



Between Worlds: The Collected Ile-Rien and Cineth Stories

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This collection of short stories and novelettes includes the previously published stories “The Potter’s Daughter” (a prequel to the novel *The Element of Fire*), “Holy Places,” “Rites of Passage,” “Houses of the Dead,” “Reflections” (the *Giliead and Ilias* stories, prequels to the *Fall of Ile-Rien* trilogy), as well as “Night at the Opera” (a *Nicholas and Reynard* story original to this collection, set before the Nebula-nominated novel *The Death of the Necromancer*).

Between Worlds: The Collected Ile-Rien and Cineth Stories Details

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From Reader Review Between Worlds: The Collected Ile-Rien and Cineth Stories for online ebook

Barbara says

The shorts stories give background on the worlds and major characters in her Ile-Rien and Cineth worlds. I actually enjoyed these more than the main novels. In particular, the story where Ilias and Gilead first meet is heartbreaking.

Rain says

Circles back around to add a review to this...anyway! I always enjoy Martha Wells books and this was no exception. I did enjoy some stories more than others, which is pretty usual for collections of short stories! The Potter's Daughter was perhaps my least favorite, although I still liked it; it's set before The Element of Fire and therefore takes place like centuries before the Ile Rien trilogy / Death of the Necromancer. While I like Kade, she's unfairly pitted against Ilias & Gilead and Nicholas, all of whom I vastly adore.

I really enjoyed all the Gildead & Ilias stories, and thought they did well on expanding on the Syprian worldlore, which I always loved. I can't really pick my favorite story, but maybe it was Houses of the Dead? I was always curious about that aside (that is, the brief story they told) and I thought it was a really good look into Gilead's unique mindset about wizards. He's capable of believing that wizards can love other people, despite this being a fair ways into his life as a Chosen Vessel, and that says a lot to me about his character. I did, too, enjoy Holy Places, though. The start of Ilias and Gilead becoming Ilias And Gilead was really great to see and I liked learning more about Chosen Vessels as children, how they operate.

Night at the Opera was another enjoyable Nicholas Sets Things Aflame, Because Nicholas romp and overall I adored the collection, so. A+?

Adobe says

I pretty much love everything Wells writes, and this short-story collection is no exception. I particularly liked the cycle of stories dealing with the young partnership of Ilias and Giliead from the Fall of Ile-Rien trilogy; they strike a perfect balance between tragedy and elegy.

Maegrauko says

Before reading this bundle I was afraid that perhaps I would connect to the characters better if I had read their books first but I didn't have to worry. I will always wish I had more time with Nickolas Valiarde and Reynard since I raced here right after Death of a Necromancer, but on the other hand, this was my first taste of Cineth and I got to know Giliead and Ilias which was a pleasant surprise. I will certainly continue with them.

Margaret says

This book gathers under one cover stories from the worlds of the novels Compton Crook/Stephen Tall Award-finalist *Element of Fire* [seventeenth-century Ile-Rien] ("The Potter's Daughter"), Nebula-nominated *Death of the Necromancer*, *Fall of Ile-Rien* trilogy which consists of *Wizard Hunters*, *Ships of Air*, and *Gate of Gods* [Victorian Ile-Rien] ("Night at the Opera"), and *Fall of Ile-Rien* trilogy [Cineth] ("Holy Places," "Rites of Passage," "Houses of the Dead," "Reflections").

Cineth is special to me because the *Fall of Ile-Rien* trilogy had protagonists from two entirely different worlds (Ilias from pastoral Cineth and Tremaine from industrialized Ile-Rien) who suddenly found themselves unlikely allies and both sets of skills (Ilias' foster brother Gilead's god-given powers and Tremaine's sorcerers) were needed to win the day. I loved the juxtaposition of Ilias's and Tremaine's worlds as each was somewhat unfathomable to the other. One of Martha Wells's strongest points is her world-building skills and I was thrilled to have two fully-fleshed out worlds in the *Fall of Ile-Rien* series!

Martha Wells had always intended to write another book giving Ilias' and Gilead's back stories but the publisher had balked after bringing out the third *Fall of Ile-Rien* book. So she ended up selling these stories to the fantasy adventure magazine *Black Gate*.

What is so terrific about *Between Worlds* is that all of these stories from the disparate worlds are published together for fans who may not have realized that they had already appeared in print. Maybe these fans had not been *Black Gate* subscribers or had missed the 2006 *Elemental: The Tsunami Relief Anthology: Stories of Science Fiction and Fantasy*.

Plus there is the bonus of the story original to *Between Worlds* "Night at the Opera".

In any case, *Between Worlds: the Collected Ile-Rien and Cineth Stories* is a solid introduction to Martha Wells's work and entirely not to be missed!

Mauri says

Five previously published stories and one new for this collection, all set in either Ile-Rien and Cineth, the worlds in which *The Fall of Ile-Rien* trilogy, *The Element of Fire*, and *The Death of the Necromancer*. I highly recommend all for great settings and well-developed characters (female and male), as well as a great matriarchal culture in the case of the trilogy.

I enjoyed the stories mostly due to 1) Wells' skill and 2) wanting just a little bit more out of this universe. I don't know what I want more, another *Raksuran* book or a postscript for the *The Fall of Ile-Rien*. This trend of collecting previously published stories in one easily accessed ebook is great for me - I'm terrible at hunting these things down.

Nenya says

I loved all these snapshots of moments in the lives of the Ile-Rien & Cineth characters. My favourite was probably the young lady that Nicholas and Reynard helped out in the second story, though the others were pretty great too. I hope she grows up to be a consulting detective on her own merits, like Madame Vastra or something.

Also, Ilias (and Giliead to some extent): THE MOSTEST WOOBIE.

Ron says

A great collection of short stories from Wells's Ile-Rien books. Nice to see characters in stories from before their respective novels. The Fall of Ile-Rien ones were particularly good giving a deeper background on the wizard hunters from that series.

Melani says

I haven't read the accompanying novels to these short stories but they were easy to follow nonetheless. Wells writes appealing fiction, light but satisfying. Wish fulfilment at its best. The last three stories, which followed the same characters, reminded me a bit too much of her Hercules stories though.

Sarah (CoolCurryBooks) says

Between Worlds collects various stories set in Martha Wells's worlds of Ile-Rien and Cineth. Ile-Rien was introduced in Martha Wells's first published book, *The Element of Fire* (it's also the setting of one of my favorite Wells' novels, *Death of the Necromancer*). In the novel *The Wizard Hunters*, Martha Wells has characters from Ile-Rien encounter another world, Cineth. The stories in *Between Worlds* are all set before the events of *The Wizard Hunters*.

The very first story, "The Potter's Daughter," centers Kade, the heroine of *The Element of Fire*. It's a prequel to her debut novel, where Kade (the illegitimate daughter of a human king by a fae queen) realizes that someone is trying to get her attention. Unfortunately, this involves murdering people under her protection. Kade goes undercover to get to the bottom of the killings. I enjoyed Kade in *The Element of Fire*, so it was nice to see more of her here.

The second Ile-Rien story stars Reynard Moran, a supporting character in *Death of the Necromancer*. Reynard's backstory involves someone trying to blackmail his ex-boyfriend with their love letters (resulting in the ex killing himself). So when the family of a young girl who's being blackmailed beg him to help her, he immediately agrees. And, of course, he's aided in this venture by Nicholas Valiarde, a character I adore. "Night at the Opera" was written for this collection, although it's now available as well on PodCastle. It's the only story in this collection that I'd read before.

The majority of stories in *Between Worlds* are set in Cineth and follow Ilias and Giliead. "Holy Places" is about how Ilias and Giliead first met. Oh my heart! I remember from the trilogy that Ilias was abandoned as

a child and adopted by Giliead's family, but reading about the details of it was still affecting.

In "Rites of Passage," Giliead longs to go to do Chosen Vessel stuff, but everyone's saying he's too young. Of course, their protests come to naught when a wizard's curse starts to do its malicious work. In "House of the Dead," Giliead and Ilias head off on their first official wizard hunt, responding to reports of something happening to a mountain trading city. They arrive to find the city entirely empty, without even bodies. This creepy story was one of my favorites in the collection. On the other hand, I wasn't as fond of the very last story, "Reflections." It's okay, and it's always nice to spend time with Ilias and Giliead. Still, it wasn't anything special.

I'd only recommend Between Worlds for die hard Martha Wells fans. Luckily, I am a die hard Martha Wells fan, so everything worked out well. Oh, and if you're not familiar with Martha Wells, you need to read something by her. Maybe start with All Systems Red?

Originally posted on The Illustrated Page.

I. says

Not the world's most compelling collection of snippets tbh. No standouts.

Rachel Neumeier says

If you've already fallen in love with the Ile-Rien novels by Martha Wells—and, really, haven't we all?—then you need the stories collected in Between Worlds. How exactly did Ilias become Giliead's foster brother? What was it actually like, growing up as a god's Chosen Vessel? What were the experiences that forged Giliead and Ilias into such an effective team? These are the stories that will fill in those gaps for you.

Besides the four stories that show us these earlier adventures on Cineth, Between Worlds also collects a story set before before The Element of Fire and featuring Kade Carrion. Better yet, the all-new "Night at the Opera," takes place before the Death of the Necromancer and showcases Nicholas Valiarde and Reynard Morane—just the allies you want on your side if you happen to encounter the world's creepiest blackmailer. And hey, if by any chance you haven't yet encountered Martha Wells, these stories, all prequels to her various novels, offer a fine introduction.

Leah says

A great insight into the pasts of the main characters in the Ile-Rien universe. I was slightly disappointed that there wasn't anything about Tremaine, Ilias, and Giliead back in Cineth, but you can't have everything. Maybe in the future Martha Wells will release something about that.

Mimi says

"Night of the Opera": <http://podcastle.org/2016/01/26/podca...>

Charly says

I enjoyed this short collection very much, especially as it contains stories about some of my favorite Wells' characters. In terms of story strength the best is the story about how Ilias came to live with the Andrien family, packing a lot of emotional weight and providing a solid back story for Ilias and his actions in the later novels in which he's featured. The best of the rest are the Nicholas and Reynard story, followed by the Kade one. This collection made me want to reread the Ill-Rien books and spend more time with these memorable characters and worlds. They would be enjoyable enough to readers not familiar with her earlier works but are best enjoyed and appreciated by those familiar with her other works.
