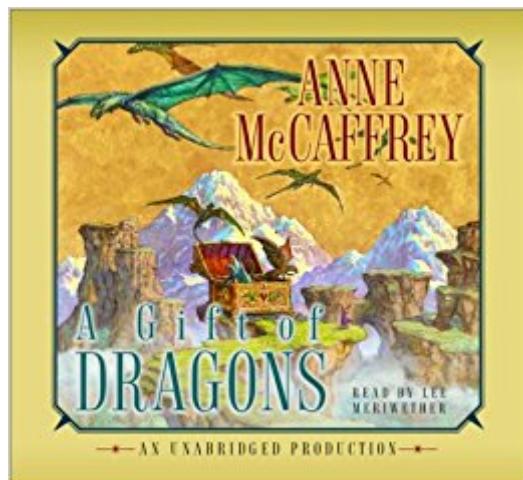


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# A Gift Of Dragons



## Synopsis

For more than thirty years, Pern has conjured visions of brave men and women mounted upon the backs of dragons. As anyone knows who has been touched by the storytelling magic of Anne McCaffrey, to read of the exotic world of Pern is to inhabit it— and to experience its extraordinary dragons is to soar aloft with them and share their dazzling adventures. Now, *A Gift of Dragons* brings together three beloved stories and a thrilling new tale of Pern in a single volume illustrated with beautiful artwork by Tom Kidd. In “The Smallest Dragonboy,” Keevan is the youngest dragonrider candidate, determined to impress a dragon when the next clutch of eggs hatches. But what transpires will surprise everyone— Keevan most of all. In “The Girl Who Heard Dragons,” a young girl’s rare ability to communicate with dragons puts her family in danger and will bring her face to face with her greatest fears— and with her most secret desire. The “Runner of Pern” is a girl named Tenna, who follows family tradition by delivering messages— and who will find her destiny on the mossy traces that runners have used for centuries under the dragon-filled sky. And finally, a very special gift: an exciting new Pern adventure, published here for the first time, fresh from the imagination of Anne McCaffrey. From the Hardcover edition.

## Book Information

Audio CD

Publisher: Random House Audio; Unabridged edition (October 29, 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0739301845

ISBN-13: 978-0739301845

Product Dimensions: 5.7 x 1 x 4.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.8 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 254 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,921,208 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #17 in Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > ( M ) > McCaffrey, Anne #407 in Books > Books on CD > Literature & Fiction > Short Stories #1732 in Books > Books on CD > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction

## Customer Reviews

Bestseller Anne McCaffrey (*The Skies of Pern*) collects four tales of Pern in *A Gift of Dragons*, including a new adventure written especially for this volume, "Ever the Twain." Tom Kidd's illustrations of cuddly dragons and their human companions add extra value. Copyright 2002 Reed

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A dragon-hatching at Ista Weyr provides twin brother and sister Neru and Nian with their first crisis of love and duty in "Ever the Twain," original to this illustrated collection of four Pern stories by McCaffrey. Also included are "The Smallest Dragonboy," about a young boy's fervent desire to bond with a baby dragon; the author's classic "The Girl Who Heard Dragons," the story of a girl with an unusual talent; and "Runner of Pern," a tale involving one of Pern's most important and least glamorous occupations. Tom Kidd's moody, atmospheric illustrations give a visual focus to these tales and help create a work of the imagination that belongs in most libraries. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I love this book, have read it many times. It is a collection of 4 shorts in the Pern world. The Smallest Dragonboy is the story in this collection. It follows Keeven the youngest and littlest candidate to stand on the hatching sands. Will he succeed in impressing a dragonet? Especially when he gets injured and is not there when the hatching starts? The Girl Who Heard Dragons is the next story. Aramina is of the Ruthan blood line, and her parents are holdless thanks to Fax. They discovered that she could hear all the dragons when they close enough. Then one day she desperately needs their help when her father gets caught under their wagon. This brings her to the notice of Benden Wyer, which helps when the Lady Holdless Thalla tries to kidnap her for her own purpose. Wonderful story. Runner of Pern shows a totally different aspect of Pern society that we don't normally get to see, the Runners who take messages all over Pern. How they train, run, and live. Tenna belongs to a family of Runners, generations of her family have run the taces of Pern and now she on her first CrossCountry run. Just before she reaches Fort Hold, almost the end of her crosscountry run, she runs off the traces by a man on a runnerbeast who is not supposed to be on the traces. delightful little story with a smattering of possible young romance. Ever the Twain is the last story in this book. A set of twins are both searched for the eggs on the Ista Wyer sands. Can the both impress on hatching day or will one be left while one takes to the skies? This ebook is a delightful look at the younger people of Pern, and some different aspects not in the Wyers or Holds. A must have for anyone that loves Pern and her dragons. Five stars.

As in all Ann McCaffrey's works, this collection adds to her Pern world of charming characters, telepathic dragons, and other creatures, in her easy story-telling manner that makes it hard to put down. My only disappointment was that there were only three stories, starting with very short to one

respectable novella size story, which introduced us to the running craft, specially bred people with long legs and bodies streamlined for running and delivering both short and long distance messages around the Pern world. Any reader already familiar with Ann McCaffrey would enjoy this book, along with anyone who likes books about dragons and other frontier type people, from adolescent to anyone else of young-minded intent.

I had read a number of Anne McCaffrey 's books when I ran across A Gift of Dragons in the Kindle Library. I had just received my first Kindle for Christmas and was very happy to include A GIFT of Dragons to several other books, to take with me on a cruise. I read A Gift of Dragons first and loved every minute of it. When I think of that Cruise I think of the enjoyment I had reading that book. Anne McCaffrey has such a gift for writing, and each story she has written is both enjoyable and satisfying. I'm sure everyone who has read about her dragons wished they had one. In this book there are four stories, each story fun to read. And when you are done reading them, you wish you had more. I would recommend this book to anyone, 14 years and older who love a good read and the fantasy of Dragons. (I have read this book at least 4 or 5 times, it's great!)

I have been a major, major fan of Anne McCaffrey since I discovered her in the Chicago airport. By the time I got to Crete, I had almost finished The White Dragon. Since then I have read, re-read, and re-re-re-re-read my favorites. So: Four stars, because I think the price was too high, and also because the promised treat, the fourth story, "Ever the Twain", was disappointing. I seriously think it was written by Todd, because A, the stories he's written never have anything to do with ANY of Anne's characters, B, his character names just don't have quite the same ring of truth to them, and C, this story just didn't FEEL like Anne's work, and I have read her works enough to know. I have also read Todd's works, and, as with "Ever the Twain", while the writing and storytelling is okay, it's not as good as Anne's.

All stories were McCaffrey gold. Ms. McCaffrey is a master craft person of story lines that draw the reader into the story as if they were part of the scene being painted with what are more than mere words. They are layers of an ever growing reality we all want to be in. The Pern series is an ever expanding universe of a society which lost technology and gained purpose and a caste system that works. And then there are the ordinary individuals that rise to the pinnacle of society by pairing with the mystical dragons without which there would be no society, no caste system and no survivors. Anne McCaffrey is a truly gifted Master crafts woman of the Wordsmith Hall. Now for this book.

Please expand all of these story lines into full fledged novels. ...?? How about more of the southern continent and the artifacts found there. Thanks again for your masterly crafted worlds.

This book is a short collection of four short stories. I enjoyed each of them. The Smallest Dragonboy I had read before. I enjoyed reading about the boy who wouldn't give up. The Girl Who Heard Dragons is fascinating as background for how the Holdless were adapting to threadfall on Pern. And of course the title character is interesting. This story also had a tie to the first one. Runner of Pern also advanced my knowledge of one of Pern's communication systems. No Pony Express for Pern -- they have human runners. Ever the Twain answers what could happen when a twin is chosen on Search. Where does the other one stand? It has been years since I read a book based in Pern and this is pushing me to read more.

I only wish each short story had been an entire book! Anne McCaffrey is, always great. Her books never disappoint. I am going to 're-read them all as soon as I can!

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