



# Dragon Magic

*Andre Norton*

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## **Dragon Magic** Andre Norton

Sig, Artie, Kim, and Ras have same neighborhood and school, but nothing in common...until they sneak into the old abandoned corner house and each find a a picture of four dragons on a puzzle box. Strong magic draws the boys together, transform them, and transport them into worlds of heroes and dragons.

## **Dragon Magic Details**

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Author : Andre Norton

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## From Reader Review Dragon Magic for online ebook

### Sheryl Tribble says

Not enough magic and not enough dragons.

As a kid I thought it odd that the kids are magically transported by working a magically colorful puzzle, but once they arrive at their destination, with the exception of Sig's story, there's no real dragons, and no magic to speak of, either. Feel the same way as an adult. Adult me appreciates the frame story more than pre-teen me, but not to the point that it makes much difference. The writing is a tad dated but I don't think it harms the story much.

On the whole, this is what my sister calls "brain candy" -- entertaining enough for one read but nothing more.

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### Emily says

Well, I remembered really liking it when I was a kid, but it's just gone over like a lead balloon with my 8yo. It has all the pieces that should guarantee success - action, adventure, mystery, dragons - but he says "it's too hard to understand and i keep forgetting what's going on." And I have to say I agree with him. So we're going to shelve this one and try something else for now. Maybe we'll open it up again later.

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### Emily says

This book contains a collection of four stories tied together in an overarching story, but it is the smaller stories that intrigued me the most. I LOVE them. Each of the boys of the running story spend some time as a character in a dragon story--retold well-known dragon legends of different cultures. Each presents its culture uniquely and unforgettably. Andre Norton is a writer of junior/young adult (about age 9-13) novels that I intend to explore more thoroughly.

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### Pam says

I originally read this when I was a preteen and I was in love. True, I would love to have read about at least one young lady, but this was an incredible book. Now, many, many years later, it is still a magical read. I highly recommend reading it to your preteen.

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### Ha Li says

For a kid's read it is really good! I was very surprised. It was the cover art that really attracted me to it, but the whole concept of it was very intriguing.

### **scarlettraces says**

It looked great but alas the writing was terrible. Made it 15 pages by great force of will but had to give up.

I should probably not reread "Plague Ship" which was the sole Andre Norton (in the yellow VG branding) I had access to as a child & loved.

(And to continue the snarkiness of adulthood, my goodness that's a terrible modern cover. Let's have the original 70s one, shall we? \*changes editions\*)

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### **Valerie says**

I'sooth, I have two copies of this book--an older edition, and this one, which is less decrepit and better for repeated reading.

The book is a fast read, and the stories are so linked as to keep drawing you on to the next.

The stories are good examples of Norton's eclectic knowledge of the odd nooks and crevices of history. I believe that this was the first intimation I had about the Nubian pharaohs of Egypt, for example.

Praise aside, however, these stories still suffer from Norton's bete noir--a defensive and often dreadful propaganda in favor of violence and abuse as moral and beneficial. Not to society--there's limited presence of women in the connecting narrative, and essentially none in the inset stories (except in the memories of the viewpoint characters, sometimes)--but to men and boys. For example, in the Pendragon stories set in post-Roman Britain, there's explicit rejection of the idea that any truce or peace is possible with the Saxons (The resident version of Norton's standardized dehumanized, implacable enemies). Those of us who have ancestors from Wessex, Sussex, Essex, and other Saxon settlements might choose to resent the implication--if we were permitted to actually SEE Saxons as individuals with marrow, nervous systems, and allergies. But we're not only not vouchsafed any such insight--we're explicitly denied any inkling of the humanity of the 'enemies'. This is more easily demonstrated when the enemies are of our own kith and kind, but it's easily exportable to the more exotic forms of paranoid xenophobia Norton too easily (and too frequently) resorted to.

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### **Janice says**

Read this one long ago - high school, I think. Was always one of my favorite Norton, but then puzzles and dragons, what's not to like?

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### **Doris says**

A coming of age tale that opens the eyes of not one but four young males, each of whom believes himself unique and alone in a big new school.

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A magic puzzle draws them in and makes them realize they are different but at the same time similar.

Excellent.

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### **Asaria says**

Dawno, dawno temu istniała pewna biblioteka pełna księzek fantastycznych. Wówczas dziewczynka, zapewne zachęcona przez swojego tatę, zaczęła pochłaniać w ogromnych ilościach powieści Andre Norton. Nie zapamiętała szczegółów ze "Wiatra Czarownic", ale utkwiła jej w pamięci pewna powieść przeczytana dwukrotnie. W niepamięć odszedł autor, w niepamięć odszedł tytuł. Pozostały jedynie urywki, nitki fabuły. Jednak to wystarczyło by ta sama dziewczynka-już nie dziewczynka wyrosła na czytelniczkę fantasy i science fiction. Wszystko dzięki Terry'emu Pratchettowi, oraz właśnie Andre Norton.

Dziewczynka dorosła, pozostała tylko młoda kobieta, która poszukiwała, a raczej próbowała znaleźć tamtą księzkę sprzed lat. Jej jedyną wskazówką były cztery fakty: autor był znany, gdy zapamiętała swoje własne zaskoczenie, puzzle, podróż w czasie oraz dzieci. Po pewnym czasie jednak podstawowy błąd. Otóż szukała niewłaściwego autora, gdy wydawało jej się, że poszukiwana powieść została napisana przez Mercedes Lackey. Wreszcie przez przypadek odnalazła tytuł i pisarkę, której ku jej zaskoczeniu, tak dobrze pamiętała z innego cyklu oraz uwielbiała.

Nie ożmieliście wrócić do "Magii Smoków" jako osoba dorosła. Zapewne czyta się ją dobrze, bo Andre Norton na ogół pisała lekko. Lepiej by pozostała owiana tajemniczym wspomnieniem. Tak jest lepiej.

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### **Colin says**

#### **Dragon Magic**

Very good. book but very dated in some ways. Not to say I didn't like it, but the rhetoric was off-putting.

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### **Arleigh Kovacs says**

Nearly every night I read to (at least) one of my grandsons for 20 minutes from a book of his choice. This is the 4th book in Andre Norton's "Magic" series (juvenile level) and I have been reading the series to/with my 11-year old grandson. This book is about 4 boys from very different backgrounds who live in the same neighborhood and go to the same school. They are each suspicious of the others and each, in his own way, is having trouble adjusting to school, family, changing relationship, and/or culture. Then, one day, one of the boys finds an unusual puzzle in an old house that is about to be torn down. Separately, each boy races to build one of the four dragons in the puzzle until all of the pieces -- and their lives -- fit together. So far, this is my grandson's favorite book of the set.

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### **Cinnamingirl says**

When I was younger I read a ton of books, and it is impossible for me to remember all their names. It's very

frustrating to only remember pieces of a book, and to have no way of finding it again, which is a problem I frequently encounter.

This was one of those books I started reading and instantly remembered. I love puzzles, so that might be part of it, but I also could identify with the characters' feelings of loneliness and wanting to escape from their problems - then again, who hasn't? I honestly found this book much better written than Steel Magic, the first in the series, if only because Norton draws upon more than Arthurian legend to create her stories, and she always has some interesting cultural backgrounds going on in them; for example, George's brother Shaka and the 'back to Africa' movement.

One of the recurring themes that you see again and again in Norton's work is the power of books... which is not really surprising, since she was a rather prolific author.

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