



The Sun Dragon

Annabelle Jay

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"The Sun Dragon: Book One "

It's been many years since the beauty of dragons riding the wind disappeared from the skies, destroyed by the corrupt King Roland and his greedy minions.

Or were they?

Instead of killing the dragons, Roland transformed them into humans so they could mingle with his people and breed him an army. Teenage Allanah saves her friend Victoria from falling victim to his scheme with newly manifested magical abilities. Another surprise comes when Allanah's first high school crush, Jason, reveals he's been sent by a clandestine council of wizards to test Allanah and Victoria's arcane talents. No one is more amazed than Allanah when, during her trial, she produces the world's first light dragon.

Allanah might be the only hope not just for her best friend but also for the survival of all the world's dragons. In addition to her monumental task, she struggles to understand her feelings between her new attraction to Cormac, the wizard general, and her emerging desire for a beautiful, forest-dwelling Igreefee girl named Dena."

The Sun Dragon Details

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Author : Annabelle Jay

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From Reader Review The Sun Dragon for online ebook

Rain says

Allanah is a sixteen-year-old girl known for her love of fantasy books and for spacing out during class and other activities. One day, during a broadcast, the President announces he's actually King Roland, a powerful wizard who in the past transformed dragons into humans and now he's ready to turn them back so he can have his army and conquer the world with his dragons.

When Allanah manages to save Victoria, her best friend, from that fate, she discovers she has magical abilities and is taken to a council of wizards, where she's put to a test to calculate her magic power. From that moment, the battle against King Roland begins...

Unfortunately, there's not much of a battle. And that's my main problem with the book. Every "battle" is short-lived and anticlimactic, which is a bit odd for a book with so many dragons and wizards.

Characterization is another of my problems. Most characters felt one-dimensional. Roland is an almost 'cartoonish' villain with no depth (view spoiler). It also annoyed me how "powerful" Allanah was, and how much trust was put in a teenager with no experience in anything magic-related, or war, or life, really. But I understand this is usually the case in many YA books with hero-type characters and storylines.

And speaking of Allanah, she's bisexual (or at least, she showed interest in both genders), so that's great, but it felt unrealistic how fast she developed a crush on someone. The first is Jason, though not for long. She quickly moves on when he shows an interest in her best friend, which, seeming out of nowhere, was reciprocated by said friend. Her crush on Cormac and then Dena didn't feel any more believable to me.

However, the writing is not bad, it was very easy to read, and I did enjoy some parts. I might be judging this book too harshly, but for me it's important to have complex and believable characters, as well as an interesting and well-crafted plot, even in a book possibly aimed at teens, and I just don't think I found that here.

Book provided by NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Daniel Mitton says

(Originally reviewed for Love Bytes Reviews with a copy provided by the author / publisher for an honest review.)

The Sun Dragon is a book published for teens and young adults. It is focused on teens, with a very slight focus on a girl questioning her sexual identity, but all off screen...mainly. For most of our readers, this would not be your sort of book, because it would not be age appropriate for our mainly adult readers.

In the book we have a teenage girl named Allanah who has never really fit in at school. She struggles to stay focused, but is easily distracted. Her class grades reflect that, since they are mostly D's or C-'s. Luckily she has her best friend Victoria, the smartest kid in the class, to help her.

Imagine her surprise though when one day the world discovers that the President of the United States is actually an ancient evil king and sorcerer who in ancient times ensorcelled the dragons and forced them into human shapes. As part of the spell, the dragons don't even know they are dragons, and have been breeding children for millennia. Now the evil sorcerer has reversed the spell and the dragons and their children have all turned back into dragons, causing panic in the streets!

Victoria and her family, it turns out, are dragons. When Allanah performs a great magic and saves Victoria from shifting to the dragon form, we, and the confused Allanah, discover that she is a witch.

This book would be a great book for a teen or young adult. It does not contain sex of any sort, not even the reference to it. It is vaguely a F/F/M type story, but again I would call it vaguely. I grabbed it because of the dragons and wizards, and it was a fast read which I flew through this morning. As an adult I noticed more what wasn't there than what was. For example, the story had a bunch of people turning into dragons suddenly one day...midday...in full sight of tons and tons of humans. The President has announced he is an ancient evil sorcerer. But for the rest of the book, the characters, including dragons, sneak around like no one knows about them? Ummmm, wasn't the secret already out?

I would say this book is age appropriate for mid-teens, but not really a good fit for adult readers. I personally would probably not be interested in reading further books in the series, but others who enjoy teen and young adult stories might disagree. I've got to rate it based on my experience and thoughts on the book, so I'm going to have to say it is Good/Average, or 3.0 stars.

Alexa says

rating: 3.5 stars

The Sun Dragon is a standard YA novel with dragons and magical people, and a "Chosen One" protagonist. The main character, Allanah is actually bisexual, and has feelings for both a boy and a girl in the book. She also loves fantasy novels of all kind, and has the tendency to space out, which were both great to read about. I love reading about dragons, and with Allanah's time spent with the Igreefee, this book reminded me of Gunnerkrigg Court, which is a graphic novel series I adore.

The Sun Dragon is also divided into three parts, with the third part being shorter, and this is where my main issue lies. This book essentially felt like two (and a half) books crammed into 180 pages. By the end of the first section (halfway through the book) Allanah goes through a character journey that should have taken a whole book. This made the whole thing feel rushed, and her character development undeserved. Likewise, the romance felt incredibly undeveloped to me, which is unsurprising given that it didn't have /time/ to develop.

Overall, this was a fun read, but it seriously should have been two separate books, or at least longer.

Montzalee Wittmann says

The Sun Dragon is a fantasy tale for teens and young adults but adults would like it also. It contains dragons, wizards, witches, spells, magic, and dark secrets. The plot is great and the characters are well developed. It is

a girl that finds out the world has changed over night and she is caught up in the middle of it without even knowing why. Her parents are not who she thought they were. and she isn't even who she believed she was or could be. There is lots of action, a bit of romance, lots of magic, she gets a dragon and how cool is that! She is in danger frequently but she is not a weak, helpless female in this story. She holds her own, I like a story with a strong female character. The story starts out a bit slow but quickly picks up and doesn't stop. I received this book for a honest review and it in no way effects the rating or the content of this review.

Sieran says

3.75 stars.

This was pretty nice, with an engaging world, story, and a cool protagonist. I liked Victoria and Grian (the light dragon) as well. However, I wasn't very enthusiastic about either Cormac or Dena, as characters or as love interests. They both seemed to be rather under-developed, especially Dena; I felt like I barely knew anything about them.

Cormac was slightly more interesting as a person to me, but I didn't really "like" either of Allanah's crushes, for some reason. They're not bad people. Maybe they're just not my type. Insta-love or almost insta-love romances don't tend to appeal to me anyway. There was another romance pairing that didn't make any sense to me; it seemed so abrupt, and I didn't understand how they could be suited to each other at all. (view spoiler)

Grian was my favorite character, followed by Allanah and then Victoria. I wish there was more character development for Victoria, though. Reading the sequel, Merlin's Moon, now!

Kat Rook says

So the president has announced that he is in fact an immortal evil wizard and that a select few of the population are actually dragons in disguise. Said dragons are then forced to become part of his evil dragon army. Now it's up to Allanah, a seemingly random teenager who is actually a level five wizard and her sun dragon friend to save the world.

Oh boy. I got this book as a goodreads giveaway and I wanted to like it sooooooooo much. I did I really, really did. After all when I signed up for the giveaway I read dragons and wizards and I got so excited!

As to how I feel about this book now that I've actually read it. Well . . . at least the cover is nice. And I know, I just know I'm gonna get slammed for disliking this book, 'what do you mean you didn't like it?! The main character was bisexual! Don't you believe that books need to be diverse?' Look books also need believable villains, good writing, and decent dialogue.

Allanah: Mirror, Mirror on the wall who's the most special snowflake of them all. Look I'm more attached to the special snowflake trope than George Lucas and I was put off by how 'powerful' Allanah was.

She was the most powerful wizard alive, she had a familiar who was a freakin' dragon, she was part of not

one, but two! Sets of people who basically bathed in magic. Why should I be worried about this girl? Mr. sorcerer-president Roland doesn't even have a chance.

I wanted to like Allanah! After all she spent her days reading C. S. Lewis and Harry Potter! But after maybe the second, or third time she did something 'that no one has ever done before' I stopped trying.

Grian: Dragon! Dragon! Dragon! I love dragons! Although I kept calling him Grain because . . . well we already covered that, despite my current hobby, I can't read. Also he was a giant dragon who liked to chase bugs. How could you not find him adorable?

Victoria: Dude if you can turn into a giant dragon you should. Why is that bad! You can fly through the air and burn jerks to a crisp. After Mr. evil-president stops with the mind control thing I can see literally no downside to this. Unfortunately for Victoria she, like most YA friends it seems, disappears for chapters at a time and is only resurrected when Allanah needs her to go all black and scaly.

Cormac and Dena: I don't even want to give these two a separate category. On top of all the special snowflake trope we also had a love triangle. Yippee. I think I've already got myself in enough trouble for not liking this book so I'm just going to leave it at this. They were both one-dimensional, I didn't care about either of them.

Likes

You can tell that the author is a fan of certain books: there's a difference between stealing somebody else's ideas and imitating an author's style out of respect. I'd say that Jay toes the line at times but stays pretty much on the latter side. I can't help but admire their life choices when author starts gushing about C. S. Lewis in their own writing.

Dragons guys! Dragons: I love dragons. Dragons deserve to be in every kind of book. Contemporaries'? Maybe I'd actually read them if there were the occasional dragon. Paranormal? I demand a book in which the ghost of a dragon starts terrorizing the knights who killed him.

Actually I don't because I think I'll use that.

Dislikes:

I am so sorry okay. I just did not like this book.

It felt like a debut novel: The writing was rather choppy. Every sentence seemed to start with 'and then' or 'afterwards' like some kind of to do list. One of those 'and one thing led to another' kind of novels that makes me want to face palm every time I read it. I am trying so hard to not be mean but I'm not sure how this book got praised for its good writing. It was choppy, uncomfortable, and formulaic.

Dialog: which leads me to the dialogue. It was so stilted and awkward. No one had a distinct voice and it just about drove me up the wall because I couldn't tell who was talking to who. They all spoke the same way and every line of dialogue was just so wooden.

And don't even get me started on Roland's dialogue because it was the worst. Which leads me to the next complaint.

I cannot take the evil president seriously: he actually had a monologue in which he talked about how he was sooo evil and how much he wanted power. Look I would expect somebody writing a kids book to have a villain who knows that he's evil. Not a young adult writer. Except in very special cases villains should never

think of themselves as evil. After all no one in real life thinks of themselves as evil.

The beginning when he threw off his president clothes, declared himself an malicious tyrant, and what? Twirled his evil mustache and laughed manically.

And then disappeared for as much of the plot as he could manage I guess. Seriously it was like playing a videogame with this dude. The kind like 'oh I'll make a few cameos here and there but mostly you'll have to wait for the boss battle'.

Said boss battle was then hilariously easy and anticlimactic. I don't know how this dude could get more comically villainous. I'm actually vaguely insulted that such a ridiculous antagonist hasn't been mentioned anywhere else as far as I can find.

The plot bounced around a lot: like I said the main antagonist wasn't overly present so the plot was kind of bouncy. It's actually like this book was written entirely with blot bunnies (including seasonal spirits, repetitive romantic subplots, and some strange parental relationships) and Roland was only thrown in as an afterthought.

I have said this before but I will say it again. I wanted to like this book. It was my first giveaway book and it was even signed by the freakin' author! But I could not get passed . . . everything else. I am extremely disappointed and permanently terrified of the internet.

Marty Preslar says

A fun story

While it is predictable in spots and tends to rush through the story without seeming to give the protagonist adequate time to become the character she needs to be, I found the last portion of the story very strong, which makes up for a lot. Allanah's complex relationships with her parents, the leaders of the various magical groups, and especially the two love interests, Cormac, the Wizard General whose ordered view of the world is so foreign to Allanah, yet helps her see the world in a new way, and Dena, the magical girl from the forest who has a calming effect on her and feels like home, are really the heart of the story. That and her really cute dragon.

Marlena says

Dragons and LGBT characters -- it's a fantasy come true! Annabelle Jay weaves a terrific tale for kids and adult readers alike. Allannah is a role model for young girls and boys -- she knows what she wants, listens to others, is strong on her own, and never backs down. She does fall into the trope of deciding who she'll end up with, the boy or the girl, but that's romantic fantasy for you. I wish some of the other characters were more fleshed out, like Dena and Brenna, but maybe they are in Annabelle's sequels!

Lexxi Kitty says

I received this book from NetGalley in return for a fair review.

This is another book by an author I'd never read before that I somewhat randomly picked up from Netgalley when I saw it in one of the categories as a 'Read Now'. Not sure which specific category I saw it in, though. Young adult, LGBT, Fantasy, just not sure.

It's also one of those kinds of books wherein if someone told me the plot, or gave me a rough outline, I'd probably think I'd want nothing to do with the story, and/or that it'd be absurd, or out of the range of books I like, or . . . something. So it's good, in its way, that I had a good enough idea of what the book was about to try it, but not enough to cause me to flee before trying it. Because, despite believing that others might feel differently, I rather enjoyed this book. Though it has all the hallmarks of being something that might normally annoy me.

Characters

This is one of those first person type books, with the main character being a young woman named Allanah.

Allanah is a young woman of roughly 16 years of age who starts off the book as a student at a school. I am unsure if her last name is given, nor if she's in high school or not. Though I assume both sets of information might have been given at some point. She's shown instantly as being a flighty kind of woman, the kind who spaces out, staring at a blade of grass, or clouds, or the like and forgetting to focus on what's around her and what she should be doing. Like, say, getting to class on time.

Allanah is described in the book as something of an odd mix of spacey, unable to keep her grades up, naive, inexperienced type of young woman who ends up showing massive amounts of magical skill. Mostly instinctively. And one who seems quite capable of pulling forth solutions to problems. An odd mix.

For the most part, Allanah is the only character that really matters in this book. Though there are others with varying levels of importance.

Victoria is a prim and proper young woman with great intellectually ability. The kind to be class president and straight A student. She's also best friends with Allanah. Oh, and unknown to her, she's also a dragon in human disguise. Revealed when she starts to shift one day in class. She has her important moments, and is quite important in certain pivot points, but as a character, is something of minor importance. If I'm conveying this correctly. Maybe if she had her own point of view for people to follow, her importance would be heightened, but beyond being a dragon, and being helpful as such, and being a friend of Allanah's, and also being helpful as such, she's really kind of unimportant to the story line.

Jason is a young man of roughly Allanah and Victoria's age. The book opens with Allanah lusting after him. But apparently he is actually something of an undercover agent for a magic counsel, there to watch over Allanah. And is even less important than Victoria. Really really unimportant.

Cormac is the next man Allanah crushes on. He is a general for the magic counsel, and they – Cormac and Allanah, have a certain connection. Is something of a hot head. Again important, but minor.

Grian is a light dragon Allanah summons when she is tested by the magic counsel. The dragon bonds to Allanah and follows her around.

Roland is a magic user and super evil. Wants ultimate power.

Dena is the reason this book falls into the LGBT category. She's a female who Allanah meets while she is living with the Igreefree people. Dena stumbles out all bloody and stuff, they touch, they realize they have this deep connection, and now Allanah has to determine if she prefers the man or the woman. I'm being quick there – they don't literally touch the first second they meet. Though the connection is there the first second they touch.

Others: there are, of course, other people in the book. Some more important than others, some less.

Plot

The book opens with Allanah spaced out, standing near the entrance to her school. She's saved from her third tardy slip by two factors - her best friend, Victoria, offers to give her the hall pass she had, and more importantly, as it develops, everyone is distracted once Victoria and Allanah reaches the class room. The president's on the tv, see, so, as I said, people are distracted. He looks different, though, than Allanah recalls him looking. Then he starts stripping down to ropes. Weird stuff starts occurring, and the words out of his mouth are equally weird. He's calling forth the dragons to come to him.

Well, this certainly is odd, eh? Book opened with a prologue talking about how there's this Prince Roland guy who said he took care of the dragons, but didn't really. But it's told in a way to indicate this occurred longish ago, and now everything is modern looking. As in planes in the sky, televisions in the class rooms, etc.

Back to the gibberish coming from the television. President whatever reveals that he is actually King Roland come forth to take over the world. With his dragon army. Who he had hid among the humans, since he had transformed them into humans. Suddenly screeching is heard - people look outside, a half boy half bird/dragon like creature is wiggling out there, then springing up into the sky, heading towards this President slash King Roland dude.

Suddenly squeaking and yelling in the classroom. Victoria is looking odd. Instinctively Allanah orders everyone else to leave. Without knowing what she is doing, Allanah is able to keep Victoria from transforming into a dragon.

Victoria, Allanah, and Jason (who, it is revealed, is a guardian like guy for Allanah) head off in a magical mustang to the magic counsel (Mustang as in car, not mustang as in horse; they do not climb inside a magical horse). For various reasons I'm confused as to why Jason had been sent off to be a guardian since, if I recall correctly, he is only a level two. I might be confused. Well, magical eggs are put into Victoria's and Allanah's hand. Victoria's egg opens. She learns she's a level two magic user. Allanah's egg opens. She learns she is a level five magic user. And now has a pet dragon. Who came out of the egg. And she's the only person to have a dragon appear in a really really long time. That other person? Roland.

So – several parts to this book. Quite quick from one to the next with almost no rest. There's the shifting at the school (revelation of the magical nature of the world, the dragons hidden among humans, the evil dude who wants to take over everything, etc.), then visit to magic counsel, then visit to some people who might be allies in the fight against Roland (Igreefee . . . split; I forgot how the names look with the word split). The dragon grows just as rapidly as the story unfolds.

Romance

Technically there is something of a romance. Kinda. In the 'Allanah lusts after Jason; no wait, now she has

this connection to Cormac, no wait she also has this deep connection to this woman named Dena' way. Now she has to figure out where her feelings reside. But she's going to push all that to the side to go fight. And . . stuff. Whatever else this book is, though, this is not a romance book.

Overall

I may or may not have mentioned this before, but, this is one of those types of books that I actually, and unexpectedly, loved. No, seriously, I did. But, even as I was loving it, I kind of suspected that others might be less inclined to enjoy the story. Regardless, I rather liked it, and look forward to further books in this series.

I believe that I would give this book a good solid 4.5 stars out of 5.

January 28 2016

Serena Yates says

The imaginative and exciting world of 'The Sun Dragon' pulled me in from the beginning. Other than the magical prologue that sets up the problem explored in this series, Allanah's teenage world seems utterly "normal", i.e., nonmagical at first. That doesn't last very long though, and soon the revelations, threats, and unexpected events merge into an adventure of the best and most fantastical kind. Allanah's journey of discovery of her abilities, her heritage, and the magical world that has been hidden for centuries is breathtaking. There are epic battles, magic to be learned and understood, and all kinds of exotic creatures to discover. I loved every minute of this first book and already look forward to reading the next book set in this world.

Allanah's life is not easy, what with her lack of academic brilliance, but nothing out of the ordinary for a teenager growing up with an utterly organized single mother and a best friend who is far more beautiful and popular than Allanah. When the president himself reveals the secret world of dragons and the danger everyone is in from evil King Roland, Allanah discovers that she has magical abilities she never knew existed. But that isn't all. She turns out to be a witch of considerable power, summons a never-before-seen type of dragon called Grian when her strength is tested by a secret council of witches and wizards, and continues to discover amazing abilities as the adventure progresses.

Allanah is not just struggling with her magical abilities and how to use them to save the world, she is also finding her proverbial feet on a personal level. She has a crush on her classmate Jason, who ends up dating her best friend Victoria, then she discovers feelings for the council's young general, Cormac. But then there also is Dena, a member of the forest-dwelling Igreefee who have a magic all their own. Like all teenagers, Allanah struggles to deal with her emotions as much as she does with the forces of the outside world that demand she figure out who she is and what kind of person she wants to become.

If you like imaginative stories that are full of witches, wizards, and dragons, if you want to find out more about an unsuspecting teenage girl trying to survive high school only to discover she has magical powers and a role to play in saving the world, and if you're looking for a fantastical adventure filled with suspense and a touch of first love, then you will probably like this novel as much as I do. It begins with a bang, never lets up, and has a great ending.

NOTE: This book was provided by Harmony Ink Press for the purpose of a review on Rainbow Book Reviews.

FantasyLiving says

Allanah is fifteen and spends her days reading fantasy novels, not able to stay mentally present in school, or life in general, always getting in trouble for not paying attention to things around her.

When King Roland, an evil wizard, calls out his dragons on national television, Allanah is thrust into the magical world, where her reality is completely turned around and things make even less sense to her addled mind.

Allanah quickly discovers that she is a powerful witch, and has been tasked with saving the magical world from the evil King Roland, while navigating her strange new world, and her feelings for Cormac and Dena.

This was a struggle for me. There was just too much information in the beginning of the story, and none of it really made sense. A teenager is suddenly the most important person in the magical world, and is giving counsel to adults, in a world she just learned about, yet she is not amazed, not frightened, and seems to just go along with the new reality. Most of the ideas she has are just blurted out thoughts and everyone goes along with it. There is no questioning her thought process, it just seems like the most logical option available because she cracked open an egg with a light dragon. No training, no guidance, let's just all do what this teenager says, even though we've been doing this for decades, and she walked into the room moments ago

Check out the rest on the blog

Line says

Freebie at DSP, today only: <https://www.dreamspinnerpress.com/boo...>

Ris says

I don't have a DNF shelf because I so rarely pick up books that I just cannot bring myself to finish, but I got about 5 chapters in before I called it. What a mess. I can't even use the target age as an excuse. This was just sloppy, lazy story-telling that I only accept in first fanfics.

Ollie Quebedeaux says

Absolutely stunning. I can't wait until I can read the next installments.

Annabelle Jay has done an amazing job.

Eric Jacobson says

I really enjoyed this book. Very well written and captivating. I can't wait to read the second book in the series.
