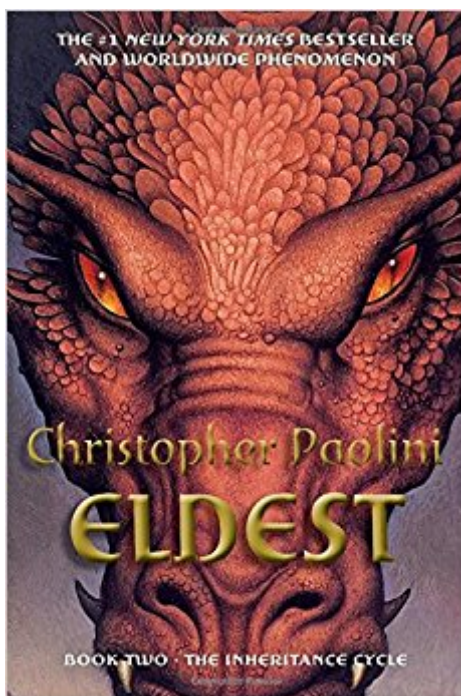


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Eldest (Inheritance Cycle, Book 2) (The Inheritance Cycle)



Synopsis

Perfect for fans of Lord of the Rings, the *New York Times* bestselling Inheritance Cycle about the dragon rider Eragon has sold over 35 million copies and is an international fantasy sensation. With newly updated interlocking art across the spines of all four books! Darkness falls, despair abounds, evil reigns. Eragon and his dragon, Saphira, have just saved the rebel state from destruction by the mighty forces of King Galbatorix, cruel ruler of the Empire. Now Eragon must travel to Ellesmera, land of the elves, for further training in the skills of the Dragon Rider: magic and swordsmanship. Soon he is on the journey of a lifetime, his eyes open to awe-inspiring new places and people, his days filled with fresh adventure. But chaos and betrayal plague him at every turn, and nothing is what it seems. Before long, Eragon doesn't know whom he can trust. Meanwhile, his cousin Roran must fight a new battle, one that might put Eragon in even graver danger. Will the king's dark hand strangle all resistance? Eragon may not escape with even his life. . . . Praise for The Inheritance Cycle: "An authentic work of great talent." --New York Times Book Review "Paolini is a spellbinding fantasy writer." --The Boston Globe "A breathtaking and unheard of success." --USA Today "Christopher Paolini is a true rarity." --The Washington Post "Christopher Paolini make[s] literary magic." • "The new *Eldest* book of children's lit." • U.S. News & World Report A #1 New York Times Bestseller A #1 Publishers Weekly Bestseller A #1 USA Today Bestseller A Wall Street Journal Bestseller

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 970L (What's this?)

Series: The Inheritance Cycle (Book 2)

Paperback: 704 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 2,412 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #8,577 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #38 in Books > Teens > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Epic #98 in Books > Teens > Science Fiction & Fantasy >

Fantasy > Coming of Age #125 in [Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Action & Adventure > Fantasy](#)

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Surpassing its popular prequel *Eragon*, this second volume in the *Inheritance* trilogy shows growing maturity and skill on the part of its very young author, who was only seventeen when the first volume was published in 2003. The story is solidly in the tradition (some might say derivative) of the classic heroic quest fantasy, with the predictable cast of dwarves, elves, and dragons--but also including some imaginatively creepy creatures of evil. The land of Alagaesia is suffering under the Empire of the wicked Galbatorix, and Eragon and his dragon Saphira, last of the Riders, are the only hope. But Eragon is young and has much to learn, and so he is sent off to the elven forest city of Ellesmera, where he and Saphira are tutored in magic, battle skills, and the ancient language by the wise former Rider Oromis and his elderly dragon Glaedr. Meanwhile, back at Carvahall, Eragon's home, his cousin Roran is the target of a siege by the hideous Ra'zac, and he must lead the villagers on a desperate escape over the mountains. The two narratives move toward a massive battle with the forces of Galbatorix, where Eragon learns a shocking secret about his parentage and commits himself to saving his people. The sheer size of the novel, as well as its many characters, places with difficult names, and its use of imaginary languages make this a challenging read, even for experienced fantasy readers. It is essential to have the plot threads of the first volume well in mind before beginning--the publisher has provided not only a map, but a helpful synopsis of the first book and a much-needed Language Guide. But no obstacles will deter the many fans of *Eragon* from diving headfirst into this highly-awaited fantasy. (Ages 12 and up) --Patty Campbell

[Meet Author Christopher](#)

[Paolini](#) [wm..usa.speedera.net/wm..usa/books/eldest_300k.wmv](#)">Christopher Paolini's abiding love of fantasy and science fiction inspired him to begin writing his debut novel, *Eragon*, when he graduated from high school at age 15. "Writing is the heart and soul of my being. It is the means through which I bring my stories to life. There is nothing like putting words on a page and knowing that they will summon certain emotions and reactions from the reader. In my writing, I strive for a lyrical beauty somewhere between Tolkien at his best and Seamus Heaney's translation of *Beowulf*." --Christopher Paolini

The *Eragon/Eldest* Boxed Set Want to learn more about the series? Check out our review of

Eragon: Here's a great big fantasy that you can pull over your head like a comfy old sweater and disappear into for a whole weekend. Christopher Paolini began Eragon when he was just 15, and the book shows the influence of Tolkien, of course, but also Terry Brooks, Anne McCaffrey, and perhaps even Wagner in its traditional quest structure and the generally agreed-upon nature of dwarves, elves, dragons, and heroic warfare with magic swords. Read more [Order your copy of the boxed set today](#)

[Learn the Lingo](#) Our quickie pronunciation guide will help you get to know some of the names and places in the Inheritance series.

Ajihad AH-zhi-hod The Leader of the Varden
Argetlam ARE-jet-lahm Elven word to describe Dragon Riders meaning "silver hand"
Arya AR-ee-uh A powerful elf who is both beautiful and a master swordswoman
Eragon EHR-uh-gahn A Dragon Rider from Carvahall
Ra-zac RAA-zack Evil creatures
Saphira suh-FEAR-uh Eragon's dragon

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Grade 5 Up

Eragon and his dragon, Saphira, have survived the battle at Tronjheim, but their challenges are not over. Galbatorix, the corrupt emperor, still rules Alagaesia and is looking for them. The magically bonded pair must help the rebellious Varden regroup after their leader is slain. Eragon helps deal with the resulting diplomatic complexities and then leaves for Du Weldenvarden, the home of the Elves, in order to finish his training as a Dragon Rider. Meanwhile, his cousin Roran must unite the small town of Carvahall as it is battered by Galbatorix's forces, including the nasty Ra'zac. The story alternates between Eragon and Saphira and their political maneuvering and Roran and his more traditional adventure over land and sea. Paolini provides a worthy companion to Eragon (Knopf, 2003), though it does not stand alone (a summary of the first book will be included in the final edition). The plot is indeed, most of the fantasy conventions is heavily inspired by Tolkien, McCaffrey, and especially George Lucas. The momentum of the narrative is steady and consistent: a problem presents itself and is neatly (and conveniently) solved before the next one arises, making it appealing to some adventure-quest fantasy fans and runescape.com players. Eragon's journey to maturity is well handled. He wrestles earnestly with definitions for good and evil, and he thoughtfully examines the question of good at what price. While there's nothing particularly original here, the book will find its fan-base.

Sarah Couri, New York Public Library Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

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I thoroughly enjoyed Eragon, Eldest, Brisingr, and Inheritance of Chris Paolini's The Inheritance Cycle series. Originally intended as a trilogy, their bestselling success spawned a fourth book, which was a very welcome addition. I have since handed them down to my nephew where they are enjoying a new life with a new generation. Though they've been out for quite a while now, I have to be honest and say I bought them years ago, and only got them off the shelf a few months ago. Having been grown up as an avid fan of Dungeons and Dragons, Lord of the Rings, and the usual fantasy fare, I was pretty excited to re-enter that universe. These have been reviewed ad infinitum; so I think I can really only add to the discussion my own experience with the four books as a 40-something-year old reader. I was a bit concerned that they might be written a bit too much for kids, as I'd heard they were. But, I have to say, I was definitely misinformed. These are as applicable to adults as the Harry Potter or Hunger Games books or any other well-written fantasy tales that were initially marketed to the teen reader market, but obviously found runaway success with readers from all age brackets. In short, each of the four books was a very fun read, and I would absolutely recommend the series to anyone with an interest in the fantasy genre.

DO NOT READ IF YOU HAVE NOT READ ERAGON! I don't want to spoil anyone! Eragon has undergone drastic changes and even more drastic wounds from his battle. The Varden lost a leader and must relocate. Eragon must continue his training without Brom and with an injury that occasionally paralyzes him and sends him to a fit of utter pain. He goes to the Elves to receive this training and finds a door into the past of the Riders (not a literal door.) Eragon tries to regain his strength but it seems in vain. He must soon fight another war and Galbatorix, but he will not survive if he can't become stronger. Not just in strength but also in mind. Galbatorix is raising an army and the Varden is still weakened by the last onslaught. Will Eragon survive his training? Will the Varden survive the loss of their loved leader? Will Eragon be able to fight? This book was hard to read after I got about half way through. It might have been just because I was in a reading slump or something. But after I got past my stubbornness and finished it I loved it! I was so engrossed in the book I didn't realize it was four in the morning when I finished it. Haha. The Plot twist was amazing (but totally infuriating!) and I feel like I should have seen it coming, but I didn't! (And I was so overwhelmed!) It was Very good! I'm in anticipation for when I read the next book and I'm expecting amazing things!

Awesome continuation of book 1. I am reading them in a binge session and am pleased there is not much rehashing, or reminding the gentle reader of what transpired and who characters were in the first book. It's so annoying to have to read what you just read. That said THESE ARE NOT STAND

ALONE BOOKS.. You cannot read them out of order. They are dependent on each other to complete the story. You must read them all. They end with the beginning of the next book and the initial plot has not been brought to conclusion at the end of this book. It is a jolly good yarn. A piece of high fiction fantasy that should be read by everyone that enjoys the genre.

The most surprising thing about this book, the most recent of a long series, is that you can read it all by itself. I had not read the previous books, but found my way into the narrative thread with no trouble. The characters caught the emotions and the plot led gracefully, but with several expected and unexpected hitches, to a very satisfactory conclusion. It's difficult to write a series book that stands alone as well as this one. My one worry is that characters, human and dragon, wield various forms of magic that remain unexplained. It's true that demonstration beats theory every time, but mention is made of training, training to use the magical powers some characters have or acquire. It leaves the reader wanting to know more, but vaguely dissatisfied at the same time. Above all the writer uses Tolkien's eucatastrophe well, the culminating point of the story where a totally unexpected victory emerges from the jaws, if not the very guts, of defeat. And saves the world. He also includes, as is only proper, the hero's wounds and isolation after the victory, his need for distance, which in this book, fairy-tale fashion, takes the form of physical distance. I recommend this book very highly, although, because I have not read them, I cannot make any assessment of the previous books in the series.

Thank you Christopher Paolini for an AWESOME series !!!! am now reading it for the 2nd time (because the first time I wanted to get to the end to see what happened) and I am thoroughly enjoying it again! My daughter has read the series 4 times.... We cannot wait for your new book & the continuation of the Inheritance cycle ! God bless you for the hours of enjoyment you have given so many people xxx

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