

Here There Be Dragons!

Fantasy fiction has many faces; dragons, elves, warlocks and more. In this advisory we will focus on the "Dragon" side of the genre.

Dragons have long been a part of fiction:

Lewis Carroll,

"Jabberwocky" in *Through the Looking-Glass* (1871):

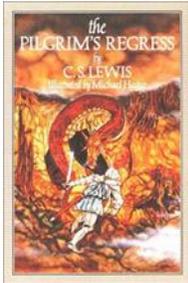
The Jabberwock, a fearsome dragon-like beast with "jaws that bite," "claws that catch," and "eyes of flame".

Kenneth Grahame, The

Reluctant Dragon (1898): A dragon who does not want to act like a dragon.



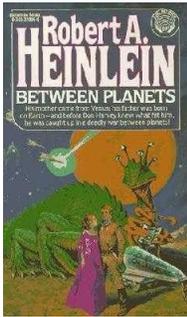
E. Nesbit, *The Book of Dragons* (1900): Various dragons, such as a red dragon that comes to life out of a magical Book of Beasts. *The Last of the Dragons* (1925): the last dragon on earth, who is tired of being expected to fight a prince for a princess, and becomes the princess's pet instead. Drinks petrol ("that's what does a dragon good, sir") and, at his own request, is eventually transformed by the king into the first airplane.



C. S. Lewis, *The Pilgrim's Regress* (1933) : the cold Northern dragon, slain by John, and the hot Southern dragon, slain by Vertue. The Northern dragon is so greedy that his anxiety for his gold hardly lets him sleep. He recalls eating his wife, saying, "worm grows not to dragon till he eats worm," a loose translation of the Latin saying, *Serpens, nisi serpentem comederit, non fit draco*. The Guide explains that dragons always live alone because they have become dragons by eating their own kind. Lewis reiterates the notion of cannibalistic dragons in *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*; one of the *Chronicles of Narnia*: The unnamed elderly dragon who dies, and then Eustace Scrubb, who becomes a dragon by magic when he puts on a bracelet from the dragon hoard. Eustace actually eats much of the dead dragon by instinct; Lewis explains that dragons like to eat other dragons, and are therefore usually alone, echoing his thoughts on dragons in *The Pilgrim's Regress*.



J. R. R. Tolkien, world of *Middle-earth* (1937): Ancalagon the Black (*The Fellowship of the Ring*, 1954; *The Silmarillion*, 1977) Glaurung, the first of the dragons in *Middle-earth* (*The Silmarillion*, 1977) Scatha (*The Return of the King*, Appendix A.II, 1955) Smaug (*The Hobbit*, 1937) Smaug is a classic, European-type dragon; deeply magical, he hoards treasure and burns innocent towns. Contrary to most old folklore and literature J. R. R. Tolkien's dragons are very intelligent and can cast spells over mortals.



Robert A. Heinlein, *Between Planets* (1951): the sentient inhabitants of Venus are huge flightless dragons, who are described as highly intelligent with an enormous aptitude for scientific research, who are very warm and friendly to humans. Since humans can't pronounce their real names, they habitually take - while conversing with humans via a special device - the name of a prominent past human scientist (the book's main dragon protagonist calls himself "Sir Isaac Newton").

Ursula K. Le Guin, world of *Earthsea* (1964): the portrayal of dragons undergoes significant changes from book to book. In the original, they resemble Smaug, with unbounded greed for hoards of precious jewelry; later, they grow in stature and nobility, to become virtual demi-gods who speak the "Language of Creation" as their mother tongue. Later still, it is revealed that they share an ancestry with humanity, and that some rare humans (always women) can change into dragons at will (or they may be considered as dragons who can take human form at will). In contrast to the dragons of C.S. Lewis's fiction, the dragons of Earthsea do not eat each other. Like Tolkien's Smaug,^[8] they are susceptible to drowning.^[9]

- Kalessin the creator of the world of Earthsea. (*The Farthest Shore*, 1972)
- Orm, the great dragon who slew and was slain by the legendary Warrior Mage Erreth-Akbe.
- Orm Embar, Orm's descendant, who died battling the evil magician Cob on the eastern shores. (*The Farthest Shore*, 1972)
- Yevaud (*A Wizard of Earthsea*, 1968)
- Orm Irian and Tehanu, each of whom was a dragon in human form who acted as a diplomat between her races.



Earthsea

1. A Wizard of Earthsea (1968)
 2. The Tombs of Atuan (1970)
 3. The Farthest Shore (1972)
 4. Tehanu (1990)
 5. The Other Wind (2001)
- The Earthsea Trilogy (omnibus) (1977)
Earthsea Revisioned (1993)
Tales from Earthsea (2001)

Gordon R. Dickson, *Dragon Knight* series (1976):

Bryagh, a major character. (*The Dragon and The George*, 1976)

Jim Eckert, main character in the series: reluctant knight and magician, part-time dragon and *de facto* member of the Cliffside dragons.

Gorbash, major character in *The Dragon and The George* novel and minor character in the rest of the series: largest dragon of the Cliffside dragons, grandnephew of Smrgol.

Secoh, major character in the series: a member of the Mere-Dragon clan, which have become diminutive as the result of a blight.

Smrgol, major character in *The Dragon and The George* novel: an elderly and respected member of the Cliffside dragons and the paternal granduncle of Gorbash.

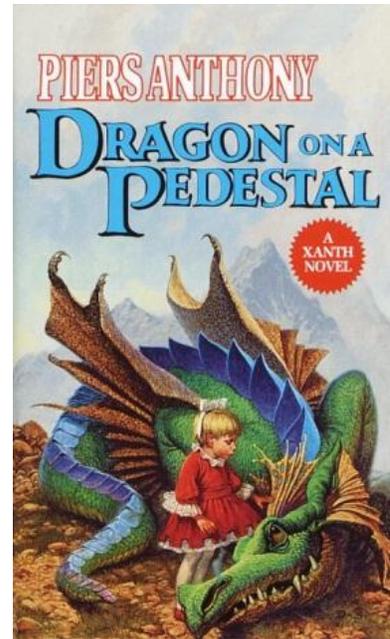


Dragon Knight series

- *The Dragon and the George* (1976)
- *The Dragon Knight* (1990)
- *The Dragon on the Border* (1992)
- *The Dragon at War* (1992)
- *The Dragon, the Earl, and the Troll* (1994)
- *The Dragon and the Djinn* (1996)
- *The Dragon and the Gnarly King* (1997)
- *The Dragon in Lyonesse* (1998)
- *The Dragon and the Fair Maid of Kent* (2000)

Piers Anthony, *Xanth* novels (1977): Stanley Steamer, the Gap Dragon; and Stella Steamer, Stanley Steamer's female counterpart.

- 1 *A Spell for Chameleon* (1977)
- 2 *The Source of Magic* (1979)
- 3 *Castle Roogna* (1979)
- 4 *Centaur Aisle* (1982)
- 5 *Ogre, Ogre* (1982)
- 6 *Night Mare* (1983)
- 7 *Dragon on a Pedestal* (1983)
- 8 *Crewel Lye* (1984)
- 9 *Golem in the Gears* (1986)
- 10 *Vale of the Vole* (1987)
- 11 *Heaven Cent* (1988)
- 12 *Man from Mundania* (1989)
- 13 *Isle of View* (1990)
- 14 *Question Quest* (1991)
- 15 *The Color of Her Panties* (1992)
- 16 *Demons Don't Dream* (1992)
- 17 *Harpy Thyme* (1993)
- 18 *Geis of the Gargoyle* (1994)
- 19 *Roc and a Hard Place* (1995)
- 20 *Yon Ill Wind* (1996)
- 21 *Faun & Games* (1997)
- 22 *Zombie Lover* (1998)
- 23 *Xone of Contention* (1999)
- 24 *The Dastard* (2000)
- 25 *Swell Foop* (2001)
- 26 *Up In A Heaval* (2002)
- 27 *Cube Route* (2003)
- 28 *Currant Events* (2004)
- 29 *Pet Peeve* (2005)
- 30 *Stork Naked* (2006)
- 31 *Air Apparent* (2007)
- 32 *Two to the Fifth* (2008)
- 33 *Jumper Cable* (2009)
- 34 *Knot Gneiss* (2010)
- 35 *Well-Tempered Clavicle* (2011)
- 36 *Luck Of The Draw* (2012; in production)
- 37 *Esrever Doom* (2013; being written)



Anne McCaffrey was born on April 1st, 1926, in Cambridge, Massachusetts, at 1:30 p.m., in the hour of the Sheep, year of the Fire Tiger, sun sign Aries with Taurus rising and Leo mid-heaven (which seems to suggest an early interest in the stars).

Anne is best known for her **Dragonriders of Pern** series. Over the course of her 46 year career she won a Hugo Award and a Nebula Award. Her book **The White Dragon** became one of the first science fiction novels ever to land on the New York Times Best Seller List.

The first Pern story, "**Weyr Search**", was published 1967 by John W. Campbell in Analog Science Fiction and Fact. It won the 1968 Hugo Award for best novella, voted by participants in the annual World Science Fiction Convention. The second Pern story "**Dragonrider**" won the 1969 Nebula Award for best novella, voted annually by the Science Fiction Writers of America. McCaffrey was the first woman to win any Nebula and the first woman to win a Hugo for a work of fiction

Anne's books may be read in published order, or in chronological order.

Chronological Order of Pern Books

In the First Pass:

Dragonsdawn

The Chronicles of Pern: First Fall

In the Second Pass:

Dragonseye

In the Third Pass:

Dragon's Kin

Dragonsblood by Todd McCaffrey (**release date to be announced**)

In the Sixth Pass:

Moreta: Dragonlady of Pern

Nerilka's Story

In the Ninth Pass:

Dragonflight

Dragonsong

Dragonquest

Dragonsinger (**overlaps with Dragonquest**)

The White Dragon

Dragondrums (**overlaps with The White Dragon**)

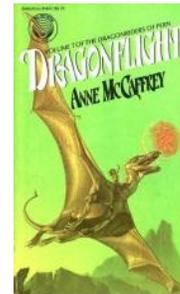
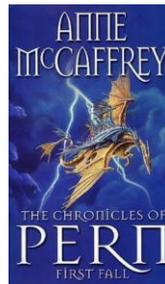
Masterharper of Pern (**overlaps with all of the above and more**)

Renegades of Pern

The Girl Who Heard Dragons (**short story**)

(**also the title of an anthology of short stories, not all of which are set on Pern**)

All The Weys of Pern



The Dolphins of Pern
The Skies of Pern

All Books – in publication order:

- "Weyr Search" (*Analog*, Oct 1967) – novella
- "Dragonrider" (*Analog*, Dec 1967 and Jan 1968) – novella
- *Dragonflight* (1968) – fix-up of "Weyr Search" and "Dragonrider"
- *Dragonquest* (1971)
- "The Smallest Dragonboy" (1973, in *Science Fiction Tales*, ed. Roger Elwood); also in non-Pern collections *Get Off the Unicorn* and *A Gift of Dragons*
- "A Time When" (1975) (NESFA Press)
- *Dragonsong* (1976)
- *Dragonsinger* (1977)
- *The White Dragon* (1978) – incorporating "A Time When"
- *Drumdrums* (1979)
- *Moreta: Dragonlady of Pern* (1983)
- *Nerilka's Story* (1986)
- *The Girl Who Heard Dragons* (1986 novella); also in the non-Pern collection of the same name
- *Dragonsdawn* (1988)
- *The Renegades of Pern* (1989)
- *All the Weyrs of Pern* (1991)
- "Rescue Run" (*Analog* 111:10, August 1991)
- *The Chronicles of Pern: First Fall* (1993) – Pern short story collection
 - "The Survey: P.E.R.N." (also in *Amazing*, September 1993)
 - "The Dolphins' Bell"
 - "The Ford of Red Hanrahan"
 - "The Second Weyr"
 - "Rescue Run" (1991)
- *The Dolphins of Pern* (1994)
- *Red Star Rising* (hard) or *Red Star Rising: Second Chronicles of Pern* (paper) (1996)
 - or *Dragonseye* (US release)
- *The Masterharper of Pern* (1998)
- "The Runner of Pern" (1998, in the anthology *Legends*, ed. Robert Silverberg)
- *The Skies of Pern* (2001)
- *A Gift of Dragons* (2002)– Pern short story collection
 - "The Smallest Dragonboy" (1973)
 - "The Girl Who Heard Dragons" (1986)
 - "Runner of Pern" (1998)
 - "Ever the Twain" (2002)
- *Dragon's Kin* (2003) (Anne & Todd McCaffrey)
- "Beyond Between" (2003, in the anthology *Legends II*, ed. Robert Silverberg)
- *Dragonsblood* (2005) (Todd McCaffrey)
- *Dragon's Fire* (2006) (Anne & Todd McCaffrey)

- *Dragon Harper* (2007) (Anne & Todd McCaffrey)
- *Dragonheart* (2008) (Todd McCaffrey)
- *Dragongirl* (2010) (Todd McCaffrey)
- *Dragon's Time* (June 2011) (Anne & Todd McCaffrey)
- *Dragonrider* (forthcoming mid-2012) (Anne & Todd McCaffrey)
- *After the Fall* (in progress)

Websites of interest

Official Site

<http://pernhome.com/aim/>

Bookwurm

<http://www.bookwurm.us/mccaffrey.html>

Dragonriders of Pern fan site

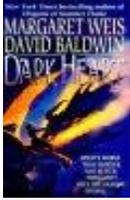
<http://kumo.swcp.com/~quirk/afp-index.shtml>

Margaret Edith Weis (born March 16, 1948 in Independence, Missouri, United States) is a fantasy novelist who, along with Tracy Hickman, is one of the original creators of the *Dragonlance* game world and has written numerous novels and short stories set in fantastic worlds.

The Death Gate Cycle is a seven-part series of fantasy novels written by Margaret Weis and Tracy Hickman. The main conflict is between two powerful races, the Sartan and the Patryns, which branched off from humans following a nuclear/anti-matter holocaust. Centuries prior to the events of the series, the Sartan attempted to end the conflict by sundering the earth into four elemental realms, and imprisoning the Patryn in a fifth prison world, the Labyrinth. The Sartan took up stewardship of the elemental realms, but soon mysteriously lost contact with each other and disappeared. Centuries later, a Patryn known as Xar escaped the Labyrinth, and started returning to the Labyrinth to rescue others. He learned how to access the other worlds and dreamed of freeing all his people from the Labyrinth and conquering the other worlds. The books follow the fiercely independent Haplo, a Patryn agent sent to scout the elemental worlds and throw them into chaos in preparation for his Lord's conquest of them. Weis and Hickman created five distinct fantasy worlds during the course of the series, along with developing the cultures of five major races, their unique Patryn and Sartan, and the common fantasy races of dwarves, elves, and humans.

1. [Dragon Wing](#) (1990)
2. [Elven Star](#) (1990)
3. [Fire Sea](#) (1991)
4. [The Serpent Mage](#) (1992)
5. [The Hand of Chaos](#) (1993)

6. Into the Labyrinth (1993)
7. The Seventh Gate (1994)



Testament of the Dragon: An Illustrated Novel (1996)

Banished to the Nether Realm for their occult powers, the Disciples of the Dragon pledge their fealty to their fantastic dragon king in exchange for eternal youth and wealth--all except one Judas in their midst.

Dragonvarld

Dragonvarld trilogy (2003–2005): Maristara, an evil black dragon; Braun, her grandson; Draconas, the walker, a dragon in human form; and various other dragons.

1. Mistress of Dragons (2003)
2. The Dragon's Son (2004)
3. Master of Dragons (2005)

Dragonvarld Adventures (2007)



Dragonships of Vindras (with Tracy Hickman)

1. Bones of the Dragon (2008)
2. Secret of the Dragon (2010)
3. Rage of the Dragon (2012)



Dragon Brigade (with Robert Krammes)

1. Shadow Raiders (2011)

The Day Is Ours (2011)



Websites of Interest

BooksNBytes

http://www.booksnbytes.com/authors/weis_margaret.html

GoodReads

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/869.Margaret_Weis

E. E. Knight is a science fiction and fantasy writer, born in LaCrosse, Wisconsin. He now resides in Oak Park, Illinois with his wife, and also teaches genre fiction writing at Harper College.

The Age of Fire series takes place in a world where dragons exist, but are becoming extinct. Civilization is under attack by barbarians from the north. Each of the first three novels in the series follows the life of one of three dragon siblings from fireless hatchlings to soaring dragons.

Age of Fire

1. Dragon Champion (2005)

2. Dragon Avenger (2006)

3. Dragon Outcast (2007)

4. Dragon Strike (2008)

5. Dragon Rule (2009)

6. Dragon Fate (2010)



Laurence Yep

Laurence Yep grew up in San Francisco, where he was born. He attended Marquette University, was graduated from the University of California at Santa Cruz, and received his Ph.D. from the State University of New York at Buffalo. Mr. Yep now lives in Pacific Grove, California.

One of children's literature's most respected Asian American authors, Mr. Yep has written many novels, including *Dragonwings*, a Newbery Honor Book of 1976, and *Dragon's Gate*, a Newbery Honor Book of 1994.

The author of numerous other books for children and young adults, Mr. Yep has also taught creative writing and Asian American Studies at the University of California, Berkeley and Santa Barbara. In 1990 he received an NEA fellowship in fiction.

Dragons of the Sea

[Dragon of the Lost Sea \(1982\)](#)

[Dragon Steel \(1985\)](#)

[Dragon Cauldron \(1991\)](#)

[Dragon War \(1992\)](#)



Jane Yolen

Jane Yolen is one of the acknowledged masters of fantasy today. She is the author of more than two hundred books for children and adults. Her young adult novel *The Devil's Arithmetic* won the Jewish Book Council Award. Her children's book *Owl Moon*, illustrated by John Schoenherr, was awarded the Caldecott Medal; her fantasy novels *Sister Light*, *Sister Dark* and *White Jenna* were both short-listed for the Nebula; and she's won the Nebula twice for short stories. She has also won the World Fantasy Award, the Christopher Medal twice, and the Golden Kite Award. She has written two previous books in the Young Heroes series with Robert J. Harris, *Odysseus in the Serpent Maze* and *Hippolyta and the Curse of the Amazons*. Jane Yolen lives with her husband in western Massachusetts and St. Andrews, Scotland.

<http://janeyolen.com/> Official site

Pit Dragons



1. [Dragon's Blood \(1982\)](#)
2. [Heart's Blood \(1984\)](#)
3. [A Sending of Dragons \(1987\)](#)
4. [Dragon's Heart \(2009\)](#)

Susan Fletcher

Susan Fletcher is the acclaimed author of the Dragon Chronicles, composed of Dragon's Milk, Flight of the Dragon Kyn, and Sign of the Dove, as well as the award-winning Alphabet of Dreams, Shadow Spinner, and Walk Across the Sea. Ms. Fletcher lives in Wilsonville, Oregon.



Dragon's Milk

What if there were a fairy tale girl who had to baby-sit something fairytaleish... Dragons! A girl who baby-sits dragons.



Flight of the Dragon Kyn

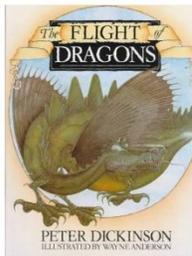
When Kara was a small child, she was brought back to life by a dragon who nursed her to health. Many believe this is how she acquired the ability to call down birds. Hearing of her extraordinary talent, the king thinks she might be able to call down dragons as well. But when Kara finds that the king wants to slay the dragons, she realizes she could never do something so cruel. An ALA Best Book for Young Adults.



Sign of the Dove

In this final chapter of The Dragon Chronicles, travel with Lyf to a land of wonder and magic, where dragons still live and where heroes are born.

Peter Dickinson



The Flight of Dragons

Combining fact with fantasy and science with romance, the authors set out to prove that dragons really did exist. First published in 1979, "The Flight of the Dragon" presents a riveting thesis on how so great a creature as the dragon actually managed to fly.

Peter Dickinson does a wonderful job of building up a theory by which dragons could once have truly roamed the skies and terrorized innocent villagers. His ideas are sound, his message clear, and through it all he maintains a tone which keeps the reader asking for more.

Chris d'Lacey

Last Dragon Chronicles series by. Gadzooks, G'reth, Gretel, Gawain, and other dragons. These dragons are made of clay and brought to life by the fire essence, known as the "auma", of one of Earth's last true Dragons, called Gawain. It is possible that Gawain's line might rise to full draconicity as a result of the actions taken by the student David Rain, his girlfriend the sibyl Zanna, the clayworkers Liz and Lucy Pennykettle, scientist Anders Bergstrom, and the witch Gwillanna.

- 1) The Fire Within (2001)
- 2) Icefire (2003)
- 3) Fire Star (2005)
- 4) The Fire Eternal (2007)
- 5) Dark Fire (2009)
- 6) Fire World (2011)

Rain and Fire: A Guide to the Last Dragon Chronicles (2010) (with Jay d'Lacey).

