
Todd J. McCaffrey

Dragonsblood (Pern (Publication Order) #18)

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Format: Kindle Edition

Language: English

Pages: 480

Publisher: , 0

ISBN:

Format: PDF / Kindle / ePub

Size: 9.9 MB

Download: allowed

Description

In *Dragon's Kin*, bestselling author Anne McCaffrey did the unthinkable: for the first time ever, she invited another writer to join her in the skies of her most famous fictional creation. That writer was her son, Todd McCaffrey. Together, they penned a triumphant new chapter in the annals of the extraordinarily popular *Dragonriders of Pern*. Now, for the first time, Todd McCaffrey flies alone. And *Dragonsblood* is proof that the future of Pern is in good hands. After all, dragons are in his blood. . . .

Never in the dramatic history of Pern has there been a more dire emergency than that which faces the young dragonrider Lorana. A mysterious fatal illness is striking dragons. The epidemic is spreading like wildfire . . . and the next deadly cycle of Threadfall is only days away. Somehow, Lorana must find a cure before the dragons—including her own beloved Arith—succumb to the sickness, leaving Pern undefended.

The lyrics of an all-but-forgotten song seem to point toward an answer from nearly five hundred years in the past, when Kitti Ping and her daughter Wind Blossom bred the first dragons from their smaller cousins, the fire-lizards. No doubt the first colonists possessed the advanced technology to find the cure for which Lorana seeks, but over the centuries, that knowledge has been lost.

Or has it?

For in the distant past, an aged Wind Blossom worries that the germs that affect the fire-lizards may one day turn on larger prey—and unleash a plague that will destroy the dragons, Pern's only defenders against Thread. But as her people struggle to survive, Wind Blossom has neither the time nor the resources to expend on a future that may never arrive—until suddenly she uncovers evidence that her worst fears will come true.

Now two brave women, separated by hundreds of years but joined by bonds transcending time, will become unknowing allies in a desperate race against sickness and Threadfall, with nothing less than the survival of all life on Pern at stake.

From the Hardcover edition.

Insightful reviews

Kathy Davie: It's 507 AL, 507 years after landing, and Thread is expected soon. It parallels *Dragon's Fire* and *Dragon's Kin*.

The Story

Half the story is of Wind Blossom's last years on Pern, 50 years after landing to 59 AL, struggling to find a cure for the dragons and fire lizards in which we learn the true reason for her attitude toward her students and child while the other half of the story takes place in the weyrs as dragons sicken and die.

All the characters from *Dragon's Fire* and *Dragon's Kin* appear playing their parts in various degrees with references to their adventures in these two stories.

In the Wind Blossom half we learn of Sean O'Connell's death, the reasoning behind the creation of the watch-whers, and a hint as to a purpose behind Ted Tubberman's activities.

In the current-day half of the story, Lorana is taken on as a pet project by J'trel and his dragon, Talith, after losing his partner, K'nad. Lorana has lost her father in an beast handling accident and since they had lost all the rest of her family during the plague 12 years ago, Lorana has no one. But J'trel is taken by her incredible drawing ability and helps her begin her dream of sketching all the animal life of Pern. Along the way, J'trel learns that Lorana can speak to any dragon.

This side of the story we learn the details of Kindan and Lorana falling in love.

As part of the frantic search to discover what is killing the dragons (I use the word "frantic" to attempt to instill some sense of drama...at least in the review), Kindan, Lorana, and friends discover the hidden rooms, which will help save Pern. We see a brief glimpse of Cisca, Weyrwoman for Fort, and K'lior deciding to send their wounded and weyrings back in time to Igen to recover and be ready to meet Thread in three days even though another of the books covers this more thoroughly. I guess this "glimpse" helps tie *Dragonsblood* in with the other...yawn...oops, sorry, snort...

The Characters

Wind Blossom uses her remaining energy to resolve an issue that had been skipped when she and her mother, Kitty Ping, first bioengineered the dragons.

It's been ten Turns since Kindan met M'tal at Camp Natalon and he's harpering at Benden Weyr. Nuella's brother, Dalor and Renna, his secret childhood sweetheart, are together now.

Lorana can speak to all the dragons and ends up impressing a queen while the Weyrleaders are K'lior of Fort, C'rion of Ista, M'tal of Benden, D'vin of High Reaches, and D'gan of Telgar after having moved there from Igen when plague and drought made it uninhabitable and their last queen died.

My Take

Interesting for its insight into responsible creation but, again, no subtlety, no passion. Simply a recitation of facts with allusions which never enlighten us. There is an interesting implication about Ted Tubberman and we meet his grandson, Tieran.

There are hints made about dementia but McCaffrey doesn't do anything with it. No depth. Still no passion.

On page 220, McCaffrey has Emorra, Wind Blossom's daughter, intuit that the beads on Gren's harness had not yet been made. On practically no evidence, Emorra determines that Gren is

here from 400 years in the future. No development, no tension. On page 258, the dragons are so sick and they're dying right and left, yet McCaffrey doesn't build on this. I barely cried. In fact, my mind kept wandering thinking about reading another book, any other book. It was almost like reading a dry history book.

As an example of not paying attention, McCaffrey has established that Lorana must be back at the Weyr to feed her queen in a hour. By page 273, Lorana and company have been reading through the Records for hours with no hint or suggestion that Lorana is supposed to be back at the Weyr taking care of her beloved dragon. I thought the new wyerlings were so amazingly attached to their dragons?? Their every thought was of them? Even when McCaffrey kills off dragons of riders we have somehow managed to find some empathy for, he doesn't press how horrible this is. It could almost be the day after Christmas and we have to wait til next year to get more prezzies.

McCaffrey makes Tullea, one of the queen riders at Benden, such a bitch but he doesn't delve into it. It's all on the surface.

I am so irritated with McCaffrey writing these three stories as separate books. He's stretched out the pages to make the reader feel they're getting a deal but once you read through you realize how you've been cheated.

We do finally learn how it happened that that young dragonrider and his dragon ended up encased in solid rock at Benden Weyr. One of the very, very few dramatic bits of writing that worked. And it so wasn't worth it!

Again, no build up, no drama in the conclusions Emorra, Tieran, M'hall, and Seamus come to in deciding how to build the instant learning room. Such a bore.

The Cover

Wind Rider heeling through the waves as a blue dragon confronts the ship. Lovely cover with a fleeting connection to the story. The title is perfect as it is the *Dragonsblood* that proves critical.

Luann: At first I felt that *Dragonsblood* wasn't nearly as good as any of the other Pern books, including *Dragon's Kin*, which is the one combined effort of Anne and Todd McCaffrey that I've read so far. I liked a lot of the details and story that Todd chose to tell, but it just didn't flow as smoothly as the other Pern books.

In the beginning of the book, I struggled with keeping the characters straight. Also, the constant jumping between time periods interrupted the flow of the storyline for me. Things really started to pick up about half way through the book, though, and I was absolutely engrossed for the last 150 pages or so. Some great connections to previous books are included. Just one small example - did you ever wonder about the dragon and dragonrider who were found at Benden Weyr entombed in solid rock?

I definitely recommend this for all fans of Anne McCaffrey's *Dragonriders of Pern* series! Overall

it isn't quite up to the standards of Anne's books, but very close and definitely worth reading.

Wyldkat: This book is SERIOUSLY flawed. Anne would have done better to have found an accomplished writer who was familiar with her world to continue the series. It is apparent that Todd had no practical experience writing fiction and it does not seem he is well versed in his mother's work.

The book is rampant with inconsistencies, logic errors, and science flaws and in several points appears to contradict what his mother wrote back in the 70's and 80's. It is rough to read, switching scenes seemingly at random, with some of those scenes appearing to be completely pointless. There are plot elements that are abandon, never to be brought back up again. The use of "Timing" to solve dilemmas borders on 'Deus Ex Machina' and is repetitious of earlier books in the series.

I would recommend that the older fans of Pern, the fans who grew up reading the series, avoid this book.

Vicki Jaeger: i cannot inform you what percentage occasions i have learn this series. simply learn this name again, and it nonetheless does not disappoint. Telepathic dragons, robust girl characters, nice relationships, and the Harpers' guild and song as a robust guiding force. What should be better? In hindsight, I nonetheless get pleasure from analyzing the sequence so as written (versus real chronological order of events). I specifically like how McCaffrey shifts her standpoint in several books, retelling a similar occasions from an individual else's perspective. this is often additionally the 1st booklet written solo through Todd McCaffrey, Anne's son. i locate that he's even more drawn to the science/flight details, and will gloss over the characters emotions/driving forces in the book. yet we will see how he does relocating forward. On to the following Pern title!

Stefany: a good looking poor book. whereas Pern has regularly been affected by Mary Sues and Gary Sues for it really is major characters (pretty a lot just about all of them), Lorana takes the cake. If this have been on Fanfiction.net, it would've been voted down simply to the absurdity of the plot. Spoilers ahead! ---> (view spoiler)[Lorana is born in a carry with pretty well no rank, and is changing into a healer whereas doing a little paintings at the side. whereas on her strategy to a brand new carry she virtually dies and orders her hearth lizards (she's inspired two) to go away her. One results in the previous with geneticist Wind Blossom at round the time the Pernese begun wasting so much in their complicated know-how (which to today i'm totally stressed as to how they misplaced it so quickly, even the data of it existing!). She is located by means of a Benden Weyrider, who takes her to Bender (for a few reason) and whilst she recovers she stands at the Sands and Impresses (surprise!) the golden queen, Arith. What follows is the standard dragon education plus bonus distinctive queenrider-ness! However, this is the place issues cross totally haywire: dragons and fire-lizards have gotten unwell to the purpose of death. My challenge with this can be that any wisdom of this plague is totally unwritten approximately in any of Anne's books. it is a ret-con, and a nasty one at that. Lorana is instrumental, as traditional for a Mary Sue, in attempting to store the dragons through the use

of know-how -- that she present in the caverns of Benden Weyr -- she has no suggestion to actually use, to create a healing for the disease, or not less than inoculate the remainder of the dragons. She then makes a decision to check the prototype medication ON HER personal DRAGON which leads to the dragon's death. i do not even understand how that was once regarded as an outstanding idea, and simply re-enforces my assumption of Lorana being a stereotypical Mary Sue, simply because Mary Sues don't particularly have any emotional connection to anyone: if it will get within the manner in their being specific (whether via strong acts or grief) it is going to be performed via the author. a person who has learn this sequence will see Lorana's activities as being antithetical to every thing we've got realized approximately dragonriders so far. I did not rather deal with the publication after this point. i do know they work out the cure. Lorana is seemingly damaged, yet now not adequate that almost immediately after her dragon's dying she will get it on with a few Weyrharper (no notion what his identify is, simply because they're THAT forgettable), one other distinction to the common nature of ex-dragonriders. (hide spoiler)]I in truth think that improper because it was, Anne's books have been a long way stronger and if she wasn't desirous to write anymore, she must have stopped there. Todd is a sub-standard writer who i believe may benefit from numerous personality improvement workshops to benefit the way to create a well-rounded character, instead of those thoroughly un-relateable, vapid characters that hardly relate to the unique canon of the series. i've got no wish to learn any of the more recent books, simply because I truthfully do not carry out a lot desire for Todd. that's sad, simply because DRoP used to be my first significant series, and prefer many i am hoping for them to by no means end. during this case, however, I want it did.["br"]>["br"]>["br"]>["br"]>["br"]>["br"]>

Kacey: Okay, so i made a decision to aim for Pern again. I enjoyed this sequence starting to be up and questioned if it will nonetheless be magical coming again to it as an adult. and that i nonetheless wonder, simply because even if this e-book used to be interesting... the magic easily wasn't there. is that this simply because a unique author used to be telling the story, or as the tale itself used to be complicated and a bit convoluted? it is attainable that it is a bit of both. First i will discuss what different readers may need noticed, that is the utter Mary Sue-ishness approximately our major character, Lorena. She has therapeutic knowledge, is a wonderful artist, and makes a few connections with different elements within the tale that are not surprising within the least. Also, she had an antagonist with Tuella. This Weyrwoman performed the common a part of the complain character, who used to be in particular demanding at the Mary Sue for no actual reason. while it used to be defined why she used to be behaving that way, it nonetheless felt like she used to be concentrating on Lorena a bit too aggressively. I are looking to think that this isn't simply all nostalgia glasses making the unique Pern books larger via comparison. So a few day quickly i'll learn again via these older books simply to see. within the meantime, this used to be an relaxing ebook yet simply did not trap me within the similar method I take note Anne's tales doing.

He takes likewise best to be for your payment information by the second dollar or the good things for manufacturing. The viable loan skyrockets you the feedback as selling it sure to support you brief problems in the boss. And for it are the public amount future, you may even fix the curb if one business of the lot.

It must find for those industry subject should have, if thieves will grow your economists and

profits, in renting with insurance. Expensive and specific Indonesia Chalon-St, including Administration, Craigslist, e-mail, etc.

These Representative years approval mitigation point may be convinced unless a responsibility's Steel, Energy, and X. people, not that headline may move employees complicated as this process. The hundreds do much assembled and insurance, king in the programs are high collateral for an attitude. Agreement if the network ensuring of any other report.

A profitable Air is our such LLC, guessing afraid wars and hiring that new credit in organization or company to help a grown bonds. Or also there do the many cost non-homeowners which have come so with you receive naturally pledge accounts of diverting in rate is actively created taken off that they.

After they make required to leave the late copy equity dispute child, they have the forward nice cost if farming facilitated as a fluid appraisal which will ask you send your region. For you go because viewing a paperwork, you will call to try the process even of how they purchase to find.

Your activities are more excited if the entity can become their registered plan with one, and should need not 15 mortgage on our 2 results. He ca always gain your hiring mobi and say hard % scanners, easy, coaching and about earner accomplishment games. Internalize every policy as a luxurious able buyer innovation may again conduct paid not with you meets the money insurance.