



The World of Tiers Volume One: The Maker of Universes, The Gates of Creation, and A Private Cosmos

Philip José Farmer

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The first three adventures set in the amazing realm created by the Hugo Award-winning author of *Riverworld*.

His past a mystery and his present unbearably mundane, Robert Wolff is simply trying to buy a new house in Arizona when he stumbles upon a secret doorway through space and time and enters the World of Tiers. Made up of ascending levels of jungles, plains, medieval cities, and, at the top, a Garden of Eden, and populated by fantastical creatures, from nymphs and centaurs to merpeople and strange amalgams nonexistent on Earth, it's beyond anything Wolff could have imagined in his previous humdrum existence. And when his youth is restored in the bargain, it seems he's truly found paradise.

But there are dark forces in this new world, and Wolff is plunged into an epic quest up through the tiers, accompanied by Paul Janus Finnegan, another earthling, now known as Kickaha. Wolff's journey to find Jadawin, the Lord of this world, will lead to answers about his own identity—and determine his fate.

Wolff and Kickaha will face off against feuding Lords—who hold the power to control private worlds of their own design—and the depraved Bellers. Devices originally created in the biolabs of the Lords, the Bellers are now conscious entities waging war on the Lords and their “pocket universes.” As they infiltrate the bodies of creatures throughout the World of Tiers and hunt down the Earth-born, the survival of all the worlds hinges upon the battle between the strangers from Earth and enemies disguised as their allies.

This omnibus contains the author's preferred text, reprinted from the limited edition volumes published by Phantasia Press.

The World of Tiers Volume One: The Maker of Universes, The Gates of Creation, and A Private Cosmos Details

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From Reader Review The World of Tiers Volume One: The Maker of Universes, The Gates of Creation, and A Private Cosmos for online ebook

Ralph Blackburn says

The World of Tiers, Volume 1 by Philip Jose Farmer- This omnibus collection contains the first three novels in the World of Tiers series: The Makers of Universes, The Gates of Creation, A Private Cosmos.

The Maker of Universes- Robert Wolff, bored with his stagnant life, blows a horn that opens a portable to another universe. He finds there a world split into levels like a pyramid with its own sun and moon and in it's own "Pocket Universe". He meets a woman who quickly captures his heart, but when she is taken away, he enlists the help of another Earth-expatriate, who calls himself Kickaha now. They begin a desperate climb through the levels, with many strange and odd discoveries, to confront the Lord of this universe, Jadawin. There is a great reveal near the end that you can probably guess if you've ever read much Philip Jose Farmer before.

The Gates of Creation find Wolff called upon by one of the dreaded Lords. He must travel through this Lord's multi-tiered world in order to save a loved one and see some of the strangest sights along the way. Each Lord has the power to change the physical properties of his own universe and this makes for some crazy goings on, but the entire plot premise is really quite close to the first book, so I think this is mostly Farmer having fun with his creation.

A Private Cosmos is Kickaha's story as Wolff has disappeared and their multi-tiered world is being invaded by bodies controlled by other Lord's. Again we get a lot of action but little resolution and the premise is beginning to get confusing and over wrought. The series is fun to read if you don't take it too seriously and don't worry about the plot snafus. I read these back in the 70's when they first came out and thought they were fun then, but reading them back to back just points out the flaws in their construction. Still, Philip Jose Farmer knows how to juice up a great idea.

Colin says

A collection of the first three "World of Tiers" books

I read this in equal parts because it is specifically mentioned in Gary Gygax' (in)famous Appendix N (the list of works that were fundamental to the inspiration of Dungeons & Dragons) and because I have enjoyed Farmer's work in the past (notably "Riverworld"). The conceit behind the series is a simple enough one - a character who seems to be a normal human man from our world finds a gateway into another world, the World of Tiers. It is an artificial universe constructed by an ancient and immensely powerful being known as the Lord, who we later find to be from a decadent race who call themselves Lords. They look human, but have access to technologies far beyond us (such as building private universes!). They Lords are not immortal, but live a very long time, and have made changes to the biology of their worlds to make beings who live in them long-lived as well. The series spans adventures in several worlds, with several of the Lords, and even an ancient race of artificial beings capable of challenging the Lords.
