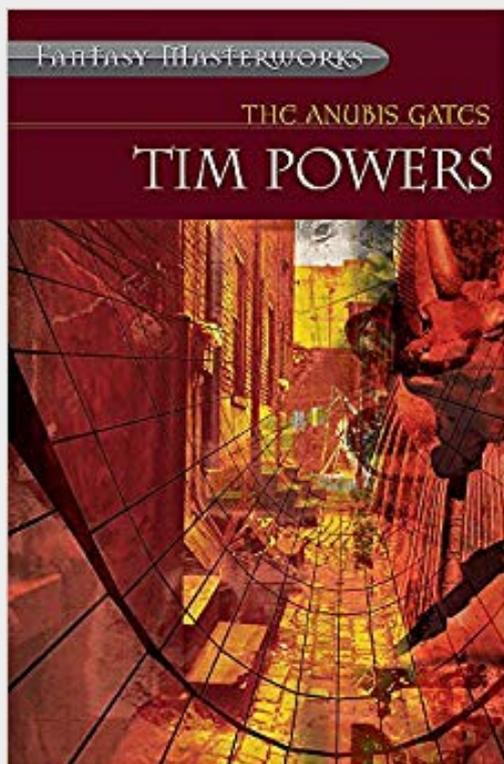


## The Anubis Gates (Fantasy Masterworks) by Tim Powers



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**Author:** Tim Powers

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**Category:** Science Fiction

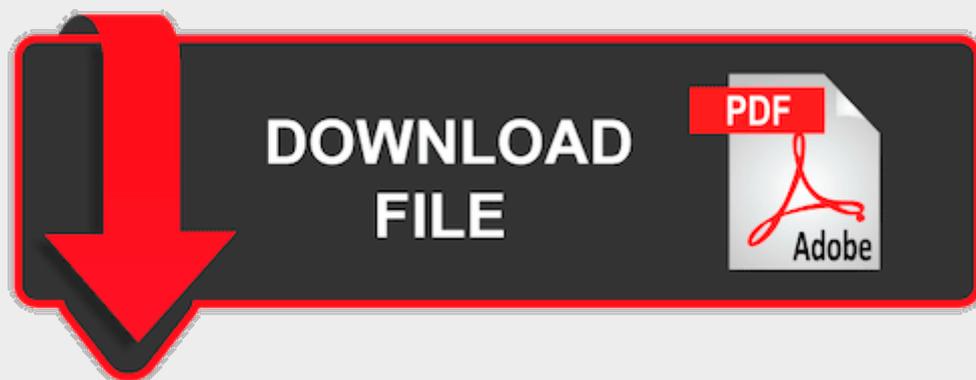
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Brendan Doyle is a twentieth-century English professor who travels back to 1810 London to attend a lecture given by English romantic poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge. This is a London filled with deformed clowns, organised beggar societies, insane homunculi and magic. When he is kidnapped by gypsies and consequently misses his return trip to 1983, the mild-mannered Doyle is forced to become a street-smart con man, escape artist, and swordsman in order to survive in the dark and treacherous London underworld. He defies bullets, black magic, murderous beggars, freezing waters, imprisonment in mutant-infested dungeons, poisoning, and even a plunge back to 1684. Coleridge himself and poet Lord Byron make appearances in the novel, which also features a poor tinkerer who creates genetic monsters and a werewolf that inhabits others' bodies when his latest becomes too hairy.



Reviews of the **The Anubis Gates (Fantasy Masterworks)** by Tim

# Powers

## 1. Boraston

This is a great mash up of Fantasy and Science Fiction genres.

To set the stage, imagine time is a fast flowing river under a sheet of ice. You can't get out of time because of the ice and you can't go back in time because the flow of time is too fast. Now what would happen if there are holes in that ice ? You got it, you could jump between the holes, if you knew where and when they were. And some people know about these holes through magic or scientific investigation.

Our protagonist throughout this journey is one Brendan Doyle who is called to England by an eccentric billionaire to investigate activities in the early 1800's. Apparently he , or rather people who work fro him, have found the holes in the ice over the time stream.

While Doyle does go back in time through the hole he si captured while there and does not return with the rest of the time travellers back to their origin in 1983. He is stuck in 1804. He soon meets all sorts of magical and maniacal people and creatures as he fights to find his way back.

Doctors Romany and Romanelli are two key villains, and we even have a body switching werewolf added to the mix.

Can Doyle somehow overcome all the impediments to the return to his real time or will he be stuck in early England.

It's truly an adventure to find out.

A fun and entertaining read about magic and time travel.

Centipede Press is releasing a limited edition high end hard cover version of the book this Fall

## 2. Androrim

Woah. What a book. Even if you feel like you've read it all, you haven't.

Powers succeeds in creating a story where an astute reader can guess the outcome of the plot very early on but have no idea HOW he's going to get there. The unfolding of the story is absolutely incredible. I love this book.

### 3. INvait

Pay close attention to this circling and serpentine narrative or be lost in this time-travelling adventure, along with Doyle and his favourite poets Coleridge, Byron and the mysterious Ashbless.

Enjoy a trip through time and the histories of London and Egypt as Doyle struggles to escape the sorcerers who want to steal his knowledge of the Anubis Gates and survive the dangers of the 19th century without the help modern medicine and science.

### 4. Utchanat

This book starts great--the concept is engaging, the characters strong, and the action fast. My one criticism is that, as the book goes on, the storyline becomes increasingly frayed as you bounce from POV to POV, sometimes quite suddenly. Overall, though, a great book full of time travel, body snatching, and ancient Egyptian sorcerers.

### 5. Mavivasa

Tim Powers' time-travel, sci-fi adventure made me wish I was the main character Brendan Doyle going back in time with an eccentric entrepreneur to meet one of my favorite authors. (I would choose Charlotte Bronte, but I'd probably catch and die from TB in Haworth.) Of course, Doyle runs into enough "issues" that I don't think I'll sign up for

the time-travel until the crazy people get out of the loops...

That's all the plot I want to divulge from this story so readers can be as swept along by plot developments as I was. The moments of "omigosh, THAT'S why he foreshadowed that!" or "omigosh, BRILLIANT!" came at me fast-n-furious as I burned through the pages. Powers must believe in Poe and King's concept that stray words are wasted words in stories...everything he incorporates has a hidden agenda...so readers should pay attention from the get-go. Powers uses wit and clever turns of phrase and exquisite references to literature and history all in a pleasing, entertaining style. I enjoyed *The Anubis Gates* from start to satisfying finish. I highly recommend it to all sci-fi, fantasy, paranormal, literature and adventure fiction fans.

From Sandy Lender, "Some days, I just want the dragon to win."

## 6. Umor

In my opinion this was Power's best. A gripping fantasy, thriller, historical account 1800's London in the grasp of ancient Egyptian gods!

## 7. Wenyost

I went into the *Anubis Gates* with considerably low expectations. This was my first exposure to Powers' writing, although I started *Declare* about the same time.

I was stunned.

Time travel novels are, more often than not, boring, formulaic, and uninteresting. Or, even worse, an author tries to "reinvent the genre" and it ends up feeling so outlandish that...well, you're not impressed.

Tim Powers did not go that route. (Spoilers may follow) Except for one quick little chase scene in the 1600s, the majority of the novel takes place in the 1800s, during the time of Ashbless and Coleridge. The plot was so tightly controlled but so wonderfully imaginative at the same time - it takes real skill to create a plot like this and, as another reviewer already

stated, retain a very good atmosphere. I was so blown away at the end of part one that I literally gasped, that's how amazing it was. Tim Powers is a genius!

And, what characters! My mom (I'm twelve years old), when faced with the task of listening to me rant about the novel while I was reading it, would remark repeatedly on what interesting characters the novel has. And she hadn't even read the book! There is a werewolf, a clown, a weightless magician, an extremely hard-nosed poet, a (definite spoiler) boy masquerading as a girl, people no larger than your fingers - need I go on?

Content-wise, the novel had

-consistent swearing, but nothing really bad (no f words)

-very little sexual content

-hard PG-13 rated fantasy violence

-lots of drinking and some smoking, but it's tame, and the characters are never drunk

The novel has a plot, but it is in the background. Believe it or not, the foreground is the character interactions, adventure scenes (of which there are lots) and sub-plots. I would even go so far as to say that a sub-plot involving a minor character gets an equal amount of -um- page time as the main plot.

The end will please nearly everybody who reads the book. Powers does a fantastic amount of tying up any loose threads. I won't say more than that. One major criticism of Powers is his interpretation of female characters. I assure you that (at least in this book) THAT IS NOT TRUE. Tim Powers does an excellent job with his one female character, and this character gets a lot of page time, so both sexes can read this book and enjoy it.

The final verdict: amazing.]

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