



## Eldest (Inheritance Cycle, Book 2) (The Inheritance Cycle)

By Christopher Paolini

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**Eldest (Inheritance Cycle, Book 2) (The Inheritance Cycle)** By Christopher Paolini

Perfect for fans of Lord of the Rings, the *New York Times* bestselling Inheritance Cycle about the dragon rider Eragon has sold over 35 million copies and is an international fantasy sensation.

Darkness falls...despair abounds...evil reigns...

Eragon and his dragon, Saphira, have just saved the rebel state from destruction by the mighty forces of King Galbatorix, cruel ruler of the Empire. Now Eragon must travel to Ellesmera, land of the elves, for further training in the skills of the Dragon Rider: magic and swordsmanship. Soon he is on the journey of a lifetime, his eyes open to awe-inspiring new places and people, his days filled with fresh adventure. But chaos and betrayal plague him at every turn, and nothing is what it seems. Before long, Eragon doesn't know whom he can trust.

Meanwhile, his cousin Roran must fight a new battle—one that might put Eragon in even graver danger.

Will the king's dark hand strangle all resistance? Eragon may not escape with even his life. . . .

### Praise for *Eragon*:

“Unusual, powerful . . . fresh and fluid. An impressive start to a writing career that’s sure to flourish.” —*Booklist*, Starred

“Christopher Paolini make[s] literary magic with his precocious debut.” —*People*  
“The new ‘It’ book of children’s lit.” —*U.S. News & World Report*

“An auspicious beginning to both career and series.” —*Publishers Weekly*

A #1 New York Times Bestseller

A #1 Publishers Weekly Bestseller

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A Book Sense Book of the Year  
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*From the Hardcover edition.*

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## **Eldest (Inheritance Cycle, Book 2) (The Inheritance Cycle) By Christopher Paolini Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #5807 in Books
- Brand: Knopf Books for Young Readers
- Published on: 2007-03-13

- Released on: 2007-03-13
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.25" h x 1.45" w x 5.53" l, 2.00 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 704 pages

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### Editorial Review

#### Amazon.com Review

Surpassing its popular prequel *Eragon*, this second volume in the Inheritance trilogy shows growing maturity and skill on the part of its very young author, who was only seventeen when the first volume was published in 2003. The story is solidly in the tradition (some might say derivative) of the classic heroic quest fantasy, with the predictable cast of dwarves, elves, and dragons--but also including some imaginatively creepy creatures of evil.

The land of Alagaesia is suffering under the Empire of the wicked Galbatorix, and Eragon and his dragon Saphira, last of the Riders, are the only hope. But Eragon is young and has much to learn, and so he is sent off to the elven forest city of Ellesmera, where he and Saphira are tutored in magic, battle skills, and the ancient language by the wise former Rider Oromis and his elderly dragon Glaedr. Meanwhile, back at Carvahall, Eragon's home, his cousin Roran is the target of a siege by the hideous Ra'zac, and he must lead the villagers on a desperate escape over the mountains. The two narratives move toward a massive battle with the forces of Galbatorix, where Eragon learns a shocking secret about his parentage and commits himself to saving his people.

The sheer size of the novel, as well as its many characters, places with difficult names, and its use of imaginary languages make this a challenging read, even for experienced fantasy readers. It is essential to have the plot threads of the first volume well in mind before beginning--the publisher has provided not only a map, but a helpful synopsis of the first book and a much-needed Language Guide. But no obstacles will deter the many fans of *Eragon* from diving headfirst into this highly-awaited fantasy. (Ages 12 and up) --  
*Patty Campbell*

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### Meet Author Christopher Paolini



Christopher Paolini's abiding love of fantasy and science fiction inspired him to begin writing his debut novel, *Eragon*, when he graduated from high school at age 15.

"Writing is the heart and soul of my being. It is the means through which I bring my stories to life. There is nothing like putting words on a page and knowing that they will summon certain emotions and reactions from the reader. In my writing, I strive for a lyrical beauty somewhere between Tolkien at his best and Seamus Heaney's

translation of Beowulf." --*Christopher Paolini*

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## The Eragon/Eldest Boxed Set



Want to learn more about the series? Check out our review of *Eragon*: Here's a great big fantasy that you can pull over your head like a comfy old sweater and disappear into for a whole weekend. Christopher Paolini began Eragon when he was just 15, and the book shows the influence of Tolkien, of course, but also Terry Brooks, Anne McCaffrey, and perhaps even Wagner in its traditional quest structure and the generally agreed-upon nature of dwarves, elves, dragons, and heroic warfare with magic swords. [Read more](#)

Order your copy of the boxed set today

## Learn the Lingo



Our quickie pronunciation guide will help you get to know some of the names and places in the Inheritance series.

### The Leader of the Varden

**Argetlam** ARE-jet-lahm

Elven word to  
describe Dragon  
Riders meaning  
"silver hand"

**Arya** AR-ee-uh

A powerful elf who  
is both beautiful and  
a master  
swordswoman

**Ajihad** AH-zhi-hod

**Eragon** EHR-uh-gahn

A Dragon Rider  
from Carvahall

**Ra-zac** RAA-zack

Evil creatures

**Saphira** suh-FEAR-uh

Eragon's dragon

\*Art copyright © 2004 John Jude Palencar

#### From School Library Journal

Grade 5 Up—Eragon and his dragon, Saphira, have survived the battle at Tronjheim, but their challenges are not over. Galbatorix, the corrupt emperor, still rules Alagaesia and is looking for them. The magically bonded pair must help the rebellious Varden regroup after their leader is slain. Eragon helps deal with the resulting diplomatic complexities and then leaves for Du Weldenvarden, the home of the Elves, in order to finish his training as a Dragon Rider. Meanwhile, his cousin Roran must unite the small town of Carvahall as it is battered by Galbatorix's forces, including the nasty Ra'zac. The story alternates between Eragon and Saphira and their political maneuvering and Roran and his more traditional adventure over land and sea. Paolini provides a worthy companion to *Eragon* (Knopf, 2003), though it does not stand alone (a summary of the first book will be included in the final edition). The plot—indeed, most of the fantasy conventions—is heavily inspired by Tolkien, McCaffrey, and especially George Lucas. The momentum of the narrative is steady and consistent: a problem presents itself and is neatly (and conveniently) solved before the next one arises, making it appealing to some adventure-quest fantasy fans and runescape.com players. Eragon's journey to maturity is well handled. He wrestles earnestly with definitions for good and evil, and he thoughtfully examines the question of good at what price. While there's nothing particularly original here, the book will find its fan-base.—Sarah Couri, *New York Public Library*

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#### From [Bookmarks Magazine](#)

Paolini started his trilogy when he was 15. Now, at the ripe old age of 21, the home-schooled author exhibits literary maturity in the second volume of his heroic-quest fantasy. He still borrows from J. R. R. Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings* and Anne McCaffrey's *The Dragonriders of Pern*. But here, Eragon matures with his author and exhibits more emotional depth. If the pace is inconsistent or the themes formulaic, Paolini has nonetheless created a unified, vivid fantasy world that propelled most reviewers forward. (Don't even touch it if you don't like dragons.) Only *Entertainment Weekly* weighed in with hefty complaints about the novel's glacial pace and silly plot. Maybe that critic will like the 2006 movie, starring John Malkovich and Jeremy Irons, better.

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### Users Review

#### From reader reviews:

##### **Christopher Jones:**

Do you have favorite book? In case you have, what is your favorite's book? Reserve is very important thing for us to find out everything in the world. Each publication has different aim or perhaps goal; it means that reserve has different type. Some people experience enjoy to spend their the perfect time to read a book. They are reading whatever they get because their hobby is reading a book. What about the person who don't like examining a book? Sometime, man or woman feel need book when they found difficult problem or exercise. Well, probably you will need this Eldest (Inheritance Cycle, Book 2) (The Inheritance Cycle).

##### **Norma Harrell:**

In this 21st hundred years, people become competitive in most way. By being competitive currently, people have do something to make these people survives, being in the middle of typically the crowded place and notice by surrounding. One thing that oftentimes many people have underestimated the item for a while is reading. Sure, by reading a book your ability to survive increase then having chance to endure than other is

high. In your case who want to start reading some sort of book, we give you this kind of Eldest (Inheritance Cycle, Book 2) (The Inheritance Cycle) book as nice and daily reading guide. Why, because this book is greater than just a book.

**Jeffrey Chambers:**

Do you have something that you want such as book? The book lovers usually prefer to choose book like comic, limited story and the biggest an example may be novel. Now, why not attempting Eldest (Inheritance Cycle, Book 2) (The Inheritance Cycle) that give your enjoyment preference will be satisfied by simply reading this book. Reading habit all over the world can be said as the method for people to know world better than how they react to the world. It can't be said constantly that reading practice only for the geeky individual but for all of you who wants to possibly be success person. So , for all of you who want to start examining as your good habit, you may pick Eldest (Inheritance Cycle, Book 2) (The Inheritance Cycle) become your own starter.

**Carol Ramirez:**

Is it you who having spare time in that case spend it whole day by means of watching television programs or just resting on the bed? Do you need something new? This Eldest (Inheritance Cycle, Book 2) (The Inheritance Cycle) can be the reply, oh how comes? A book you know. You are so out of date, spending your extra time by reading in this completely new era is common not a geek activity. So what these publications have than the others?

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