

THE COLLECTED STORIES OF
ROGER ZELAZNY

VOLUME 5: NINE BLACK DOVES

Roger Zelazny wrote with a lyrical quality rarely found in science fiction—creating rousing adventures, intricate “what-if?” stories, clever situations, and sweeping vistas in which to play them out. Leavened with layers of allusion and imagery, his diverse writing styles and breadth of subject matter brought him praise as a prose poet and a Renaissance man. Zelazny’s vivid stories, especially his spectacular novellas, are classics in the field.

Although he is best known for his 10-volume Amber series, his early novels *Lord of Light* and *Creatures of Light and Darkness*, and the Dilvish series, his shorter works contain his best writing.

In this six-volume collection you’ll find every one of Zelazny’s short works, plus a selection of essays, novel excerpts, and other interesting items from his widely varied writing career.

The stories in this series are enriched by Zelazny’s own words, taken from his many essays, describing why he wrote the stories and what he thought about them in retrospect. Many of the stories are followed by notes explaining his allusions, turns of phrase, historical references, and unusual word choices.

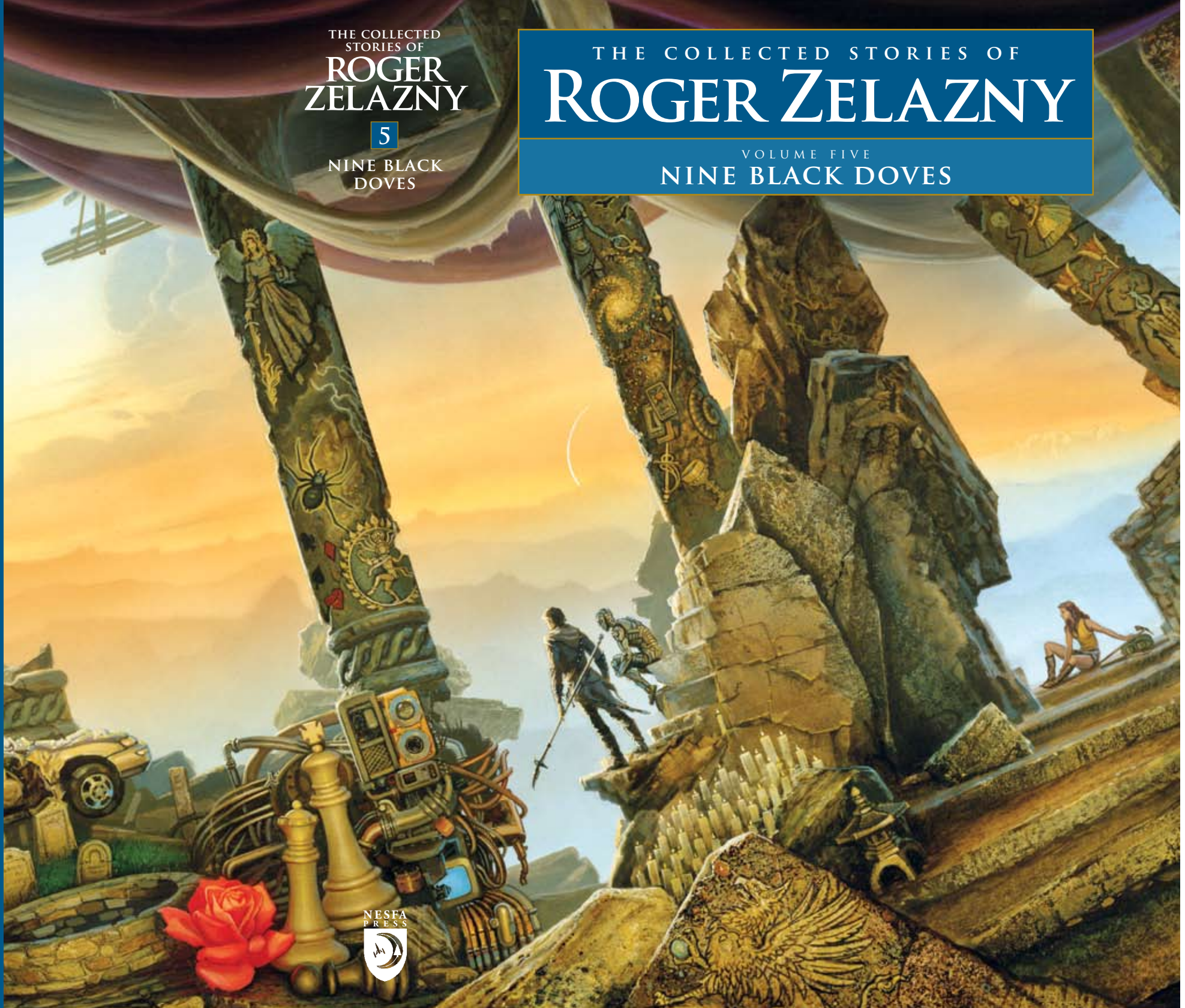
Here in volume 5, Zelazny continues to amuse us with stories such as “LOKI 7281,” “Night Kings,” “Quest’s End,” and two forays into other universes in “Itself Surprised” and “Mana from Heaven.”

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VOLUME FIVE
NINE BLACK DOVES



THE COLLECTED STORIES OF
ROGER ZELAZNY

5

NINE BLACK DOVES



“Roger Zelazny was one of SF’s finest storytellers, a poet with an immense and instinctive gift for language. Reading Zelazny is like dropping into a Mozart string quartet as played by Thelonious Monk.”

— GREG BEAR

Volume 5: Nine Black Doves covers the 1980s, when Zelazny’s mature craft produced the Hugo-winning and Nebula-nominated stories, “24 Views of Mt. Fuji, by Hokusai” and “Permafrost,” and other entertaining stories such as “Kalifriki of the Thread,” “Dilvish, the Damned,” and his first two Wild Cards stories about Croyd Crenson, “The Sleeper” and “Ashes to Ashes.”

“Roger Zelazny is one of our very finest writers, a master of prose both sinewy and lyrical, a teller of tales evocative, suspenseful, thought-provoking.”

— POUL ANDERSON

“Nobody else makes myths real and valuable in the way Roger Zelazny could.”

— NEIL GAIMAN



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PHOTOGRAPH © BETH GWINN

ROGER ZELAZNY (1937–1995) reaffirmed his mastery of short fiction during the 1980s with his release of a pair of Hugo-winning stories, his completion of the Dilvish series, and his creation of Croyd Crenson for the Wild Cards shared world.

During the interval covered by this volume, Zelazny began the second five-book series in the Chronicles of Amber, starting with *Trumps of Doom*. He continued his serious study of martial arts and he created a shared world of his own. He also wrote collaborative novels with Fred Saberhagen, Thomas T. Thomas, and Gerald Hausman.

Zelazny is best known for his novellas such as “A Rose for Ecclesiastes,” “He Who Shapes,” “Home Is the Hangman,” and “24 Views of Mt. Fuji, by Hokusai” and for novels, including *Lord of Light*, *This Immortal*, *Jack of Shadows*, and the 10-volume Amber series started by *Nine Princes in Amber*. He garnered six Hugo Awards for novels and short fiction and three Nebulas for short fiction.



PHOTOGRAPH © MICHAEL WHELAN

MICHAEL WHELAN is one of the world’s premier science fiction and fantasy artists. His spectacular work has covered more than 350 books and more recently graces the halls of fine art galleries. With these volumes, he has finally fulfilled Zelazny’s longstanding wish for a genuine Michael Whelan cover.

After a brief stint as a medical illustrator, Whelan turned to fantastic art and burst onto the SF scene at the 1974 World Science Fiction Convention. Since then, his illustrations have adorned many Stephen King novels, most of Anne McCaffrey’s *Dragonriders of Pern* series, Michael Moorcock’s *Elric* series, many other best sellers, and several record albums.

Whelan has won scores of awards, including 15 Hugo Awards (13 for Best Professional Artist). He received his first Hugo in Boston at the 1980 Worldcon, Noreascon 2, and since then, he has won 26 Locus Awards (25 for Best Professional Artist).