

Eragon

Christopher Paolini

Reviewed by: Rishi Chillara, 14 years old

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One day, a young farm boy named Eragon ventures out to the Spine (a massive forest area) to hunt. Then, out of chance, a stone seemingly falls right out of the sky! He takes it, hoping it will buy him food and supplies for the upcoming winter. But when he discovers what the stone really is, he is thrust headfirst into a downward spiraling life and has nothing but his dragon and a traveler to guide him. Now, Eragon and his fast-growing (and fast learning) dragon will journey on an adventure, one of vengeance to one of saving the world. Will Eragon take up the mantle of the legendary dragon riders, saving Alagaësia from the treachery of King Galbatorix and his evils? Join him in an expansive fantasy adventure across Alagaësia full of magic, kings, and dragons.

This book is... ok? It is like one of those movies that jump around from one point to the other with no explanation, and not enough fleshing out of the characters. But first, let me start with the good of this book. This book is the first book of the author, and he started writing it when he was my age, 14! So, for the first book that he wrote when he was young, it is impressive! It is a delightful fantasy novel that has many adventurous fantasy elements and impressive characters and descriptions. The places in the book are expansive and breathtaking (well, as explained in the book) and there are elements that are sure to please fans of *The Lord of the Rings* and other fantasy novels too! This novel introduces many interestingly new fantasy concepts too, like telepathic speaking with dragons, the fact that ANYONE can learn magic, and more! The book has action scenes that are pleasing too! Its story is adventurous and long, full of surprising twists and turns along the way. It also enters with an immersive cast of characters, each with motives to help (or harm) Eragon. Finally, the themes introduced in this book are memorable. Themes are prominent throughout the book, like friendship, honor, and protection for those whom you love. This guides Eragon to take up his true destiny as a Dragon Rider, destined to defeat Galbatorix, in this novel, which was fun to read.

But unfortunately, there is more bad than good in this book, thus leading my review for this novel to be mixed. It is understandable as the author completed this book when he was young (around the age of 20), but there still some undeniable (and some unfathomable) mistakes in the book. Now, when I was reading this book, I felt as if I was reading somewhat of a derived fiction of works like LOTR. I said in the above paragraph that this is a good quality, but at the end of the day, it is a harmful quality for the book too. This novel's plotline and elements are very similar to LOTR, which usually is unambiguous, but in this case, feels kind of like a knock-off. There are many elements derived or taken from other popular fantasy novels, and unfortunately, it shows here. But even if this book was not inspired by anything, there are still problems. The dialogue. Once again, this is the author's FIRST book, so I understand why, but the dialogue throughout the book fluctuates, as the dialogue is sometimes very dramatic and descriptive, but at other times, it uses generic dialogue like something you would find out of a kid's mystery TV show. Finally capping all these problems I have with the book is that the book has lots of clichés in it. Clichés are concepts that are overused in stories, and unfortunately, *Eragon* is no stranger

to these. The characters' descriptions are wide, but also a bit cliché, making them a bit too familiar when really, we are not supposed to know much yet about them. In some parts of the story, Eragon learns how to use magic. Understandably, the magic can drain strength, yet it still opens tons of conveniences and skips past major parts of him learning magic, taking away any consequences what-so-ever and making it very convenient in places that he knows certain spells to use. The exposition, finally, is clunky. For some pages, Eragon keeps on asking numerous questions until it gets annoying, and sometimes, the telepathic conversations between Eragon and Saphira (his dragon) get awkward. Sometimes the dialogue's points jump around without warning, making the plot a bit confusing.

However, the book's climax is good, it ties up the story well, especially the war sequence, where Eragon shines in his qualities as a Dragon Rider and proves himself. Overall, the book is an magnificent fantasy adventure with a memorable cast, however, there is a lot to work on, finally leaving my review to be mixed, which is a tiny bit disappointing, knowing that I wanted this book to be brilliant, but just fell short of. This book would do great as a fun book you can read from time to time. I would recommend it for young adults/teens due to the literary gore and some language. At the time of writing this review, I have not read the second book yet, but am going to. I did not like this famous book as much as I thought, but I still cannot wait to see what happens to Eragon and his dragon after!

Recommended Titles:

The Lord of The Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring by J.R.R Tolkien

The Lord of The Rings: The Two Towers by J.R.R Tolkien

The Lord of The Rings: The Return of the King by J.R.R. Tolkien

The Hobbit by J.R.R Tolkien

The Chronicles of Narnia by C. S. Lewis