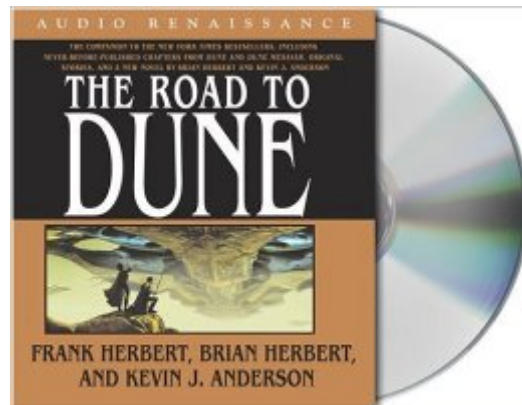


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The Road To Dune



Synopsis

Frank Herbert's *Dune* is widely known as the science fiction equivalent of *The Lord of the Rings*, and *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. Herein, the world's millions of *Dune* fans can now read---at long last---the unpublished chapters and scenes from *Dune* and *Dune Messiah*. *The Road to Dune* also includes the original correspondence between Frank Herbert and famed editor John W. Campbell, Jr.; excerpts from Herbert's correspondence during his 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* features newly discovered papers and manuscripts of Frank Herbert, and also "Spice Planet," an original sixty-thousand-word short 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.

Book Information

Series: *Dune*

Audio CD

Publisher: Macmillan Audio; Unabridged edition (September 1, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 159397776X

ISBN-13: 978-1593977764

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 1.6 x 5.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.2 ounces

Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (59 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,200,381 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #9 in [Books > Books on CD >](#)

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Customer Reviews

My main excuse for buying *Road to Dune* was the roughly 150 pages of deleted scenes, from *Dune* and *Dune Messiah*. The cut chapters were interesting, but they were frequently inconsistent with the canon material--the original *Dune* trilogy, and the prequels by Brian and Kevin. Examples:-*Road to Dune* has it that the spice was found by men working for Dr. Kynes' father. But, in *Dune: House Atreides*, Pardot Kynes leaves for Arrakis AFTER spice has already been found and is being spread

by merchants throughout the galaxy.-Road to Dune puts Paul's age at his departure to Arrakis at "almost twelve", even though in the first few sentences of the final publication of Dune his age is set as fifteen.-IRULAN DIES....this is a very unclear chapter, complete with an odd final note by Frank Herbert. There are other problems, too, which might be confusing, but that's why these scenes weren't published with the original novel. Still, this portion of the book is worth reading, and sheds a small amount of light on the Duneiverse as well (why Paul was inspired by the desert mouse, why the Guild controls the stars without competition). But, it isn't enough to justify spending 25 dollars. The short stories, written by Brian and Kevin, are adventuresome and worth a look. The first story is set during Dune, but the three that follow are set in the Legends of Dune era. "Hunting Harkonnenns" is set before The Butlerian Jihad; "Whipping Mek" is set before The Machine Crusade; and "Faces of a Martyr" is set before The Battle of Corrin. But, there's a flaw here too. "Whisper of Caladan Seas" has appeared in two other places, and get this: YOU CAN READ THE LEGENDS OF DUNE SHORT STORIES FOR FREE ON DUNENOVELS.COM. No need to spend money on free material.

The Road to Dune contains some fascinating material, but it fell well below my expectations and hopes. Sadly, only about half the book contains primary source material written by Frank Herbert himself. The book starts with a moving Foreword by Bill Ransom, who co-authored the excellent Pandora novels with Herbert. Anderson and Brian Herbert then introduce what follows, describing the boxes of draft material, letters, outlines and notes that they had to draw upon. My heart rate doubled and my spirit soared as I read this section, thrilled at the prospect of seeing how the Dune series evolved in Herbert's mind, and of gaining greater insight into his fascinating characters and events. This promise was not to be fulfilled, however. The first section contains "Spice Planet", a novella written by Brian and Kevin based on Frank Herbert's original concept for Dune. As a short adventure story, it's quite enjoyable, and there are moments of real tension. However, any traces of Frank Herbert's original work are all but smothered by his chroniclers' writing style and ham-fisted characterization. Even an incomplete collection of outlines, notes and draft chapters would have been preferable to this disappointment. The next section contains the true Dune source material: Frank Herbert's letters, and unpublished chapters from Dune and Dune Messiah. This section is fascinating as both a study of Herbert's alternative ideas for Dune, and as a historical account of how Dune came to be published. The unpublished chapters' inconsistencies with the published work only makes them more fascinating. This section is only 150 pages long, but it's the pearl in this oyster. If the whole book had consisted of this kind of content, I would have given it five stars.

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