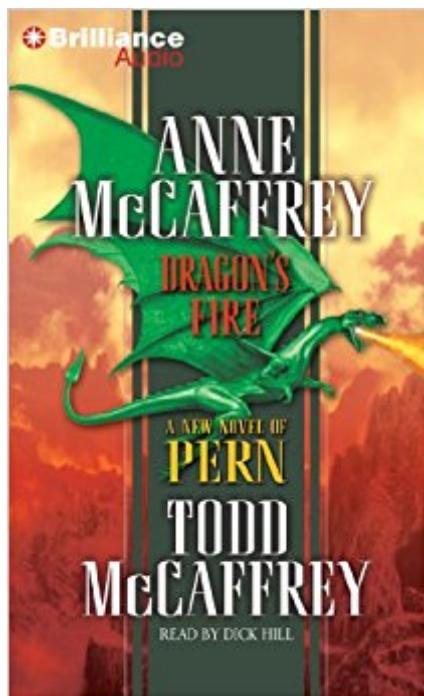


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# Dragon's Fire (Dragonriders Of Pern Series)



## Synopsis

Pellar is an orphan taken in by Masterharper Zist. Though born mute, Pellar is a gifted tracker, and when Zist sets off to take over as harper for Natalon's coal-mining camp, Pellar - along with his fire-lizard, Chitter - joins him on a secret mission of his own: to find out if reported thefts of coal are the work of the Shunned, criminals condemned to a life of wandering and hardship. Halla is one of the children of the Shunned. Though innocent of their parents' crimes, these children have inherited their cruel punishment. Lack of food, shelter, and clothes is their lot; hope is unknown to them. And what future would they hope for? Without a hold to call their own, there will be no protection for them when the lethal Thread inevitably falls again. Life is particularly tough for Halla. Her family gone, she must fend for herself. Yet despite the brutality of her surroundings, Halla is kind and gentle, devoted to those more helpless than she. As depraved as Halla is good, Tenim is in league with Tarik, a crooked miner from Camp Natalon, who helps him steal coal in exchange for a cut of the profit. But Tenim soon realizes there is a lot more to be made from firestone, the volatile mineral that enables the dragons of Pern to burn Thread out of the sky. Tenim doesn't care what he has to do, or whom he has to kill, in order to corner the market. Cristov is Tarik's son. Dishonored by his father's greed and treachery, the boy feels he must make amends, even if it means risking his life by mining the volatile firestone, which detonates on contact with the slightest drop of moisture. When the last remaining firestone mine explodes in flames, a desperate race begins to find a new deposit of the deadly but essential mineral, for without it there can be no defense against Thread. But Tenim has a murderous plan to turn tragedy to his own advantage, and only Pellar, Halla, and Cristov can stop him - and ensure that there will be a future for all on the world of the Dragonriders.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The McCaffreys' second fire-breathing collaboration (after 2003's *Dragon's Kin*) again proves why these fabled dragons still cast a spell. Pellar, a mute Apprentice Harper; Halla, a homeless girl; and Cristov, a miner's son, learn invaluable life lessons as the planet Pern prepares for the return of the deadly Red Star and its annihilating "Thread," which can only be destroyed by firestone-fueled dragonfire. But mining firestone is dangerous work, often carried out by children of disenfranchised criminals called the Shunned. Accompanied by his new fire-lizard Chitter, Pellar joins Masterharper Zist in a search for Moran, a missing Journeyman Harper who's involved with the Shunned. Pellar finds his fate intertwined with Halla, but his tangle with Tenim, a ruthless thief, almost keeps them apart. Their friend Cristov learns about the Shunned firsthand after a terrible mine explosion. Fortunately, events lead to dragon-riding wish fulfillment and a remarkable discovery. While it allegorizes the risks of mining fossil fuels and the horrors of slave labor, this coming-of-age fantasy offers suitable dragon play for all ages. (July) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Preloaded Digital Audio Player edition.

Grade 7 Up  
The McCaffreys return to Pern. The story is set in the same time period as *Dragon's Kin* (Del Rey, 2003), the second Interval after landing, but has a different focus. The colonists are preparing for the next 50-year pass of the Red Star and the start of Thread, a mindless killer that falls from the skies destroying all organic material in its path. To combat this threat, the dragons must chew firestone to burn Thread from the sky. However, the mining of the firestone is difficult—any drop of moisture makes it explode, and it has killed countless dragons and miners. The other problem is what to do with the Shunned. They are holders who have committed crimes that have banished them from the holds but with Thread coming, they will die if they are holdless. The story is brought to life by a mute harper's apprentice, Pellar, and a miner's son, Cristov, who take it upon themselves to save the Shunned and the dragonriders alike. This novel reintroduces readers to well-known characters such as Kindan and Master Zist and introduces new characters and concepts of the world of Pern. A companion volume, it also stands on its

own. June H. Keuhn, Corning East High School, NY Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Preloaded Digital Audio Player edition.

It's a little too convenient that a dragonrider just "happens" to go all the way to southern continent in order to "steal" fruit... when everyone is supposed to have forgotten it existed and how would he have gotten the coordinates....The story is an interesting exploration of human courage and its opposite(?) craven selfishness....The writing does not have the felicity of when Anne was writing her own books, and she also managed to write many books in which the only real enemy was thread or disease, and perhaps a bullying child who usually learned better, while this book has theft, murder, prostitution, arson, and even terrorism....Anne's books one could recommend to a child, as even the "mating flight" sex was described wholesomely. This book is just too grim to offer to a child....I wanted more McCaffrey dragons.... The dragons are still nice "people" in the book... but I would have been better off re-reading an early Anne.

The first thing with the time knot books that Todd McCaffrey has written is that they are a tad confusing and difficult to get into. It is hard to tell how much of that is the time traveling concept and how much of that is the writing style of the author. That being said I do like the characters and I got very invested in them and their story. I also got the feeling that Todd was settling into his story and writing style a little better. These books only make sense if you read them all together so as a whole even though some books weren't my favorite I really liked the whole story line over all and will read it again.I will read this book again and look forward to other Todd McCaffrey Pern books.

Todd McCaffrey, is playing in Anne McCaffrey's world of Pern. And whereas he is an interesting author, his style is more plodding than Anne's. That could be because of her developing the universe or his fear of being allowed to play freely with her universe. With Anne's death I was hoping that Todd, could write more convincingly in the world of Pern, but it just doesn't seem to be possible.Or maybe it is just easier to imitate the Pooh stories or even to bastardize Tolkien. But Pern, just doesn't seem work for the second generation of McCaffrey family writers.

Reading these books now in chronological order vice date published, has been wonderful. All the story and relationships building one by one. This story brings Anne McCaffrey's talent to the front lines on the war against thread. Enjoy!

We were at first unsure about Todd McCaffrey taking over from his mother but this book got a warm reception from both my and my husband. The story here centers around something you might never have thought about - that there are two ways for dragons to create flame - and the drama is caused by the refusal of some to change the "old ways" and the determination of others to find a better way to make flame and reduce dragon deaths.

Todd McCaffrey does a great job of bringing the book to life. The descriptions of the characters, scenery is wonderful. It is full of twists and turns and keeps you guessing. I love the book.

Great Store line and nicely Read on this Audio Book Version.

Anne McCaffrey is an amazing writer i simply love her work! this book is fantastic i totally recommend it to all of my friends and anyone out there that is looking for worth while adventure!

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