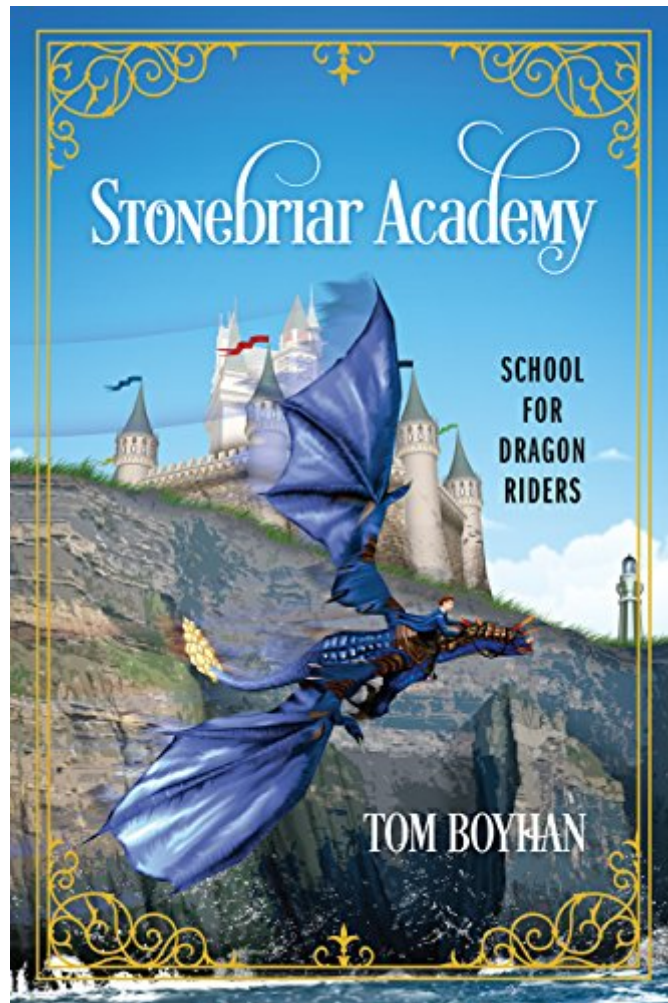




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Stonebriar Academy: School For Dragon Riders



Synopsis

Jamie Leeds has been forced to flee the only home he has ever known...Earth. Jamie and his mother have returned to his mother's home, Aurellius—a world where dragons, dwarves, elves, and other so-called mythological creatures actually exist. It is a world created by the leader of the Dragons, Dragonith, and his mate, Gwenith. Even though life on Aurellius is not the ideal that Dragonith and Gwenith had envisioned, it is still far better than Earth, where the nine races have wreaked havoc and exploited Earth's people. But now a movement, led by a group called The Sisterhood, would seize the powerful "Dragon's Heart" in order to gain total control of Aurellius. Jamie is unwittingly being drawn into this struggle, with his very life at stake. In order to survive, he must learn many skills that he can only learn in Stonebriar Academy. However, competition to enter Stonebriar Academy is grueling, and only one hundred students will be granted admission. And gaining admission is Jamie's only hope if he is to survive against the Sisterhood. Jamie desperately wants to be admitted to Stonebriar, not only to give himself a fighting chance against the Sisterhood but also so that he might learn something that a few short months ago he didn't even know existed—how to fly with a Dragon.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

As a middle school teacher of more than 30 years and a fan of fantasy books for even longer, I would place this book in the top 10% of all the thousands of books that I have read over the years. The writing is enjoyable and strong, although at times it can become wordy--maybe a few too many details that are not necessary to the story. The characters are fantastically written. They are middle aged kids to a "T." Their feelings, joys and heartaches feel real. Their behaviors are realistic, funny, and touching. The one weakness that stands out is the development of the personality of the dragon that is central to this story. There are not enough details or back story to develop him into the character that he should be. The author does little to explain the thoughts or feelings of the dragon, despite him having a psychic link to his "bonded" human. The author describes the young dragons actions, but rather than taking advantage of the link the two share to further develop the dragon's personality/character, she just has the human shake his head in confusion over the dragon's actions/behaviors. Much time has gone into the emotional development of the human characters, but the young dragon is lacking explanation or emotions. This book is appropriate for readers from roughly 4th grade and up. There are no instances of explicit language or sexual situations. There are, however, repeated instances of generalized prayer, references to a god, and a christian holiday. These could easily be removed from the story without hurting it in any way. If christian references are not for you, or the youngster you are purchasing this for, they could easily be removed or changed to other religions. On the other hand it is unusual to find references to this type of god in fantasy works, so if that is what you want, then this book provides it.

I loved the book and will be waiting for book two. This story took very interesting turn on Dragon society. There are sad and funny parts in the book. I only wish there was more but I am happy so much detail been given. This is not your normal hero chosen and gets all mighty powerful in like a week and defeats evil and problem solved. Instead this story goes into detail and even so far as to think how this hero even gonna pass cause he fails a lot. I loved all the dragons especially the female dragons. Even though I would of liked Gwenith last egg to be female and Jamie bonded to that, I am ok with male dragon bonded to him. I just have a feeling one of the dragons is gonna betray the good side. If you love dragons this book a must read. I think this book will do better with no relationship and just focus on dragons and adventure/action.

So, this is basically Harry Potter with sentient Dragons. Good versus evil. Imagine a world where all the races nearly destroyed themselves in a quest for power. Enter the benevolent dragons, who in their love for humanity, banish themselves and other miscreant races to another planet. On this planet, they strip the ability to leave the planet from the races and hide the power in shards that are spread across the planet. Of course, those amongst the races that want more power try to claim it. This causes dragons and other races to work together to try and reclaim their ability to leave and rule the galaxy. Enter Jamie Leeds, a boy on Earth who believes he is no different than any other. All of that is disrupted one day when a man from the planet Aurellius saves him from an attack, and at his mother's behest, brings him to Aurellius to enroll in Stonebriar academy, a prestigious school for dragon riders, and the only place he will be safe from the Sisterhood, an evil team of dragons and their allies bent on restoring the dragon heart and gaining its power. Jamie is this book's Harry Potter, except Tom Boyhan, the author, does not write as well as J.K. Rowling. Still, I found that I enjoyed the series enough to hope there will be further books. I think the entire journey of Jamie from Earth to Aurellius was entirely too rushed and wished to learn more about how he even developed to be competitive enough to gain initial entry to this school. This book is okay though and an enjoyable diversion. As such, I am giving Jamie and the rest of Stonebriar a chance to surprise me in future stories. 3/5 stars for a book that I finished in one sitting.

I could not put this book down. I can't wait till the next one. It has all my favorite dragons, magic and it has a compelling story. It does remind me of another book that I have read in the past. This is a book for teens to adults.

I love dragons, so I was very excited about this book. Bummed to find a green author who hasn't perfected his skills yet. It is too much a take off on Harry Potter with slight changes, but still too noticeable. The boy is supposed to be on another planet, reached through a portal. The food, the school subjects and grading scale is exactly that of Earth. There is no interaction with the house dragons and our 'hero'. The bonded Dragon is treated like and acts more like an annoying younger sibling or a dog. Too much time is spent on running to class and taking tests and waiting for a final grade. Cadence of prose is off, which is annoying, but if you aren't sensitive to 'show-don't-tell' it won't bother you. It bothered me. Epilogue hints at a largely improved style.

The story is a little confused at the start and the timeline is a little muddy. That being said, this book kept me glued to the pages. I read to the wee hours of the morning and couldn't read further. I really

enjoyed the subplots. The dragon human society is great and I was invested in the characters. The action is believable and the characters were realistic. I am definitely look forward to book#2.

I'm always amazed at how many books get offered on that need serious proofreading. Nothing hurts a good story more than typos, words left out, extra words, etc.

I couldn't give it a 5 as there were a few places where the story line left me guessing about what that part was about. I always would have liked a bit more information on why all this was occurring. Why the Red Dragons revolted, and a clearer understanding of the withdrawal from Earth.

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