



Dragon Rider

By Cornelia Funke

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Dragon Rider By Cornelia Funke

Firedrake, a young dragon, receives a frightening warning one night: Humans are planning to destroy the valley in which he lives! All the dragons must flee. Their only refuge is a place above the clouds called the Rim of Heaven -- which may not even exist. Firedrake boldly volunteers to go ahead first. As he embarks on his journey, he meets Ben, a runaway boy. Together, the boy and the dragon make their way toward the Rim of Heaven, all the while running a step ahead of Nettlebrand, a monster who will stop at nothing to hunt down Firedrake. Their quest will truly become an adventure like no other.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

It's a fantasy, it's long, and it's got dragons in it. *Dragon Rider* is bound to be another hit book from Cornelia Funke! Ever since the popularity of bestselling fantasies *The Thief Lord* and *Inkheart* went global a few years ago, legions of fans have demanded more books from the German author than she can reasonably hope to write each year. So, re-discovering this hefty, earlier novel from 1997 was a logical development--and her keenest readers will devour it as before.

Aimed at slightly younger readers than her previous novels, despite its massive five hundred pages, *Dragon Rider* is about a brave young dragon called Firedrake who embarks upon a dangerous journey to the Rim of Heaven in the Himalayas--a magical place where silver dragons can rest easy, free from the threat of destruction by mankind and their only hope of sanctuary. The key to its location is a map rendered by a rat who is a master cartographer.

Firedrake is joined on his quest by Ben, an orphaned boy, and Sorrell--a wise-cracking Brownie that is an odd, but ingenious, grumpy kind of fairy. Their journey is not a straightforward one by any means. Created by an alchemist called Petrosius Henbane in 1424, Nettlebrand (a malevolent creature covered in impenetrable gold plates) is their biggest threat--he is intent on destroying them. Nettlebrand is aided by Twigleg, a homunculus who has stowed away in Ben's bag and who is feeding reports on their progress back to his master.

Their exciting encounters are many... It is easy to forgive the narrative's excessive length when readers are gorging on such a wonderfully inventive and readable story from an author who has her readers in the palm of her hand on every page. (Age 9 and over) --*John McLay*

From School Library Journal

Grade 4-6—Young Firedrake is the only dragon to heed a warning from his colony's senior resident: return to the hidden city at the Rim of Heaven, or suffer imminent discovery and destruction by humans.

Accompanied by a feisty Scottish brownie, an orphaned boy who becomes his dragon rider, and a large group of other supporters, Firedrake fulfills an ancient prophecy and safely returns to his ancestral home. Occasional black-and-white illustrations show many of the book's more exotic characters, a plus for young readers who may not know the folklore from which the creatures are drawn. The omniscient point of view follows each member of this ensemble at length, providing the tale with humor and action but also preventing the main characters from fully developing. The company survives encounters with a basilisk, a djinni, a roc, and a sea serpent, as well as an ongoing threat from Nettlebrand, a malevolent being intent on destroying them. Although each of these confrontations is interesting, the sheer number of episodes, the lack of strong central characters, and Nettlebrand's blustering inability to actually hurt anyone make for a story with much less dramatic tension than Funke's outstanding novels, *The Thief Lord* (2002) and *Inkheart* (2003, both Scholastic). A well-known author will assure the book's popularity, but the overlong plot is forgettable.—*Beth Wright, Fletcher Free Library, Burlington, VT*

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From [Booklist](#)

Starred Review Gr. 4-6, younger for reading aloud. Here's news to quicken the pulses of Funke's many admirers: the fantasist's first novel, and her most popular so far in her native Germany, is now available to

American readers. Crack open the fat volume, though, and it's instantly clear that this is different from Funke's previous books. With its large type, generous leading, and whimsical line art by the author, it simply *looks* more like a traditional middle-grade novel. The plot is correspondingly gentler, lighter, and more straightforward than those of *The Thief Lord* (2002) and *inkheart* (2003), involving an ancient race of fabulous creatures under threat from a wily, vengeful foe. Funke proves she knows how to tickle the imaginations of younger readers: there's a silver dragon that absorbs moonlight as flight fuel, an orphan boy destined to become a Dragon Rider, a journey to the Himalayas, and plenty of humor, introduced in particular by the dragon's irritable brownie sidekick and by Twigleg, a homunculus prone to bowing and scraping. [...] This is a good, old-fashioned ensemble-cast quest in the style of Lloyd Alexander, with a bit of *Puff the Magic Dragon* added to the mix. What could it be but a winner? *Jennifer Mattson*

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Heather Roberts:

Book is actually written, printed, or illustrated for everything. You can learn everything you want by a e-book. Book has a different type. We all know that that book is important issue to bring us around the world. Close to that you can your reading expertise was fluently. A e-book Dragon Rider will make you to always be smarter. You can feel a lot more confidence if you can know about every little thing. But some of you think this open or reading a book make you bored. It is not make you fun. Why they are often thought like that? Have you seeking best book or suited book with you?

Gena Colgan:

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Carol Smith:

Dragon Rider can be one of your beginner books that are good idea. Many of us recommend that straight away because this reserve has good vocabulary which could increase your knowledge in words, easy to understand, bit entertaining but nevertheless delivering the information. The author giving his/her effort to put every word into delight arrangement in writing Dragon Rider however doesn't forget the main level, giving the reader the hottest and based confirm resource information that maybe you can be considered one of it. This great information can certainly drawn you into brand-new stage of crucial imagining.

Carol Williams:

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