



The Book of the Dragon

Ciruelo Cabral

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Lurking in the hidden corners of the world are powerful, mystifying, and beautiful creatures known as dragons. Dragons fill the roles of monstrous, terrifying beasts in fairy tales, but their own story was one that remained a mystery until now. **The Book of the Dragon** delves into the secret world of these captivating animals, revealing a rich and fascinating culture filled with poetry, magic, jewels, and knowledge.

The Book of the Dragon Details

Date : Published August 1st 2005 by Union Square Press (first published January 1st 1991)

ISBN : 9781402728112

Author : Ciruelo Cabral

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Genre : Fantasy, Dragons, Art

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From Reader Review The Book of the Dragon for online ebook

Ladyonuk says

The book that made me love dragons. Ciruelo's art is greatly enriched by the text descriptions. Good read for any dragon lover!

Silvia says

One of my favourite bestiaries, it's a great inspiration for people who like to draw dragons.

Jess Geoghegan says

It was a good book to read and learn about Dragons. I love the author's art work. I have his calendars through out the years.

How ever some of the stores where so depression and rushed. Others where pretty good. My favorite one was, Jilocasin. Near the end it was a little sad, but the ending was touching.

Fantasy Gifts says

Each of these wondrous creatures has its own unique personality and history, and it's captured dramatically on these spectacular pages. But the revelations go beyond the images.

Algernon says

It's not a comic book, it's more of a coffee-table art album showcasing the talent of graphic artist Ciruelo Cabral.

It's got dragons in it, many of the images are wall poster quality (or desktop background candidates). As a bonus, there's a good selection of text: legends, histories, classifications of dragons, habits, favorite foods, etc. It almost feels like a detailed wikipedia entry on the subject of flying lizards.

What I liked best about the book is how well the translation to ebook was managed (I read it on my iPad). It's a real multimedia project, with background music and soundeffects created by the same artist, with zooming in and out of the high-resolution posters, with animations and video clips included, with high end fonts and hyperlinks active. I have seen in the lat years many examples of poor formatting, poor spell checking and generic covers for ebooks, but Ciruelo and his team demonstrate here how much more can a reader experience in an electronic presentation. A slight disadvantage is the big size of the download, I'm not sure if it is 300 Mb or more, but I expect it is still available in the Apple store.

Recommended for fantasy aficionados.

Seawater says

A really nice book, with lots of information, stories and beautiful artwork. I read through it quite a lot when I was younger.

Daphne Racoon says

Exceptionally detailed artwork! Ciruelo's works (created entirely using traditional means) never fail to amaze me. [note: Illustrations made in 1991!]

The information on dragons is also remarkably presented-truly provides the reader with an insight into the vast world of these magnificent creatures.

Nichole Davis says

Beautiful artwork and an excellent work of fiction, done to appear to be a factual study of dragons as if they were a factual animal still in existence.

The introduction explains that the book was written after a careful study of ancient manuscripts but then goes on to say "WE do not, however, claim that this book is an encyclopedia of dragons or an exhaustive study on dragon science, for such work would fill volumes. We are simply allowing the reader to enter into the secret world of dragons, making this a useful book for anyone who admires and is interested in these beautiful beasts. Readers not acquainted with the charms and qualities of dragons can now discover, and learn to appreciate these fascinating creatures."

In that description this book is true. It is a useful book for anyone who admires dragons and is a wonderful way to introduce the idea of dragons to anyone who isn't familiar with them or who views them as nothing more than giant lizards.

Michael Hall says

Lots of pretty pictures about dragons. This book is all about dragons. Their life cycle, habitat, anatomy, and environmental impact, etc. A charming book. My only complaint is that overall the atmosphere was pretty generic and could have done with a bit less preachiness about endangered species and such... that said, I wonder what a dragon tastes like?

Tom says

The artwork is, in places, really breath-taking. I'm tinkering with my own short story on the subject, and

some of these images were very inspiring.

As for the text, there are some disappointments:

The descriptions of the species of dragons is charming, but could have been much more detailed.

I think it could have done without the screechy preachy "message" about endangered species and the ecological balance. It really spoils an otherwise charming book.

My hat is off to the author for researching and including most if not all European legends and myths that mention dragons. It feels a little tacked-on, though, as if he was struggling to find a way to fill pages with text. Many of these would make good bedtime stories for kids, though, especially if they're into fantasy and so on.

Misgivings aside, I got a lot out of this in terms of research. I didn't grow up reading fantasy, so this was good catch-up in terms of what's been done with dragons.

Cecilia says

This is a GREAT book. Ciruelo's art is wonderful (I still remember when I saw his paints in "Le Palais de Glace" in Buenos Aires), and in this book, we have a complete guide into the Dragon's life and nature. And of course, there are wonderful pictures to enjoy it even more.

Popoplant says

The artwork in this book is gorgeous. I love that the book is so large, because you can really enjoy the illustrations and it feels magical reading it! My favorite sections of the book were "Part Three: Cultures and Customs" and "Part Four: Legends." The first half of the book explains "General Information" and "Types of Dragons," which seemed a little redundant after a while.

I had just finished "The Book of Dragons" by Michael Hague prior to reading this, so it was fun comparing the legends. These stories from Hague's and Ciruelo's books had striking similarities:

"Stan Bolovan" vs "The Gypsy and the Dragon"

(view spoiler)

"The Good Sword" vs "Tristan and the Fire Dragon"

(view spoiler)

"Sigurd and Fafnir" vs "Sigfried and Fafnir"

(view spoiler)

My favorite legends were "The Golden Apples," "Cadmus and the Dragon of Ares," "Jilocasin," "The Dragon of Mont Blanc," and "Tannin and the Prophet Daniel." I enjoyed comparing "The Dragon of Mont Blanc" and "The Tarasque;" I wonder if tying a belt of eglantine around a dragon's neck really does make them docile!

Nanu says

El libro está dividido en dos partes: la primera es una especie de enciclopedia de dragones y la segunda tiene varias leyendas sobre los individuos en cuestión. La edición es hermosa y, obviamente, está llena de ilustraciones de Ciruelo.

¡Amo este libro! <3

T.L. Wood says

This has informative and humorous stories about dragons. I thoroughly enjoyed reading it, while doing research for my books that I write. It was an easy read, very enchanting; with brilliant, fantasy art illustrations. Any fantasy art or dragon lover would thoroughly enjoy this book.

Clayton Bott says

A decent overview on the variety of dragons in the world with wonderful artwork mixed in. The list of dragon varieties could have been much more inclusive though. European dragons seem to be the primary focus here.
