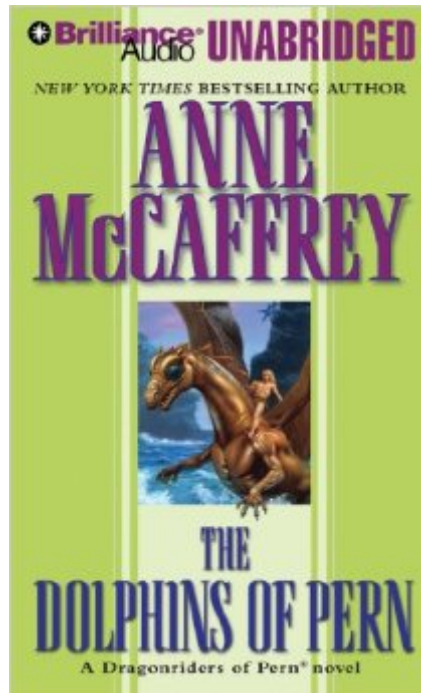


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# The Dolphins Of Pern (Dragonriders Of Pern Series)



## Synopsis

When the first humans came to settle the planet Pern, they did not come alone: intelligence-enhanced dolphins also crossed the stars to colonize Pern's oceans while their human partners settled the vast continents. But then disaster struck. The deadly silver spores called Thread fell like rain from the sky, and as human colonists' dreams of a new, idyllic life shattered into a desperate struggle for survival, the dolphins were forgotten. Now, centuries later, as the dragonriders of Pern prepare to complete the momentous task of ridding their world of Thread forever, Taji, a young bronze rider, and his friend Readis, son of the Lord Holder of Paradise River Hold, make contact with the legendary "shipfish." And as the dragonriders grapple with the end of an era, Taji, Readis, and the dolphins face the start of a new one: reviving the bond between land- and ocean-dwellers and resurrecting the dreams of the first colonists of Pern.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"The Dolphins of Pern" is one in author Anne McCaffrey's series of novels that take place on Pern: a world where the descendants of human colonists live together with huge, winged creatures called "dragons." The dragons of Pern have some similarities to the mythical creatures of ancient Earth, but McCaffrey throws in some science fiction twists. "Dolphins," as the title suggests, adds a new element to the culture and history of Pern. As McCaffrey explains in the book's prologue, the spacefaring humans who first settled Pern brought with them dolphins who had been endowed with

the ability to speak human language. But over the course of time, the hostile environment of Pern caused the dolphin and human communities to gradually lose touch with each other. This book is the story of the attempts to rediscover and reestablish the ancient ties between the two species. To the cynical, the concept of this book might seem like a "gimmick" to bring a new element to the Pern series. But believe me, "Dolphins" is no gimmick: this is one of the best in the entire series.

McCaffrey creates a rich and moving portrait of the dolphin community -- a community with a compelling culture and history. This is also a beautiful "coming of age" story that focuses on Readis, a boy of Pern who has a remarkable bond to the dolphins. McCaffrey superbly weaves the dolphins' history and Readis' very personal story into the epic story of Pern's humans and dragons. I recommend this book to both Pern fans as well as to newcomers to the series.

I love the Pern books! Ever since I was a young girl in school and found *Dragonsong* in the 1970's. I really enjoyed this book I love how Anne is filling in the gaps for us about folks from other books like Jayge, Aramina and Readis as well as the Dolphins from *Dragonsdawn*. But here is what I think would help folks a lot in their enjoyment of this book and some of the other books. I think some of these later books don't work as well on their own because they truly aren't stand alone novels like *Dragonflight*, *Dragonquest* etc.. You absolutely HAVE to have read *Renegades of Pern*, *All the Weyrs of Pern* and *Dragonsdawn* for this book to make sense to you! I think it would be a smart decision to integrate this book and possibly some of the other later books into the novels they companion. Take *Dolphins* for example: I think the plot would have been better received had it been combined with "*All the Weyrs*", yes it would have added another subplot but they also could have eliminated all the parallel "*All the Weyrs*" plot synopsis. And it would have prevented any major errors such as the Lord Holder death issue someone mentions here. I have to check my books at home I don't know if that reviewer is correct or not. The timeline jumps around but I have no problem with that it happened in *Dragonsdawn* and other Pern books so what's the big deal? In the end I enjoyed this book but I believe it would have been better received as part of the "*All the Weyrs*" story than a separate novel.

I have to agree with several of the reviews that noted how Anne McCaffrey's later works about Pern seem to have lost something that she did so well in her earlier ones. I am a loyal McCaffrey fan, so please don't take this as some kind of "Anne-bashing"--but, *The Dolphins of Pern* just wasn't up to par with the first two trilogies. While the concept of the friendly, talking dolphins is appealing, the storyline goes all over the place, jumping over years in Readis' and other characters' lives, losing

focus and generally feeling less like a plot than an ongoing report on the amazing new dolphins. I hope Anne isn't just writing in response to pressures from fans and her publisher, but I have a bad feeling that she became bored with Pern years ago. Read this book only if you are a Pern fanatic.

. . . but certainly not the best of the Pern series. The concept of dolphins who could communicate with humans was introduced in "Dragonsdawn" and the notion of seemingly intelligent "shipfish" have been seen in several Pern stories. Now, in "The Dolphins of Pern", the relationship between humans, dragons, and dolphins on Pern is re-established. The book could be viewed as a sequel to "The Renegades of Pern", as much of the action surrounds Jayge, his wife Aramina (the girl who heard dragons) and their son Readis. The book also runs concurrent with many of the events in "All the Weyrs of Pern". Why only three stars? Because, frankly, the character development is, frankly, unbelievable. Jayge, Aramina, and Readis have all, at different times, been rescued from probable death by dolphins. Readis -- probably twice. Why then are his parents (especially his mother) so against the boy's interest in them? This seems forced to me. (Especially since most of the rest of the Pernese leadership -- including persons whom Jayge and Aramina greatly respect -- and owe much to -- are inclined to permit Readis to pursue his interest to the benefit of all Pern? Also, once the Oldtimers, the Renegades, the Red Star, etc. have all been dealt with, where do we go for a villain? We've got to invent one, of course! Toric, now Lord Toric of Southern Hold -- who has in other novels been a character on the fringe of trouble -- is now the new designated "bad guy". Overall, the story seemed too contrived. NOT the best book in the series -- NOT by a long way.

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