, ?e mo?e z wiekiem, kiedy troch? zramola?em i umys? mi si? st?pi?, l?ej mi przyjdzie prze?kn?? pisanin? Kevina i Briana, a dodatki od Franka Herberta zrekompensuj? mi ból obcowania z ich rados? twórczo?ci??

Niestety, jedyn? rzecz?, jaka stanowi jak?kolwiek warto?? tej ksi??ki s? w?a?nie oryginalne teksty Franka Herberta. Dzi?ki zestawieniu usuni?tych, z powodu ogranicze? obj?to?ciowych, materia?ów z "Diuny" i "Mesjasza Diuny", z s?siaduj?cymi z nimi tekstami autorstwa Andersona & B. Herberta, WYRA?NIE wida?, jaka przepa?? jako?ciowa dzieli poziom pisarski ojca "Diuny" od jego marnych epigonów. Wyci?te fragmenty z pierwszego i drugiego tomu oryginalnej (zwanej teraz "Kronikami Diuny") serii s? naprawd? interesuj?ce i rzucaj? sporo ?wiat?a na proces twórczy pisarza. Najbardziej interesuj?cym dodatkiem jest oryginalne, w mojej skromnej opinii, znacznie lepsze - czemu Frank je odrzuci?? - zako?czenie "Mesjasza...". Nieco mniej zajmuj?cym, ale te? ciekawym dodatkiem jest kopia korespondencji z wydawcami, przyjaci?mi i agentem autora, która unaocznia, jak niewiele brakowa?o, by jedna z najwa?niejszych ksi??ek wsp?czesnej literatury fantastycznej w ogóle si? nie ukaza?a, tylko dlatego, ?e by?a zbyt g??boka i obszerna.

Reszt? nale?a?oby zby? milczeniem. Reszta, bowiem, to kolejny festiwal kiczu w stylu charakterystycznym dla duetu Anderson & Herbert Jr. Najgorszym - zajmuj?cym po?owi? obj?to?ci ksi??ki - dodatkiem jest "Planeta Przyprawy". Ksi??ka powsta?a w ca?o?ci na bazie odrzuconego, pierwszego szkicu "Diuny". I je?li - zaznaczam, JE?LI, bo ?miem w?tpi?, ?e ca?a ta "bajka" o "oryginalnym, odrzuconym, szkicu" nosi w sobie jakiekolwiek znamiona wiarygodno?ci - by? to faktycznie konspekt Franka Herberta, którego na pewnym etapie postanowi? si? pozby?, to trzeba przyzna?, ?e powinien by? go wrzuci? do niszczarki, zamiast chowa? po - niestety - "cudem odnalezionych" skrytkach bankowych.

"Planeta Przyprawy" a.k.a. "Diuna Beta" nie ma w sobie niczego, co stanowi?o o sile kompletnego dzie?a. Brak g??bi, brak pod?o? religijno-filozoficznego, brak jakichkolwiek komplikacji na linii fabularnej. Imiona postaci brzmi? kuriozalnie i TAK BARDZO w stylu tych, jakie nadawali swoim bohaterom twórcy (mhm, twórcy) "Legend Diuny". W tej mikro-na-szcz??cie-powie?ci nie ma ani krzyny ducha twórczo?ci Franka Herberta. Przyjmuj? do wiadomo?ci, ?e by? mo?e istnia? jaki? szkic, na którym oparli swoja fabu?? Anderson & Herbert Jr., ale jestem niemal ca?kowicie przekonany, ?e dziewi??dziesi?t procent tego, czym raczy nas "Planeta Przyprawy" to ich w?asna, ekhm, wizja.

C6?, w trakcie czytania powróci?y stare traumy i dojmuj?cy niesmak. Dlatego o wie?cz?cych to wydanie opowiadaniach, których akcja dzieje si? pomi?dzy wydarzeniami z trzech tomów "Legend Diuny" (hura! wracaj? ulubione postaci, Vorrian, Erazm, Xavier i transformery, przeprasza?c, cymeki), oraz jedno, bazuj?ce na wydarzeniach z pierwszego tomu "Diuny" i jedno z okresu po wydarzeniach opisanych w "Kapitularzu". Wszystkie nudne, nieciekawe i tak bardzo cuchn?ce Andersonem, ech...

"Drog? do Diuny" warto przeczyta?, pomijaj?c wszystko, co nie jest oryginaln? tw?rczo?ci? Franka Herberta. Reszta jest tak koszmarna, s?abo napisana i niezamierzenie ?mieszna, ?e mo?na sobie j? bez straty opu?ci?. Ja po?wi?ci?em si? dla osób, które zamierzaj? si?gn?? po t? pozycj? i przeczyta?em ca?o??, dlatego z czystym sumieniem mog? poleci? 30% tej ksi??ki.

Roger Bailey says

As an author creates a work of fiction it is normal to do a lot of revising. Entire sections and chapters may be removed or added. It is also not uncommon for others to get into the creative act and that was the case with Dune. Frank Herbert's agent, editor and publisher made demands about revisions. They demanded that chapters be removed and the ending changed and so forth. After Herbert's death a lot of this excised material along with many notes were found in his papers. It was enough to show that Dune could have been a lot different. This book is a compilation of some of that material. Some of it has been rewritten and filled out by Brian Herbert and Kevin J. Anderson and some of it is as Frank Herbert left it. Now, the decisions about what was to be removed was based on the opinions of not only Frank Herbert, but also his editor, agent and publisher. I am not one who thinks that all opinions are equal. If, for example, my doctor recommended surgery I would not seek a second opinion from my plumber. There is much to be said for the professional opinion, but how much is it worth when it is about a work of fiction? Well, it certainly determines what gets into print, but are there things that do not get into print but should? It seems to me that the opinion that really counts when it comes to a work of fiction is the opinion of the ultimate consumer, the reader, and that these professional opinions are valuable only insofar as they predict the opinions of the end consumer. Bearing that in mind, as an end consumer myself, my opinion is that a lot of these out takes are better than the final product.

By the way, the book also contains some original Dune universe short stories by Brian Herbert and Kevin J. Anderson which are also far from shoddy.

Jeremy Michael Gallen says

This combination of fiction and nonfiction opens with a long list of acknowledgements, including members of the Herbert family, and opens with a foreword by Bill Ransom that mentions Frank Herbert lived a fun life and was humorous, hailing from the Puyallup Valley in Washington State. The fathers of Herbert and Ransom were in law enforcement, with the latter moving to Port Townsend in the early seventies. William Faulkner is said to be one of the influences of Herbert, with the writer's wife Beverly Stuart Herbert dying of cancer while Ransom went through a divorce, with the memories of Herbert and his wife living on.

Following the foreword and the preface in which it is said that Frank Herbert kept much documentation on the Duniverse and partially-written manuscripts is a precursor to the original Dune entitled Spice Planet, with Brian Herbert saying that he researched his father's mythology carefully before formulating his own Dune stories, with Spice Planet having many different names for the characters that would ultimately find their way into the initial Dune. The novel itself opens with a fictitious quote in its first chapter, as do subsequent sections, with protagonist Jesse Linkam suspecting that the news must be important with an Imperial vessel touching down in Catalan's spaceport.

Jesse is a foremost aristocrat, and wants Counselor Ulla Bauers to accept him as he is. The Counselor wants

Jesse to pack for a return to Renaissance, with Grand Emperor Wuda wanting him to give a report on the production of spice on Duneworld. Dorothy Mapes is Jesse's concubine and business partner, and it is mentioned that Jesse's father, among others, nearly brought House Linkam to ruin. Bauers' ship transports Jesse and his entourage to Renaissance, a wealthy planet, where the Emperor sees both Jesse and his chief rival, Valdemar Hoskanner, with a spice production contest proposed between the antagonistic Houses, which Jesse accepts.

As an advance guard for the new Linkam operations, General Esmar Tuek and a hundred Catalan men arrive on Duneworld, with William English as a spice-crew manager, having been a prisoner on the penal planet Eridanus V, although the Emperor and Hoskanners offered him amnesty. It is further said that sand geysers and giant sandworms threaten spice operations. Dorothy Mapes is ultimately introduced, who wants full devotion to Duneworld, and while she and Jesse aren't officially wed, they have a son named Barri, alongside an entertainer named Gurney Halleck, with the young boy missing Catalan.

Throughout their spice operations, the Linkams suspect Hoskanner sabotage, alongside natural crises such as sandworms attacking, although despite these dangers, Jesse brings along Barri to help survey spice operations. Sure enough, Imperial ambassadors find Linkam spice operations to be below standards, and Jesse thus seeks to rectify working conditions, with propositions for dealing with the sandworms as well. There are some occasional twists in the story towards the end, with the novel ending on a positive note alongside the maxim that true nobility is not a birthright, but rather must be earned by individuals.

The book moves back to nonfiction with the section "They Stopped the Moving Sands," with Frank Herbert flying to Florence, Oregon in 1957 to write an article for the USDA about sand dune stabilization, potentially useful for Sahara Desert inhabitants, with sand dunes in the State swallowing cities, roads, and so forth. It was proposed that European beach grass could stop the destruction of the dunes, with more than eleven thousand other grass types proposed but ineffective, although Herbert's report was criticized for more describing the adversity of the sand dunes rather than the battle against them, and the author urged to give the story to a more interested American editor.

Following this is a series of letters between Frank Herbert, prospective editors, and fellow authors, with the original version of Dune said to be rejected due to daunting length, and the final product barely resembling the final product. Herbert's ambitious novel won several awards, with the writer himself having an interest in climate ecology. Afterward is a series of unpublished scenes and chapters from Dune and its sequel Dune Messiah, such as interactions between protagonist Paul Atreides and various characters, deleted chapters, and so forth.

After that comes a series of short stories beginning with "A Whisper of Caladan Seas," which when published in 1999 marked the first Dune story written since Frank Herbert's death thirteen years earlier, occurring concurrently with the Harkonnen attack on Arrakeen in the original Dune. The narrative itself occurs on Arrakis in the year 10,191 of the Imperial Calendar, with soldiers for House Atreides surviving an onslaught in a Shield Wall, with characters such as Elto Vitt and his uncle Sergeant Hoh Vitt. The short story does a nice job describing the conditions of the conflict and reveals backstory for the Vitts, ending on a negative note.

"Hunting Harkonnens" introduces the world of the epic Butlerian Jihad that long predates the original Dune, with ancestors of the Atreides and Harkonnens families battling machines with human minds. The short story opens with a Harkonnen craft leaving family-held industries on Hagal, Salusa Secundus as their destination, with Ulf Harkonnen as the pilot, having an adult son named Piers and a wife named Katarina. Cymeks, hybrid machines with human minds, attack, with Piers punished by being sealed in a lifepod that ejects from

his family's ship, and he lands among Caladan primitives. The narrative is ultimately enjoyable.

"Whipping Mek" occurs between The Butlerian Jihad and The Machine Crusade, opening with a Jihad warship arriving at Giedi Prime with expectant news of victory against the machines, although Vergyl Tantor believes the defense of the Peridot Colony didn't go well, with Xavier Harkonnen as his adoptive brother, and the Jihad beginning with the infant son of Serena Butler and Xavier, Manion, killed by machines. Vergyl himself has a wife named Sheel, with the defeat at Peridot seen as a moral victory, and Xavier not wanting his friend to involve himself in the war, although he does allow him noncombat roles in repair and recharging, the titular mek making for practice against battle with machines. Another enjoyable prequel story.

"The Faces of a Martyr" occurs between The Machine Crusade and The Battle of Corrin, with the mention that mad scientist Rekur Van fled a lynch mob on his homeworld, with missing soldiers and Zensunni slaves said to be carved up to provide replacement parts for wounded warriors. Meanwhile, the robot Erasmus studies human emotion, finding their inherent goodness and hatching a plan to clone Serena Butler. Vorian Atreides receives an invitation from the widow of the Grand Patriarch, Camie Boro-Ginjo, who blames Xavier Harkonnen for her husband's death. The story satisfactorily ends with a recall of sacrifice by friends.

"Sea Child" is the final tale in the book, occurring at the terminus of the Dune saga, with initial mention that Bene Gesserit punishments must have inescapable lessons, the Honored Matres conquering the planet Buzzell, and Sister Corysta, a disgraced Reverend Mother, caring for a phibian baby, which she doesn't want to turn over to Monaya. The surviving members of the order are tortured for the location of the world of Chapterhouse, hidden homeworld of the Bene Gesserits, with further backstory exposed in the Famine Times after the death of Leto II, God Emperor of Dune. A bittersweet ending concludes this enjoyable Dune short story.

The anthology is dedicated to Beverly Herbert, with her husband Frank having completed Chapterhouse: Dune when she was dying in Hawaii, with Jessica Atreides based on her. Overall, this is an enjoyable book that gives some insight into the Duniverse, with the novel Spice Planet being a good precursor to the final version of Herbert's original Dune. It even warrants rereads when those such as this reviewer choose to read the Dune saga in chronological order, and is definitely a good diving board for the average reader into the beloved science-fiction saga.

Byron 'Giggy' Paul says

great companion to Dune

Andrew says

This is an interesting book but I will warn you that you really do have to be a fan of Dune to appreciate this book. Now this is not as dumb a statement as it sounds you see Frank Herbert was a very complex person who was passionate about certain things - it can be seen in his writing but also in his research and perseverance to see things through.

Ok so why be a "real" fan to appreciate this book. As has been told and retold many times the genesis of the new or extended Dune books came about when boxes (and I mean BOXES) of notes and additional material

was discovered by Brian Herbert. What came about as a result of painstaking and almost Herculean dedication to catalogue, annotate and piece together all these fragments was to provide not only a picture of the Author but also the true scope of what he had planned for the universe of Dune. So this book really gives a glimpse in to that body of work - so you have essays, stories, correspondence, on all aspects of the books and the journey Frank Herbert took to get there. It also explains why there is so much more of the story being told by his heirs Brian Herbert and Kevin J Anderson. Now as fascinating as all of this is it can be at times hard work to wade through it all but I can assure you its worth it if nothing else to help you gain a whole new appreciation for the universe of Dune
