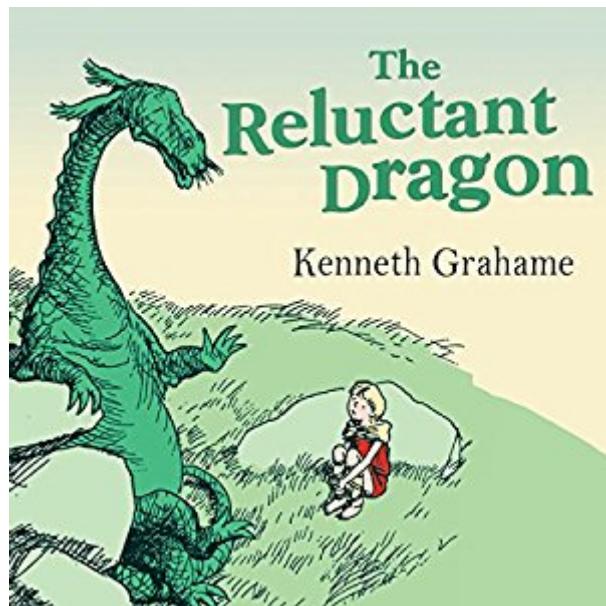


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The Reluctant Dragon



Synopsis

Everyone knows that since a Dragon IS a Dragon and St. George IS St. George, there will have to be a fight. Everyone, that is, except the Dragon. He'd rather write poetry. This wonderful, whimsical story is by the author of *The Wind In The Willows*. Performed by John and Ginny Dildine, with Gordon Bok as the Dragon. --This text refers to the Kindle Edition edition.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 53 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Audible Studios

Audible.com Release Date: May 15, 2007

Language: English

ASIN: B000QUCP52

Best Sellers Rank: #5 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Children's Books > Animals #12 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Children's Books > Classics #30 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Children's Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy

Customer Reviews

We started with Inga Moore's beautifully illustrated version of *The Reluctant Dragon*, discovered at the library, but it turned out to be abridged (which does have its advantages for younger readers.) This is the real thing, with the full original text. Kenneth Grahame's witty prose is amusingly penetrating. I had to walk my then 5yo son through it the first time, but he has taken it off and read it by himself many times since. Since he read at a 5th grade level at age 5, he was able to manage many of the nuances for himself after reading it with me once, and it will grow with him as he matures and becomes better able to decipher the intent behind Kenneth Grahame's story. Meanwhile, I love it myself! It is charming and hilarious, with a satisfyingly happy ending for all (even the badger). Michael Hague's idea of the dragon is not what I would have pictured, making me think of Bilbo and Smaug for some reason, but the rich detail--especially in one of the first full-page illustrations where the boy is reading on his bed--is stunningly gorgeous and makes me want to pore over the book again and again. In addition, though a paperback, the pages are glossy and sturdy and are holding up well. Definitely recommend this one.

A darling tale of a sweetheart of a dragon who would never do anything any harm. But dragons have reputations and his is about to do him in when St. George the dragon slaying knight appears on the scene. How the Boy (he doesn't need a name) solves the predicament is forthright simplicity itself. Children will hold their breath until he's safe at last. Everyone will love the nature of the dragon, the heart of the boy, and the good will of the knight. Grahame knew how to write it and Hauge knew how to draw it. You will adore the dragon the moment you see him if not before. Though there are many pictures, they are so good you wish there were more. A really nice bedtime story that will make for sweet dreams. Pair it with that old musical "PETE'S DRAGON". And "Puff the Magic Dragon". Oldies but goodies.

The illustrations in this version of The Reluctant Dragon are perfect for this classic, tongue-in-cheek dragon tale. Charming and whimsical and not at all scary (Nor should they be! This is a friendly -- albeit lazy -- dragon!) My daughters are 5 and 7 and are big fans of dragons in general. We prefer our dragons to be friendly, not scary. The language in this short tale is rich and intelligent. We always get a chuckle out of the silly dragon's antics. Don't be afraid to read this to your young children -- the language is still very accessible to young ones!

I admit that I downloaded this immediately after finishing reading The Wind in the Willows to my daughter. This story is nothing like that, but turned out to be an even better bedtime story (although short. And lacking chapter breaks.) I like a story with a dragon AND a happy ending. The kindle edition is just words, I have no complaints.

This was absolutely my favorite book as a young child about 60 years ago. I am pleased to see that it is still available. Most fables about dragons picture them as dangerous beasts guarding treasure troves, but this dragon is a different sort indeed - an erudite peaceful dragon that had hoped to have a quiet retirement. When a knight arrives to rid the neighborhood of the dragon, he is invited in for tea, and discovers the dragon does not wish to fight. In the classic tale, "Beowulf," the dragon was provoked by someone stealing a piece of the treasure. In this story, the knight finds a quite different means to provoke the dragon into breathing fire (after all, the knight's reputation is at stake). The story has an unexpected ending. The book is suitable for reading to single children or groups of younger children, or for slightly older children (and sometimes adults) to read for themselves.

This particular print of this book is ridiculous. The cover art is pixelated and looks like it was printed

on a home computer. I should have brought the 75th anniversary edition. Buyer beware of this edition:

This is a pamphlet. The cover is pixelated like a badly enlarged clipart. It feels like this was sliced out of a collection of short stories rather than being a book in its own right. Just don't.

I wish I had known this story when my four sons were young. They would have loved it. A dragon comes to dwell in the cave outside of a small town. The Boy's father first discovers the dragon and races home to tell his wife and son about it. The Boy is not fazed in the least by this new resident. The next day he climbs the hill to make the dragon's acquaintance. They become friends. The town's residents are not really too bothered by having a dragon living so nearby, but even so, St. George is contacted, because that is what you do when you have a dragon in your midst. How St. George, the dragon and The Boy work things out is the remainder of the story. The language and writing are delightful. This would be a wonderful story to read aloud.

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