



Dragondrums

Anne McCaffrey

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Dragondrums is the coming of age story of Piemur, a small, quick, clever apprentice at Harper Hall. When Piemur's clear treble voice changes at puberty, his place among the Harpers is no longer certain.

Dragondrums Details

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From Reader Review Dragondrums for online ebook

Clarice says

I remember distinctly not liking this book as much as the other two of this series when I read it back as a child (oh, yes I was doing a reread bit for a couple days), but it turns out that it's actually a fun book! I think it was just that Ms McCaffrey changed the focus of the story from my beloved friend Menolly and moved over to a newer face with Piemur. Piemur isn't a bad sort, just a rather impetuous boy who gets in a lot of trouble. There is some fun with the politics of Pern in the background and I found it to be as always a sweet and short read.

Niki Hawkes - The Obsessive Bookseller says

[2.5 stars] In it's defense, I'm also reading Oathbringer, so everything else seems more lackluster than usual. It was, however, my least favorite of the trilogy.

Hannah says

Surprisingly captivating and exciting read. Really makes you feel for Piemur as he tries to find his place as his whole world collapses around his ears, and the journey with him is particularly rewarding when he finds his own purpose. It's a shame that his personality seemed to take a 180 degree turn towards the end, once he met Sharra. What is it about that girl that changes so many endearing boys to snobs? That said, Piemur's snark is still there, and having "accompanied" him on his adventures for that long in the book, a little character inconsistency can easily be ignored.

Grace says

Don't go into this book expecting much Menolly; this is Piemur's book. He's a pretty entertaining character usually so you'd think that's a good thing, but in this installment he manages to take a personal journey similar to Menolly's in Dragonsong, and frankly he gets a little boring.

We do get some updates on Menolly, but she's older and established within the Hall hierarchy, and McCaffrey's decided to explore other bits of the Pern landscape using Piemur instead. Again, this is good for getting a lay of the land if you're going to read the other Pern novels, but when I pick up the Harper Hall books for a reread, I frequently find myself leaving this one on the shelf. It's just not as engaging, and the plot's contained to this book, so you might not even notice the omission if you do read the rest of Pern without this one.

Deborah Ideiosepius says

The Dragon books were part of the network of books that introduced me in my teen years to fantasy and sci-fi and on re-reading them years later it is encouraging to find them still as well written as I remember them. The plots still as riveting, the world-building still as thrilling and the characters still as good - well, maybe just a tiny bit more teen angst than I look for these days, but otherwise just as good!

Dragondrums is the third of the "Harper" books and though it also works fine as a standalone, the previous two books did initially establish Piemur, the main character in the book. It seems to me that you would not have had to read them though, this is the first told from Piemur's point of view and as all of us seem different from the inside of our heads to how people see us on the outside, so Piemur is very different to himself than to others. His adventures start when his voice breaks and the Harper hold must find other work for him. This work accidentally brings him to the Southern continent and his adventures there are significantly different to any others as McCaffrey uses this story to explore a continent that is entirely different to the world of the North, so well established from previous books.

At first I was a little miffed - I really wanted more of Menolly, to be honest. Piemur won me over however and I thoroughly enjoyed this book.

Caroline says

The story starts at the end of Dragonsinger where Menolly is made a Journeyman. Piemur prepares himself for a big event where he will be the lead singer until his voice breaks and he realises that his one and only ability which made him special has now disappeared.

But Piemur is very far from having just this one ability and Master Robinton knows how precious Piemur is. That is why Piemur is seemingly hired as a drums apprentice when in fact he is asked to become the Master Harper's ears and eyes wherever he goes.

I was at first quite disappointed to see that I wouldn't be in Menolly's head anymore. I really loved Piemur but I was so used to seeing things through Menolly's eyes that I thought I wouldn't be able to like the book. But then Piemur started being Piemur and I couldn't remember why I could have been worried in the first place. Piemur has always been very cunning and at times manipulative to get what he wants and seeing his reasoning behind his cunning schemes was fantastic. He is a sweetheart and you can't stop laughing at his wild schemes! I think he is one of my favourite characters ever!

It is so heart-breaking when his voice transforms, I could really feel for him, especially with the weight of everyone else's reaction, but thankfully - and quite frankly, in a typical Piemur fashion - he springs out of it and finds something else to do. He has such a great spirit that he sees the positive aspect of things.

I really don't want to spoil the story by telling you what sorts of mischief he conjures up in this book, but I can promise that you won't be disappointed. I thought that my favourite books would be the first ones because they are told by Menolly and because they focus on those gorgeous little things named fire lizards but Dragondrums is such a special story of someone trying to find himself. It is such a wonderful story that I cried at the end because it made me so happy. (I am not even kidding and I understand I am losing all my street cred by confessing this.)

I know these books were published years ago and no one particularly cares to discover Anne McCaffrey's books today when they can read modern stories and such but those stories really hold something others don't and I really can't wait to read all of Anne McCaffrey's other books (thank God there are so many!). So you

need to read those books too!

This trilogy is one of the best fantasy novels I have ever read. It transports me to a beautifully vivid world and makes me travel alongside amazing characters. Plus now I know that I want a fire lizard as a pet so that's that.

Dianna says

I liked this one almost as much as the first two. I think I would have understood and liked it a little more in the context of the whole series; I was reading the Harper Hall trilogy, but it looks like there's another book—The White Dragon—that comes between Dragonsinger and Dragondrums. Dragondrums included a lot of political stuff that I didn't understand, and I assume that is explained in The White Dragon. I am liking these books enough to possibly go back to the beginning and read all the Pern books.

Sotiris Karaiskos says

Like many who read this book, I felt disappointed when I started it. I was expecting to read a continuation of the story of our dear Menolly but curiously the author chose to leave it aside and tell us the story of a less interesting character. The only good thing I can find is the fact that, through the story of the central character, we are following some interesting developments like the further maturation of Menolly, beyond that could not find anything interesting. The median rating comes with the utmost leniency.

Robin Reynolds / October Woman says

When I picked this book up to read, I was a little disappointed that it wasn't a continuation of Menolly's story. I wanted more about her. I wanted to watch Menolly and Sebell develop their relationship! Once again, I had to remind myself that these are not romance novels.

But I quickly got over my disappointment as I was taken into Piemur's world. He is all set to start practicing the part of Lessa in a new song to be performed, when his voice cracks. Piemur has never been thrilled with singing female parts, but he'd hoped this one would bring him to the real Lessa's attention. Suddenly, he can no longer sing, and has to be reassigned within the Harper Hall.

Piemur's story is fun and adventuresome. When we met him in the previous Harper Hall books, he was a young scamp, always getting into scrapes and causing mischief. He's older now, and not changed a whole lot, but he has grown into a more mature young man, loyal to his craft and his friends. And still desperately wanting a fire lizard of his very own. And that is what sets him out on his biggest adventure yet.

A very enjoyable story. I wish there were a fourth book as I'm not quite ready to leave Piemur behind.

Cass says

The finale of the trilogy focuses is set three turns (years) after the events in the previous two books. This time the book centres around the young Piemur as his life changes due to his voice breaking.

The opening chapters of this book are a little clumsy as McCaffrey tries to weave in the essential parts of the previous two books. However it still remains an absolute favourite.

Caroline says

Each Pern novel can be read as a stand alone, but Dragondrums is the third book in the Harper Hall trilogy so if you want to read the books in the order, head over to Dragonsong (book 1) and Dragonsinger (book 2).

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Joan says

The focus shifts from Menolly to a young imp who is at the Harper Hall but doesn't take his skill as seriously as Menolly: Piemur. This is another delightful adventure. I think this book proved so popular that McCaffrey almost had no choice but to include him in further stories about Pern. Again, as in the first two books of this series, these are suitable for kids unlike the regular Pern series. I've reread this series over and over and must remember to do so again in the near future!

Kathy says

I enjoyed this conclusion to the Harper Hall Trilogy despite the fact that Menolly isn't the main character. I like Piemur and enjoyed reading as his story unfolded. There was enough of Menolly & other characters I enjoy to keep me happy.

Dan Debono says

This was one of my first "adult" fantasy books and I LOVED it! My mom bought it for me one summer and I devoured it (and began my love of Pern). I just started writing little bits for a mid sized daily in our area (or at least trying - I got a couple little mini features in - but I was only in 9th grade!).

Being so moved by this strange (to me) book, I decided to write Anne, never expecting to hear back, but sure enough, a great little handwritten letter found it's way into my parent's mailbox a month or so later. I had sent a small sample of writing and she encouraged me (and it wasn't too good, but maybe she thought it a bit ... imaginative).

I wrote her a couple more times and each time she responded. What a quality lady! I bet most "modern" authors are "far too busy" to do what she did - even those with 1/10 of her volume of work!

Rebecca says

Dear Mrs. McCaffrey,

What were you thinking? You had done a brilliant job with the first two books in this "trilogy", so please do explain why you felt compelled to switch your focus from our beloved heroine Menolly to her rambunctious sidekick, Piemur? This is no trilogy. Do you think you can just skip ahead three years and make Menolly a peripheral player? Do you think that you can write a slow-moving, rather repetitive adventure story that lacks the resonance of the first two books in this trilogy, and we won't notice? We notice; and we are not happy.

This story would be fine as a stand alone story. It still would not be a great story. Despite jumping across the map of your mythical Pern, this story goes virtually nowhere. Anticlimactic is an understatement. Piemur is not even close to being fleshed out as a character and, due to this, does not have enough weight as a driving

force for this story.

Why this final book jumps gears so completely is beyond me. Obviously, it left me rather frustrated. The story of Menolly was good, layered and exciting. As of book two, it was also nowhere near complete. In *Dragondrums* she is viewed from afar. She is understood only to the degree that Piemur understands her. This is at odds with the idea of a trilogy whose arc seemed to be the coming of age of a young girl.

I would really like to know if Mrs. McCaffrey views these three books as a trilogy or if the publisher decided to lump them together and advertise them as one. I'm more inclined to believe the latter. Not just because I want to (though I do indeed want to), but because the sense of story in the first two books flowed with a confidence utterly lacking in this final one.

Beth says

Now this - this is interesting, because it's so clearly a book meant to be read with information from other books in the series, information that the first two Harper Hall books don't have. There are a lot of political machinations that are only referenced - so much of what's going on in the southern weyr is confusing to me! - and the choice to switch protagonists is an interesting one, too.

The resolution is less satisfying. I have no idea why Piemur wants to stay, nor do I think his motivations are adequately addressed. But that's a problem I have with this entire series: there's no standard conflict and resolution. Instead, McCaffrey ends on a triumphant note, whether that note acts as resolution or not. (Mostly it's not.)

Gillian Murrell says

Despite the change in focus from Menolly to Piemur I still really enjoyed this book. When Piemur's voice broke rather than destroy his career it opened up a multitude of opportunities for him. Piemur soon finds himself using his skills to gather information for the Master Harper. Its entertaining reading about the situations he manages to get himself into and out of.

Icarus says

Why couldn't she have stopped at two? Why does every fantasy series have to be a trilogy or longer? This mediocre book drags the whole Harper Hall trilogy down with it.

Susan Kennedy says

This book follows Piemur. You first meet him in the first two Harper Hall books with Menolly. He is Menolly's first friend in the Harper Hall. This picks up after the first two books. Piemur has a beautiful Soprano voice as a young man, but his voice begins to crack as he begins to go through the change to becoming a man. This makes everything change for him at the Harper Hall.

He is so unsure of what will happen to him in the Harper Hall once he loses his voice. The Masterharper takes him and has him become one of his apprentices, but in secret. Piemur is a good boy, but he does get into trouble. He also is bright and clever. This makes him a great asset to the Harper Hall, but in ways that others can not know.

He becomes a drum apprentice, but while there he is treated really poorly and ends up pretty badly hurt after a fall caused by others. He ends up in the Southern Continent with a fire lizard queen that he impresses. He has gotten himself into a bit of trouble, but he is smart and he survives. This is a good story and I can't help but like Piemur who has a big heart. This Harper Hall trilogy is such a marvelous addition to the Dragonriders of Pern series. They were and still are my favorites.

Jeffrey says

After devoting two novels to Menolly's struggles at the Harper Hall, McCaffrey changed her focus to Piemur, who played a substantial role in the first novel and the second novel as a foil to Menolly's excellence on instruments. He was a scamp and a rascal and befriended her. At the beginning of this novel, his voice broke, and his role as a singer was dashed.

McCaffrey who wrote the White Dragon barely a year before this book, then can put Piemur on the Southern Continent and describe what happens to him after his voice broke, and also can focus more attention on the Oldtimers, Mirrim, and the fire lizards

I thought this novel, without the keen focus on Menolly's signing and music career, was not as good as the first two volumes in this trilogy, but it had its moments, and afterall what exactly were we going to learn about Menolly.
