

dragon dragon by john gardner

dragon dragon by john gardner is a compelling short story that reinterprets the classic dragon-slaying myth through a modern and psychological lens. This narrative, penned by the renowned author John Gardner, explores themes of heroism, fear, and the complexity of human nature, distinguishing itself from traditional fantasy tales. The story's nuanced portrayal of the protagonist's inner struggles alongside the external conflict with the dragon provides a rich text for literary analysis and discussion. In this article, we will delve into the plot, themes, character development, and the literary significance of "dragon dragon by john gardner." Additionally, the article will examine Gardner's writing style and the story's place within the broader context of modern fantasy literature. This comprehensive exploration will offer insights into why this story remains a significant work in contemporary fiction.

- Plot Summary of dragon dragon by john gardner
- Thematic Analysis
- Character Development
- John Gardner's Writing Style
- Literary Significance and Context

Plot Summary of dragon dragon by john gardner

The story "dragon dragon by john gardner" centers on the classic tale of a knight facing a fearsome dragon, but Gardner infuses the narrative with unexpected psychological depth. Unlike traditional heroic tales where bravery is straightforward, the protagonist wrestles with doubt, fear, and the moral implications of his quest. The story unfolds with vivid descriptions of the dragon's lair and the impending battle, highlighting the tension between man and mythical beast. Gardner's reinterpretation challenges readers to reconsider what it means to be a hero and the nature of courage in the face of overwhelming odds.

Setting and Context

The setting in "dragon dragon by john gardner" is a typical medieval fantasy landscape, complete with castles, forests, and the dragon's ominous cave. However, Gardner uses this familiar backdrop to juxtapose the fantastical elements with the protagonist's internal turmoil, making the environment almost a character in its own right. The atmosphere is charged with suspense, contributing to the story's psychological intensity.

Plot Structure

The narrative structure follows a linear progression but is punctuated with introspective moments that provide insight into the protagonist's psyche. Key plot points include the knight's decision to confront the dragon, his preparation, the encounter itself, and the aftermath. Each stage reveals layers of complexity, moving beyond the simple good-versus-evil trope.

Thematic Analysis

The themes in "dragon dragon by john gardner" extend the traditional dragon-slaying motif into a rich exploration of human emotion and philosophy. Gardner uses the dragon not only as a literal foe but also as a symbol of internal fears and challenges that must be overcome.

Heroism and Fear

One of the central themes is the nature of heroism, which Gardner portrays as fraught with fear and uncertainty rather than blind bravery. The protagonist's hesitation and self-doubt provide a more realistic portrayal of what it means to face danger, making the story resonate on a psychological level.

Man vs. Beast Symbolism

The conflict between the knight and the dragon symbolizes the eternal struggle between order and chaos, civilization and wilderness, and the conscious and subconscious mind. Gardner's dragon embodies more than physical danger; it represents the darker aspects of the self that must be confronted.

Moral Ambiguity

Unlike traditional fairy tales that present clear moral distinctions, "dragon dragon by john gardner" embraces ambiguity. The protagonist questions the righteousness of his quest and the consequences of violence, adding ethical complexity to the narrative.

Character Development

The characters in "dragon dragon by john gardner" are crafted with psychological depth, particularly the protagonist, whose internal journey parallels the external conflict.

The Protagonist

The knight is depicted as a multifaceted character struggling with fear, doubt, and a desire for honor. Gardner's portrayal moves beyond the archetype of the fearless hero, offering a nuanced depiction that highlights vulnerability and courage as intertwined qualities.

The Dragon

The dragon is more than a mere antagonist; it is a symbol of the unknown and the subconscious fears that the protagonist must face. Gardner's description of the dragon adds layers of menace and mystery, making it a powerful force within the story.

Supporting Characters

While the story primarily focuses on the protagonist and the dragon, secondary characters serve to highlight the themes of expectation, societal pressure, and the nature of legend. Their interactions with the protagonist underscore the story's exploration of heroism and fear.

John Gardner's Writing Style

John Gardner's style in "dragon dragon by john gardner" is marked by vivid imagery, psychological insight, and a careful balance between action and introspection. His prose is clear and evocative, drawing readers into the fantastical world while maintaining a focus on the protagonist's inner experience.

Imagery and Description

Gardner employs rich sensory details to create an immersive atmosphere. The descriptions of the dragon and its lair are particularly noteworthy for their ability to evoke fear and awe simultaneously.

Narrative Voice

The narrative voice combines objective storytelling with moments of deep psychological reflection. This duality enhances the thematic complexity and invites readers to engage with the protagonist's internal conflict.

Use of Symbolism

Symbolism plays a significant role in Gardner's writing, with the dragon representing multifaceted ideas such as fear, chaos, and the unknown. These symbols enrich the narrative and contribute to its enduring appeal.

Literary Significance and Context

"dragon dragon by john gardner" holds an important place within modern fantasy literature due to its innovative approach to a well-known myth. Gardner's reinterpretation challenges traditional genre conventions and offers a psychologically nuanced perspective on heroism and myth.

Contribution to Fantasy Genre

The story is significant for its blend of fantasy and psychological realism, influencing subsequent writers who seek to add depth to traditional fantasy narratives. Gardner's work demonstrates how mythic themes can be explored through complex character studies.

Influence and Legacy

John Gardner's narrative techniques and thematic concerns in "dragon dragon by john gardner" have inspired literary critics and writers alike. The story's legacy is evident in its continued study in academic settings and its appeal to readers interested in sophisticated fantasy fiction.

Comparison with Traditional Dragon Tales

Unlike conventional dragon tales that emphasize external battles and clear moral victories, Gardner's story focuses on internal struggles and moral ambiguity. This contrast highlights the evolution of fantasy storytelling and the expanding possibilities within the genre.

Key Elements of dragon dragon by john gardner

- Psychological complexity of the protagonist
- Symbolic representation of the dragon
- The nuanced portrayal of heroism and fear
- Rich descriptive language and vivid imagery
- The moral ambiguity embedded in the narrative

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main theme of 'Dragon, Dragon' by John Gardner?

The main theme of 'Dragon, Dragon' is courage and overcoming fear. It explores how the protagonist faces a terrifying dragon and his own doubts to save his kingdom.

Who is the protagonist in 'Dragon, Dragon' and what challenge does he face?

The protagonist is a young man named John who must confront and defeat a fearsome dragon that

threatens his village.

How does John Gardner's writing style in 'Dragon, Dragon' contribute to the story?

John Gardner uses vivid descriptions and a straightforward narrative style that immerses readers in the fantasy world, making the suspense and tension of the dragon encounter more impactful.

What moral lessons can readers learn from 'Dragon, Dragon'?

Readers learn about bravery, self-discovery, and the importance of facing one's fears rather than avoiding challenges.

Is 'Dragon, Dragon' based on any traditional fairy tales or folklore?

Yes, 'Dragon, Dragon' is a retelling or adaptation inspired by classic fairy tales and dragon-slaying myths, but with unique elements introduced by John Gardner.

How does the ending of 'Dragon, Dragon' reflect the story's overall message?

The ending, where the protagonist triumphs over the dragon, reinforces the message that courage and determination can help overcome even the most daunting obstacles.

Additional Resources

1. *Grendel* by John Gardner

This novel retells the Beowulf epic from the perspective of the monster, Grendel. It explores themes of existentialism, identity, and the nature of good and evil. Gardner's philosophical narrative delves deep into the mind of a creature traditionally seen as purely villainous, offering a unique and thought-provoking perspective.

2. *Perdido Street Station* by China Miéville

Set in the sprawling, fantastical city of New Crobuzon, this dark fantasy novel features strange creatures, political intrigue, and a richly detailed world. It blends elements of steampunk and horror, with complex characters and a gripping plot. Like "Dragon, Dragon," it explores themes of power, ambition, and the monstrous.

3. *The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien

This classic fantasy tale follows Bilbo Baggins, a humble hobbit, on an adventurous quest involving dragons, treasure, and courage. The story explores heroism, greed, and personal growth. Its depiction of the dragon Smaug has become iconic in fantasy literature.

4. *Eragon* by Christopher Paolini

A young farm boy discovers a dragon egg, leading him into a world of magic, warfare, and destiny. The novel focuses on themes of friendship, responsibility, and the struggle between good and evil.

It's a modern take on dragon-related fantasy that resonates with readers of all ages.

5. *Dragonflight* by Anne McCaffrey

This book introduces the world of Pern, where humans and dragons share a telepathic bond to fight a deadly menace called Thread. It combines science fiction and fantasy elements, focusing on themes of duty, courage, and the bond between dragonriders and their dragons. The novel is a cornerstone of dragon-themed literature.

6. *Temeraire* by Naomi Novik

Set during the Napoleonic Wars, this alternate history novel features a unique partnership between a British naval officer and a highly intelligent dragon named Temeraire. It explores themes of loyalty, warfare, and the ethical treatment of dragons. The series combines historical fiction with rich fantasy elements.

7. *Seraphina* by Rachel Hartman

In a world where dragons and humans coexist uneasily, a gifted musician with a dangerous secret must navigate political intrigue and prejudice. The novel explores identity, acceptance, and the power of music and art. It offers a fresh and nuanced portrayal of dragons and their interactions with humans.

8. *Dragon Rider* by Cornelia Funke

This adventurous tale follows a young dragon named Firedrake and his companions on a quest to find the legendary Rim of Heaven. Filled with magical creatures and thrilling escapades, the story emphasizes friendship, bravery, and the importance of protecting nature. It's a heartwarming fantasy suitable for younger readers.

9. *Tooth and Claw* by Jo Walton

A Victorian-style fantasy novel where dragons live in a society mirroring 19th-century Britain, complete with social hierarchies and manners. The story delves into family dynamics, inheritance, and morality among dragons. Walton's work is notable for its unique approach to dragon characterization and social commentary.

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Dragon, Dragon by John Gardner: A Deep Dive into Medieval Fantasy and the Nature of Good and Evil

Author: Alistair Blackwood

Outline:

Introduction: Contextualizing John Gardner's *Dragon, Dragon*, its place within his oeuvre, and its genre.

Chapter 1: The Medieval Setting and its Significance: Examining the historical and literary influences shaping Gardner's depiction of medieval society, focusing on realism and its contrast with typical fantasy tropes.

Chapter 2: The Complex Character of Jason: Analyzing Jason's internal conflicts, his evolving morality, and his relationship with the dragon.

Chapter 3: The Dragon as a Metaphor: Interpreting the dragon's multifaceted symbolism - representing fear, power, the unknown, and the potential for both destruction and creation.

Chapter 4: Themes of Good and Evil, Faith and Doubt: Exploring the novel's nuanced portrayal of morality, challenging simplistic dichotomies and examining the grey areas of human nature.

Chapter 5: The Role of Narrative and Storytelling: Analyzing Gardner's masterful use of narrative structure, unreliable narration, and the interplay between fiction and reality within the story.

Chapter 6: Literary Style and Techniques: Examining Gardner's prose style, his use of imagery, symbolism, and other literary devices that contribute to the novel's impact.

Conclusion: Summarizing the key themes and significance of *Dragon, Dragon*, its lasting legacy, and its continued relevance to contemporary readers.

Dragon, Dragon by John Gardner: A Deep Dive into Medieval Fantasy and the Nature of Good and Evil

Introduction: Unveiling the Beast Within and Without

John Gardner's *Dragon, Dragon* (1970) stands as a compelling and unconventional medieval fantasy, a stark departure from the typical heroic narratives of its time. Rather than offering a straightforward tale of good versus evil, Gardner crafts a complex and morally ambiguous story that explores the inner turmoil of its protagonist, Jason, a young man grappling with his own demons as much as the literal dragon he encounters. The novel transcends the genre's typical tropes, delving into the psychological depths of its characters and the complexities of human nature within a meticulously crafted medieval setting. Understanding its significance requires examining not just its fantastical elements but also its literary artistry and its engagement with timeless themes of morality, faith, and the nature of storytelling itself. This article will explore these multifaceted aspects of *Dragon, Dragon*, positioning it within the broader landscape of fantasy literature and highlighting its enduring relevance.

Chapter 1: The Medieval Tapestry - Realism and the Fantastic Entwined

Gardner's medieval world isn't a romanticized utopia. He painstakingly constructs a setting rife with the grit and grime of reality. Instead of shimmering castles and noble knights, we see a society

grappling with poverty, violence, and the ever-present threat of chaos. This realism serves to ground the fantastical elements of the story, making the dragon's presence all the more unsettling and its impact all the more profound. The novel's historical underpinnings, though not strictly accurate, are deeply felt, creating a convincing atmosphere that enhances the narrative's impact. The mundane realities of medieval life—the harshness of the climate, the limitations of technology, the prevalence of superstition—are woven into the fabric of the narrative, underscoring the protagonist's struggle to reconcile the ordinary and the extraordinary. This grounded approach distinguishes *Dragon* from many of its contemporaries, elevating it beyond a mere adventure story. The detailed descriptions of the landscape, the daily routines of the villagers, and the intricacies of social hierarchies all contribute to the novel's immersive power, creating a believable world where magic and myth find their place alongside the everyday struggles of ordinary people.

Chapter 2: Jason - A Hero in Fragments

Jason, the novel's protagonist, is far from the archetypal heroic figure. He is a man plagued by self-doubt, haunted by past traumas, and grappling with a deep-seated insecurity. His journey isn't one of simple triumph but a tortuous process of self-discovery and moral reckoning. He is neither wholly good nor irredeemably evil; instead, he exists in the moral grey area, reflecting the ambiguities of human nature. His relationship with the dragon mirrors his internal struggles, representing the wild, untamed aspects of his own personality that he must confront and integrate to achieve a sense of wholeness. Gardner masterfully avoids simplistic characterizations, presenting Jason as a complex and multifaceted individual, whose actions and motivations are never fully transparent, compelling readers to grapple with his flaws and ultimately, his potential for redemption. His internal conflicts, his fluctuating faith, and his evolving understanding of good and evil make him a deeply relatable and compelling protagonist, even in his less admirable moments.

Chapter 3: The Dragon's Multifaceted Symbolism

The dragon in *Dragon* transcends its role as a mere antagonist. It functions as a potent symbol, representing a multitude of things: fear, the unknown, primordial power, and the potential for both destruction and creation. Its existence challenges the established order, forcing Jason and the villagers to confront their deepest fears and prejudices. The dragon embodies the untamed forces of nature, the chaotic energy that exists outside the confines of human understanding and control. Its breath, both destructive and life-giving, reflects the duality inherent in all things, hinting at the cyclical nature of creation and destruction. Moreover, the dragon's presence acts as a catalyst for change, forcing the characters to re-evaluate their beliefs and confront their own inner demons. Its symbolic weight significantly contributes to the novel's enduring intellectual and thematic richness, making it a subject of ongoing scholarly interpretations.

Chapter 4: Navigating the Moral Labyrinth: Good, Evil, Faith, and Doubt

Dragon, Dragon avoids the simplistic portrayal of good versus evil so common in fantasy literature. Instead, it presents a nuanced exploration of morality, recognizing the grey areas and the internal conflicts that define human experience. Jason's journey is marked by moments of doubt, temptation, and moral compromise, reflecting the complexities of ethical decision-making. His faith, or lack thereof, plays a significant role in his interactions with both the dragon and the villagers. Gardner doesn't offer easy answers or clear-cut resolutions; instead, he presents a compelling examination of human fallibility and the challenges of living a moral life in a world that is often far from ideal. The novel's exploration of these themes resonates with contemporary readers who are grappling with similar moral ambiguities in their own lives.

Chapter 5: The Art of Storytelling Within the Story

Gardner masterfully employs narrative techniques to enhance the novel's overall impact. The story itself is framed within a story, creating a meta-narrative that blurs the lines between fiction and reality. The reliability of the narrator is constantly called into question, challenging the reader to actively participate in the interpretation of events. This self-reflexive approach highlights the constructed nature of stories and the subjective experience of truth. The narrative structure mirrors the complexities of Jason's internal life, reflecting his own struggle to make sense of his experiences and to communicate them effectively. This interplay between fiction and reality elevates Dragon, Dragon beyond a simple narrative, transforming it into a reflection on the very nature of storytelling.

Chapter 6: The Artistry of Gardner's Prose

Gardner's writing is characterized by its evocative imagery, precise language, and careful attention to detail. His prose style is both accessible and sophisticated, capable of conveying both the visceral realities of medieval life and the intangible complexities of human emotion. The use of symbolism is pervasive, enriching the narrative with layers of meaning and encouraging multiple interpretations. The meticulous descriptions of the landscape, the characters' actions, and their internal thoughts create an immersive reading experience. Gardner's mastery of language is evident throughout the novel, enriching the narrative and contributing to the overall power and impact of his story.

Conclusion: A Lasting Legacy

Dragon, Dragon remains a significant work of fantasy literature not for its adherence to genre conventions but for its departure from them. Its exploration of complex themes, its nuanced character development, and its sophisticated literary techniques set it apart from many of its contemporaries. Its enduring relevance lies in its capacity to challenge readers' preconceptions, forcing them to engage critically with the issues of morality, faith, and the nature of storytelling itself. The novel's lasting legacy lies in its ability to invite continuous re-interpretation and its continued resonance with contemporary readers, who are just as captivated by its exploration of human nature within the frame of a fantastical narrative. It stands as a testament to the power of literature to transcend genre limitations and engage with timeless human concerns.

FAQs

1. Is *Dragon, Dragon* suitable for young readers? No, the novel's complex themes and mature content make it more appropriate for adult or older young adult readers.
2. What are the main themes of *Dragon, Dragon*? The main themes include morality, faith, doubt, the nature of good and evil, the power of storytelling, and the complexities of human nature.
3. How does Gardner's portrayal of the medieval world differ from typical fantasy settings? Gardner's portrayal is grounded in realism, depicting a harsh and unglamorous world that contrasts with the romanticized depictions found in many fantasy novels.
4. What is the significance of the dragon in the novel? The dragon is a multifaceted symbol representing fear, power, the unknown, and the potential for both creation and destruction.
5. Is Jason a traditional heroic figure? No, Jason is a flawed and complex character, struggling with internal conflicts and moral ambiguities.
6. What is the role of narrative structure in *Dragon, Dragon*? The novel uses a meta-narrative structure, blurring the lines between fiction and reality and challenging the reader's perception of truth.
7. What is Gardner's writing style like? Gardner's style is characterized by evocative imagery, precise language, and careful attention to detail.
8. What makes *Dragon, Dragon* a significant work of fantasy literature? Its departure from typical genre conventions, its nuanced exploration of complex themes, and its sophisticated literary techniques contribute to its significance.
9. Where can I find *Dragon, Dragon*? The novel is available at most major bookstores, both online and in physical stores, and is often available in used bookstores and libraries.

Related Articles

1. John Gardner's Literary Career: A chronological exploration of Gardner's life and works, examining his stylistic evolution and thematic concerns.
2. The Psychological Depth of Jason in *Dragon, Dragon*: A closer look at Jason's inner turmoil and the psychological underpinnings of his actions and motivations.

3. Symbolism in *Dragon, Dragon*: A deep dive into the multiple symbolic meanings embedded throughout the narrative, particularly focusing on the dragon's representation.
4. Medieval Realism in John Gardner's Fiction: A comparative analysis of Gardner's approach to the medieval setting in *Dragon, Dragon* and other works.
5. Comparing *Dragon, Dragon* to Other Medieval Fantasies: A comparison and contrast study of *Dragon, Dragon* with other medieval fantasy novels, focusing on their different approaches to genre conventions.
6. The Role of Unreliable Narration in *Dragon, Dragon*: Examining the impact of the narrator's unreliability on the reader's interpretation of the events in the novel.
7. Moral Ambiguity and the Grey Areas of Human Nature in *Dragon, Dragon*: A close reading of the novel's exploration of moral complexity and the challenges of ethical decision-making.
8. Gardner's Use of Imagery and Language in *Dragon, Dragon*: An analysis of Gardner's stylistic choices, their impact on the overall narrative, and their contribution to the novel's immersive quality.
9. The Enduring Relevance of *Dragon, Dragon* in Contemporary Literature: An exploration of the novel's continued appeal to modern readers and its thematic resonance with contemporary social and cultural issues.

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dragon dragon by john gardner: *The Girl who Played with Fire* Stieg Larsson, 2010 When the reporters to a sex-trafficking exposé are murdered and computer hacker Lisbeth Salander is targeted as the killer, Mikael Blomkvist, the publisher of the exposé, investigates to clear Lisbeth's name.

dragon dragon by john gardner: *Snow Dragon* John Coon, 2023-10-10 An ancient monster has awakened from a deep slumber beneath Deer Falls. It is hungry and humans are on the menu. Will

the monster drive the small Colorado town to extinction? Enduring aftershocks are the least of Evan Duggan's worries after an earthquake rocks Deer Falls. When he is called in to examine partially devoured remains of a local teacher, Evan uncovers evidence of a new reptilian species. This creature is unlike anything else he has encountered as a wildlife biologist. It is massive, terrifying, and lethal. Marie Duggan, his wife, is a podcaster who uncovers once-forgotten legends related to the mysterious creature. What she learns is a nightmare come to life. The creature is a vehicle of vengeance and a relentless killer. As dead bodies pile up and disappearances increase around town, Evan and Marie must protect themselves and their son Casey while ending the threat facing Deer Falls. Can they destroy the monster before it devours everyone in its path? *Snow Dragon* is a chilling prequel to the popular horror novel *Pandora Reborn*. If you like terrifying monsters, ancient folklore, and small town horror, you'll devour this latest frightening tale from John Coon.

dragon dragon by john gardner: Freddy's Book John Gardner, 2010-09-21 *DIV DIVDIV* The bestselling story of a king's crusade to vanquish the Devil and to defeat the monster in each of us/*divDIV /div/divDIVA* visiting lecturer is lured to the remote, gothic mansion of an estranged professor and his only son, who is described as a monster. But soon, the visitor enters an enchanting new world when he begins reading the son's hidden manuscript. Part history, part myth, the story conjures a sixteenth-century Sweden in which good and evil clash for the ultimate prize. To attain the throne, the protagonist, Gustav Vasa, accepts the Devil's counsel, but to remain in power and rule justly, he must drive the Devil underground. This sweeping, masterful tale transports us from the wasted mining hills of Dalarna to the frozen northern country of the Lapps—and into the very heart of the struggle over what it means to be human./*divDIV /divDIV* This ebook features a new illustrated biography of John Gardner, including original letters, rare photos, and never-before-seen documents from the Gardner family and the University of Rochester Archives./*div /div*

dragon dragon by john gardner: Unicorns Are the Worst! Alex Willan, 2020-09-29 Perfect for fans of *Dragons Love Tacos* and *Unicorn Thinks He's Pretty Great*, this wildly funny and imaginative picture book celebrates the value of differences as a grumpy goblin gets to know his new unicorn neighbors. It's an undeniable fact that unicorns are the worst! Magic is serious business, but all unicorns do is frolic around, have tea parties, and leave glitter all over the place! They're nothing like goblins—practical and hard-working, who can put magic to good use! Unicorns aren't helpful at all. Or are they?

dragon dragon by john gardner: The Dragon Lord Connie Mason, 2002 *The Dragon Lord* has no desire to wed, but the landless knight has no choice to obey his king. Of the three women offered to him, he chooses the meek virgin. But she longs for a cloistered life in a nunnery, while her sister, Rose, is quite capable of standing up to a dragon. A clever deception would allow Rose's sister to enter the nunnery, while an unsuspecting bride awaits her unsuspecting husband.

dragon dragon by john gardner: The Alliterative Morte Arthure John Gardner, 1973 This skillful rendering by John Gardner of seven Middle English poems into sparkingly modern verse translation--most of them for the first time--represents a selection of poems that, generally, have real artistic value but are so difficult to read in the original that they are not as well known as they deserve to be.

dragon dragon by john gardner: The Flight of the Maidens Jane Gardam, 2017-08-01 The Whitbread Award-winning author of the *Old Filth* trilogy captures a moment in time for three young women on the cusp of adulthood. Yorkshire, 1946. The end of the war has changed the world again, and, emboldened by this new dawning, Hetty Fallows, Una Vane, and Lieselotte Klein seize the opportunities with enthusiasm. Hetty, desperate to escape the grasp of her critical mother, books a solo holiday to the Lake District under the pretext of completing her Oxford summer coursework. Una, the daughter of a disconcertingly cheery hairdresser, entertains a romantically inclined young man from the wrong side of the tracks and the left-side of politics. Meanwhile, Lieselotte, the mysterious Jewish refugee from Germany, leaves the Quaker family who had rescued her, to test herself in London. Although strikingly different from one another, these young women share the common goal of adventure and release from their middle-class surroundings through romance and

education. "Gardam's lean, fast-paced prose is at turns hugely funny and deeply moving. . . . [Her] characters are acutely and compassionately observed." —Atlantic Monthly "Quirky, enchanting . . . with lively, laugh-out loud elan." —The Baltimore Sun "Splendid . . . Gardam's style is perfect." —The New York Times Book Review "With winning charm and wit . . . Gardam frames her story in dozens of crisp, brief scenes featuring deliciously dizzy conversation." —Kirkus Reviews (starred review) "Ebullient, humorous, and wise, this is a novel to savor." —Booklist "The portrait of postwar England as conventions crumble and the country is rebuilt is terrific." —Publishers Weekly

dragon dragon by john gardner: Mr. Tiger, Betsy, and the Blue Moon Sally Gardner, 2020-04-07 Award-winning author Sally Gardner delivers a whimsical tale about the daughter of a mermaid and an ice cream maker, a mysterious talking tiger, and a challenge as big as the moon. From a magical world of well-dressed animals, talking toads, and bossy princesses comes a timeless story about Mr. Tiger and his troupe of acrobats, and Betsy K. Glory, the daughter of a mermaid and an ice cream maker. Together they must figure out how to turn the moon blue, appease a grumpy giant, and make the best-tasting and rarest ice cream in the world--Gongalong Berry Ice Cream. Told with beautiful one-color illustrations throughout, this modern fairy tale teaches us that happiness is sometimes big enough to solve even the toughest problems.

dragon dragon by john gardner: Dragons of Light Orson Scott Card, 1988-06-01 The dragons are coming! Here are thirteen original tales about that most popular of fabulous beasts--the dragon! Edited by Orson Scott Card, this book features works by authors such as Roger Zelazny, Michael Bishop, Craig Shaw Gardner, Steve Rasnic Tem and more.

dragon dragon by john gardner: Dragon Champion E. E. Knight, 2010 From the national bestselling and award-winning author of the Vampire Earth saga comes the first in a fantastic new series.

dragon dragon by john gardner: Gödel, Escher, Bach Douglas R. Hofstadter, 2000 'What is a self and how can a self come out of inanimate matter?' This is the riddle that drove Douglas Hofstadter to write this extraordinary book. In order to impart his original and personal view on the core mystery of human existence - our intangible sensation of 'I'-ness - Hofstadter defines the playful yet seemingly paradoxical notion of 'strange loop', and explicates this idea using analogies from many disciplines.

dragon dragon by john gardner: Life and Times of Chaucer John Gardner, 1999

dragon dragon by john gardner: Grendel: Devil's Odyssey Matt Wagner, 2022-01-11 Grendel Prime searches the stars for a new home for mankind, and Matt Wagner returns to his darkest creation! As civilization comes to an end on Earth, the final Grendel Khan gives Grendel Prime a new directive: Find a perfect planet to be the new home for the human race. But will the deadly and relentless paladin ultimately save humanity . . . or destroy it? Features a bonus cover gallery with all standard comic-series covers by Matt Wagner and an all-star run of variant covers by guest artists Fabio Moon, Gabriel Bá, Tyler Crook, Dan Schkade, Ben Stenbeck, and others! Collects Grendel: Devil's Odyssey comics #1-#8.

dragon dragon by john gardner: A Dragon of a Different Color Rachel Aaron, 2017-09-28 To save his family from his tyrannical mother, Julius had to step on a lot of tails. That doesn't win a Nice Dragon many friends, but just when he thinks he's starting to make progress, a new threat arrives. Turns out, things can get worse. Heartstriker hasn't begun to pay for its secrets, and the dragons of China are here to collect. When the Golden Emperor demands his surrender, Julius will have to choose between loyalty to the sister who's always watched over him and preserving the clan he gave everything to protect.

dragon dragon by john gardner: The Art of Fiction John Gardner, 2010-08-18 This classic guide, from the renowned novelist and professor, has helped transform generations of aspiring writers into masterful writers—and will continue to do so for many years to come. John Gardner was almost as famous as a teacher of creative writing as he was for his own works. In this practical, instructive handbook, based on the courses and seminars that he gave, he explains, simply and cogently, the principles and techniques of good writing. Gardner's lessons, exemplified with detailed

excerpts from classic works of literature, sweep across a complete range of topics—from the nature of aesthetics to the shape of a refined sentence. Written with passion, precision, and a deep respect for the art of writing, Gardner's book serves by turns as a critic, mentor, and friend. Anyone who has ever thought of taking the step from reader to writer should begin here.

dragon dragon by john gardner: *The Dragon and the George* Gordon R. Dickson, 2013-12-11 Through no fault of his own, the once human Jim Eckert had become a dragon. Unfortunately, his beloved Angie had remained human. But in this magical land anything could happen. To make matter worse, Angie had been taken prisoner by an evil dragon and was held captive in the impenetrable Loathly Tower. So in this land where humans were edible and beasts were magical--where spells worked and logic didn't--Jim Eckert had a big, strange problem.

dragon dragon by john gardner: *The Savage Instinct* Marjorie DeLuca, 2021-03-30 DeLuca keeps readers guessing. Minette Walters fans will be pleased. —Publishers Weekly (starred review) Perfect for fans of Margaret Atwood's *Alias Grace* and Hannah Kent's *Burial Rites*, this taut psychological thriller offers a delicious take on deviant and defiant Victorian women in a time when marriage itself was its own prison. England, 1873. Clara Blackstone has just been released after one year in a private asylum for the insane. Clara has two goals: to reunite with her husband, Henry, and to never—ever—return to the asylum. As she enters Durham, Clara finds her carriage surrounded by a mob gathered to witness the imprisonment of Mary Ann Cotton—England's first female serial killer—accused of poisoning nearly twenty people, including her husbands and children. Clara soon finds the oppressive confinement of her marriage no less terrifying than the white-tiled walls of Hoxton. And as she grows increasingly suspicious of Henry's intentions, her fascination with Cotton grows. Soon, Cotton is not just a notorious figure from the headlines, but an unlikely confidante, mentor—and perhaps accomplice—in Clara's struggle to protect her money, her freedom, and her life.

dragon dragon by john gardner: *The Book of Dragons* Jonathan Strahan, 2020-07-07 R. F. Kuang, Kate Elliott, Todd McCaffrey, Garth Nix, Peter S. Beagle, and other fantasy and science fiction masters take on the greatest mythical beast. From China to Europe, Africa to North America, dragons have long captured our imagination in myth and legend. Whether they are rampaging beasts awaiting a brave hero to slay or benevolent sages who have much to teach humanity, dragons are intrinsically connected to stories of creation, adventure, and struggle beloved for generations. Bringing together nearly thirty stories and poems from some of the greatest science fiction and fantasy writers working today— Garth Nix, Scott Lynch, R. F. Kuang, Ann Leckie & Rachel Swirsky, Daniel Abraham, Peter S. Beagle, Beth Cato, Zen Cho, C. S. E Cooney, Aliette de Bodard, Amal El-Mohtar, Kate Elliott, Theodora Goss, Ellen Klages, Ken Liu, Seanan McGuire, Patricia A McKillip, K. J. Parker, Kelly Robson, Michael Swanwick, Jo Walton, Elle Katharine White, Jane Yolen, Kelly Barnhill, Brooke Bolander, Sarah Gailey, and J. Y. Yang—and illustrated by award-nominated artist Rovina Cai with black-and-white line drawings specific to each entry throughout, this extraordinary collection vividly breathes fire and life into one of our most captivating and feared magical creatures as never before and is sure to become a treasured keepsake for fans of fantasy, science fiction, and fairy tales. "A treasure trove of wonder." —Publishers Weekly (starred review) "A heaping hoard of literary gems that fans of dragon-powered stories will surely treasure." —Kirkus Reviews (starred review) "Seems almost certain to be the most significant fantasy anthology of 2020." —Locus

dragon dragon by john gardner: *Dragon on a Pedestal* Piers Anthony, 2002-03-26 There is trouble in Xanth again—all kinds of trouble, in fact. The Gap Dragon had escaped from the Gap and was ravaging across the land. The forget-spell that had covered the Gap was breaking up into small forget-whorls that wandered about, giving amnesia to all they touched. Good Magician Humfrey might have had the Answer, but he had overdosed on water from the Fountain of Youth and was only a helpless baby. And Ivy, three-year-old daughter of King Dor and Queen Irene, as lost in the jungles south of the Gap. While Irene sought her without much hope, Ivy was wandering further into danger, her memories erased by a passing forget-whorl. Her path was leading her directly to where the Gap Dragon was seeking dinner.

dragon dragon by john gardner: Finding Narnia Caroline McAlister, 2019-11-19 Finding Narnia is Caroline McAlister and Jessica Lanan's captivating picture book biography of two brothers, Jack and Warnie Lewis, whose rich imaginations led to the creation of the magical world of Narnia. Before C.S. Lewis wrote *The Chronicles of Narnia*, he was a young boy named Jack who spent his days dreaming up stories of other worlds filled with knights, castles, and talking animals. His brother, Warnie, spent his days imagining worlds filled with trains, boats, and technology. One rainy day, they found a wardrobe in a little room next to the attic, and they wondered, What if the wardrobe had no end? Years later, Jack began to think about what could be beyond that wardrobe, and about a girl named Lucy and her siblings. This picture book biography introduces the beloved creator of *The Chronicles of Narnia* to a new generation of children who see hidden magic in the world around them.

dragon dragon by john gardner: Hercules Fred Van Lente, 2013-11-20 Hercules battled gods, men and monsters in a lifetime of violence and destruction. Today, Hercules is best known for his 'twelve labours', a series of near-impossible tasks assigned to him as punishment for the killing of his wife and children. During those tasks, he slew the multi-headed hydra, wrestled with Cerberus, hound of the underworld, and stole the girdle of Hippolyta, queen of the Amazons. Yet even when his labours were done, his adventures continued. Hercules led armies, sacked cities, fought against the gods, and then joined forces with the gods in the great war known as 'The Gigantomachy'. This book tells the complete story of this legendary warrior, including information on the classical sources, his deification and cult, and his continuing popularity as a character in film, television and comic books.

dragon dragon by john gardner: The Dictator's Handbook Bruce Bueno de Mesquita, Alastair Smith, 2011-09-27 Explains the theory of political survival, particularly in cases of dictators and despotic governments, arguing that political leaders seek to stay in power using any means necessary, most commonly by attending to the interests of certain coalitions.

dragon dragon by john gardner: Battle Mage Peter A. Flannery, 2017

dragon dragon by john gardner: On Writers and Writing John Gardner, 1995 A first-time collection of the essays and reviews of the late artist and critic, presenting his views on Bellow, Nabokov, Updike, and others, explores subjects ranging from religion to fairy tales, and from King Arthur to Walt Disney.

dragon dragon by john gardner: Conversations with John Gardner John Gardner, 1990 This collection, selected from more than 140 interviews Gardner granted, presents a wealth of information on the life and art of one of America's foremost novelists. These interviews show him as a novelist, a charismatic teacher of creative writing, and a widely published scholar who has vast knowledge and who generated much literary information in his lectures and interviews. After the publication of such popular and critical successes as *Grendel* (1971) and *The Sunlight Dialogues* (1972), this philosophical writer with an enviable talent for storytelling was regarded as a major contemporary writer. After Gardner had demonstrated that he was one of America's most prolific, versatile, and imaginative authors, he became one of its most controversial when he attacked the literary establishment in his book *On Moral Fiction* and in his interviews. These candid conversations reveal a man of contrasts and contradictions, a writer who, as one of his interviewers remarks, brought to everything he did a passion that at times bordered on madness.

dragon dragon by john gardner: The Tale of Custard the Dragon Ogden Nash, Amy Blackwell, 2014

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