

[Nine Princes in Amber by Roger Zelazny](#)

Notes

(1) I can't find the link. Sorry. Steve posts so many videos that if you're trying to locate one particular quote from a video you watched months ago, it's a very daunting task.

(2) I'm quoting from memory, but I think that's right.

(3) *Fantasy Masterworks* is a series of paperback books which have as their goal to re-print the classics of the modern fantasy paperback genre. According to the back cover:

Fantasy Masterworks is a library of some of the greatest, most original, and most influential fantasy ever written. These are the books which, along with Tolkien, Peake and others, shaped modern fantasy.

The Chronicles of Amber is number 6 in their series. *The Chronicles of Amber* series was only just published in the 1970s, but I guess by the standards of paperback fantasy, that's old enough to be considered a classic now. According to Wikipedia, *Fantasy Masterworks* is a British publication, so I'm not sure if they'd be in American bookstores or not. The used copy I picked up in Saigon was most likely brought over to Vietnam by a British backpacker.

[Looking at their Wikipedia page](#), it looks like there are some really interesting titles in the *Fantasy Masterworks* series. I'd love to track down and read all of these someday. That being said, if I had to make a complaint: there's nothing in my volume in the way of any extras from the publisher. There's no publisher's introduction explaining why they've chosen to reprint "*Chronicles of Amber*" or why they think it's one of the "most influential fantasy series ever written". There's just the titles of the original books, and their original publication date, and then the text, and that's it.

I was away from my computer when I first encountered this book on a used-book table, and I felt like I could have used some more guidance from the publisher about whether or not these 5 books were a complete story arc when I was weighing up whether to buy the book or not.

(4) There are 10 books in the series, but I've been told that the first 5 books make up one coherent narrative arc. So if this book only contains the first 5 books of the series, that's probably good enough for me. Plus Steve Donoghue (and apparently a number of other people) think that the quality drops off after book 5 anyway.

(5) This is, after all, [exactly what happened to me with *The Complete Stories of Oz*](#).

(6) Although, [the audio play on youtube](#) does contain some lines that are not found in my print edition. What to make of that? It's never much (a few lines of dialogue or exposition here or there), but just to make sure I'm not missing anything, I listened to the audio play as well. (I put it on in the background while I was working on the computer.)

(7) Or, that is, what was present day when this book was originally published in 1970. You know what I mean.

(8) See, for example, this excellent review from Tor.com: [Hard-Boiled Fantasy: Nine Princes in Amber by Roger Zelazny](#).

(9) I would constantly get hungry as I read this book. "Boy, I could really go for a couple of sandwiches and some beer right now," I would think to myself.

(10) The narrator himself explicitly draws the comparison to *The Count of Monte Cristo*, so I don't get any extra points for noticing the parallel. And yet, [as somebody who has read through The Count of Monte Cristo](#), I thought the comparison was apt. The same sense of claustrophobia. The same brooding on revenge. The same suspenseful scenes plotting escape.