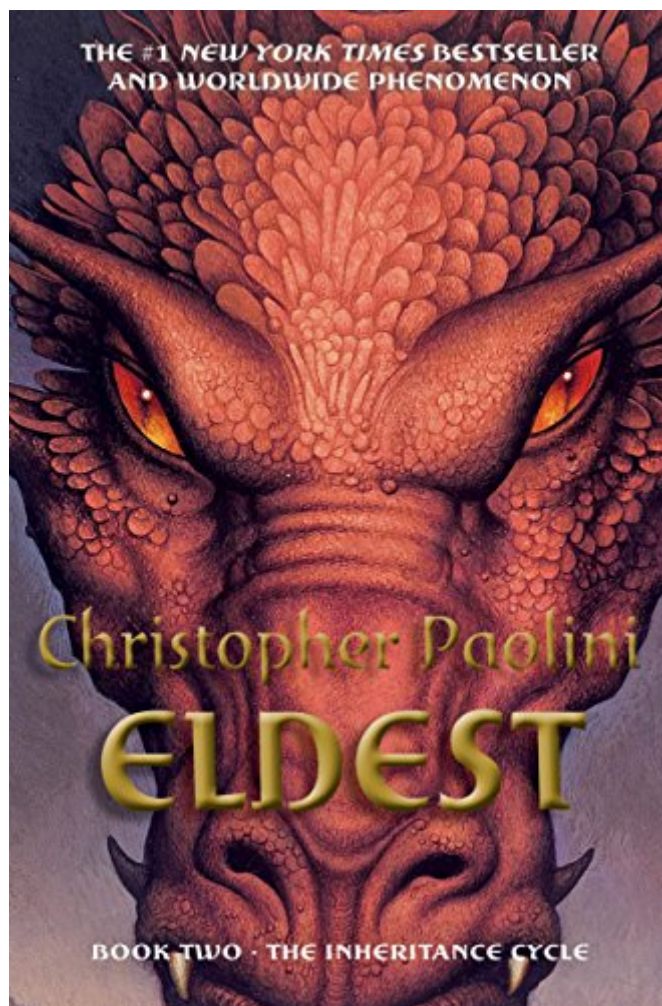


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Eldest (The Inheritance Cycle Book 2)



Synopsis

Perfect for fans of Lord of the Rings, the #1 New York Times bestselling Inheritance Cycle about the dragon rider Eragon has sold over 35 million copies and is an international fantasy sensation. Darkness falls—despair abounds—evil reigns—Eragon and his dragon, Saphira, have just saved the rebel state from destruction by the mighty forces of King Galbatorix, cruel ruler of the Empire. Now Eragon must travel to Ellesmera, land of the elves, for further training in the skills of the Dragon Rider: magic and swordsmanship. Soon he is on the journey of a lifetime, his eyes open to awe-inspiring new places and people, his days filled with fresh adventure. But chaos and betrayal plague him at every turn, and nothing is what it seems. Before long, Eragon doesn't know whom he can trust. Meanwhile, his cousin Roran must fight a new battle—one that might put Eragon in even graver danger. Will the king's dark hand strangle all resistance? Eragon may not escape with even his life. . . . Praise for Eragon: "Unusual, powerful . . . fresh and fluid. An impressive start to a writing career that's sure to flourish." —Booklist, Starred "Christopher Paolini make[s] literary magic with his precocious debut." —People "The new Eldest, a book of children's lit." —U.S. News & World Report "An auspicious beginning to both career and series." —Publishers Weekly A #1 New York Times Bestseller A #1 Publishers Weekly Bestseller A USA Today Bestseller A Wall Street Journal Bestseller A Book Sense Book of the Year A #1 Book Sense Selection From the Hardcover edition.

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Customer Reviews

I thoroughly enjoyed Eragon, Eldest, Brisingr, and Inheritance of Chris Paolini's The Inheritance Cycle series. Originally intended as a trilogy, their bestselling success spawned a fourth book, which was a very welcome addition. I have since handed them down to my nephew where they are enjoying a new life with a new generation. Though they've been out for quite a while now, I have to be honest and say I bought them years ago, and only got them off the shelf a few months ago. Having been grown up as an avid fan of Dungeons and Dragons, Lord of the Rings, and the usual fantasy fare, I was pretty excited to re-enter that universe. These have been reviewed ad infinitum; so I think I can really only add to the discussion my own experience with the four books as a 40-something-year old reader. I was a bit concerned that they might be written a bit too much for kids, as I'd heard they were. But, I have to say, I was definitely misinformed. These are as applicable to adults as the Harry Potter or Hunger Games books or any other well-written fantasy tales that were initially marketed to the teen reader market, but obviously found runaway success with readers from all age brackets. In short, each of the four books was a very fun read, and I would absolutely recommend the series to anyone with an interest in the fantasy genre.

DO NOT READ IF YOU HAVE NOT READ ERAGON! I don't want to spoil anyone! Eragon has undergone drastic changes and even more drastic wounds from his battle. The Varden lost a leader and must relocate. Eragon must continue his training without Brom and with an injury that occasionally paralyzes him and sends him to a fit of utter pain. He goes to the Elves to receive this training and finds a door into the past of the Riders (not a literal door.) Eragon tries to regain his strength but it seems in vain. He must soon fight another war and Galbatorix, but he will not survive if he can't become stronger. Not just in strength but also in mind. Galbatorix is raising an army and the Varden is still weakened by the last onslaught. Will Eragon survive his training? Will the Varden survive the loss of their loved leader? Will Eragon be able to fight? This book was hard to read after I got about half way through. It might have been just because I was in a reading slump or something.

But after I got past my stubbornness and finished it I loved it! I was so engrossed in the book I didn't realize it was four in the morning when I finished it. Haha. The Plot twist was amazing (but totally infuriating!) and I feel like I should have seen it coming, but I didn't! (And I was so overwhelmed!) It was Very good! I'm in anticipation for when I read the next book and I'm expecting amazing things!

Awesome continuation of book 1. I am reading them in a binge session and am pleased there is not much rehashing, or reminding the gentle reader of what transpired and who characters were in the first book. It's so annoying to have to read what you just read. That said THESE ARE NOT STAND ALONE BOOKS.. You cannot read them out of order. They are dependent on each other to complete the story. You must read them all. They end with the beginning of the next book and the initial plot has not been brought to conclusion at the end of this book. It is a jolly good yarn. A piece of high fiction fantasy that should be read by everyone that enjoys the fence.

The most surprising thing about this book, the most recent of a long series, is that you can read it all by itself. I had not read the previous books, but found my way into the narrative thread with no trouble. The characters caught the emotions and the plot led gracefully, but with several expected and unexpected hitches, to a very satisfactory conclusion. It's difficult to write a series book that stands alone as well as this one. My one worry is that characters, human and dragon, wield various forms of magic that remain unexplained. It's true that demonstration beats theory every time, but mention is made of training, training to use the magical powers some characters have or acquire. It leaves the reader wanting to know more, but vaguely dissatisfied at the same time. Above all the writer uses Tolkien's eucatastrophe well, the culminating point of the story where a totally unexpected victory emerges from the jaws, if not the very guts, of defeat. And saves the world. He also includes, as is only proper, the hero's wounds and isolation after the victory, his need for distance, which in this book, fairy-tale fashion, takes the form of physical distance. I recommend this book very highly, although, because I have not read them, I cannot make any assessment of the previous books in the series.

Thank you Christopher Paolini for an AWESOME series !!!! I am now reading it for the 2nd time (because the first time I wanted to get to the end to see what happened) and I am thoroughly enjoying it again! My daughter has read the series 4 times.... We cannot wait for your new book & the continuation of the Inheritance cycle ! God bless you for the hours of enjoyment you have given so many people xxx

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