

DRAGONS IN OUR MIDST SERIES

BOOK ONE

RAISING DRAGONS

GRAPHIC NOVEL

OVER
630,000
BOOKS SOLD
IN THE
SERIES



ILLUSTRATED BY JAMES ART VILLE

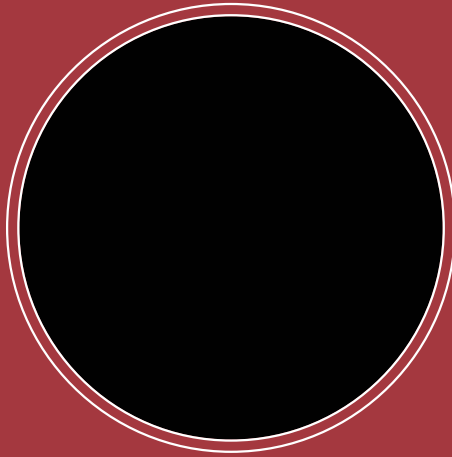
BRYAN DAVIS

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Raising Dragons Graphic Novel

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MERLIN'S RIDDLE

When dragons flew in days of old
With valor in their wings,
One fell prey to evil's song
And learned what Satan sings.

Goliath, stained with Satan's words,
Made other dragons flee,
For songs like leaven spread decay
Corrupting souls born free.

Now Satan's scales coat dragon lore;
He hides between the lines.
He sings foul words in books corrupt
And dances on their spines.

Are dragons vile? Are dragons tame?
Depends on whom you ask.
Do scales hide tricks of Satan when
He dons a fearful mask?

One man corrupted all his kin;
One dragon brought all shame.
One man redeemed his fallen race;
Will dragons find the same?

Yet dragons dwell in hearts of men,
From God and some from baals,
And some sing words with angels' wings
While most chant Satan's scales.

God redeems what men cannot
Forgives what e'er thou didst.
Who else can save the men of earth
With dragons in our midst?

HALT, FOUL DRAGON!

COULD HE BE YELLING AT ME?



I FEAR YOU NOT, FEND, NOR YOUR
HELLISH FRED! COME TO BATTLE, AND WE SHALL
SEE WHOM THE CREATOR WILL PROTECT!

MY THROAT'S BURNING!



WHAT'S GOING ON?!











I DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT NIGHT FROM HERE.



IT'S SO CALM.



SOMETHING DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT.



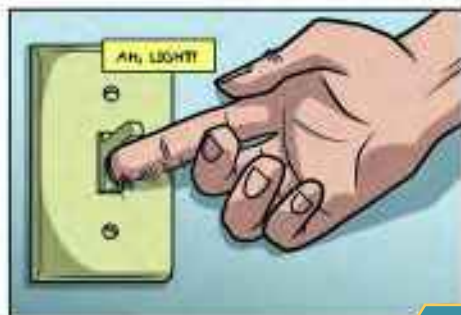
MY WINGS! THEY'RE...

SHRINKING!



IT'S GOING TO CRASH INTO THE TREES BELOW!

SOMEBODY. HELP!





ANOTHER WRESTLING MATCH WITH DAD.





TAKING SOME TIME TO DRAW REALLY HELPED, BUT I HOPE I'M NOT LATE TO CLASS.



HOPFULLY THE ROOT BEY WILL KEEP MY SWEATH UNDER CONTROL FOR A WHILE.

MR. BANNESTER, I NEVER THOUGHT I WOULD SEE YOU JOIN THE RANG OF THE TARDY.



SORRY, MR. HAMILTON.



HERE COMES DRAGON BREATH.

HA HA I HEARD HE USED HIS BREATH TO HEAT UP A TEST TUBE IN SCIENCE CLASS.



NOW, AS I WAS SAYING, OPEN YOUR BOOKS TO 117. WE WILL BEGIN OUR STUDY OF THE LEGEND OF ARTHUR.





ARTHUR, A PRINCE OF THE TRIBE SELWES, WAS RASIED TO THE TITLE OF PONDRAON, A TITLE GIVEN TO AN ELECTIVE SOVEREIGN, PARAMOUNT OVER THE MANY KINGS OF BRITAIN.



SUPPOSEDLY, HE WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO WAS ABLE TO PULL A SWORD OUT OF A STONE, SIGNALING THAT HE WAS THE RIGHTFUL KING.



UH OH, MY STOMACH'S GURGLING. I DON'T FEEL SO GOOD.

SHOULDN'T HAVE HAD THAT COFFEE.



OR THE ROOT BEER.



YES, MR. BANNISTER? WHAT IS YOUR QUESTION?

I, UH... I HAVE TO GO TO THE BATHROOM.



THAT WAS EMBARRASSING.



IT'S ADAM. WHAT'S HE DOING WITH A STOOL IN THE BOYS' BATHROOM?





I'VE HEARD PRINCIPAL WHITTIER IS ECCENTRIC, BUT DANGEROUS SOUNDS MORE LIKE IT! HOW COULD THEY LET WEAPONS LIKE THAT INTO SCHOOL? THEY MUST BE PLASTIC REPLICAS, BUT THEY SURE LOOK AUTHENTIC.









THANKS, MR. HAMILTON. I ENJOYED THE TALK, SO LONG!



DRAY, BILLY. GET A GRIP! THERE HAS TO BE SOME KIND OF MISUNDERSTANDING.



THAT DREAM ABOUT THE NIGHT WAS REALLY JUST A DREAM.



IS THAT THE BEST IF MOM AND DAD FIND IN HOME ALREADY, THEY'LL WANT TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED. I'LL HAVE TO TELL THEM EVENTUALLY, BUT I'D RATHER DO IT IN MY OWN TIME.





WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT DRAGONS, BILBY?

UM... ONLY WHAT I'VE READ IN BOOKS, LIKE *THE HOBBIT*.

THEY'RE FERCE, SCALY, FLYING LIZARDS THAT CAN BREATHE FIRE.

IN YOUR MIND, DO THEY LOOK SOMETHING LIKE THIS?

YEAH, SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

SOME DRAGONS KILLED MANY PEOPLE, GIVING ALL DRAGONS A BAD REPUTATION. ARTHUR COMMISSIONED THIS PARTICULAR KNIGHT TO ELIMINATE THE SPECIES. AT THE TIME, ARTHUR WAS UNWARE OF THE DISTINCTION OF GOOD DRAGONS.

TO EXPLAIN IT, I'M GOING TO RECITE THIS POEM FOR YOU. IT'S WRITTEN IN AN OLD VERSION OF ENGLISH, BUT I TRANSLATED IT AND TRIED TO MAKE IT RHYME IN MODERN ENGLISH.

SO DRAGONS WERE REAL? THEY REALLY DID BREATHE FIRE AND TRY TO KILL PEOPLE LIKE IN THE PICTURE?

GOOD DRAGONS?

SO WHY ARE YOU TELLING ME ALL THIS?

A hand is shown holding an open book. The book's pages feature a detailed illustration of a dragon with a long, scaly neck and a human-like hand reaching out. The dragon is depicted in a landscape with mountains and a forest. Several speech bubbles and a text box are overlaid on the illustration. The text bubbles contain information about the dragon's origin and the poet's perspective. The text box contains a poem.

THIS POEM WAS WRITTEN BY THE SAME MAN WHO DREW THE PICTURE. HE WAS A SQUARE FOR ONE OF KING ARTHUR'S KNIGHTS.

ARTHUR'S KNIGHTS LIKE THE ONES OF THE ROUND TABLE

WELL, NOT QUITE.

THIS MIGHT WAS ARTHUR'S FAVORITE. TO BE SURE, BUT HIS BLOODLUST KEPT HIM FROM SECURING A SEAT OF NOBILITY. HE WAS FOREVER IN PURSUIT OF DRAGONS, TO THE POINT OF MADNESS.

With dragons slain my master craves
Another beast, another prey
For dragons now wear human skin
And roam the earth to spread their sin
My master hunts and never rests
We purge the land and spoil their nests
'Tis strange to spill the human blood
But dragons hide beneath that hood



THE NEXT DAY.















WHAT DO YOU MEAN? WHAT IS HE?

DR. WHETTER CALLED ME A DEMON WITCH. THAT'S WHAT SLAYERS CALL THE FEMALES. DIDN'T YOUR PARENTS TELL YOU THAT?



WELL, NO...

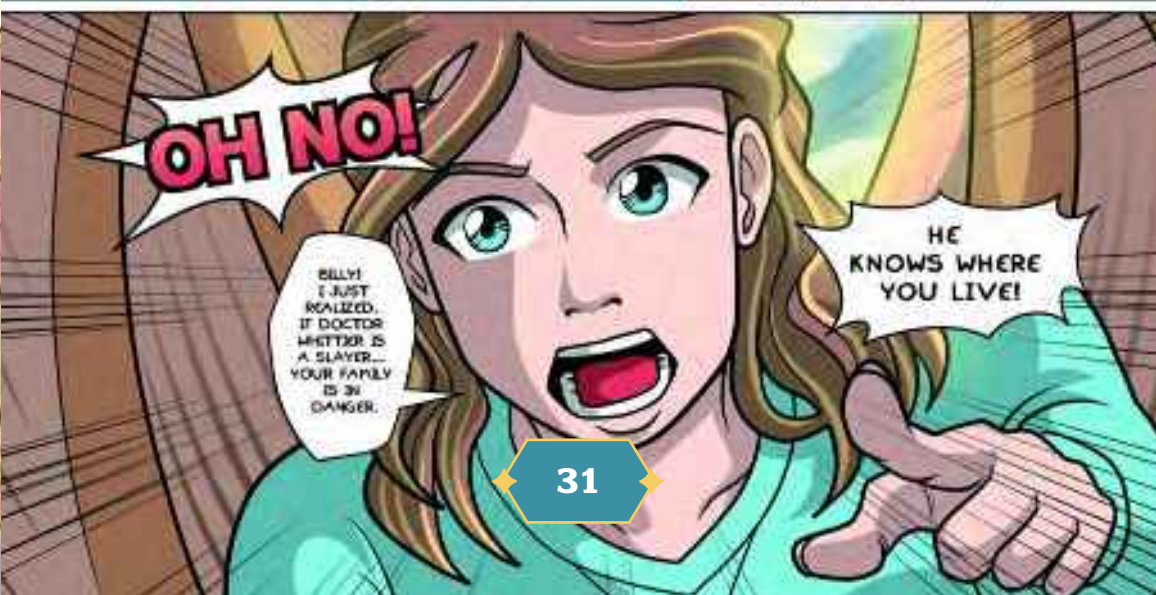
BUT... YOU ARE A DRAGON AREN'T YOU? YOU BURNED OLGA'S ARM. I SAW.



YES... I MEAN, I GUESS SO. I JUST FOUND OUT YESTERDAY. I OVERHEARD THEM TALKING ABOUT IT. THEY TOLD ME, BUT THEY DIDN'T TELL ME MUCH.

I DON'T HAVE ANY OTHER DRAGON ABILITIES. MY BREATH'S JUST REAL HOT.

THEN IT'S PROBABLY JUST NOW DEVELOPING. THAT MUST BE WHY YOUR PARENTS WAITED SO LONG TO TELL YOU.



OH NO!

BELLY I JUST REALIZED. IF DOCTOR WHETTER IS A SLAYER... YOUR FAMILY IS IN DANGER.

HE KNOWS WHERE YOU LIVE!

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A Boy with Fiery Breath.
A Girl with Dragon Wings.
And an Ancient Prophecy Launching
Them into an Epic Destiny.



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ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Bryan Davis is the author of fantasy/science fiction novels for youth and adults, including the bestselling *Dragons in Our Midst* series. Other series include *The Oculus Gate*, *Reapers*, *Dragons of Starlight*, *Tales of Starlight*, *Astral Alliance*, *Time Echoes*, and *Wanted: Superheroes*, several of which have been bestsellers.



Bryan was born in 1958 and grew up in the eastern US. From the time he taught himself how to read before school age, through his seminary years and beyond, he has demonstrated a passion for the written word, reading and writing in many disciplines and genres, including theology, fiction, devotionals, poetry, and humor.

Bryan is a graduate of the University of Florida (BS in industrial engineering). In high school, he was valedictorian of his class and won various academic awards. He was also a member of the National Honor Society and voted Most Likely to Succeed.

He continues to expand his writing education by teaching at relevant writing conferences and conventions. Although he is now a full-time writer, Bryan was a computer professional for over twenty years.

Bryan and his wife, Susie, homeschooled their four girls and three boys, and they work together as an author/editor team.

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ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR



James Art Ville is a freelance illustrator and graphic designer. His love for art began when he was four years old drawing the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. As an adult, James continues to draw heroes for children and adults. From book covers to children's books, most of his work is done from his home studio in southern Oregon.

Raising Dragons Graphic Novel is his first published full-length comic book. He looks forward to illustrating many more graphic novels, either adaptations or his own stories. His favorite comic book artists include Scott McCloud, Art Spiegelman, Ken Akamatsu, and Akira Himekawa.

To see James's gallery of illustrations please visit www.jamesartville.com and LIKE him on Facebook and FOLLOW him on Twitter.

A Boy with Fiery Breath.
A Girl with Dragon Wings.
And an Ancient Prophecy
Launching Them into
an Epic Destiny.



ADAPTED FROM BRYAN
DAVIS'S BESTSELLING
YA CHRISTIAN FANTASY
RAISING DRAGONS



Available at Tyndale.com
or wherever books are sold

A Boy with Fiery Breath. A Girl with Dragon Wings. And an Ancient Prophecy Launching Them into an Epic Destiny.



Billy Bannister is unaware of his dragon ancestry until his bad breath shockingly sets off the fire sprinklers at school. But he's not the only one with a secret lineage. While traveling from one foster home to another, Bonnie has had to hide her dragon wings in a big backpack. When she finally finds a friend in Billy, a dragon slayer discovers her secret and is determined to kill her. The chase thrusts Billy and Bonnie into an epic quest to fulfill a thousand-year-old prophecy.

This graphic novel adaptation of *Raising Dragons* is a fast-paced, modern-day Arthurian adventure perfect for fantasy lovers of powerful dragons, sword-wielding knights, fair maidens, and portals to other worlds.

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