

Tales of the Dying Earth: Including 'The Dying Earth,' 'The Eyes of the Overworld,' 'Cugel's Saga,' and 'Rhialto the Marvellous', / 752 pages / 9780312874568 / Macmillan, 2000 / Jack Vance / 2000

Cugel's Saga (1983) is the third book in the Dying Earth series, coming 17 years after *The Eyes of the Overworld* (1966) and 33 years after *The Dying Earth* (1950). It's also the second book to feature that thieving scoundrel Cugel the Clever, who often finds he is not quite as clever as he thinks, as his schemes generally end in failure at the end of each chapter, leaving him penniless and fleeing his enemies until he encounters the next adventure. This book is a similarly picaresque episodic adventure in the slowly crumbling world of the Dying Earth, as creatures, magicians and humans pass thei Jack Vance is one of the most remarkable talents to ever grace the world of science fiction. His unique, stylish voice has been beloved by generations of readers. One of his enduring classics is his 1964 novel, *The Dying Earth*, and its sequels--a fascinating, baroque tale set on a far-future Earth, under a giant red sun that is soon to go out forever. This omnibus volume comprised all four books in the series *The Dying Earth* *The Eyes of the Overworld* *Cugel's Saga* *Rialto the Marvellous* A must-read for every Science Fiction fan. Product Identifiers. Publisher. *The Dying Earth* is followed by two books about Cugel the Clever. In the first, *The Eyes of the Overworld*, Cugel makes the mistake of burgling the home of the magician Luconu, only to be caught in the act "do not strain, as Thief-taker is woven of wasp-legs" and sent in reparation to steal a "violet hemisphere" from the land of Cutz. His adventures are continued in *Cugel's Saga*, and in the fourth novel in the sequence, *Rhialto the Marvellous* "set toward the middle of the 21st Aeon", a group of magicians embark on various adventures. All is recounted in Vance's wonderful, unique prose. Is it possible to be both deadpan and flowery at the same time? I think he pulls this off, to hilarious effect. The fourth in the *Fantasy Masterworks* series, the *Dying Earth* saga inspired writers like Michael Moorcock and Gene Wolfe, who freely acknowledges his debt to Vance in his own *Book of the New Sun*. Here, in one volume, is Hugo, Nebula and World Fantasy Award-winning author Jack Vance's classic *Dying Earth* saga comprising *The Dying Earth*, *The Eyes of the Overworld*, *Cugel's Saga* and *Rhialto the Marvellous*. *Rhialto the Marvellous* is a last collection of 3 stories, after the magician of the same name. *Rhialto* is more sinned against than sinner, although a cursory thought about the state of witches in the world - ie, there are none, as is made clear by the first tale - shows him as no saint. *Cugel's Saga* is a picaresque fantasy novel by American writer Jack Vance, published by Timescape in 1983, the third book in the *Dying Earth* series, the first volume of which appeared in 1950. The narrative of *Cugel's Saga* continues from the point at which it left off at the end of *The Eyes of the Overworld* (1966). The Internet Speculative Fiction Database calls *Cugel's Saga* "[t]wice as large and less episodic than *Eyes of the Overworld*", and catalogs it as a novel rather than a fix-up, but also