



## The Dragonstone

*Dennis L. McKiernan*

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## **The Dragonstone** Dennis L. McKiernan

*Welcome to Mithgar, Dennis L. McKiernan's classic bestselling fantasy series of adventure where legends are forged in the fires of sorcery....*

For as long as she can remember, the Elven Lady Arin has been besieged by visions from the past—or the future. But none has ever left her so shaken as the one that foretells the fall of Mithgar: images of raging dragons and brutal legions laying waste to everything in their path signifying a devastating war that will threaten the land.

There is more to the prophecy than a warning—riddles within the vision that Arin must decipher if she is to prevent the forthcoming destruction. And it will take a journey across countless leagues—connected to a relic of immense power known as the Dragonstone—to find the answers to Mithgar's salvation....

## **The Dragonstone Details**

Date : Published September 1st 1997 by Roc (first published 1996)

ISBN : 9780451454560

Author : Dennis L. McKiernan

Format : Paperback 576 pages

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## From Reader Review The Dragonstone for online ebook

### **Jason Hubbard says**

A great book for fantasy fans who crave the concept of heroes going on an epic journey to defeat evil. There are some segments in the first 100 pages that drag (learning what every river and forest land our heroes journey through is not much fun), but things pick up after a while (even though the author could have cut some fat from the narrative).

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### **Isabelle says**

Slow start, but after around 100 pages of background setting for the story, it really hooked me. It is a great adventure, without any big wars but with couples forming in the company of 7 that makes the story. Really good fantasy.

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### **Todd R says**

This was a good read, interesting characters and settings that kept me enthralled the way a Fantasy hasn't done in a long time. I like McKiernan usually, it's classic fantasy with settings that are incredibly detailed and events and people that are always exciting to explore.

It's a nice long fantasy that stands on its own - which is another thing I like about McKiernan's work; you can read them separately and in no particular order, for the most part, and have a rich experience.

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### **Danielle Young says**

This book is STILL just as good as when I read it over 15yrs ago! STILL made me weep at the end even though I knew what was happening! The characters are entralling, and the quest will suck you in! You will not want to put this book down!

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### **Alianoraree says**

It started out okay, if a bit goofy and gross for my taste. Then, to give some new characters context for what the group will need to do next, the elf started telling a story. One hundred pages (and lots of scenery porn) later, I gave up.

If I had known ahead of time that the beginning was going to be more of a frame story, or if there hadn't been such a huge tone shift between it and the elf's stately journey story, I might have been fine with the book. Maybe this heads-up will help prepare someone to enjoy it.

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### **Max says**

I definitely liked this the best out of all the Mithgar novels I've read thus far, but it still only rates about three or three and a half stars. There's some fun world building, since the plot involves characters from fantasy Japan and fantasy Scandinavia. Plus, I got to meet Mithgar's wizards for the first time, which was interesting. I like the idea that they come from another dimension, even if it is somewhat like Tolkien's wizards originating in Valinor. The bit about dragons and krakens mating was kinda silly, though. The plot is a fairly generic quest fantasy in which Arin, an elf with precognitive abilities, has to seek out a bunch of people to aid her in her search for the Dragonstone. What the Dragonstone does is never made explicit, but presumably it lets the user control dragons, which would be bad news. Things are made more interesting through the varied cast of characters who meet the components of a prophetic riddle. These include a female samurai, two one eyed men (one of whom is an alcoholic), and a thief.

Generally, the characters were fun and well-developed, even if they were kinda cliche. I actually enjoyed a fair bit of this book, even if it got off to a slow start. However, in the end, there were some things that definitely damaged my enjoyment of it. For one thing, everybody had to get together in nice little couples even though most of them didn't make sense. The human/elf romance worked and actually had a degree of well-done pathos to it. But the other relationships came out of nowhere, never felt real, and didn't jibe with my idea of the characters. They really took me out of the story and frustrated me. I was also annoyed by the fact that one of the fantasy Middle East countries that the heroes visit has a major religion consisting of Satan worship (or at least worship of the local Satan equivalent). This is a frustrating and kinda racist concept, and so while I do appreciate that McKiernan attempts to be more diverse than Tolkien, he messes it up some. Still, this was definitely an improvement over Into the Forge, and its originality makes The Dragonstone better than all the other Mithgar books I've read, even with its serious flaws.

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### **Robert says**

I have avoided this writer for decades--multiple references to him by reviewers and readers as a "Tolkien derivative" and akin to Terry Brooks in writing ability. Well, sometimes you just have to try for yourself. I received this book as a gift and felt compelled to read it. Yes, he is not the writer Tolkien was and yes, it is very derivative. However, I found out that the first books in this world (the Iron Ring Trilogy) he wrote were meant to be "continuations" of LOR, and that he is a fan. Well I'm a fan too, and I can't write a successor to LOR, but why not read the books of someone who has.

That said, I found this book moderately enjoyable. I felt that somehow he was placing me in a forested environment, with a mission and a layered world of many cultures. I found that I kept making comparisons to Tolkien's elves, people and histories to the disadvantage of McKiernan, but not to the extent that I wanted to stop. I kept reading.

I think this is a decent entry to the "traditional" fantasy literature. I could go on, but I find that most people either like and read this author or they don't. Make your own evaluation.

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### **Lynn Orser says**

It's an OK book for fantasy lovers, was not the best I have read. I do enjoy epic tales such as the Shannara book and those by David Eddings. Maybe some of his later works would suit me better. Not a bad read so Enjoy.

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### **Karen Anderson says**

DNF at page 400. The pairing off of all of the characters was too silly to

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### **Cori Thomas says**

The beginning chronological of the series you don't have to start here. It is a good book that brings in predestination vs. free-will (a large theme throughout the series).

I enjoyed that there are quite a few diverse characters both male and female, as well as, cultural diversity. The author likes to pepper in different languages and dialects for this effect. Most the meaning can be guessed at others are explained (I have used a translation app which works for the most part) It is easy to grasp the jist of it.

It is a quest/adventure book some ish romance (not really but sort of) happens and triggertype situations are discussed mildly, please read regardless it is worth it. Most of the graphic situations concern fighting. There are a lot of dragging areas where all they are able to do is talk because of travel. Dennis L. McKiernan loves to begin in the middle of the story backtrack tonite beginning to help with character building etc. At times, this does slow the pacing down.

Like almost every Epic Fantasy there are elves, dragons, mages, and so on those who've read Tolkien will either like him or hate it as a knock off.

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### **Cori Thomas says**

The book follows our heroines and heroes hoping to avert a possible disaster by finding the jade egg and defeating a wizard. Their only real map a puzzle of a prophecy that they have to figure out. It does use a lot of what I call "old" language where the meanings have changed from today's usage and there are a lot of thee and thine. As well as a peppering of what I think is Japanese and possibly French words. He also really likes the word whelm. The Dragonstone is philosophical inclined and many discussions about free will vs. predestination are inside.

Technically, I rate this book as 3 1/2 stars (I'm not sure how to do a half rating & enjoyed it enough to round up). I received over half of his books over ten years ago about the same time as the LOR movies came out. Yes, they are very similar. You can tell he is a LOR fan. Like a lot of his books This story starts in the middle and builds through flashbacks. One of my favorite things about this books series is that you get multiple p.o.v. And you can read the series all hodgepodge with few as "true" sequels or trilogies- most of those are contained as one book now.

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### **Christine Jones says**

A high fantasy adventure with well written excitement and memorable characters. I enjoyed this installment of the adventures of Mithgar. This is a fun book to read, a lot of adventure and good versus evil.

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### **Ryan Gower says**

This book(and ALL of the Mithgar series) was given to me by my best friend over 20 years ago. The world of Mithgar played a pivotal role in my imagination and was the backdrop for all of our D and D games. This book baptized me into this world and for that I owe Mr.McKiernan unending thanks. I cannot give this work enough praise. It is wonderfully written and is appropriate for all ages. Parents can feel good about their children reading this and need not worry about anything overly graphic or sexual. I have no problems with those topics but, I understand that they are not appropriate for all ages. This book(and the following entries in the series) helped me become a writer and kept me away from the dreaded TV. Please, get this book and share it with a friend....then another friend, rinse and repeat!

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### **Craig says**

The Dragonstone is one of McKiernan's best novels, a stand-alone tale of Mithgar that's rich with adventure, romance, and friendship. It's one of the great high-fantasy novels of recent times.

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### **Natalie says**

As the prophecy goes there is a egg-shape jade colored stone that could bring about the destruction and ruin of all the people in the land. It holds the power to bring the dragons out of their solitude, wage open war with all races (human, elf, golden warriors, etc) and bring them all under a tyrannical rule of an evil dark mage. This was received through a fire-vision from by an elf, Arin, where she learned that she must start a quest to find the people (or things) that fit the riddle she was given in order to overcome the dark mage in his quest to bring about the destruction of all. A tiger who has fallen from grace, the one-eye in dark waters, the rutting peacock in a mad queen's court, a ferret in the high kings cage, these (and only these) can come along as Arin tries to avoid the future she sees. Slowly she gathers those destined to aid her as she faces the challenges of travel, sea-faring, myths, legends, hoarders, and mages. Will they be in time to save their world? Will they do everything right and avoid the horrible future she has foreseen, or will they only help in bringing about its doom?

This book was difficult for me to get into. I honestly read it because my husband loved it when he was a teenager and thought I should try it out. It is really slow to get into and there is a lot of flashbacks and gaps that are slowly filled in. It took me over a hundred pages to get into the book and even then I found some parts particularly dry and hard to wade through. I would definitely say this is a novel for older youth (not anyone under fourteen or fifteen if I'm being generous), and that there is some content and comments that would only be understood by those who are in their late teens and early twenties.

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