



The Saint of Dragons

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The ancient dragons — of the time of the legendary Saint George and earlier — have never disappeared entirely. Instead, they've moved undercover — and into human society. Now one lonely schoolboy is about to learn where the dragons have gone...

Educated at boarding schools, Simon St. George has never met his parents. When a ragged-looking man shows up claiming to be his father, Simon is skeptical, and when the man kidnaps him, he's indignant to say the least.

Then the man claims to be a descendant of England's Saint George and a career dragon fighter. Why should Simon believe any of this nonsense? But what if the man is telling the truth? What if the dragons know he's out there?

Rich with the dragon lore of legend, the saint of dragons continues and enlarges on the tale of the centuries-old conflict between dragons and humans that rages even today.

The Saint of Dragons Details

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Author : Jason Hightman

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From Reader Review The Saint of Dragons for online ebook

Lindsey Weightman says

I really liked this book since I adore fantasy and dragons. This book is full of adventure and you can not stop reading. There is almost no point in the book where nothing is happening. There are many surprises in the book that was fascinating for me. But one surprise I found was not a good one. The surprise for the knights that was not good, lets just say the dragons had a queen that was banished into darkness a long time ago,they figured out how to revive her. Read this book to find out what happened to the knights and the dragons.

Staci says

Did not finish.
Liked the premise but the choppy writing made following along difficult.

Brian O'Leary says

father and son, the last two left who kill dragons, a good idea, but too plain

Justin Bremer says

The grown-up, Tolkien-versed part of me wants to give this book a 3/5. Characters were a bit simple, and their relationships even more so. A lot of now-familiar tropes were used, though used quite well. Overall, a nice, quick little reading "snack." The story had a few nice little surprises, though I felt that some of them could have been played out longer for more tension.

The adventure-loving child part of me would totally not hesitate to give this a 5/5! An amazing bestiary, sinister villains, valiant heroes, and non-stop action with twist after turn. Any young boy man could easily identify with the main protagonist.

All around, I feel that it was a nice standalone story with a solid resolution in an open ending. Neither half of me would be disappointed if the series went on for a good several books, though the adult probably wouldn't chase down a sequel, and even the child young man would be happy if nothing more came of the characters. I would highly recommend it to young adults or prodigious children.

Adam Gulledge says

The lore was interesting, as was the premise, but the prose and characters let it down.

Mirjam says

The idea of dragon evolution shrinking them down to human height to better hide and live among us without most humans ever getting wise to it is a novel and appealing idea. The dragons in Jason Hichtman's book are evil, so naturally there are humans who did wise up. These are the dragon-hunters, most famous among them are the descendants of Saint George, which I thought was a nice touch. Only Aldrick Saint-George and his son Simon are left. Just when they think their job is finally complete they get a nasty shock and discover there are a lot more dragons to take out with just the two of them. Meanwhile the dragons have been plotting in a most unusual way themselves and the Saint-Georges are in the way. For an adult there are plenty of things that are not quite there yet, like character development for instance, but they come close and I really don't think many children will notice that. So, great fantasy book for children and even a nice read for adults.

Terry says

The idea that dragons have changed over the years and that people are still out there fighting them was an interesting idea. The story delivers some enjoyable twists and turns, but the writing was mediocre.

Dar says

very good book for young adults

Shazza Maddog says

Simon is a boy living in a boarding school, with no idea of who his parents are. He has lived at the school as long as he can remember, helping to take care of the lighthouse on the promontory, and living with the lighthouse keeper and his wife. He has few friends, and feels very much the outcast. His story begins with a trip to town during October, to choose a mask and outfit for the Halloween parade. He buys a mask representing a knight's helmet, as well as a little tin figure of a knight on horseback, and starts back to the school. He notices without really noticing strange things happening around him, but thinks nothing of them.

Later that night, he sees a man dressed in white, and overhears him talking to the school's president. They're discussing him. Simon tries to chase down the man, only to get picked up – literally – by a strange man on horseback. The strange, dirty man claims to be Simon's father, and not only that, but a Dragonhunter, the last one left in the world.

Aldric lives on the Ship with No Name, along with a fox who can cook and clean, and his horse. He is Simon's father. Simon's mother is dead. Aldric needs Simon's help, as there is one final dragon left in the world, and they need to hunt it down.

It is only when they begin this hunt, they discover the dragon has made the acquaintance of a New York artist, Alaythia. The dragon intends to eat Alaythia, but Aldric and Simon manage to save her, killing the dragon. Alaythia's apartment is destroyed, and she decides she will travel with Aldric and Simon for a time, as it appears that the dragon they just killed isn't the last of its kind, as Aldric believed. There might be more.

Journeying to a far, spellbound coast, Aldric and Simon find that their ancestor, St. George, had divided the dragon hunters into two teams – those with the Black Book and those with the White. Aldric had been the last hunter of the Black team. The White team had died out long before. There are still far too many dragons in the world, and now they're starting to rally, and appear to be hunting the St. Georges.

Traveling from New York to Russia to China and London, Simon slowly begins to learn what it's like to have a quest, and how it changes you, for good and for ill.

This is a decent coming of age story, though at times, the storyline flagged. Most of it is told in Simon's headspace, however, the reader does get to 'hear' dragon thoughts occasionally. The dragons are written very descriptively, and the magic of the world is fascinating in and of itself. It was hard for me to decide whether I liked any of the characters or not, so it may not be the right fit for some readers.

Aelvana says

Simon St. George has been raised by his school, but learns he is the last of a long line of St. Georges, whose mission is to wipe Dragons from the face of the earth. He's not sure what to make of his father, a man completely dedicated to exterminating the beasts, or himself and his own role in this hunt. His father is not what he had expected, nor anything he had hoped. But the world is in danger, and Simon, his father, and a woman they rescue are the only ones standing between the Dragons and the rest of humankind.

The book did an excellent job portraying the tumultuous relationship between Simon and his father. Aldric is so dedicated to his mission he's gone more than a little insane, and Simon has to wrestle with that as he tries to see past the barriers to the man underneath. Alaythia's involvement was much more predictable, but still interesting in the context of Aldric's fanaticism.

Things not handled as well are harder to pinpoint, but definitely there. The way the book kept pushing Dragons as totally evil irritated me, although the end brought up the question of whether not-so-evil Dragons could really exist. There were really big holes in some of the logistics of the fights themselves: just how did they get a horse into some of the places she goes, particularly without anyone noticing? And who were the other Knights at the beginning? Cousins?

The ending left me really puzzled. Alaythia, apparently without ever learning anything about magic, manages to re-sink the most powerful Dragon in existence. Granted, she had help in the form of the chaos everyone else had sparked, but that bit just felt way too cheesy and contrived.

Perhaps it's my own love of dragons that soured the book for me, or perhaps it was the book's heavy-handedness in denouncing every single Dragon as evil, period. They had enough free will to go a little more against the grain. Although I liked some parts of it, overall I just wasn't impressed. Neutral.

Anthony Bonventre says

I got this book for my birthday from my cousin and he is one of the smartest people I know so when I got the book I was expecting it to be at least decent. It starts off introducing the main character Simon who's been orphaned and lives in a light house but soon his dragon hunting dad needs his help because his comrades died in the battle with the second last to dragon. Now Simon was not happy about this but his dad kidnapped him and set off for the dragon. Now right about here the book gets good, I can't say anything else with out

spoiling anything. This book taught me that maybe humans aren't all bad, maybe something is forcing them to be.

Heather Ohana says

I wanted to like this book a lot more than I did. The story idea is excellent: Dragons are still among us but they've evolved and a secret group of knights is destined to rid the world of their evil. The writing really got in the way of my enjoyment though. There were some good moments between Aldric and Simon as they learn how to be family, and I could tell the author spent a lot of time on those. The rest felt largely unedited. Action sequences didn't flow. Transitions were weak. Alaythia's character was entirely flat. The dragons were described in great detail, but it wasn't very sensory. The voice was all over the place making it difficult to know who's head you were inside at any given moment. The final chapter seemed outside the story, like the author wanted a chance to sum everything up and outline the moral for us. It was heavy handed. I would have preferred to stay with Simon through the whole story, to have seen the whole thing entirely through his eyes. I think it would have brought a lot more focus to the book. It would have forced the author to show us how Simon sees things, rather than just rattle off a list of what happened scene by scene. He says in the special extras in the back of this book that the story had one incarnation as a screenplay and it shows. Somehow I still want to read the next in the series though.

Peytie says

I hate to say it, because I don't like being negative, but really, this book is one of the most poorly-written books I've ever read. A lot of the ideas in it were really interesting, but it was so disastrously executed that all those ideas went completely to waste. To say the characters were two-dimensional wouldn't do justice to how terrible they were. They weren't even flat--it was more like they didn't even exist at all. I can barely even describe them to you, because they were so utterly un-lifelike. I don't understand how this book got published.

Adi Carlisle says

One of my favourite books as a kid, I'm 22 now and I'd still read it.

Sue says

Hardly got passed the first chapter. This is a middle school level reading book and I feel that even at this level, it is poorly written. Sorry.

Lauren RM says

Not gonna lie, I have a particular soft spot for dragons. I thought this was going to take me most of a week, but the only reason it took me two days is that I started reading it too late at night and had to go to sleep

under pain of not waking up on time in the morning. Simon (the main character) is hilariously thick-brained and frustratingly short-sighted, and his fellow characters are shallow yet human. The dragons are brilliantly described - just enough to get your imagination started, and little enough that your imagination can take over. Jason clearly loves his dragons, and I like that. The plot is a little too transparent, I think as a result of being written more like a script. Definitely another book I bought when I was in middle school. (I'm reading all the easy books I had at home first, since I have about 90 books to read before 2012 to make my challenge of 100).

John Pristina801 says

In this book you are taken through the story of the St. George's. They are a group of undercover knights that protect the world from dragons. The main plot of this story is that over thousands of years dragons have evolved into dragon-people. They still have fire breath and magic but this book puts a whole new interesting twist to it. Dragons use their magic to disguise themselves as people. When they walk around, they wear long trench coats but to humans are only see as tall men or women. In this book you learn all about how the dragons magic leaks out causing ripples in nature, and how dragon fire has a mind of its own. You also learn how the dragons feed on people's misery. But mainly you are taken through the journey of Simon St. George. He is a boy who lives in a boarding school with the groundskeeper and his wife. He never met his real parents, until one day Aldric St. George(his father) goes on a hunt with his brother and 2 other knights. This takes a turn for the worse when the dragon causes a giant explosion that kills his brother and the two others. He finds the skull of the dragon who says to him that we know about the kid. This is when Aldric picks up Simon to train him to hunt. He explains to simon how there is only one dragon left, and he didn't want to drag his son into his lifestyle. they go to hunt the last dragon in Manhattan. This dragon was about to kill a woman named Alaythia, which is the dragon ritual for marriage. After they defeat the dragon they find out that there is another dragon out there. They have a book called the Black Book of the St. George, and this gives them the name, location, and deathspell of the dragons. So they go to hunt down this dragon with Alaythia, who made a decision to help them anyway she can. When they find its lair Alaythia gets a near death experience that makes her able to read the dragon language. She is able to read a map that leads them to discover Whit Book of St. George. In there is a list of hundreds of dragons just like the black book. They also discover a plot in which All the dragons plan to gather. They foil their plan and find a nice house near the Lighthouse school for boys to spend the rest of their life.

Tally says

Title: THE SAINT OF DRAGONS

Author: Jason Hightman

Pages: 364(Paperback)

Rating: 4/5

“Another dragon book,” you grumble. I nod and grin, “of course!”

Thursdays always catch me unawares so this book will again be aimed at a younger audience but I recommend it to everyone with a love of fantasy. Highly. What, you don't believe in dragons? By the time you finish this book, trust me you will. And since I love the synopsis too much to make up my own, read on:

You've been taught to believe they are dead. Fignents of an ancient imagination. But one lonely schoolboy at the Lighthouse School for Boys, who has never known his family, and who has never

**known adventure, is about to have a rude awakening.
Dragons are real. And they have ... evolved.
Two descendants remain of the legendary St. George. One is just a teenager. And only they can
destroy the dragons that plague the world.**

I read this while on an extremely long car ride that passed far too fast for me. I finished this book and was in awe. You think that, after reading so much fantasy you know all the kinds of dragons there are. You don't, not until you read *The Saint of Dragons*.

Hightman begins with an introduction which is highly unusual but it works marvelously, setting high expectations. The first chapter is a fine beginning but not yet engaging. It's the second chapter and on that you give your full attention to the story. What happens when you become the last knight and the responsibility as a parent falls like a slap? Meet Aldric St. George, the father or young Simon.

I enjoyed the bickering and eventual relationship between father and son. It's fun to see Simon struggle to rise to his father's standards and make a mess of things. Not to mention accidentally use his father as a pincushion as they encounter and fight the highly individual Dragons. The Paris Dragon is my favorite. Well one of them.

You get to travel the world with the St. Georges in their triumphs and (mostly) failures. Along the way they pick up the gifted Alaythia and more or less keep the Dragons from... wait no, I'll let you read it for yourself.

This is a fabulous adventure fantasy book but it isn't the typical black and white scenario. Jason Hightman is smart enough to add those shades of grey often lacking in great fantasy stories. The story continues in *Samurai* which I have not had the pleasure to read but you can definitely just read *The Saint of Dragons* and come away fully satisfied.

Helen says

I'm always on the lookout for something different for my Chatterbooks group. I also love dragon stories. So when this was in the library book sale, I thought I'd check it out.

I won't be using it with my group. For a children's book, it is very dark and quite gruesome. Not for the faint hearted.

I normally prefer books where dragons are not the villains, but I know these are the exception rather than the rule, so I don't let my affinity for the cute ones colour my reading of the more standard tales. These dragons are most certainly villains. I won't say more for fear of spoilers.

Kristen says

I read about half of it. The peculiarities of this narrative were adequately explained (to my mind) by the author info on the back flap - Mr. Hightman "is a writer and film-maker." The book reads like a feature film.

This is not a good thing. Superficial (and frankly stereotypical) characterization works fine in feature films, but not in novels. Improbable coincidences and characters' lapses of judgment are easy to overlook in films, at least while it's actually playing. It's not uncommon or unlikely for film characters to overlook the obvious, right up until the climax of the film - that journey across the Atlantic and Mediterranean by sailboat only

takes a few minutes in film time, after all.

In a novel, these rapidly become unforgivable sins, and in this case led this reader to skip to the end just to see what the Big Climax would consist of - and it was basically exactly what I expected.

It's a pity, really - the premise was fairly interesting, and Hightman is very good with imagery. But if I were you, I'd wait till the film comes out, and see that.
