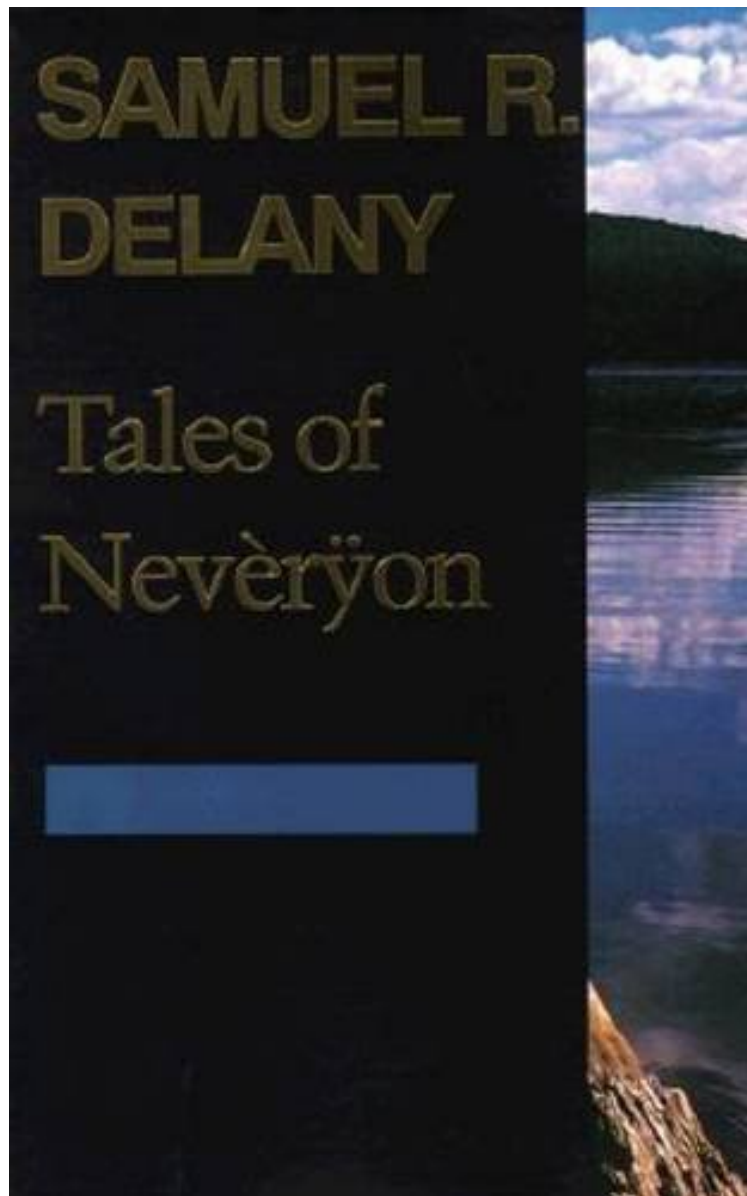


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## Tales of Neveryon

*Samuel R. Delany*

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#679360 in Books 1993-10-15 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.47 x .67 x 5.391, #File Name: 081956270X264 pages | File size: 51.Mb

**Samuel R. Delany : Tales of Neveryon** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Tales of Neveryon:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Verbose, but fun. By shelby burns These stories are great. Great world-building, great character development, and just plain enjoyable to read. Delany likes big words, and sometimes

he likes big words that don't even exist. Sometimes he spends 3 paragraphs saying absolutely nothing, but for the most part the description and the funky words add a lot of character to the story. Just watch out when Gorgik gets all metacognitive, that's a sign that you're about to read a page of long words that add nothing to the plot. However, for the most part I would definitely recommend these stories to any fantasy fan. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Anthropological Fantasy By David Paul Samuel Delany is not only one of the most talented writers in the history of SF and fantasy, he's also one of the smartest. The Neveryon stories are incisive, witty, and often moving tales of people trying to find their places in a rapidly changing world. In this case, that world is the mythic dawn of civilization, familiar from so many sword-and-sorcery potboilers -- but, of course, it's also a reflection of our modern world; like all the best fantasy and SF, Delany is showing us ourselves from a fresh perspective. As Gorgik the ex-slave, Noreema the merchant, Small Sarg the "Barbarian Prince," and Raven the swordswoman try to make their way through the labyrinth of money, sex, power and ideology that makes up the fledgling civilization of Neveryon, the reader is drawn along with them, sharing in the experience as they discover the grandeur and horror of the "civilized" world. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The Neveryon books are challenging and good By Gotham Hawkeye Samuel Delany's four-book fantasy series, "Tales of Nevron," is hugely under-read and under-appreciated. Delany primarily writes science fiction. He's won both of science fiction's highest American honors, the Hugo award and the Nebula award, the latter twice in the 1960s. But the Nevron books stand on their own as excellent fantasy. (Somewhat confusingly, "Tales of Nevron" seems to be a name for the four-book series but also the title of the first of the four books. I refer to the series as "the Nevron books.") In general, Delany's fiction is somewhat experimental and academic, (which is in and of itself remarkable, even inspiring---as is Delany's own authorial and academic success---given that he is highly dyslexic). The Nevron books may not be prohibitively difficult for young adults; but, they certainly weren't written to be easily approachable by an audience \*primarily\* of young adults. They are certainly not pot-boiler or formulaic fantasy. In addition to the presence of dragons and barbarian warrior-heroes, which are relatively common fantasy tropes, there are features of the decidedly unromantic Nevron world and cultures that are highly original creations by Mr. Delany, and the tales themselves are in a naturalistic style at times so gritty you're surprised there isn't a fine layer of dust upon the page. Most of Delany's characters are earthy survivors who interact with their varying cultural, social, economic, and physical environments in a matter-of-fact way interrupted--in the case of some characters anyway--with contemplation, even a sort of philosophizing. There is poignancy throughout, and it's subtle and masterful. The reader can't help but wish the characters well, even if some of them wear the harshness of their lives like old leather garbs, or are simple in their desires and ambitions. The characters of the tales range widely: active and passive, young and old, healthy and ill, famous and obscure, male and female, free and slave.

In his four-volume series Return to Nevron, Hugo and Nebula award-winner Samuel R. Delany appropriated the conceits of sword-and-sorcery fantasy to explore his characteristic themes of language, power, gender, and the nature of civilization. Wesleyan University Press has reissued the long-unavailable Nevron volumes in trade paperback. The eleven stories, novellas, and novels in Return to Nevron's four volumes chronicle a long-ago land on civilization's brink, perhaps in Asia or Africa, or even on the Mediterranean. Taken slave in childhood, Gorgik gains his freedom, leads a slave revolt, and becomes a minister of state, finally abolishing slavery. Ironically, however, he is sexually aroused by the iron slave collars of servitude. Does this contaminate his mission -- or intensify it? Presumably elaborated from an ancient text of unknown geographical origin, the stories are sunk in translators' and commentators' introductions and appendices, forming a richly comic frame.

From Publishers Weekly The first two volumes in Delaney's Neveryon series explore sexuality, race and subjectivity in an ancient, barbaric civilization. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. The tales of Nevron are postmodern sword-and-sorcery . . . Delany subverts the formulaic elements of sword-and-sorcery and around their empty husks constructs self-conscious meta-fictions about social and sexual behavior, the play of language and power, and above all the possibilities and limitations of narrative. Immensely sophisticated as literature . . . eminently readable and gorgeously entertaining. The Washington Post Book World