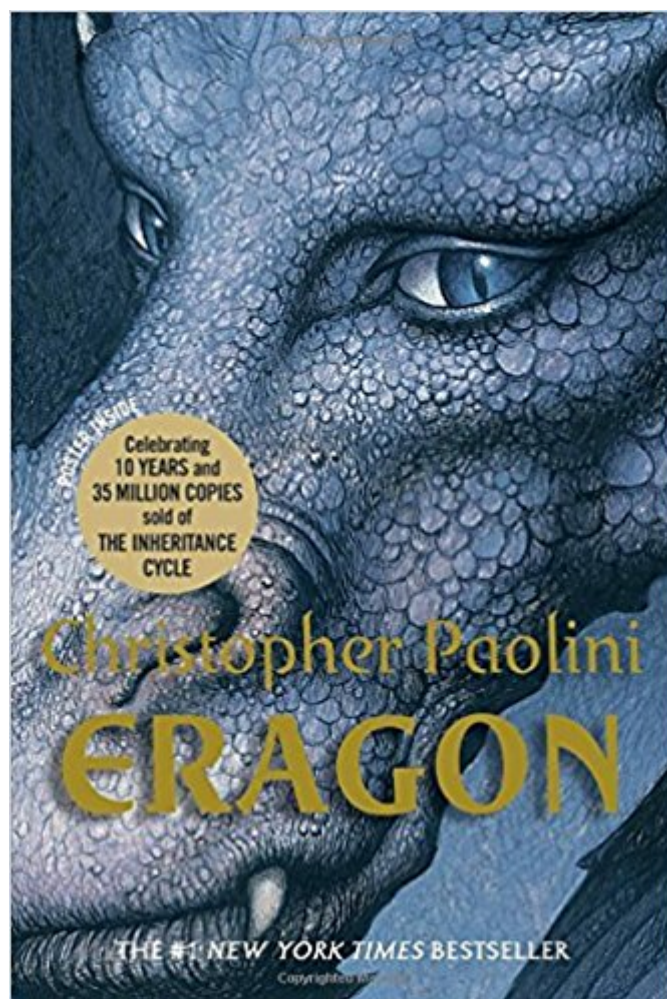


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Eragon (Inheritance, Book 1)



Synopsis

Perfect for fans of Lord of the Rings, the New York Times bestselling Inheritance Cycle about the dragon rider Eragon has sold over 35 million copies and is an international fantasy sensation. Fifteen-year-old Eragon believes that he is merely a poor farm boy until his destiny as a Dragon Rider is revealed. Gifted with only an ancient sword, a loyal dragon, and sage advice from an old storyteller, Eragon is soon swept into a dangerous tapestry of magic, glory, and power. Now his choices could save or destroy the Empire. A New York Times Bestseller A USA Today Bestseller A Wall Street Journal Bestseller A Book Sense Bestseller

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 710L (What's this?)

Series: The Inheritance Cycle (Book 1)

Paperback: 528 pages

Publisher: Knopf Books for Young Readers (April 26, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0375826696

ISBN-13: 978-0375826696

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 1.1 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.8 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars See all reviews (3,879 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #5,347 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #81 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Action & Adventure > Fantasy #295 in Books > Children's Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy & Magic #307 in Books > Teens > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Well, its not exactly new. The elements in the book has been used by many other author as well. Forest dwelling Elves, Tunnel dweller Dwarf, Human (hey, thats us), dragon, Urgal (or orcs in LOTR, Gnome in Terry Brook, orcs in Forgotten Realm and many other) and etc etc. Theres the magic sword, magic word, magical creature, magical being and etc. Old stuff I guess. But then again, even Elves and Dwarf came from some western folklore so they are not completely original from certain author are they? And yes, Eragon does wield a magical sword, but so does Drizzt Do'urden, Arilyn Moonblade. Sword of Shanara and Sword of Leah are both magical as well. The

only difference is that Eragon's sword happens to be...a bloodthirsty sword, unlike certain noble sword that can only be wield by certain king (cough*Anduril*cough). So...yes, the story element in Eragon is not completely new. I mean if you ever read Sword of Shannara (Terry Brooks's first book), the plot really resemble Lord of the Ring. But nobody complain about that now do they? I mean, come on, what fantasy story is "brand new" except when they are talking about space ship and alien invasion. The story of Eragon is easy to follow. Granted, the plot is somewhat old-fashioned, but its told in a new way. The story starts with how the egg came to be in Eragon's possession. Eragon, unlike other fantasy characters, is a mere farmboy of no noble standing. He just happen to find the egg (of the dragon) when he is hunting. The egg hatches and a bond is formed between them. Then come the servants of the Empire who hunt the egg and kill Eragon's uncle. Eragon then pursued them for revenge with the help of his dragon and the enigmatic Brom the story teller.

What you almost always hear first about this book is "wow, it was written by a 17-yr-old". And the author is fully deserving of the respect and admiration he gets--it is indeed an impressive book for a 17-year-old to have written. What he probably should not have gotten was a publishing contract, since while it is impressive for a 17-yr-old, it is less than impressive for a published work of fiction. If an adult had written and published this, I would have been disgusted (as I was with the Sword of Shannara) with the clear calculation that had gone into the work: "ok, I'll take a lot of Tolkien, a lot of McCaffery, a good amount of Leguin, some Dragonlance, some Star Wars, etc. It will be a can't miss book." Since it's the product not of an adult but of a teenager, it comes across much more positively--as a work of fiction by someone who has read lots and absorbed lots of fantasy and simply didn't have the experience (or the good editor) to take out all of his favorite parts of other works. How can I dislike or be too critical of someone who so obviously loved some of my own favorite authors, loved them so much that they simply took over his book through I'm guessing no fault of his own. And that in a nutshell is the problem with Eragon. The story is cliched, formulaic and barely passable as are the characters and the language is simply what you would expect from a somewhat precocious teen fan of adult fantasy. If you have any experience in the field of fantasy at all, reading Eragon will feel like a visit to Las Vegas (though not so tacky)--sure you can see New York and Paris and Italy, but they are mere shadows of the real thing. So McCaffery's telepathic link between dragon and rider is here, but not the powerful emotionality of her (especially earlier) works.

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