

The Legacy of John Keats



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An influence to leave on to inspire.

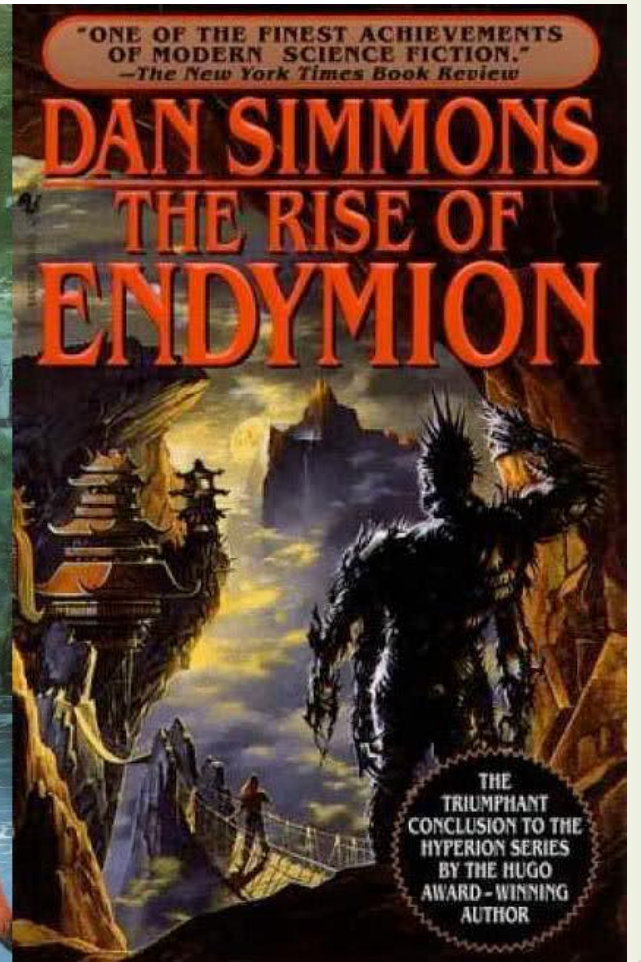
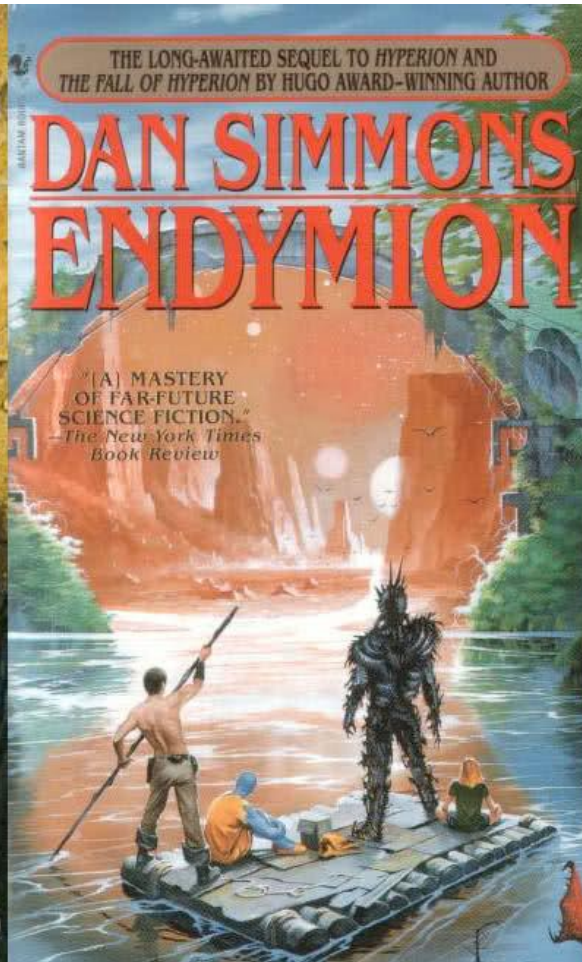
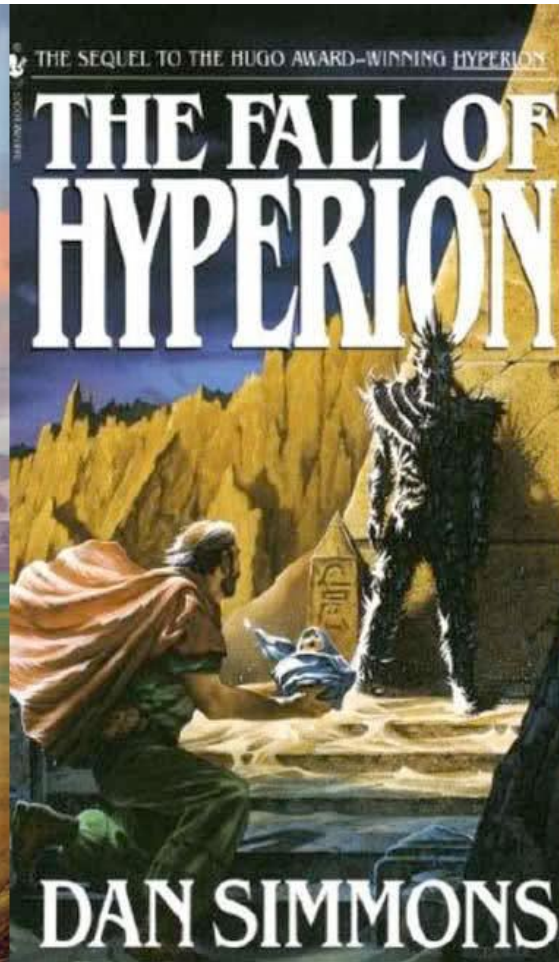
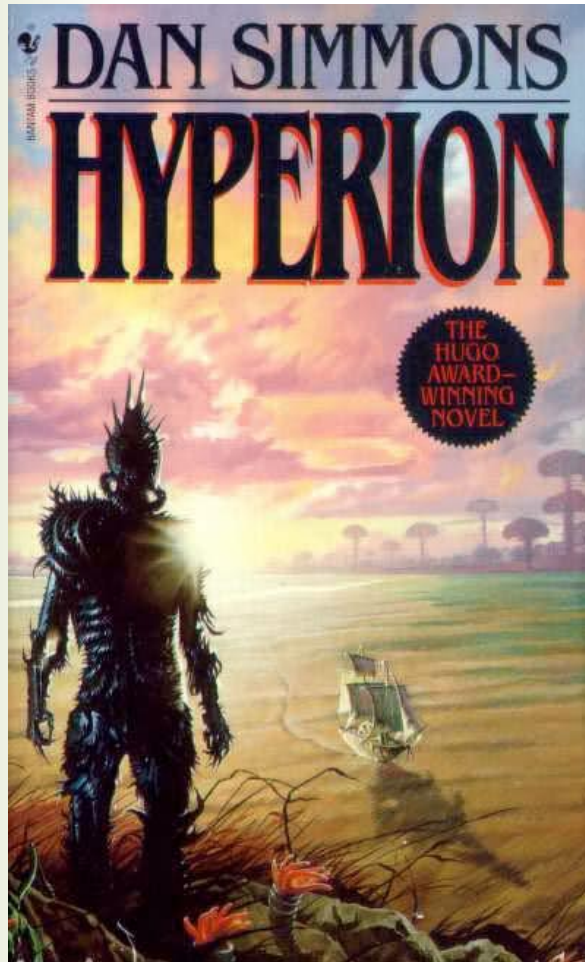


☞ I don't think I've ever seen it commented on, but there's a great affinity between writing poetry and SF. As with poetry, quality speculative fiction demands great skill with language and invites linguistic invention. As with poetry, good SF delves deep into metaphor while sliding lightly on the surface of its own joy of telling. As with poetry, quality SF demands a much greater collaboration on the part of the reader -- a greater sensitivity to detail, word-meaning, texture, and nuance, as well as a greater involvement in ferreting out meaning. (Dan Simmons)

Dan Simmons



- ☞ A teacher, who like many before him, and many after him, always knew he wanted to be a writer. In an interview with Steven H. Silver, he paints his time line as a child and comparing it to literary influences
- ☞ He tells of being the Tom Sawyer of the group, to writing mystery novels in class, and then to the historic moments when he printed his first science fiction novel.
- ☞ Where is the proof of him being influenced by our subject of study?



Characters that pay homage within the Hyperion Cantos.



- ☞ Johnny Keats- Written as the “femme Fatal” of the story, John Keats is clearly named as a character within this text, his dying words to detective Brawne being Fanny. This could be seen as a revitalization of Keats final words to Fanny Brawne, only more simply.
- ☞ Brawne Lamia- the detective of the tale, not only does she bare the last name of the love of Keats life, but also bearing the name of one of John Keats’ famous poems.

These novels pay a direct homage to the subject of our study due to his recreation and modernization of this legend, and if you still don’t see it. This could be confirmed in an interview with Claire White

The Question.



🌀 ***Hyperion*** could certainly be read by someone without a literary background, but having such a background enables one to get all the inside jokes and references, such as who certain characters were named after. For example, readers who don't know who Fanny Brawne or Silenus were, or what a lamia is will miss some great subtext. Certainly, it wouldn't hurt to have a nice background in Romantic poetry, especially with a knowledge of Keats. Do you think that SF and fantasy today are generally "dumbed down" for the reader, in books or in films?

The Answer.



☞ One can read the four *Hyperion* novels without understanding the hundreds of literary references -- or those in most of my other novels, for that matter -- but I trust that it's a more enjoyable (and understandable) exercise when the reader is familiar with John Keats and the other poets touched upon -- and their themes.

When Asked what will be next.



☞ I'm just beginning a large and stylistically difficult SF novel called *Ilium*... These two books will deal with themes from the *Iliad* in the same way that I borrowed central themes (and titles!) from John Keats for the *Hyperion* Cantos

Two-hundred years after.



- ❧ John Keats, one of the most famous of the romantic writers can be seen within many of those throughout literature and even in media today.
- ❧ Dan Simmons would be the most obvious of those interested, but he is the furthest from the only one to be inspired by his works.
- ❧ Throughout the semester we learned more about the man, the myth and the poet, and for me personally something happened.
- ❧ Through the help of Dan Simmons and others who still pay homage to John Keats today, others are being inspired to read and study Keats and the works he left behind.
- ❧ I am one of those who is now a fan of Keats and look forward to delving deeper into his works.

Sources



☞ **A Conversation With Dan Simmons**

<https://www.writerswrite.com/journal/sep01/a-conversation-with-dan-simmons-9012>

☞ Character biographies within Hyperion

<https://www.shmoop.com/hyperion/characters.html>