

# Known Space - Reading Order by Publishing Date

This list follows the Known Space stories in order of publication, allowing for a reading experience that reflects how the universe developed over time. You may need to jump between collections (Three Books of Known Space, Neutron Star, etc.) to find each story.

There are some cases where two stories were published in the same month. Typically they were published in different magazines, so exact publishing dates are difficult or impossible to determine. In these cases, the in-universe chronological order has been used to order conflicting stories in the list. However, it ultimately doesn't matter which one you read first.

The Man-Kzin Wars stories are an anthology series. Each book is a collection of short stories, most of which are not written by Larry Niven himself. Instead, they are part of a shared universe written mostly by other authors. Any stories that are a part of that series and were written by Niven are listed specifically, while the rest of the books are simply listed and tagged as optional. Niven provided some canonical information to the authors, so the stories are probably canon enough to be worth reading.

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## 1960s

- ☐ 1964 Dec - "The Coldest Place"
- ☐ 1965 Apr - "Wrong-Way Street"
- ☐ 1965 Jun - OPTIONAL: "One Face" - NOT strictly Known Space
- ☐ 1965 Jul - "Becalmed in Hell"
- ☐ 1966 Feb - "Eye of an Octopus" (short story, chronologically before "The Warriors")
- ☐ 1966 Feb - "The Warriors" (short story, chronologically after "Eye of an Octopus", also included later in "The Man-Kzin Wars")
- ☐ 1966 Apr - OPTIONAL: "Bordered in Black" - NOT strictly Known Space
- ☐ 1966 Jun - *World of Ptavvs* (novel)
- ☐ 1966 Oct - "How the Heroes Die" (chronologically before "Neutron Star")
- ☐ 1966 Oct - "Neutron Star" (chronologically after "How the Heroes Die")
- ☐ 1966 Nov - "At the Bottom of a Hole" (chronologically before "At the Core")
- ☐ 1966 Nov - "At the Core" (chronologically after "At the Bottom of a Hole")
- ☐ 1966 Dec - "A Relic of the Empire"
- ☐ 1967 Feb - "The Soft Weapon"
- ☐ 1967 Mar - "Flatlander"
- ☐ 1967 Apr - "The Ethics of Madness"
- ☐ 1967 May - "Safe at Any Speed"
- ☐ 1967 May - "The Adults" (later published as part 1 of *Protector*. You can read it when you read *protector*. None of the stories between "The Adults" and *Protector* will spoil "The Adults". Do not read *Protector* now, as it spoils *Ringworld*)
- ☐ 1967 Aug - "The Jigsaw Man"
- ☐ 1967 Dec - "The Handicapped"
- ☐ 1968 Feb - "Slowboat Cargo" (serialization of *A Gift from Earth*. Can safely read *A Gift from Earth* now)
- ☐ 1968 Apr - "The Deceivers" (later "Intent to Deceive", chronologically before "Grendel")
- ☐ 1968 Apr - "Grendel" (chronologically after "The Deceivers")

- ☐ 1968 Jun - “There Is a Tide”
- ☐ 1968 Jul - “Wait It Out”
- ☐ 1968 Sep - *A Gift from Earth* (novel)
- ☐ 1969 Jan - “The Organleggers” (later “Death by Ecstasy”)

## 1970s

- ☐ 1970 Oct - *Ringworld* (novel)
- ☐ 1972 Mar - “Cloak of Anarchy”
- ☐ 1973 Jan - “The Defenseless Dead”
- ☐ 1973 Sep - *Protector* (novel)
- ☐ 1975 Jan - “ARM” (chronologically before “The Borderland of Sol”)
- ☐ 1975 Jan - “The Borderland of Sol” (chronologically after “ARM”)
- ☐ 1979 Jul - *The Ringworld Engineers* (novel)

## 1980s

- ☐ 1980 Apr - *The Patchwork Girl* (novel)
- ☐ 1988 Jun - OPTIONAL: *The Man-Kzin Wars* (first book in the Man-Kzin series)
- ☐ 1989 Aug - OPTIONAL: *Man-Kzin Wars II* - Set in known space, mostly not written by Niven. Shared universe

## 1990s

- ☐ 1990 Aug - “Madness Has Its Place” - (Short story from *Man-Kzin Wars III*)
- ☐ 1990 Aug - OPTIONAL: *Man-Kzin Wars III*
- ☐ 1991 Jan 1 - *Inconstant Star* (fix-up novel including Iron from *The Man-Kzin Wars*, and *Inconstant Star* from *Man-Kzin Wars III*. Also references “Inconstant Moon”, which is not part of Known Space)
- ☐ 1991 Sep - OPTIONAL: *Man-Kzin Wars IV*
- ☐ 1992 Oct - OPTIONAL: *Man-Kzin Wars V*
- ☐ 1993 Nov - “Procrustes” (chronologically before “The Color of Sunfire”)
- ☐ 1993 Nov - “The Color of Sunfire” (chronologically after “Procrustes”)
- ☐ 1994 Apr - “Ghost” (collection only, as frame story)
- ☐ 1994 Jul - OPTIONAL: *Man-Kzin Wars VI*
- ☐ 1995 Jun - “The Woman in Del Rey Crater”
- ☐ 1995 Jun - OPTIONAL: “Song of the Night People” - Short story that is embedded in *The Ringworld Throne*, which comes next, so just read that.
- ☐ 1995 Jul - OPTIONAL: *Man-Kzin Wars VII*
- ☐ 1996 Jun - *The Ringworld Throne* (novel)
- ☐ 1996 Sep - OPTIONAL: “A Darker Geometry” (This one has me confused. It seems to have been sold as it’s own book, but also seems to be included in *Man-Kinz VII*. Until I purchase that book and verify, I will leave this in here. It was not written by Larry Niven)
- ☐ 1998 Sep - “Choosing Names” - (short story from *Man-Kzin Wars VII*)
- ☐ 1998 Sep - “Choosing Names: Man-Kinz Wars VII” (“Choosing Names” is both the anthology title, and the title of one of the stories in the book)

## 2000s

- ☐ 2000 Oct - “Fly-By-Night” (Short story set during The Man-Kzin Wars, later published in *Man-Kzin Wars IX*)
- ☐ 2002 Jan - OPTIONAL: *Man-Kzin Wars IX*
- ☐ 2003 Aug - OPTIONAL: *Man-Kzin Wars X: the Wunder War*
- ☐ 2004 Jun - *Ringworld’s Children* (novel)
- ☐ 2005 Oct - “The Hunting Park” - (Short story from *Man-Kzin Wars XI*)
- ☐ 2005 Oct 4 - OPTIONAL: *Man-Kzin Wars XI*
- ☐ 2007 Oct - *Fleet of Worlds* (novel, with Edward M. Lerner)
- ☐ 2008 Sep - *Juggler of Worlds* (novel, with Edward M. Lerner)
- ☐ 2009 Feb 3 - OPTIONAL: *Man-Kzin Wars XII*
- ☐ 2009 Nov - *Destroyer of Worlds* (novel, with Edward M. Lerner)

## 2010s

- ☐ 2010 Oct - *Betrayer of Worlds* (novel, with Edward M. Lerner)
- ☐ 2012 May - OPTIONAL: *Man-Kzin Wars XIII*
- ☐ 2012 Aug 21 - *Fate of Worlds: Return from the Ringworld* (novel, with Edward M. Lerner)
- ☐ 2013 Dec 3 - OPTIONAL: *Man-Kzin Wars XIV*
- ☐ 2013 Dec - OPTIONAL: *Treasure Planet: A Man-Kzin Novel* (not even part of the Man-Kzin Wars. Very optional)
- ☐ 2019 Feb - OPTIONAL: *Man-Kzin Wars XV*

## 2020s

- ☐ 2020 Feb 9 - OPTIONAL: *Freedom: A Man-Kzin Novel*
- ☐ 2022 Nov - “Sacred Cow” (short story, with Steven Barnes)