



# DRAGON MASTERS

## RISE OF THE EARTH DRAGON

BY

TRACEY WEST

ILLUSTRATED BY

GRAHAM HOWELLS

 **BRANCHES™**   
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**FOR LAUREN,**  
**the girl who loved dragons—and still does.**  
**—TW**

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Rise of the earth dragon / by Tracey West.  
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Eight-year-old Drake is snatched up by the King’s soldiers and taken to the castle where he is told by the wizard Griffith that he has been chosen to be a Dragon Master like Ana, Rori, and Bo — and his first task will be to discover whether his dragon, Worm, has any special powers.

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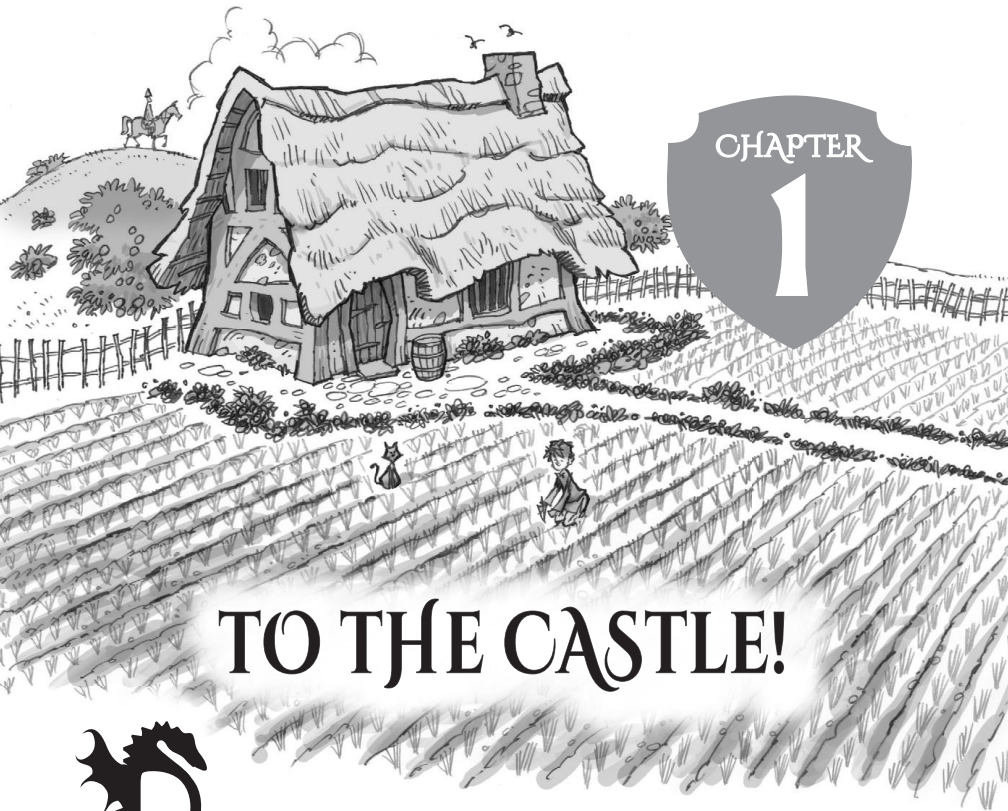
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Edited by Katie Carella  
Book design by Jessica Meltzer



## CHAPTER

# 1

# TO THE CASTLE!

Drake didn't see the king's soldier coming. He was busy digging in the onion patch. He pulled out a fat, white onion. A worm crawled on it. Drake didn't mind the worm. He was the son of a farmer. His family had been growing onions in the Kingdom of Bracken forever. He would spend his life digging up onions, whether he wanted to or not.

Drake picked up the worm.

“Hello, little guy,” he said. Then he put the worm back in the dirt.



“Are you Drake?” a loud voice asked behind him.

Drake jumped and turned around. One of the king’s soldiers rode up on a black horse. He had a yellow beard. His shirt had a gold dragon sewn on it — the symbol of King Roland the Bold.

“Yes, I’m Drake,” Drake said, his voice shaking. Soldiers never came to the fields. Not unless a farmer was in trouble.



The soldier rode up to Drake. He reached down and pulled him up onto his horse.

“Hey, what are you doing?” Drake yelled. The soldier didn’t answer.

Drake’s mother ran out of their hut.

“Wait! Where are you taking my boy?” she yelled.

“To King Roland,” the soldier said.

Drake’s heart jumped a little. He had always wanted to meet the king.

“But he’s only eight!” his mother yelled. She marched up to the horse.



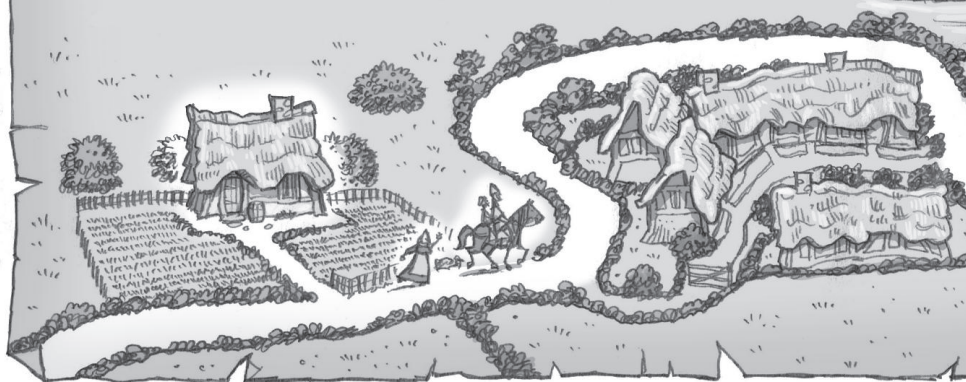
"The king has chosen him," the soldier said. *Chosen me for what?* Drake wondered. He knew better than to ask the soldier questions. Peasants like Drake weren't allowed to speak unless spoken to.

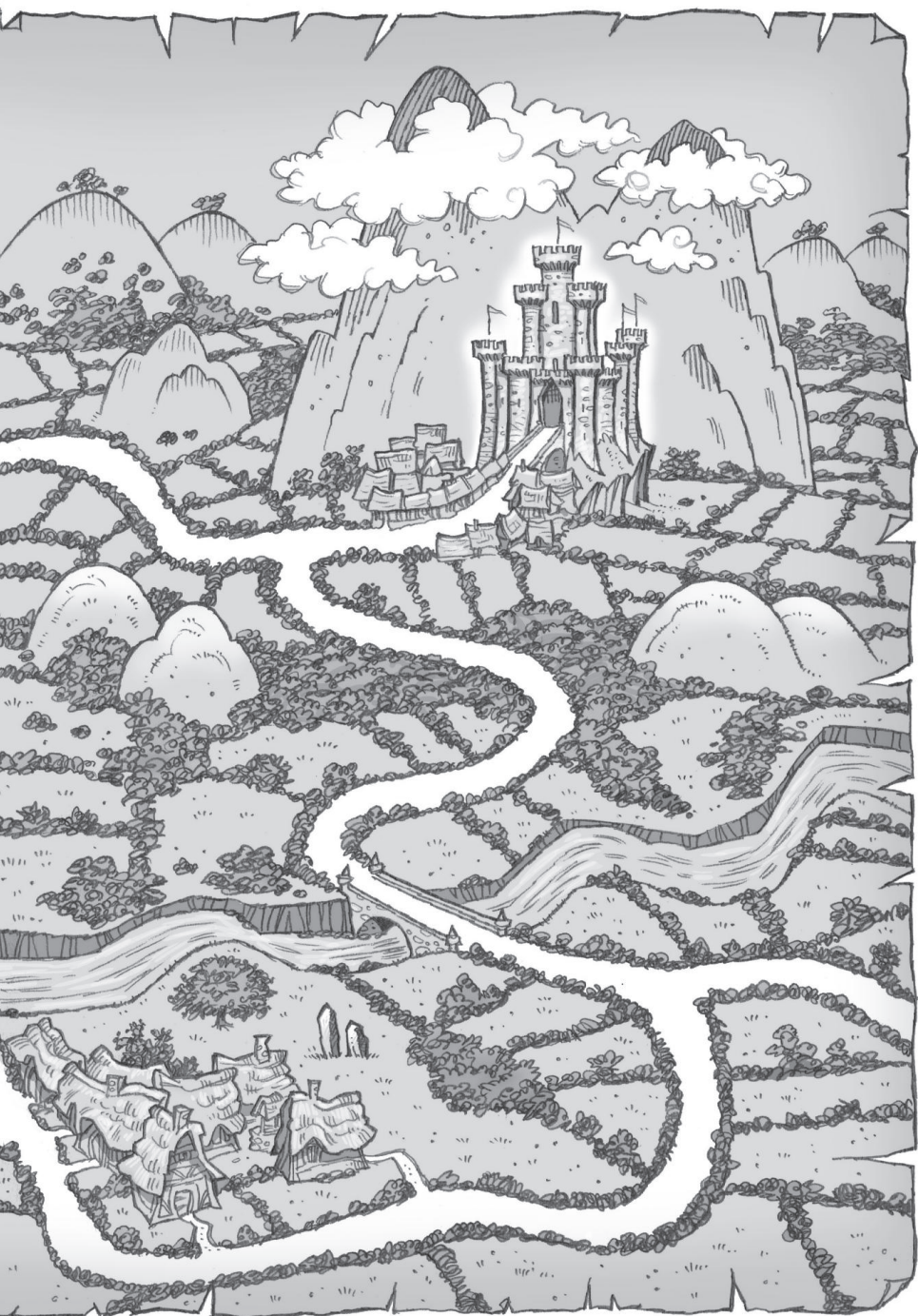
"The king will take good care of him," the soldier said. Then he spurred on the horse, and sped off.

"Drake, do as the king says!" his mother called out.

Drake had never been on a horse before. He held on tight.

Drake's heart pumped fast as they raced through the village. They raced over the stone bridge. Finally, they stopped in front of King Roland's castle.





The soldier helped Drake climb down from the horse. He opened the castle door and gave Drake a shove. They passed paintings and statues and people in fancy clothes. The soldier stomped behind Drake as they walked through the halls. Drake wanted to look at everything, but the soldier gave him a push whenever he slowed down.

Then they came to some stairs. They walked down ... down ... down. The soldier stopped at a door.

"Where are we going?" Drake finally asked.

"We are not going anywhere," the soldier said. "Good luck." Then he ran back up the stairs.

"Hey! What do you mean?" Drake yelled. But he was all alone.





Drake looked at the big, stone door. He felt afraid. But more than that, he was curious. He pushed it open and saw . . .



. . . the face of a giant, red dragon!

Drake blinked. He didn't believe his eyes. Then—*whoosh!*— the dragon shot a huge fireball from his mouth!



# DRAGON MASTERS

## SAVING THE SUN DRAGON

BY

TRACEY WEST

ILLUSTRATED BY

GRAHAM HOWELLS

 **BRANCHES™**   
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# FOR MY FRIEND GEORGE,

who would make a good teacher of Dragon Masters. —TW

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Saving the sun dragon / by Tracey West ; illustrated by Graham Howells.

pages cm. — (Dragon masters ; 2)

Summary: The dark magic the dragons encountered in their first adventure has made Ana's sun dragon, Kepri, sick and Drake's earth dragon, Worm, teleports himself, Kepri, and the four young dragon masters far away from the castle in search of a cure—but the threat of the dark magic still remains.

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# DRAGONS IN THE SKY

Drake shaded his eyes from the sun. He was standing in the Valley of Clouds behind King Roland's castle. Not long ago, Drake had never even been to the castle. But now he lived here, and he had an important job. He was a Dragon Master—someone who had been chosen by the Dragon Stone to work with dragons.

Above him, three dragons flew in the bright blue sky. Griffith, the wizard who taught the young Dragon Masters, watched as the dragons practiced flying.



Vulcan, a big, red Fire Dragon, flew across the valley. He shot a burst of fire into the air.

“Nice one!” yelled his Dragon Master, Rori. She had hair as red as Vulcan’s flames.

Shu, a beautiful blue Water Dragon, didn’t have wings. She glided through the air, riding the wind. Bo, her Dragon Master, watched her with a peaceful smile on his face.



The best flier was the yellow-and-white Sun Dragon, Kepri. She looped and swirled in the air. Then a rainbow streamed from her mouth. It arced across the sky. Kepri's Dragon Master, Ana, danced on the grass below her dragon. Her long, black hair swayed behind her.



Drake's dragon, Worm, was not like the other dragons. He was an Earth Dragon with a long, brown body. He couldn't fly. But Drake had just learned Worm could move things with the power of his mind. *What other amazing things can Worm do?* Drake wondered. He knew he had even more to learn about his dragon.

"It feels good to be outside, right, Worm?" Drake asked. The green Dragon Stone around Drake's neck tingled a bit. He smiled.



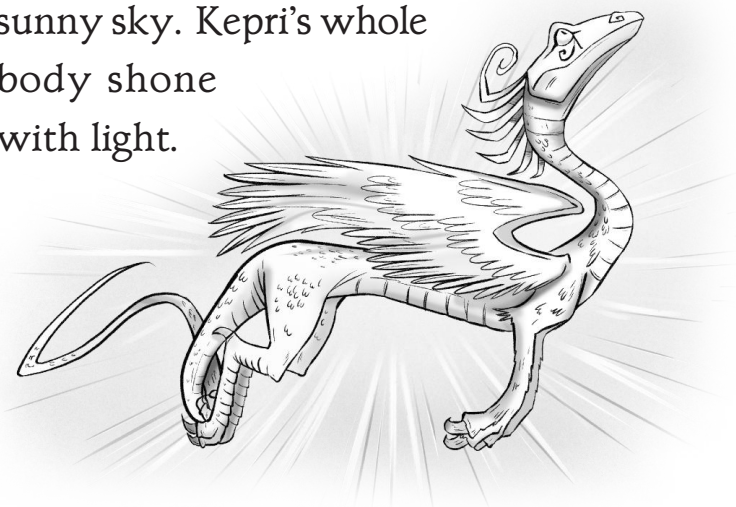
Each of the Dragon Masters wore a piece of the stone. It helped them connect with and train their dragons.



When the stone glowed, Drake knew that he and Worm had a very strong connection. Drake could sometimes hear Worm's voice inside his head when they were connecting. But the other Dragon Masters' stones had not glowed yet.



Drake looked back up at the sunny sky. Kepri's whole body shone with light.



Then Drake understood. “Oh, I get it. Kepri has light powers because she’s a Sun Dragon, right?” Drake asked the other Dragon Masters.

Rori snorted. “Of course that’s why. It’s just like how Fire Dragons have fire powers, and Water Dragons have water powers.”

*Rori can be friendly sometimes, thought Drake. And other times she’s not friendly at all!*

His face turned red. “I’m still learning,” he said. “I haven’t been a Dragon Master as long as you.”

Rori, Bo, and Ana had already been training for weeks when Drake got to the castle. He still felt like he had a lot of catching up to do.

Above them, Vulcan swooped down from the sky, showing off and shooting another stream of fire. It hit the ground right next to Griffith, and the grass burst into flames. The wizard jumped to the side.



“Careful there, Vulcan!” Griffith called out. He pointed his finger at the fire. Water flowed from his fingertip, and the flames went out.

Drake’s eyes grew wide. “I will never get tired of seeing wizard magic,” he said to Bo, who was standing beside him. Bo nodded.



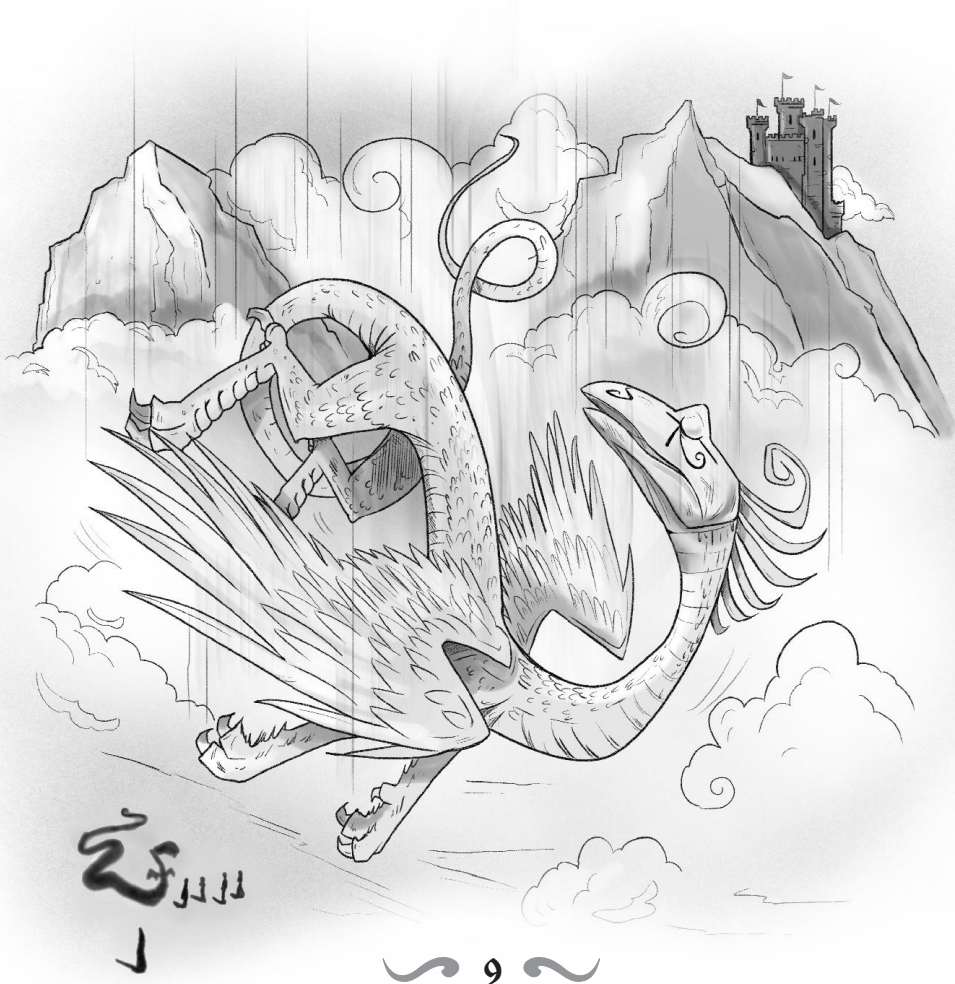
Drake looked over at Worm. The dragon’s eyes glowed bright green.

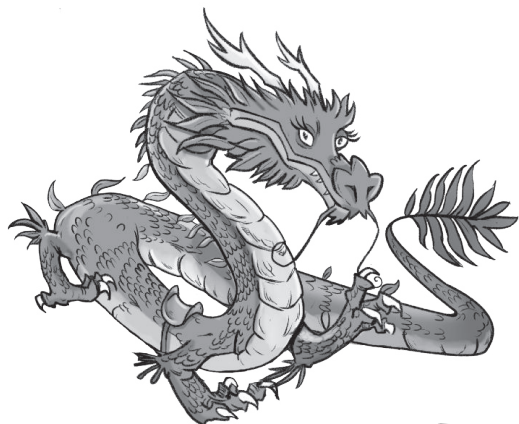
*That’s strange, thought Drake. His eyes glow when he’s using his powers. What could he be using his powers on right now?*

Worm was staring up at the sky.

Drake followed his gaze. Worm was looking at Kepri high up in the air. Her white wings had stopped flapping. Worm must have sensed that she was in trouble.

“Watch out! Kepri is falling!” Drake yelled.





# DRAGON MASTERS

SECRET <sup>OF THE</sup> WATER DRAGON

BY

TRACEY WEST

ILLUSTRATED BY

GRAHAM HOWELLS

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# FOR BOLLIE DUNGAN,

because every girl detective needs a smarter, funnier sidekick. —TW

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Secret of the water dragon / by Tracey West ; illustrated by Graham Howells.

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Summary: When Drake discovers that his friend and fellow Dragon Master, Bo, is trying to steal the Dragon Stone, he wonders if the dark wizard might be behind it, and he must try to find a way to protect the stone while keeping Bo's family out of danger.

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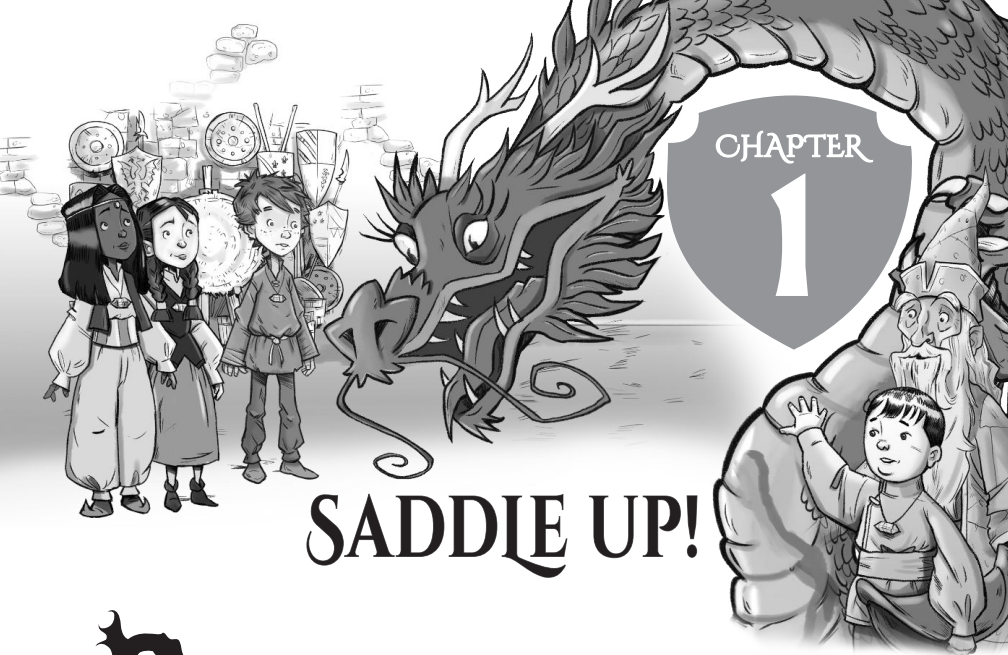
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Edited by Katie Carella

Book design by Jessica Meltzer





# SADDLE UP!

“Steady now,” warned Griffith, the king’s wizard. “We have never tried putting a saddle on a dragon before. I am not sure how she will like it.”

Griffith and the Dragon Masters were in the Training Room, hidden beneath King Roland’s castle. A magical stone called the Dragon Stone had chosen Drake, Bo, Rori, and Ana to work with dragons. Griffith was their teacher. The Dragon Masters stood around a big dragon with shiny blue scales.

“Bo, bring the buckle under Shu’s belly,” Griffith said. “Now tighten the buckle. Good!”

Drake watched his friend Bo put the saddle on Shu. She was a Water Dragon, so she was usually very calm. Shu stood still as Bo pulled the buckle tightly.



“Good job, Shu,” Bo said, patting her neck.

“Now can I put a saddle on Vulcan?” asked Rori.

“And can we please ride our dragons today, Griffith?” asked Ana.

“King Roland’s crafters are making a saddle for each dragon,” answered Griffith. “The other saddles will be ready tomorrow.”

“Will there be a saddle for Worm?” asked Drake. He looked over at his dragon. Worm was an Earth Dragon. He had a long body, like a snake. He had no legs, and tiny wings. Worm couldn’t fly like the other dragons could.



“Yes. Worm has a very special power. He can take you from one place to another in the blink of an eye,” Griffith said. “A saddle is a good idea for any type of travel.”

Drake nodded.

“It is time for dinner,” said Griffith. “Please put away your dragons and head to the dining room.”

“Well, I hope *I* get to test Vulcan’s saddle *first* tomorrow,” Rori said. “Vulcan and I didn’t get to do anything fun today.”

She marched off toward the Dragon Caves. Her dragon, Vulcan, stomped after her. He was a Fire Dragon with red scales.

Ana followed Rori. She skipped along. Her dragon, Kepri, moved like a graceful dancer beside her. Kepri was a Sun Dragon with a slim body and white scales.



Drake helped Bo take off Shu's saddle. They put their dragons in their caves. Then they took the stairs to the dining room in the tower. After dinner, the boys went to their room.



Drake touched his Dragon Stone as they walked. Each of the Dragon Masters wore a piece of the stone. It let them connect with their dragons.





“Bo,” Drake said, “do you think Worm can go anywhere in the world?”

“I think so,” Bo said. “He has very strong powers.”

Bo opened the door. Then he froze. Drake bumped into him.

“Bo, what’s wrong?” Drake asked. His friend was staring at his bed. His face looked pale.

Drake followed his gaze. A black feather lay on Bo’s pillow.







# DRAGON MASTERS

POWER <sup>OF THE</sup> FIRE DRAGON

BY

TRACEY WEST

ILLUSTRATED BY

GRAHAM HOWELLS

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# FOR MY NEPHEWS DANIEL AND COLIN, who would be excellent Dragon Masters. –TW

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pages cm. — (Dragon masters ; 4)

Summary: When the king decides to take the dragons to Arkwood to visit Queen Rose, Rori, Drake and their dragons are left behind — so when the evil wizard Maldred attacks the castle riding a giant four-headed dragon that spits poison, the two young dragon masters and their dragons are forced to defend the castle by themselves.

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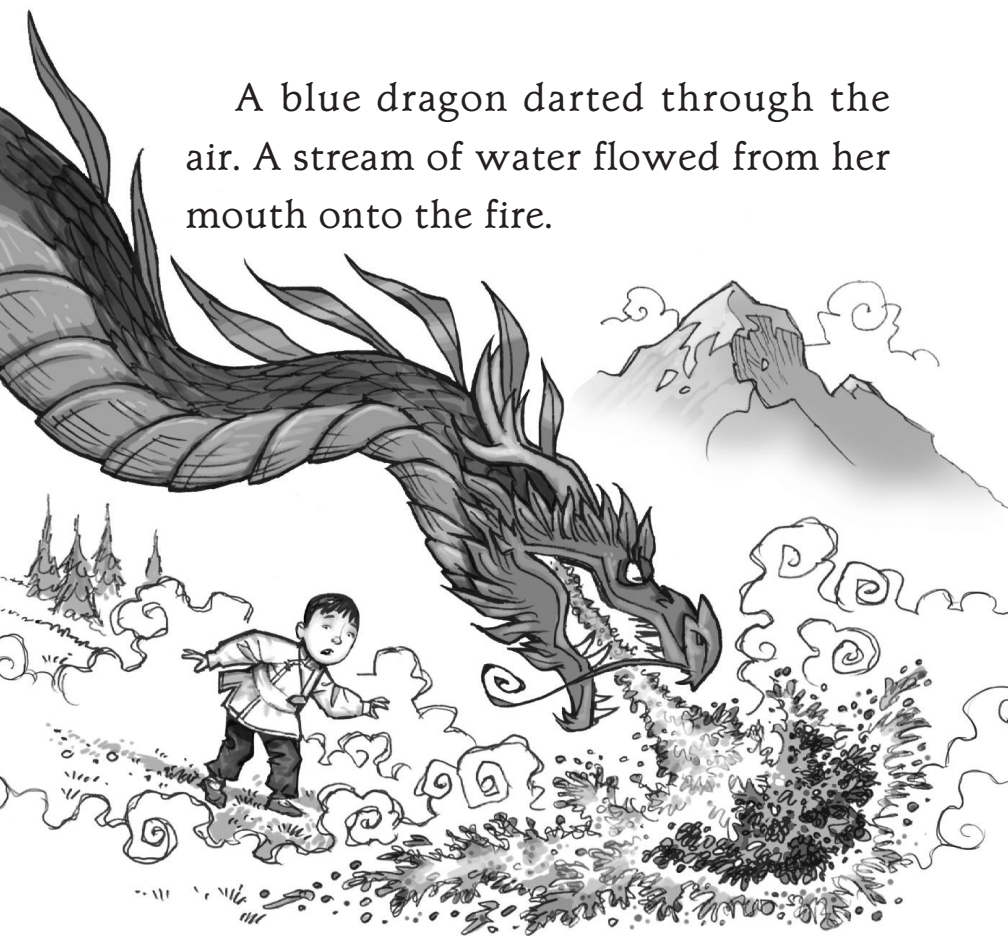
# HOLD YOUR FIRE!

“Vulcan, no!” Rori yelled.

Her big, red dragon shot fire from his mouth. The fire hit a bush. The bush burst into flames.

“Shu, quickly!” Bo called out.

A blue dragon darted through the air. A stream of water flowed from her mouth onto the fire.



“Thank you, Shu,” said Bo, petting his Water Dragon.

“Vulcan,” Rori said to her dragon. “I said to hold your fire!”

“Maybe he only heard *fire*,” said Drake, trying to be helpful.

Drake was eight years old, and a Dragon Master. His friends Rori, Bo, and Ana were Dragon Masters, too. A magic stone called the Dragon Stone had chosen them. And each of them had a dragon to care for and train.



Today all four Dragon Masters and their dragons were in the Valley of Clouds behind King Roland's castle. They were getting ready for a special event.



“Rori, you must keep Vulcan under control,” warned Griffith, the wizard who trained the Dragon Masters. He turned to the others. “King Roland will be here soon. He wants to see what your dragons can do.”

“Is he really going to take us — and our dragons — to the Kingdom of Arkwood?” asked Ana. Her dark eyes were shining. “I’ve heard that Queen Rose’s summer festival is wonderful.”



“Yes,” Griffith replied. “The king plans to show off the dragons at the festival.”

“Then the dragons won’t be a secret any longer!” said Drake. “We can finally tell our families about them.”

“And everyone will see what an amazing dragon Vulcan is!” Rori added.



Griffith looked worried.

“What’s wrong, Griffith?” asked Ana.

“I do not know if it is safe to bring the dragons out,” he replied. “I tried to tell King Roland about Maldred the dark wizard. I told him that Maldred might be planning to attack. The king just laughed and said he was not afraid of any old wizard.”



“But Maldred is dangerous!” Drake said. “He spied on us! His dark magic made Kepri sick! And he almost stole the Dragon Stone!”

Griffith nodded. “I know.”

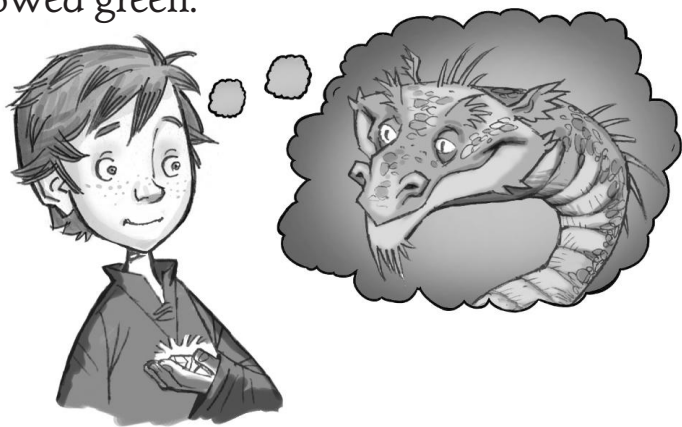
Rori balled up her fists. “If Maldred attacks, Vulcan and I will stop him! Vulcan is the strongest dragon ever!”

Bo looked at Drake and shook his head. Rori was always bragging about Vulcan.



“You are brave, Rori,” said Griffith. “But you and Vulcan have not made a connection yet. Until you do, you must be careful.”

Rori's face got red, and she looked away. Each of the Dragon Masters wore a piece of the magical Dragon Stone. When they were connecting with their dragons, their stone glowed green.

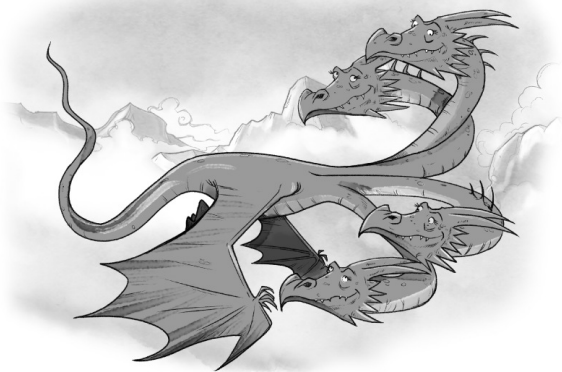


Drake — like Bo and Ana — could hear his dragon's voice inside his head. But this had not happened to Rori yet. And Drake knew it bugged her to be last.

"We may not have connected yet," Rori said. "But that doesn't mean we couldn't fight Maldred if he attacked!"

Just then, a soldier walked into the valley. "All welcome King Roland the Bold!"





# DRAGON MASTERS

## SONG <sup>OF</sup> THE POISON DRAGON

BY

TRACEY WEST

ILLUSTRATED BY

DAMIEN JONES

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# A TALE OF TWO KATIES:

This book is for my sister, Katie Noll,  
for all the stories we wove together growing up.  
And many thanks to Katie Carella,  
who is a genuine wizard of editing. –TW

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West, Tracey, 1965- author.

Song of the poison dragon / by Tracey West ; illustrated by Damien Jones. — First edition.  
pages cm. — (Dragon masters ; 5)

Summary: Petra, the newest dragon master, is scared to death of the Hydra dragon she is supposed to bond with—but when the Hydra accidentally poisons the King, and then her fellow dragon master, Drake, she must find a way to connect with her dragon, because only the Hydra’s song can cure them.  
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# THE NEW DRAGON MASTER

Drake looked out at the crowd of people waiting by the castle gates. It seemed like everyone in the Kingdom of Bracken was there! It was a special day. The new Dragon Master was coming!

Drake stood with the other Dragon Masters—Ana, Rori, and Bo—in front of the castle.

Drake turned to the wizard standing near them. “Griffith, did the Dragon Stone tell you what the new Dragon Master will be like?” he asked.

Griffith shook his head. “All I know is that her name is Petra. She comes from the southern lands. And she is eight years old, like all of you.”



Each of the Dragon Masters had been chosen by the magical Dragon Stone. The stone chose children who could connect with dragons. So far, it had chosen four children from all over the world to live in King Roland’s castle. There, Griffith taught them how to work with their dragons.

Now there was a new dragon at the castle. She was a hydra, a dragon with four heads. An evil wizard named Maldred had attacked the kingdom, riding the hydra. Maldred was sent to the Wizard's Council prison. And the Dragon Stone had chosen a Dragon Master for the hydra.



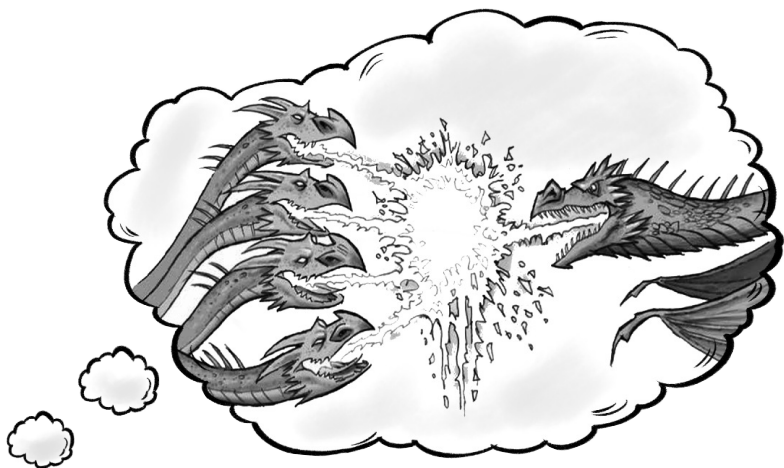
“Petra will be here any minute!” said red-haired Rori. “I wonder what she will be like! What if she’s mean?”

“Why would she be mean?” asked Bo.

“Well, the hydra shoots poison,” said Rori. “And poison isn’t nice.”



In the battle with Maldred, the hydra had shot poison from her four mouths. Her liquid poison could melt rocks! And her poison mist had stung the wing of Rori's dragon, Vulcan.



“Just because the hydra shoots poison doesn’t make her a mean dragon,” Drake said. “That’s her power, like how each of our dragons has a different power.”

“Right,” agreed Ana. “The hydra’s heart is good, and I think Petra will be good, too.”

“Look!” Bo cried.

Drake saw horses coming down the road.  
The crowd started to get excited. Some people  
waved flags with dragons painted on them.  
Little kids played with wooden dragon toys  
along the side of the road.



Drake remembered the first day he had come to the castle. One of the king's soldiers had scooped him up on a horse. That had been scary!

*I wonder if the new Dragon Master feels scared?* Drake thought.

The crowd cheered as the horses stopped at the gates. A soldier helped a young girl down from one of them.



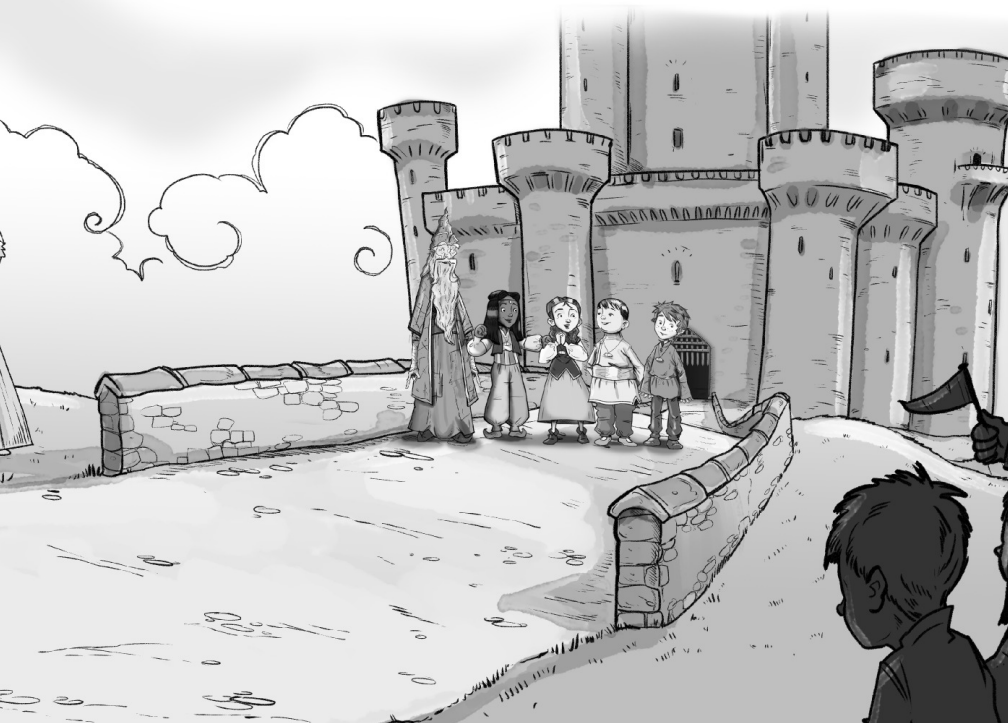
“That must be Petra,” Bo whispered to Drake.

Petra wore a long blue dress with brown leather shoes. She had blond curly hair. Her bright-green eyes stared out at the crowd and up at the castle.

The crowd got quiet. Everyone was waiting to hear what the new Dragon Master would say ...

Petra shivered.

“Is it always this cold here?” she asked.





# DRAGON MASTERS

FLIGHT <sup>OF</sup> THE MOON DRAGON

BY

TRACEY WEST

ILLUSTRATED BY

DAMIEN JONES

 **BRANCHES™**   
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fans who write me letters and send me photos and pictures.  
You make me smile every day! –TW**

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# SAVING THE DRAGON STONE

I am really worried about the Dragon Stone,” said Drake.

Six Dragon Masters sat around a dining table in King Roland’s castle. Five of them lived in the castle: Drake, Bo, Rori, Ana, and Petra. Heru, the sixth Dragon Master, lived in the Land of Pyramids. The Dragon Stone had chosen each of them to connect with dragons.

Heru had flown a long way on Wati, his dragon. Wati was resting in the Dragon Caves. And Heru had brought important news — the prime Dragon Stone was dying!

“You are right to be worried, Drake,” said Heru. “We must quickly find the prime stone so that we can try to save it. That is why I came here. My family thinks you and your friends can help us.”

“Wait — what exactly is the *prime* Dragon Stone?” Bo asked.

Heru looked down. A green stone hung from a cord around his neck. Each of the others wore a stone just like it.



“We each wear a piece of the Dragon Stone to connect with our dragons,” Heru explained. “All of our smaller stones come from the prime stone.”



“So is the prime stone huge?” asked Ana, who was also from the Land of Pyramids.

“I think so,” said Heru. “But I have never seen it. It has been kept inside a secret pyramid for many years. A scroll tells us that it will take six dragons to enter the pyramid. But first we must find it.”

Just then, Griffith the wizard walked into the room.

“I have spoken with King Roland,” he said. “I asked if you may all go to the Land of Pyramids. He will tell us soon. But I will stay here and look for a way to save the Dragon Stone.”



“The king *has* to say yes!” said Rori. “If the Dragon Stone dies, we won’t be able to connect with our dragons anymore.”

Petra, the newest Dragon Master, turned to Heru. “If you’ve never seen the prime stone, then how do you know it is dying?” she asked.

“Our family has a larger piece of the stone, just like Griffith does,” Heru explained. “Its glow keeps fading. And lately, I have had trouble connecting with Wati. Those are signs that the prime stone is weakening.”



As Heru spoke, Drake's own Dragon Stone started to flicker. It wasn't glowing strong like it usually did when Worm, his Earth Dragon, communicated with him. But still, Drake heard his dragon's voice inside his head.

*Come!* said Worm. *It is —*  
Then his voice stopped.





“It’s Worm!” Drake said. “It sounds like something is wrong, but he didn’t finish his message. We must go to the caves!”

The Dragon Masters rushed down the long staircase that led to the Dragon Caves. Drake ran up to Worm, a brown dragon with tiny wings and a body like a snake.

“What’s wrong?” Drake asked.



Worm nodded toward the cave of Vulcan, Rori’s Fire Dragon. The dragon was snorting and pawing the ground.

“Vulcan!” Rori cried. She ran to him. “What’s the matter?”

“His connection to you is getting weaker,” Griffith explained. “Vulcan may be feeling confused and scared.”

Rori reached through the bars of the cave and patted her dragon’s nose. “Hang in there, Vulcan,” she said. “We’ll find a way to save the Dragon Stone!”

“Griffith!” Simon, a castle guard, said as he marched in. “King Roland agrees that the Dragon Masters should go to the Land of Pyramids. They may leave at once!”

