



With Morning Comes Mistfall

George R.R. Martin, Claudia Black (Narrator)

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A science fiction short story, first published by Analog magazine in May 1973. It was the first story by George R. R. Martin to be nominated for Hugo Award and Nebula Award.

Recently it was included in published in 2003 GRRM anthology *Dreamsongs* collection: A Retrospective (Volume I).

With Morning Comes Mistfall Details

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Author : George R.R. Martin , Claudia Black (Narrator)

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Vicky says

I don't find myself to be a huge fan of short stories in general, but I enjoyed this short from George R.R. Martin.

I thought there was some interesting world building (especially with the concepts of mistfall and mistrise) and I thought he developed the characters quite well for the length of the story.

I may pick up his Dreamsong collection at some point in the future, but first I have to finish A Song of Ice and Fire!

Audiobook Note: I've been familiar with Claudia Black for years and always enjoyed her as an actress, but she didn't come through for me as the narrator of this story. I thought her pacing was a little rushed, and even found myself checking my audible app to make sure I didn't have the speed set to more than 1x.

Kirsten says

I have never read/listened to George R.R. Martin before. (Can you believe it?) I loved this short story that I got for FREE from Audible. Very atmospheric and a little creepy. Made me think of Lovecraft a little at the start. I could see this planet being where Cthulhu came from.

I am definitely going to pick up some of his other work now!

David says

I'm not a huge George R. R. Martin fan, but I've read some of his stuff and generally liked it, so a free short story was certainly worth listening to.

Basically, this is an alien colony world mystery, the mystery being the "wraiths" that supposedly inhabit Wraithworld. The planet is shrouded in mists and mostly unexplored, and a few mysterious deaths had made it something of a tourist attraction for thrill-seekers. Then comes a scientific expedition to settle the question of the wraiths once and for all. The owner of the planet's main hotel doesn't want the wraiths "discovered."

Unfortunately, the tension between the scientist and the hotel owner never produces much more than a philosophical debate rehashing the old "Should we know everything, or should we leave some corners of the universe unexplored?" debate. The journalist who covers the story seems almost superfluous.

This wasn't a bad story and it's worth the 40 minutes it will take to listen to it, but it's not a sci-fi landmark or anything. Good if you like SF short stories or GRRM, and you can't go wrong with free.

Reanne says

Booooriiing. Classic "I want to make a point about something and who cares about plot or character" sci-fi. Gave it two stars, though, because Claudia Black did a good reading, and her voice is pleasant to listen to.

Bbrown says

A short little tale that has an interesting setting, but which doesn't do much for me because the argument that George R.R. Martin builds the story around is based upon a premise I don't agree with: that the mysteries of the universe are a finite resource. I think we'll never run out of unanswered questions. If you hold that opinion, the story transforms from a philosophical battle between those who want the universe to be scientifically known and those who want some aspects of it to remain romantically unknown, as Martin intended, into a battle between a man who owns a tourist trap and is looking out for himself and a visiting scientist who doesn't much care about the owner's financial wellbeing. Less than compelling stuff, as told here, though it could be the basis for a good story- perhaps you could incorporate an angle about how the tourist trap owner's successful promotion of the wraith myth is what enabled the scientist to get the necessary grants for his expedition. As it stands, With Morning Comes Mistfall is a science fiction story that is almost entirely a conduit for a half-baked debate where one side comes off as more greedy than profound.

Greg Anderson says

3.5 Stars Read as a part of Martin's Dreamsongs collection.

Mary Zimnik says

Trying to ease into George R.R. Martin, and started with this short story. Great imagery, especially the concept of a mistfall. Very poetic. This could, given the essential heart of the story, taken place on earth without a need for sci-fi. Yet, I so enjoyed his adventure into that world, it made up for the thinness of the essential necessity of that other world.

Scott Fabel says

Having just finished reading "A Storm of Swords," I thought I would try something different from George R.R. Martin. In his short story, "With Morning Comes Mistfall," a short story from his Dreamsongs collection, Martin shows that he's equally good with science fiction as he is with fantasy.

The story takes place on a planet called "Wraithworld." On Wraithworld, there is a strange weather phenomenon that occurs every day: In the morning, the mist comes down from the mountains to reveal the beauty of the planet. Of course, not all is beautiful on this planet. There is a legend that there are wraiths all

over the planet, and several people have died from wraith attacks. This legend has made Wraithworld a popular destination for tourists and for wraith-hunters.

A team of scientists arrives to prove (or dis-prove) the legend. Their purpose is to find the truth; however, the truth may take away from the legend--and from the charm of the planet. Sometimes, it's better not to know the truth. A little mystery in life is not such a bad thing.

Joe says

The quality of George R.R. Martin's writing doesn't come through straightaway, in this brief story, which is less personal than his Game of Thrones work, but eventually reveals itself. More of an Isaac Asimov short story, in its conceptualization of space and identity - in fact, quite similar in many ways to his story 'Youth'. In any case, MUCH shorter than GoT - you'll be done in less than five minutes, I promise you.

Andreea Daia says

Quick and dirty reading notes and (i)relevant thoughts

- ✓ This was such a beautifully written short story, if a bit sad in the end. I think everyone would agree that the descriptions are simply breathtaking.
- ✓ It is about a scientific expedition which comes to backwater planet Wraithworld to investigate the existence of *wraiths*. These mythological "beings" are said to have caused a series of deaths since the discovery of the planet, and ever since they attracted tourists fascinated by their mystery. The head of the expedition is convinced that the *wraiths* are a fancy of imagination and fails to understand the essence of this place. On the other hand, the journalist who covers the story falls in love with the lush scenery and the natural mystery of the planet.
- ✓ In the end, this is a story about the inability of the science to see beyond numbers and experiments and its destructive effects. Definitely a recommended read (listen).

Jessica says

Update - Went back and reread this in text and then listened to the audio again. I think I must have been distracted on the first listen or perhaps I should have read the text first because this time around I enjoyed it. Bumping up to 3.5 stars.

Original - I love GRRM. I did not love this story. Pretty neat setting but the story itself was nothing special. I'm glad that this was free through Audible.

Dan says

This is a weird review for me.

The writing and story was really well done. In a short amount of time there was a good sense of characters and world building.

However I find the “moral” of it sort of frustrating. If I understand it correctly the point seems to be that science ruins wonder. Of course it’s easy to have a cynical character portray this point in the story and it makes the reader side with wonder.

But it’s a false dichotomy in my opinion. One could have also written the scientific character as one of those that frequently wax poetic about nature and the moral wouldn’t have stuck.

It’s not one of the other, it’s both.

Silverwolf says

A story that deals with the problems of knowledge. Mainly that with too much of it the world (our inner world as well) becomes black and white and boring. No place for new adventures, no place to romanticize, no place for mysteries and certainly no place to let you imagination go wild.

Wonderfully written, the story will immerse you in the lands where the sun is in constant war with the mist and will leave you with a special feeling when you read the last few lines.

Instant favourite!

Becky says

3.5 Stars

This was a very short, but enjoyable story from GRRM. Very different from what I'd experienced of his before (which is basically only his "Song of Ice and Fire" series).

My only complaint, if one can call it that, is that it's just not as fleshed out as I would like it. I mean this in pretty much every way - from the characters, to the world (although the descriptions were fantastic... I just wanted to know more), to the mystery and the philosophy. I just wanted a bit more depth to all of it.

That being said, I did enjoy this, and it has made me interested in reading GRRM's Dreamsongs collection.

So, a short plot synopsis, then. It's presumably the future, and there've been quite a few inhabited/inhabitable planets found, and colonized. One such planet, Wraithworld, is a tourist destination because it is, literally, enshrouded in mist-ery. (See what I did there?) From dusk until dawn, the planet is covered in thick mists. They retreat during the full light of day, but never fully disappear. Ground level is always covered, so the hotel Castle Cloud was constructed above them.

(Wait, this actually reminded me of another small nitpick I had with this story. I've just mentioned that many different inhabited planets have been discovered, yet at one point, one of the characters likens believing in UFOs to believing in ghosts. Which just struck me as odd, because if WE can travel to other, inhabited, planets, why couldn't they travel back to Earth? Wouldn't that then PROVE UFOs exists?)

Anyway... Since the planet was discovered, people have turned up dead, or simply vanished. The initial party of explorers claimed that they saw an 8 foot tall, incorporeal humanlike form over one of their crew who was brutally killed, which promptly disappeared into the mist, leading to stories of the mist wraiths, and giving the planet its name.

A scientist sets out to prove, once and for all, whether they are real or not.

This was the aspect I did like the best about this story, because I could see both sides of this argument so clearly. On one hand, the fact that a mystery is a mystery to us indicates that we do, at some level, want to know what the truth is. It's just a matter of whether that desire is strong enough to overcome the sense of wonder and curiosity we hold. The mystery is the draw... while there's a mystery, there's possibility and imagination. Are the wraiths real? Are the mists causing some sort of hallucination? Could it be that the wraiths ARE the mists? Or that the water content reflects shapes and shadows in the right conditions causing people to report a "wraith sighting"? So many possibilities and theories. The curiosity keeps people coming back the Wraithworld to try to figure it out for themselves.

But then there's the attempt to prove. As people, we thirst for knowledge. We want to know how things work, what they are made of. We want to know the answers to life's questions. But sometimes that knowledge can be so limiting. Once you know something, that's it. There's no getting back the wonder one had before all other possibilities were removed in the name of truth. Sometimes, I just don't think it's worth knowing every answer.

Sometimes, we should keep our sense of wonder.

Sara Alaee says

Nice philosophical sci-fi story. Descriptions were also good. Liked it.

Dawn Tutt says

I have heard all sorts of chatter about Game of Thrones, the books and the television program and I had added those audiobooks to my wish list but had not gone so far as to purchase one. My hesitation was due to a couple of brief scenes I had seen of the television program that did not exactly send me flying to my computer to finish the purchase, but I never like to make my decisions on books based on the monstrosities that film people make of them.

If I sound really anti film adaptation right now attribute that to my making the mistake of watching the final Harry Potter movie this past weekend and seeing the horror they made of that.

So I read reviews of the Game of Thrones books and that kept my hope alive, so when audible.com offered this free excerpt from Dreamsongs called With Morning Comes Mistfall I liked the opportunity to give this author a whirl with no risk to my pocketbook.

The verdict; well it did not push Game of Thrones to the top of my book list but it most certainly has had me add the Dreamsongs Books to my wish list and move them right to the top, and in truth the only thing that

keeps me from purchasing them outright is my innate practicality in knowing that I have 8 audiobooks already purchased waiting to listen to. So I have challenged myself that I can not purchase these audiobooks until I have listened to at least 6 of the 8.

The narrator is breathtaking; Claudia Black's gorgeous accent and quiet voice made Mr. Martins beautiful description of Wraithworld just come alive in my mind, made me side with Saunders in his view of keeping the mystery of Wraithworld just that; a mystery.

Jen says

Just not my thing. Or else I wasn't in the right headspace to be listening to it.

Diana says

A distant planet has little to offer in terms of exploitation, but people come intrigued by the mysterious Wraiths and stories of disappearances and odd events. Told through the eyes of a journalist in a fairly matter of fact way, somehow Martin's writing casts a glamour and suspense that keeps one reading to the end.

Samuel Rooke says

A very atmospheric short story of Martin's. Like "The Exit to San Breta", there isn't much of a plot here, or even much of a character focus. It's mainly just a very atmospheric exploration of a setting Martin thought up. Enjoyable to read, but there's not much in the way of a story to stick with you.

If there's any sort of message to the story, I'd say it would be Martin's belief that some mystery in life is better than having absolutely everything completely known and analysed.

The main failing of the story, if I had to pick one, would be that the relationship between the chief characters never really goes anywhere. It feels like there's some conflict set up in the first half of the story, but then it just deflates as Martin just delves into worldbuilding and wistful ruminations on mystery.

It's a good enough read, but very inconsequential. I give it two glasses of mistwine, and a wraith.

Nikki says

Meh. This was a free audiobook/story from Audible so I thought I should see what all the fuss was about with George R.R. Martin. Although I don't think (based on what people say about it) that this story was very similar to the author's popular Game of Thrones series, the story did not make me eager to read more of Martin's work. Of course, your results may differ.

