Make sense of the Zelda books

A short, original Infendo companion for curious Zelda readers. This is not Hyrule Historia, a scan of that book, or an official Nintendo publication.

Start with the question, not the chart

Are you looking for concept art, an explanation of a story connection, or a game to play next? Those are different jobs. Treat a book as a source with a publication date, not an instruction to play every game in its printed order.

Keep a source notebook

Record the book title, edition, page number and exact claim you are checking. Separate what the source says from what you think it implies. A small ordering change does not automatically prove that every related fan theory is right or wrong.

Three useful ways to read

Release order follows the conversation players had as games appeared. Story order follows the chronology described by a particular source. A personal play order follows your interests and the hardware you own. None of these needs to be your only way into Zelda.

Before sharing a theory

Check whether you are comparing the same editions. Look for a direct statement before treating an implied connection as settled. Label spoilers and give other fans room to prefer a different interpretation.

A reader checklist

1. Pick one connection

Choose a character, location or story link that interests you. Write a one-sentence question before opening a timeline rabbit hole.

2. Compare, rather than combine

Use two columns: what the earlier source says and what the later source says. Leave a third column for uncertainty. Avoid creating a single supposedly definitive chart from statements that do not agree.

3. Keep play and research separate

If this is your first Ocarina of Time adventure, consider playing before reading late-game timeline debates. Discovering a story and analysing it afterward can be two different pleasures.

4. Bring the question to Infendo

Read the Hyrule Historia discussion, explore our Zelda archive, or join the podcast conversation. The best follow-up is often a thoughtful question rather than another list of names.

Reading links
Infendo discussion: infendo.com/hyrule-historia-zelda-encyclopedia/
Podcast: infendo.com/podcast/
Nintendo game history: nintendo.com/us/explore/characters/zelda/history/
Publisher: darkhorsedirect.com/products/the-legend-of-zelda-hyrule-historia-hc

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