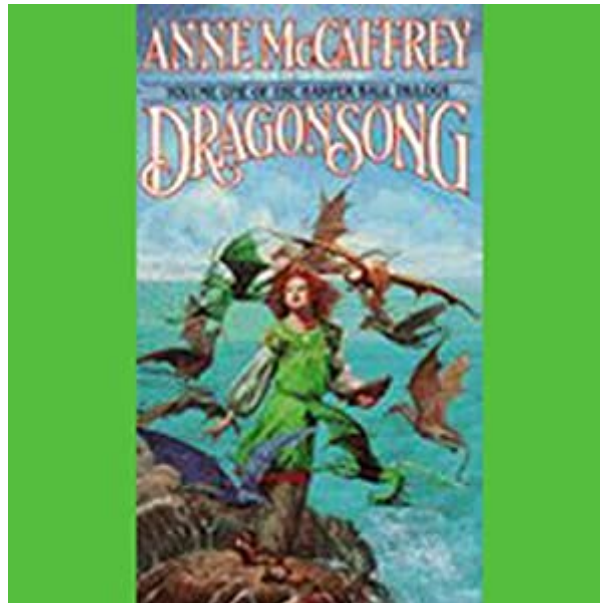




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Dragonsong: Harper Hall Trilogy, Volume 1



Synopsis

Fifteen-year-old Menolly allies with magnificent dragons in the first book in the Harper Hall trilogy, set within science fiction legend Anne McCaffrey's beloved and bestselling Dragonriders of Pern series. For centuries, the world of Pern has faced a destructive force known as Thread. But the number of magnificent dragons who have protected this world and the men and women who ride them are dwindling. As fewer dragons ride the winds and destruction falls from the sky, Menolly has only one dream: to sing, play, and weave the music that comes to her so easily. She wishes to become a Harper. But despite her great talents, her father believes that a young girl is unworthy of such a respected position and forbids her to pursue her dreams. So Menolly runs away, taking shelter in a cave by the sea. Miraculously, she happens upon nine fire lizards that could possibly save her world...and change her life forever. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The Harper Hall series is amazing! At first I was apprehensive, as it's not directly about the dragon riders you learn to know and love from the first books in the Pern series. I wasn't sure if it would pull me in the way the first books have. However, the writing is captivating and it fills in blanks left by previous books. Absolute must read for fans of the Pern world created by Anne McCaffrey. This book plays off what we already know and happens along side the same timelines as the first two books in the series: Dragonflight: The first novel in The Dragonriders of Pern and Dragonquest: Volume II of The Dragonriders of Pern and as well as The White Dragon: Volume III of The Dragonriders of Pern. Reading those makes this book much more enjoyable and unravels pieces of

a puzzle laid out by Anne McCaffrey. This is the first book in the Harper Hall series. It introduces us to Menolly and her story. Wonderful book! I was completely hooked within minutes and found myself sneaking any time I could to continue with Menolly on her adventures.

I read this fairly young, having read *Dragonflight* before it, and was immediately enamored of Menolly (who I have always called "Mel," to show how fond I am of her character). As a preteen and teen this was charming and lovely, with enough music for my band and chorus kid heart, and enough drama for my artistic heart. At 24, as a feminist--I probably would have abandoned this in the first chapter if not for the buoy of nostalgia. It's still a fun read. Not the best in all the Pern books, but fun and generally sweet. The fire lizards are charming, Mel is delicate with a bit of backbone, and overall it leaves you in a good mood. Or rather, the end does. I have a habit of complaining via notes within the book (the joys of s Kindle). I also leave comments I find humorous or such, but mostly I complain. In the first two chapters, I had at least one complaint per page. By the third chapter I stopped leaving real complaints on blatant sexism, just highlighted and maybe left a frowny face. Some of the sexism is in-character stuff which is...annoying but fair, I suppose, but Pern is by and large a sexist society. Which makes very little sense if you read the prequel books, and/or pay attention to some quite significant aspects of the setting. Women have no place other than to be serving men, it seems like, with rare exception. Some later books improve upon this, but not this one. There are some good female characters--in the last half of the book. Not even half, more like third. I have to give credit where it's due in that the ending really is so nice it's hard to properly complain, but I'm determined. There's fairly massive gaps of logic in the setting, and an abundance of characters with no real reason behind their maliciousness. Mel is practically Cinderella, except without the step-anythings, and all her family is terrible, except one brother who's not so much better really. It's not the sexism and maliciousness that really bother me is the thing--it's that it doesn't make sense. There's no balance, and once you notice it, it drives you batty. There's a few moments where you hate most everyone and would like nothing so much as for Mel to run off and go full native. Clearly none of these people deserve her. But--if you like dragons, which I assume you do because dragons, Pern is a fun place to play. You'll have more fun in Ruth's books, but Mel's are nice, really. If I were fifteen or younger, I'd be giving this maximum stars. But I'm not, so I forced my nostalgia down. This isn't a groundbreaking work. It's not even a self aware book. But I don't think it's a bad book. I think if you're going to read this, if you're a feminist be prepared for some hissing and attempting to protect fictional characters from other fictional characters. If you're young, balance it out with books with less sexism, you deserve better. But I think it's worth reading, despite its

numerous flaws. But I'd advise against judging Pern by any one book or series within it; every book and series are unique, and most of them have some bit of wonderful to them. They also have awfulness, and there's some books you cry your whole way through, but this isn't one of them. This book makes you mad for half of it, then starts making amends until you begrudgingly forgive it. Oops, I critiqued Pern as much as the book, but oh well. Have fun reading about Menolly if you get the chance. There's better books of course, but that's true of any book.

I read this many years ago when I first discovered this wonderful series. Menolly's story is one of my favorites, and I was thrilled to return to it on the Kindle edition. While I still love the story, it does suffer in the face of some of the novels that came after but are set chronologically before the events of this work. My favorite is Robinton's story of his rise to Masterharper. What we learn there contradicts so much of what we see here. SPOILERS!!!!!! As Robinton's father, Petiron would know that his son would welcome Menolly to Harper Hall with open arms. Sure, father and son had their issues, but by the end of the novel they come to a sort of truce. Why would he write to Robinton and indicate that there would be a problem about a candidate AND NOT INCLUDE THE MOST VITAL PIECE OF INFORMATION! Petiron was too smart for that sort of nonsense! He was a Master of the hall! END SPOILERS!!!!!! Still. This is a wonderful coming of age fantasy, and I greatly recommend it and the following novels. True, I feel the Pern series starts to go off track in some of the later novels, but that seems to be inevitable, especially when an author bounces around the timeline. At least Mrs. McCaffrey didn't seem to devolve into the cash grab Lackey's Valdemar series has become.

I've always loved reading Anne McCaffrey's stories. I read the Dragon Riders of Pern as a tween and fell in love with the series. When I happened across one of the Harper Hall series @ Books-a-million I snatched it up knowing I wouldn't be disappointed. However I realized that I had the second book in the series so decided to purchase the first book in the Kindle edition. The story line was so good that I read it in a couple of days. And while I did notice some misspellings it wasn't enough to distract from the story line. A good good and can't wait to start reading the next book in the series.

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