



Dragonseye

Anne McCaffrey

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In Anne McCaffrey's New York Times bestselling DRAGONSEYE, join Weyrleaders, Holders, and Craftmasters in the creation of the legendary Star Stones and the teaching ballads of Pern!

It's been two-hundred years since the deadly Thread fell like rain upon Pern, devouring everything in its path. No one alive remembers that first horrific onslaught and no one believes in its return--except for the dragonriders. For two centuries they have been practicing and training, passing down from generation to generation the formidable Threadfighting techniques.

Now the ominous signs are appearing: the violent winter storms and volcanic eruptions that are said to herald the approach of the Red Star and its lethal spawn. But one stubborn Lord Holder, Chalkin of Bitra, refuses to believe--and that disbelief could spell disaster. So as the dragonriders desperately train to face a terrifying enemy, they and the other Lord Holders must find a way to deal with Chalkin--before history repeats itself and unleashes its virulence on all of Pern. . . .

From the Paperback edition.

Dragonseye Details

Date : Published February 26th 2002 by Random House Value Publishing (first published 1996)

ISBN : 9780517287774

Author : Anne McCaffrey

Format : Mass Market Paperback 353 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Science Fiction, Dragons, Fiction

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From Reader Review Dragonseye for online ebook

Amalia Dillin says

I think this might be one of my most favorite settings for the Pern books: second pass, when there's still some memory of technology and understanding of their roots, though I do also love the first pass, when even with all that technology they still can't quite defeat the menace of Thread.

Theresa says

Dragonseye (Pern, #14)

McCaffrey, Anne

Mccaffrey, Todd

Todd pern side interpenetrated by Maccaffrey's and his first attempt at helping to write in the series. Through the dragons view of things they are able to combat prejudice and create meaningful changes in their world, and most of all save pern from destruction in future generations .
the story of the rebuilding of pern after the devastation, and the beginning of the weirs

Kathy Davie says

It's 258 AL, 258 years after landing, in the Dragonriders of Pern fantasy series.

The Story

I do love McCaffrey's Dragonriders series and I'm afraid I spent more time cataloging the differences than I did analyzing the story.

Changes are occurring in this Second Pass of Thread. Some people are starting to use "Turn" instead of "year". Fort Hold is building a separate College building for teaching and laboratories because the cave system at Hold is unstable. It will become the Harper Hall somewhere down the road. The dragonriders are complaining about how difficult it is to get girls to impress at a Hatching because dragonriders can't own land. Fire lizards have disappeared due to some Northern illness.

The computers have finally failed completely...I want one of their computers! And the College is talking of changing the types of subjects taught and the way in which they are taught. They remember AIVAS and its shutting itself down so people stop relying upon it for all the information needed to survive. The Duty Song is written as well as other songs to help people remember what they owe to each other, to their Lords Holder, the weyrs, and the protections within their Contract. There is talk of a riddling song.

Permission is granted to start up Crom Hold. With the loss of the computers, the lords, dragonriders, and teachers are discussing more primitive, more permanent ways in which to track the Red Planet so they will know when an attack is imminent leading to Eye Rock and the Star Stones at all the weyrs. And they're still waiting on Tubberman's grubs to increase and migrate enough to protect Southern.

Every word just makes me want to start all over from the beginning...it's been so long since I've read those books I own in the series. I can't believe I let McCaffrey's Dragonriders of Pern escape me for this long!

McCaffrey did the most amazing work of writing/creating this whole new culture. Language, customs, mode of dress, manners, the varying mores. The evolution of history on Pern has been amazing.

Deb says

"The main plot of this Pern novel, set just prior to the Second Pass of thread, is about a despotic Lord Holder who refuses to believe the danger is real. Unfortunately, the villain is a little too villainous - he's really a caricature, with no redeeming qualities, making you wonder why his subjects aren't willing to rebel more. Though seeing him brought down is still quite satisfying.[return][return]However, the secondary plotline about preparations for Thread is pretty interesting. The second pass is coinciding with the breakdown of the last of Pern's advanced technology - they have a few computers, but all are on their last legs. Several characters are busy reinventing substitutes such as the abacus and the fountain pen. Not to mention revamping their entire educational system to ensure that all have the necessary survival skills, at the possible expense of the knowledge of life elsewhere. The characters involved in this plot - mostly educators and musicians - are much more well-rounded, with both strengths and weaknesses. And some of their solutions are very creative - I think it's worth reading for that aspect alone."

Susan Kennedy says

Another fantastic book from the Dragonriders of Pern series. This story begins 250 years after the first fall. That is a lot of time in between each fall of thread. With so much time it is understandable that some begin to question if thread will ever fall again.

One of those that doesn't believe thread fall will return is a cruel Lord Holder. A lot of the story is around this despicable and cruel man. They go into how he treats his guests as well as his own holders. He doesn't get ready for the imminent fall and thus puts his own people in jeopardy.

I loved getting to know the other Lord Holders and the Dragon riders who are all getting ready for the thread fall to come. They train and clear land around each hold. They have lost so much of the technology that they came to this planet with. It is interesting to hear how they get along without that technology and the steps they take to fix issues that they have with more simple or non technological ideas. It is a lot for these people to take with never having faced thread before and having to train and get ready for something that is so frightening.

The characters are fantastic and the story is wonderful. I am really enjoying reading these books in chronological order.

Connie53 says

Dit is weer een geweldig boek en de laatste die vertaald is in het Nederlands. Ik heb echt van deze serie genoten. En nu op zoek naar de andere niet vertaalde delen.

STU says

I read most of the series about 20 years ago in publication order.

Stopped before I got to this book.

I'm now reading the complete series in chronological order, making this the third book.

I found this book pleasant and enjoyable enough to read. It doesn't really add that much background to the original couple of trilogies - not as much as *Dragonsdawn*. The characters were likable enough, but I had a feeling of déjà vu and think they will be remarkably similar to Lessa etc in the 'later' books.

This almost feels like a 'reboot' that never made it past one book.

Anyhow, on to Dragon's Kin and the Todd/Anne written books before back to Moretta.

Kaila says

This was published as *Red Star Rising* in the UK, a much better title in my opinion. I guess it didn't scream BUY ME I'M ABOUT DRAGONS enough to the American audience.

Every Pern book I read, I wonder if it is going to be the last. I want to be able to finish the series, mostly because I like completing things. It is becoming a chore of epic proportions to get through each successive novel; this one was by far the worst yet.

It is a familiar story at this point. Thread is on the way, and one holder, Chalkan of Bitra, doesn't believe it's coming. The "pass" this time is the second one ever in the history of humans on Pern. Landing was made about 250 years ago, so there are still some remnants of the knowledge of the First Crossing, but a lot of it has faded. They still have access to a few decrepit old computers (a computer that ran for 250 years?! Who made it? I want one) and solar panels, for example, but everything from Earth is becoming more and more rare. Weyrs are set up, and most of the holds the readers have become familiar with over the course of the series are there. The southern continent is completely abandoned and things like craft halls have not yet become the norm. There is no Harper Hall yet, for example.

Dragonseye essentially tells us the story of how Pern started down the path to become the Pern of Lessa and F'lar about 2,000 years/turns in the future. The creation of the star stones is explained so no one can doubt that Thread is on its way. The craft halls are formed so vital information is not lost to the rigors of time.

The problem is, I was okay leaving those mysteries to a simple "**our ancestors sure were smart now let's go ride our dragons into the sunset.**" That is how these things were always explained away before. Well, I thought, I'm going to continue giving this a shot because maybe the characters will be memorable.

Unfortunately...no. Every character is a lesser version of their counterparts in the original trilogy. The bad guy is TIRED, and I was completely disinterested in his multitudinous villainies. He is the exact same creep as the bad guy in every other Pern novel, with a slightly different name. I was bored with that formula ages ago, when Toric became the villain.

The other characters are introduced so quickly and haphazardly that none of them were the least bit

memorable. Dragon riders and their mounts are thrown at us in list form, and then we are supposed to remember not only which rider has which dragon, but also what color that dragon is and which Weyr they hail from. If you introduce 15 characters within a chapter, I'm not going to remember every detail, that's just how it is. Where's the editor here? Check out this list of all the characters. It's gigantic. And there is never another novel set in the second pass, so most of those characters are wasted. I would have vastly preferred getting to know a handful rather than be bombarded by a million nonessential and inconsequential redshirts.

I give it 2 stars only because it is Anne and she has a warm place in my heart. I consider myself a HUGE fan of Pern, but this simply didn't cut the mustard. Do not read unless you are more fanatic of Anne McCaffrey's works than I am.

Edit: 4 years later

This was the last Pern novel I could stomach. I just reread my own review and I was right, this book was so unmemorable I don't even remember writing this review.

Angela says

Love this series of books. It's one of my all time favourites. I decided to re-read the entire Dragonriders of Pern series and over the past couple of months, I have been working my way through them all. Anne McCaffrey has such a wonderful, boundless imagination and such a vivid and descriptive style, her stories transport the reader into the fantastic world that she created and sweeps you up on the breathtaking adventures. Spellbinding!

Jane Irish Nelson says

Thread is due to fall again, when the Second Pass begins. But one Holder refuses to believe in it or to prepare his Hold or people. Impeachment is the only option, but first the other holders and the dragonriders must assemble enough proof to convince *all* the holders, since impeachment requires a unanimous vote.

In addition, the few remaining computers die, causing the head of the college to rethink the planet's teaching methods, as well as the content of the courses — after all, why should the inhabitants of Pern learn the ancient history from before their planet was colonized? Again, there are detractors, but the plans go ahead.

As well, a method of predicting just exactly when a Pass is imminent is necessary, now that most of the scientific equipment is no longer operational. Can all these be achieved and allow life on Pern to continue safely and securely? As always, this book features strong characterization, people you will empathize with and cheer on. Highly recommended.

Kendra says

Reread

Paul Baker says

Although I applaud Anne McCaffrey's desire to fill in some of the blanks on the Pern timeline, I found this book to be a little disappointing compared to the other previous 13 "canon" Pern novels. That said, I'm a diehard Pern fan and gobble up the books like candy. Having read the main trilogy and the Harper Hall trilogy so many times I've lost count, I always look forward to reading about Pern.

In *Dragonseye*, McCaffrey takes us to the Second Pass of the Red Star and that means the introduction of an entire planet of new characters, including the dragons. The principal thrust of this novel is to fill in how the colonists lost technology, built the foundation (literally) for the Harper Hall and created the "eye rock" and "finger rock" that announce the coming of the Red Star and Thread.

McCaffrey's villains are typically two-dimensional and this novel is no exception with Chalkin, the Lord Holder of Bitra, filling the role. What is a little different for this villain is that he is defeated so easily that there really isn't much excitement at all, no real fight, and it all goes down nice and easy. There are, however, some other great characters, most notably the two primary dragonriders, K'vin and Zulaya of Telgar Weyr. Iantine, the artist is a wonderful character, as is his lover, Debera, newly Impressed rider of a green dragon, Morath. Paulin, as Lord Holder of Fort is a fine character as well as the principal actors in the College (forebears of the Harper Hall), Clisser, Sheledon, Jemmy, and Bethany.

It's a fun read, but it really misses having a good dramatic story to fuel it. Recommended for all Pern fans!

Casey says

Dragonseye recounts the time just before the Second Pass of Thread.

The plot is ultimately centered on preparing for Thread which involves getting Chalkin, Lord Holder of Bitra, to comply. As it is with these recent Pern books, the plot feels lazy and it meanders. There's a few council meetings, a feast, someone gets hurt, someone falls in love, and then the dragonriders are triumphant. Chalkin refuses to believe Thread is coming because there is always that person, on Pern or on Earth.

When Iantine takes a job to paint Lord Chalkin and his family, everyone warns him. The family is horrible and they do their best to interpret the contract in their favor. Iantine suffers through it, worried regarding the impending winter.

Meanwhile, the other Lords and dragonriders discuss how to make Chalkin see his wrong.

I thought Iantine's parts were the most interesting part of the book by far. It's a relief to have a Pern character that has some nuance, rather than being a goody two shoes or an evil bad guy.

The subplot of how the technology is fading away because all the equipment was breaking interested me, but those characters' issues are not explored much. It's crazy that a computer lasted that long - I guess a few hundred years? Considering that trees are burned away by Thread so they don't have a consistent source of paper, this society of people has to rely heavily on collective memory. Really regressive, unfortunately for them.

Clisser, the head teacher of the College at Fort Hold (like a pre-Harper Hall), just completely gives up on attempting to salvage any knowledge. They'll just play some music and that's the best they can do! I understand not having the technology to run advanced mathematics but at least try to keep the basic knowledge somewhere. Freaking put that in a song.

Dragonseye does finally feature a gay couple and it's very obvious they are. I found it strange (view spoiler)

The story did discuss the issue of having a young dragon and needing to be careful with any sexual activities, as it could scar the young dragon. That's a bummer, but the dragons grow up quickly.

While the foray into this culture's sexuality were intriguing in Dragonseye, issues are never fully explored. It gets the regular treatment of a few paragraphs and then it's close scene.

There were way too many characters. Many of who were just randomly referenced and had very few lines of dialogue. It was impossible for me to keep anyone straight. I had to resort to writing names down, but then for so many I didn't have a reference for who they were, just who they appeared near too in the story.

Overall, not a strong book, but Iantine's plot kept me reading his part straight through. Dragonseye is stronger than Dolphins of Pern, but the characters aren't superior, as everyone is a new character that hasn't been established in a previous book.

Jane Jago says

If there ever was a beautifully realised fantasy world Pern is it. Everything hangs together perfectly and the place is believable. The stories are, maybe, brain candy, but we need some of that in our world.

Love it

Melissa says

Another reread.

I remember when this book first came out, how excited I was for a brand new Pern story. But I wound up being disappointed with the plot. A decade or so later, my feelings about this novel remain the same: I would have rather read an entire novel about what it was like for post-colonial female green riders than the whole drama about Chalkin and the installation of the Eye and Finger Rocks. It was as boring then as it was now. Only this time I realize how little time I got to spend with Debera, Morath, and Iantine.

Robin says

Peen is preparing for the Second Pass of the Red Star. Everyone is gearing up for the return of Thread, except for Chalkin of Bitra. What will the Weyrleaders and Lord Holders do to make him prepare his Hold?

At the College, Clisser realizes that Pern needs a new system of education, one grounded in what is

important on Pern, not on long-forgotten Earth. Accordingly, he sets out to change how and what people are taught, especially how to know when a Pass is imminent.

Once Thread begins to fall, the dragons take to the skies, breathing fire to protect the surface of Pern.

Wendy says

Four starts because it was indeed above average. This is not the first time I read a summary of a Pern novel, thought it sounded boring, and was pleasantly impressed by the book. However, there were way too many characters in this book; I thought it was even worse than most of the others. I finished the book and I still don't know who many of them were! Regardless, it was a wonderful story that drew me in and made me wonder how everything would work out.

And I do think Red Star Rising is a better title than Dragsonseye. The "Dragon" titles get confusing!

Vicki Jaeger says

I can't tell you how many times I've read this series. Just read this title again, and it still doesn't disappoint. Telepathic dragons, strong female characters, great relationships, and the Harpers' guild and music as a strong guiding force. What could be better?

In hindsight, I still enjoy reading the series in order written (versus actual chronological order of events). I especially like how McCaffrey shifts her point of view in different books, retelling the same events from someone else's perspective.

This title retells events from before the second pass of Thread, after "Dragonsdawn," and before "Dragon's Kin."

On to the next Pern title!

Joan says

This was not one of my favorites in the series. I think partially because there was no one focus, especially of character. However, I loved reading about how the Pernese settled on concepts such as using music to set basic history, law and other concepts in kids' minds. I wish more of our schooling was musical based! I think one of my disappointments is that McCaffrey described the origins of the Eye and Finger Rock but doesn't show it in action. Bitra and Bitrans just do not seem to learn from history! They continue to have a bad reputation in many of the books of the Pern series. I am fairly sure I read this before, years ago but I didn't remember many parts of it. I'm glad I reread it and I'm keeping the book as part of the series.

Colleen says

Just going by my personal Pern favorites, I think McCaffrey does her best work when packing a standalone story into a standalone book. Set all by itself in the 3rd century of the planet's history, McCaffrey's forced to invent an all new cast of characters and flesh them out. The result is lovely and unique. Debra and Iantine,

the entire cast of teachers and doctors, the vile Bitrans... Fantastic. The book explores how a wise group of people can face up to a civilization's challenges and proactively work to keep society on a good track, which sounds as dull as the Fountainhead, in theory, but the action and adventure, and aforementioned characterization, makes this work.
