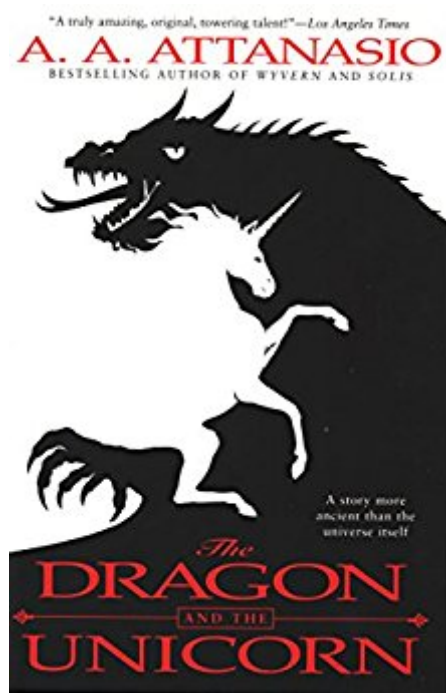




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The Dragon And The Unicorn (The Perilous Order Of Camelot Book 1)



Synopsis

“By far the most lyrically written of the recent Arthurian books. Fresh and engaging.” (The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction) “Combines the round table and black holes, gods and parallel universes, to produce a world full of both mythology and history, reworking familiar elements in new ways. Rich thematically as well, the story presents inevitable cycles of pain, death, learning and redemption as Ygrane, Uther, Morgeu the Fey, and Merlin fight for the soul of their land.” (Publishers Weekly) “Attanasio mixes Arthurian lore with Norse gods, modern physics and sundry faerie creatures in this literary, passionate novel. There has been nothing else quite like it.” (The Year’s Best Fantasy and Horror) “An unconventional new version of the Camelot story original! ” (Kirkus Reviews) A dragon’s dreamsong, a hunt for the unicorn’s horn, and the ceaseless wars of angels and demons begin this bold retelling of the Arthurian cycle. Here is magic. And dark romance. Here is Merlin’s most dangerous sorcery: the supernatural love story of Uther Pendragon and Ygrane queen of the Celts. Old as the Big Bang, the demon Lailoken assumes human form in Roman Britain as Celts battle Saxons for mastery. The druid-queen he serves calls him Myrddin and sends him to find her true love to fulfill for her people an ancient prophecy at the frontier of life and death. Led by a unicorn and hunted by a dragon huge as the planet, Myrddin becomes Merlinus on his quest for the queen’s mate among her remorseless enemies, the Romans. And finally as Merlin, he matches wits with gods and elves to unite Celtic queen and Roman warlord and weave the destiny of the most famous king..

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A. A. Attanasio creates a story that feels very significant in terms of human existence. Not to give away too much, a future vision of mankind's effect on the world causes a god to seek to wipe them off the planet. Attanasio does a great job of explaining of how gods and humans coexist in the world, and his explanations are creative and sometimes even scientific. For example gods live high in the atmosphere and are made of a frequency of electromagnetic energy that makes them invisible to the human. This book and series is full of creative and intelligent ways of explaining how characters experience otherworldly events. One character meditates to see visions of the future and another character in that time is able to sense him and give him a message to take back with him to his own present time. One god is able to experience every human life in meditative state in order to better understand these lower beings. Attanasio's skill and creativity is so impressive, that it is a shame this book is not more well known. Attanasio is also a great story teller. You really get to experience the development of major characters and understand what motivates them. This goes for the gods and humans, and everything in between. Everyone's motivation is so well explained, that it is even possible to see and empathize with the "bad guys'" point of view. You become so invested in these characters that it is hard to put the book down, where you are always concern with what is going to happen next. I wish I could have done a better job really showcasing the qualities of this book, but I don't think I can do justice to Attanasio's writing and vision. Hopefully this review will be enough to give people the curiosity to check the book out and experience its beauty for themselves.

This title starts with mind-bendingly beautiful prose. A dragon sleeps, with sing-songs resonating throughout the known cosmos. He is part of a planet. Our planet. Our home. The initial pages read like lyrical poetry, entrancing the reader into a crucial part of the Arthurian story that rarely gets told. The one that centralizes and surrounds his parents, Queen Ygrane of the Celts and Uther

Pendragon. Ironically, the King Arthur stories never held much fascination for me in terms of fantasy fiction. This book, when I first read it, 20 years ago, changed that for me. The tale before the tale is absolutely fascinating!! Who knew that King Arthur's parents were so riveting?! I certainly didn't, at the time. We discover that Ygrane conspires with a magician to find her a husband. A man worthy of siring the future as a noble king is waiting in her lineage and blood to come forth. How their love arrives and blooms is hardcore. What they must endure to have and be with one another and what sacrifices to be made, to ensure the boy-king's future safety. All the way, a brilliant Merlin guiding the hands of fate and destiny, weaving it into existence. And a unicorn! A magical, fiery, mystical beast that only the Queen can lasso, to gain the power needed... Attanasio is a true novelist, he knows how to gorgeously craft stories to absolutely fascinate your mind and drown your senses. Whether he brings you into the past, another realm and dimension altogether, or far-far-far in the future, you will be amazed at the breadth, range and skill of his writing. Not to mention his vocabulary!! This author KNOWS HIS WORDS. So much so that he can make them up and they make sense! They work...

This was perhaps the most intensive read of the great Celtic Lore coupled with a magnificent grasp of the Roman History in the British Isles with all the convoluted political activity involved with Nordic settlements and commerce. As a descendant of both Scottish and Irish forebears, I was immediately entrapped by the depth and profundity of the knowledge of Celtic history, myth, and legend and the intense grasp of historical pagan festivals and worship. The story plot and carriage is so well written that anyway would be carried away and the intensity of the detail is sometimes overwhelming, This novel was so compelling that my wife had to read it after me just to see why all of her questions to me received only monosyllabic answers, while I was reading. You have to get this and along with me, get all the following volumes. This is veritable mind candy!

This is the first book I have read by A. A. Attanasio, and I am having a hard time coming up with the proper words to explain the reading experience I felt with this book. I had to reread the introduction chapter twice to properly absorb and grasp the depth of what I was reading. I was literally in awe at the unique writing style, as well as the authors perspective on the whole King Arthur storyline. This was a truly amazing story, easy to follow and understand...yet causing me to occasionally pause to think on the depth of the words, and wording in some cases. A. A. Attanasio is truly a master storyteller.

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