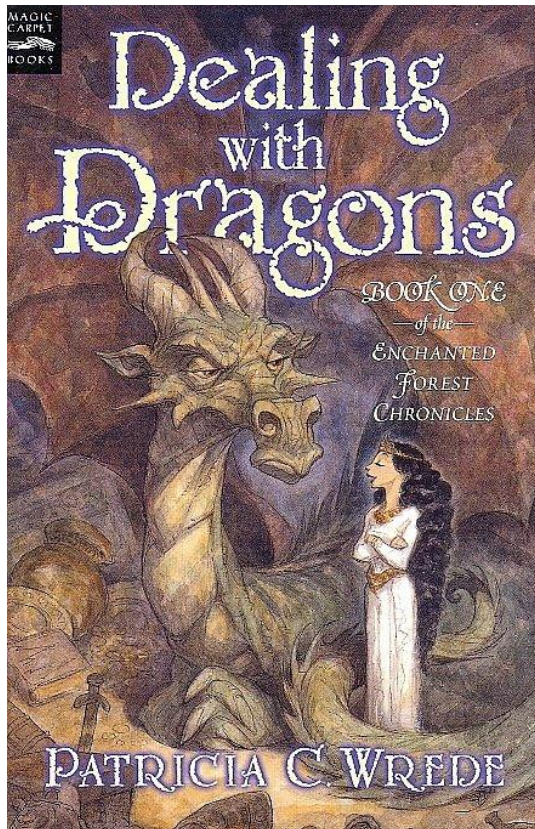


## About the book...



*Cimorene is interested in learning a lot of things, but not the ones considered proper by her parents. When they decide to marry her to Prince Therandil, Cimorene takes action by fleeing to the Enchanted Forest to become a Dragon's Princess. Dragon politics, sneaky wizards and other princesses all combine to make lively times for Cimorene.*

*-Books & Authors*

## About the Author...



Patricia Collins Wrede was born in Chicago, Illinois and is the eldest of five children. She started writing in seventh grade. She attended Carleton College in Minnesota, where she majored in Biology and managed to avoid taking any English courses at all. She began work on her first novel, *Shadow Magic*, just after graduating from college in 1974. She finished it five years later and started her second book at once, having become permanently hooked on writing by this time.

Patricia received her M.B.A. from the University of Minnesota in 1977. She worked for several years as a financial analyst and accountant, first with the Minnesota Hospital Association, then with B. Dalton Booksellers, and finally at the Dayton Hudson Corporation headquarters.

In January 1980, Pamela Dean, Emma Bull, Will Shetterly, Steven Brust, Nate Bucklin, and Patricia Wrede -- all, at that point, hopeful but unpublished -- formed the writer's

group that later became known as "The Scribbles." In April of 1980, Patricia's first novel sold to Ace Books. It came out at last in 1982. In 1985, shortly before the publication of her fifth book, she left the world of the gainfully employed to try winging it on her own.

Her interests include sewing, embroidery, desultory attempts at gardening, chocolate, not mowing the lawn, High Tea, and, of course, reading. She is a vegetarian, and currently lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota with her cats, Merlin, Brisen, and Nimue. She has no children, but as of this writing, she does have four nieces and four nephews ranging in age from seven months to twelve years old and in geographical location from Maine to Alabama.

For more about the author visit: <http://www.pcwrede.com/>

## Writings

- [\*Book of Enchantments\*](#), Harcourt Brace (San Diego), 1996.
- [\*Snow White and Rose Red\*](#), Firebird (New York), 2009.
- *The Enchanted Forest Chronicles*:
  - [\*Dealing With Dragons\*](#)
  - [\*Searching For Dragons\*](#)
  - [\*Calling On Dragons\*](#)
  - [\*Talking To Dragons\*](#)
- *Frontier Magic Trilogy*:
  - [\*Thirteenth Child\*](#)
  - [\*Across the Great Barrier\*](#)
  - [\*The Far West\*](#)

## Awards

- American Library Association Best Book for Young Adults for *Dealing with Dragons*
- American Library Association Notable Book and Best Book for Young Adults for *Searching for Dragons*

## Reviews

### *School Library Journal*

The independent princess has been well established in modern children's books, but there can't be a dandier example than Princess Cimorene. Rangy, curious, energetic, matter-of-fact, she rolls up her sleeves and gets the job done with a happy disregard for the traditions of her role. Although her parents want her to stifle her improper interests in fencing, Latin, and cooking, the princess is not about to be forced into marriage with the vapid prince they have chosen. She throws herself wholeheartedly into a career as a dragon's princess, a respectable role, although not one for which one usually volunteers. As she fends off nosy wizards, helps out hysterical princesses, and turns away determined rescuers, Cimorene makes a firm place for herself in the dragon

world. The story is full of excitement, sly references to the staples of fantasy and fairy tales, and good humor. Cimorene is of a sisterhood that includes Menolly, the dragonsinger of Anne McCaffrey's *Dragonsong*; and Avi's *Morwenna of Bright Shadow*, but Wrede's delightful voice is all her own.

#### *CCBC (Cooperative Children's Book Center Choices)*

Princess Cimorene has a reputation of taking little interest in the "proper" interests and pastimes befitting her social station. She'd much rather fence, practice magic, learn economics or cook cherry jubilee than dance, embroider or draw. Her disregard for etiquette is only compounded by her height ("Her parents were quite sure that no prince would want to marry a girl who could look him in the eye instead of gazing up at him becomingly through her lashes"), her hair (black and braided, not golden and flowing), and her disposition ("strong-minded" bordering on "stubborn as a pig"). News of her impending marriage to a neighboring prince, whose sole redeeming feature is his good looks, prompts Cimorene to run away seeking to change her lot in life by becoming a princess to a dragon. The fact that princesses are kidnapped by dragons in the normal course of events, rather than being volunteers for the role, doesn't faze Cimorene in the slightest. Once established in her new lair, Cimorene's independent spirit and intelligence soon embroil her in a non-stop adventure involving a helpful witch, scheming wizards, fellow dragons' princesses, and a host of dragons. Cimorene is a truly memorable heroine, and her fresh and humorous story shatters more than a few rules of conventional fantasy, after the fashion of Cimorene herself.

#### *Kirkus Reviews*

Princess Cimorene hates deportment and advanced curtsying, but she's denied lessons in magic, swordsmanship, or cooking--so she runs away and applies for a job as Dragon's princess. She keeps cave, treasure, and kitchen in order, but has trouble convincing the rather dim Prince Therandil that she really doesn't want to be rescued. It's fortunate that she succeeds, since a renegade Dragon has betrayed his kind to the Wizards, and only Cimorene can save her Dragon, Kazul, from being destroyed. In the end, Kazul becomes King of the Dragons, while Cimorene becomes King's Cook and Librarian. Along the way, she learns to fireproof herself, consort with witches, read magic tomes, outwit djinns, and instill pluck in a fellow princess. Smoothly written and ingenious fantasy. Both Cimorene and her dragon are firmly drawn, tough-minded females who refuse to conform to stereotypes (being female doesn't prevent a dragon from becoming king). The touch of feminist persuasion only adds to the story's charm.

#### **Discussion Questions** (<http://www.brighthubeducation.com/homework-help-literature/67903-dealing-with-dragons-review-questions/>)

1. Describe Cimorene. What is she like?
2. How does Cimorene find the dragons?
3. What happens to the Knights who try to rescue Cimorene?

4. How do Cimorene and Alianora get to be friends?
5. What happens when Cimorene unintentionally releases a jinn?
6. What is the power of Colin's stone?
7. What are Woraug's crimes? In the end, does he get what he deserved?
8. Cimorene's great aunt's name is Rose, who slept for years under a fairy's curse - a take off on Sleeping Beauty. What other fairy tales are fractured in this book?
9. Are you a fan of fantasy books? How does this book compare to other dragon books you have read?
10. There is a lot of humor in this book. Find a place that made you laugh and share it with the group.
11. What would you rate this book on a scale of 1-10?

### **Read-Alikes**

Gale Carson Levine, [\*Ella Enchanted\*](#) (1997)

The "Cinderella" theme weaves through it, but does not limit this first novel. At Ella's birth, foolish fairy Lucinda bestows upon her the gift of obedience, a gift that is instead a curse, forcing Ella to obey any command. After her mother's death, Ella's selfish, disagreeable father leaves on one of his frequent trips and sends the unwilling Ella to a boarding school where she encounters her appropriately wicked stepsisters-to-be. Miserable under the curse of the fairy's gift, Ella embarks on a quest to find Lucinda and ask for release. Although she encounters ogres, elves and giants and is found by Prince Charmont, Ella does not receive the freedom she seeks. Desperately in love with the Prince, Ella is forced to make a difficult choice.

Bruce Coville, [\*Jeremy Thatcher, Dragon Hatcher\*](#) (1991)

After yet another stomach-wrenching confrontation with his unsympathetic art teacher, Jeremy finds himself at a mysterious magic shop where he acquires an extraordinary, multicolored sphere--a dragon's egg that he has been chosen to hatch. Tiamet, the resulting, fast-growing dragon, has a distinct, sometimes importunate personality; the fact that only Jeremy can see her both saves and causes trouble. As the school year ends, the half-grown dragon goes on to her real home in another world, leaving Jeremy bereft but eventually able to nurture his real artistic gift. A funny, enjoyable, imaginative story whose serious undercurrents lend it unexpected depth.

Jane Yolan, [\*Here There Be Dragons\*](#) (1993)

This work contains two reprinted and 11 original stories and poems with a broad range of themes concerning dragons. Stories encompass a variety of literary traditions including Arthurian, Chinese and classic fairy tale and a tale of Saint George and the Dragon.

Susan Fletcher, [\*Flight of the Dragon Kyn\*](#) (1993)

Kara's ability to communicate with birds and dragons is brought to King Orrik's attention. He orders her to call down the dragons so that he may kill them, thus avenging the deaths of his future wife's family. After Kara sees the effect of her effort, she runs away with her gyrfalcon Skava to try to save the dragons from destruction in this prequel to *Dragon's Milk*.

Kate Coombs, [\*The Runaway Dragon\*](#) (2009)

Princess Meg has been neglecting her pet dragon, Laddy. Sick of being cooped up, he takes flight and runs away from home. The 16-year-old princess sets off through the enchanted forest in pursuit. She takes along her pals Dilly, the lady-in-waiting; Cam, the assistant gardener; Lex, a youthful wizard; and Nort, a guardsman, as well as some of her parents' guards. Though this daring princess won't give a second glance to preening princes who come to call, an encounter with a bandit named Bain certainly makes an impression. The group encounters a girl giant, an evil witch, and other obstacles on its journey. Meg also rescues Spinach, a girl with incredibly long hair, from a tower and adds her to the dragon search team.



Ann Arbor District Library