

# Dragon Riders

Ada Dogan



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Written & illustrated by  
**Ada Dogan, aged 9**

## Acknowledgements

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## Chapter 1

The only sound in the silvery forest was the beating of Amber Moon's wings as she glided through the silky blackness, lit by the silver orb of the moon.

Luna leaned towards her dragon's neck, their bond glowing strong in the darkness. She was shocked as well as

grateful when she had passed the assessment and was chosen by the commodore to train as a dragon rider. It was everything she had ever dreamed of, and she had known Amber Moon since she was just a hatchling. However, everything might have been harder if it weren't for her friend, Ash and Ash's dragon, Moonlight's Mystery. Luna knew that they had to get back to their hollow in the forest with their roommate Layla.

Every dragon rider lived in a location that matched their personality best. While she had shared her hollow with Ash, other riders had stayed in an underwater cave. The chosen location also depended on the element of the dragon.

Amber Moon was a water dragon, and her spirit belonged in the forest as did Luna's. Moonlight's Mystery was a fire dragon and Ash, unlike the other riders, insisted that she, Luna and Layla share a camp.

Later on, their mentor, Sir Flightwight and his dragon Thunderstorm's Lightning, enforced strict rules to not cause any kind of trouble.

"Of course sir," Luna replied innocently, her hazel eyes wide as if he had accused her of something utterly terrible. "But I cannot understand why you would think that **I** would do anything to cause any trouble!"

Sir Flightwight exploded with laughter, and Ash let out a chuckle of amusement as Layla glanced over sympathetically.

Back in the camp, they were all getting ready to go to sleep. They settled down together in a clearing with their dragons beside them and Layla dreamed of how great it would be if they could actually become dragon riders.

They had the warmest blanket as well as the comfort and protection of their beloved dragons, who lay over them

with a comforting gaze. Layla cuddled towards Echosong's Fury and felt her warm breathing on her face. When Ash had suggested keeping guard, Luna had argued that they had *dragons* to guard them and there was nothing more *she* could do, but Luna secretly knew that Layla had done it anyway.

Layla watched the sun replace the moon, gently shining down on them from the huge empty sky, with no clouds to block her beautiful view. She huddled underneath Echosong's Fury's wing, feeling safe and protected as her eyelids felt heavy on her eyes and she drifted further down underneath the forest where the camp was, the whistling wind singing her a gentle lullaby which was the last thing she had heard before drifting into a deep sleep.



## Chapter 2

The sun woke Luna up and she saw Ash snoring loudly by the entrance, Moonlight's Mystery sheltering her. Luna immediately rushed towards Layla to scold her for still keeping watch, but knew that there was no point as she was going to ignore her either way.

Anyway, she was supposed to be ready to go to training, and she had to be ready for when Amber Moon was going to throw her off her back. They were still young riders and Luna had only been recruited a year ago which meant that they had to train still and had **a lot** to learn about.

Still, that didn't mean that she wasn't going to give up easily like some others. **What if I end up like them? What if I never become a dragon rider?**

She pushed the thought away as she woke up the others.

"Wake up lazy!" Gently, she nudged Ash, who suddenly jumped awake.

"I'm awake, I'm awake... Oh, what a surprise to see you!" Ash jumped awake, avoiding Luna's suspicious glance. Luna simply gave a long sigh, not even trying to confront her. **She is never going to learn, is she?**

Curiously she headed deeper into the canopy to explore their camp fully; they had barely travelled near the lake as they were always busy with training. **Training! Of course! We're going to be late!** Luna rushed over to her friends, who seemed to have forgotten as well.

"Come on! Remember what Sir Flightwight said? No trouble! We'll be in loads if we are late to practise! Come on or we will be sitting out! Or worse, we might have to clean the mentors' den, and I don't know about you, but I don't fancy cleaning dragon dung!"

Impatiently, she put on her extra armour specially made for her by the local blacksmith.

The others copied her and they were by the entrance with their dragons beside them in no time at all. Luna gently

placed her deep blue, woven saddle onto Amber Moon and they took off gracefully and soared through the sky , reaching the academy in only around a few seconds .The others followed behind them and to their outstanding luck, they weren't late. Training had been set 15 minutes late as there were some explosions near the area.

"I don't care what or who caused the explosion because it saved us from getting into serious trouble." Ash had said while attempting to get on Moonlight Mystery's back.

Luna just shrugged her shoulders and said, "We were just lucky that's all."

"I hope no one got hurt, it is very dangerous," Layla pointed out as she was brushing Echosong's Fury's fur.

"All right and good morning to everyone," Sir Crinco interrupted them. "Today we are training for elemental

Magic. All day you will have different lessons on different elements. We will be dividing you into groups as always based on your age and you will be learning the basic drills. Also we have our advanced level flying society, one I hope will get a better name, and you will be chosen by the students in it already. It doesn't matter which element you and your dragon are, they are only interested in your speed. You don't choose, they choose you. Okay,well that's enough talking from me, and you better head to your lessons now. Everything clear?"

"Excuse, I would like to say something," Luna recognised Instructor Thomas, pushing her way through the crowd. "Students shouldn't worry about the incident in this area. No one got hurt and everything is fine." Sighs of relief travelled through the crowd.

"Oh well then, get to your classes. Chop chop."



## Chapter 3

Layla, Luna and Ash made their way over to Sir Korum as they had to do water training first. Throwing herself onto Amber Moon's back, she rode her towards him and waited for the others. He was already explaining how to wield the water element into weapons and shields.

"You have to focus on the shape that you are going to mould it into, kind of like clay. But only once you have

summoned the water element you can mould it. The water element is useful when battling against electricity - you can always send a tsunami that will shock your enemy.

Remember that you have to catch them off guard and that since it is liquid it will be easy to shape. Once you shape it, you have to freeze it unless you want it to explode all over the place, which is also useful, but not what we are doing just yet," he paused as if catching breath," so, any questions?"

Obediently, Luna lifted her hand and whispered to Amber Moon "Are you ready to do this?" Focused, she summoned the water element and pictured what she wanted her weapon to look like. It ended up with her covered in water as she couldn't freeze it in time. Her companions weren't doing so brightly either. At the very end of the session, everyone was wet and the dragons had to use the fire element to warm them up.



"Oh well that ended greatly," Ash had commented sarcastically, twisting her hair to dry it.

Layla was hugging Echosong's Fury, freezing to the bone. "I...I.... H..ope ... .we ...have.... Fire..... next.....t...." she said, as she was shivering so much; Luna thought she was going to cause an earthquake!

She headed towards Sir Flightwight, waiting for instructions, as her light brown hair turned golden in the sunlight. She felt Amber Moon's smooth scales as she felt her soft fur. "I think I have to brush Moonlight Mystery's fur as much as you two," Ash said, running her hand through her own dragon's tangled fur.



## Chapter 4

"Come on! We can't be late to fire training, they are going to teach us to summon the element with our dragons!" Ash exclaimed. She was glad that they were doing fire training as they were soaking wet and she just couldn't wait to train with Moonlight Mystery. Once they had arrived, Instructor Thomas stood up in the clearing next to her dragon Roar of a Lion.

"Today we are going to be learning to create fireballs. They are great for attacking from far away or catching

your opponent off guard. They are also a great distraction, as when they are trying to recover, you can attack with a different weapon. Right, so any questions?" She gazed across the clearing." Okay, you can start now."

Ash attempted to summon the fire element and shape it into a ball, but it was more difficult than expected. Her face was covered in ash and Luna had to ask Instructor Thomas to allow her to use the water element to wash Ash's face. In summary, it did not go as they had planned

" At least we're all dry now," Layla had said, trying to look on the bright side of things.

"Yeah and it was so fun when I nearly burned down to the ground!" Ash had said sarcastically.

" Come on, it couldn't have been that bad," Luna tried to cheer her up.

"Oh it was that bad," Ash replied grimly.



## Chapter 5

"Help!" A scream broke the deathening silence of the night. As quick as lightning, Layla threw herself on Echosong's Fury's back and rode deeper into the forest. Luna and Amber Moon were beside them and Ash was catching up with them as Moonlight Mystery was flying faster than all of them.

"Who do you think that was?" Layla had asked, worried if they were in danger.

"I don't know, but why do we have to save them? Aren't there enough experienced dragon riders to save them? I mean there are also dragons to protect them." Ash had said

"What if they aren't dragon riders? What if they are injured and unable to save themselves from danger?" Luna asked.

"Well if that is the case, we don't just stand there and do nothing!" Ash snapped, encouraging Moonlight Mystery to go faster. "Come on,"

As they came closer to the scream until they finally found it in an underground cave.

"Am I the only one who is kind of creeped out by all of this?" Layla had asked nervously.

"What do you mean? It's definitely not creepy at all," Ash's sarcastic reply echoed through the cave.

"Help!" the scream continued.

"Come on!" Luna hurried them into the cave. It was surprisingly huge as it managed to fit three dragons into it. Luna shuddered as they ventured deeper into the cave.



## Chapter 6

Anger surged through her as she plotted revenge. The princess would rise above all. Her plot was going according to plan. The dragon riders had entered the cave and were heading to help someone that was in pain. She was able to trick them in and would be able to take full control over them.

Misery and grief surged through her for a brief second. Memories of how she was meant to be leader first, but her "perfect" sister was instead.

It had been months since she had murdered her to be leader, but something hadn't felt right. Then she figured it out. She had to be leader of dragons too, but she had to be stronger than them and she had exactly what she needed.

The dark orb was a powerful piece of dark magic which had the power to wipe out all of the bonds the riders had with the dragons, leaving them powerless.

Once the riders were deep enough, she got into position. As soon as she could easily launch an attack, she summoned the dark magic and threw it towards a rider, but they were quick and summoned an ice shield at the last second

which shattered into pieces that she later threw towards her attacker. The princess dodged them, but some were already stuck in her flesh.

Another rider summoned a fireball in their hand and threw it towards her. Her face half burnt now, she shaped the dark magic to look exactly like the fireball and threw it at her.

Her dark magic was more powerful than a riders' attack, but she was outnumbered. She had considered fleeing, but knew that her father would order search teams to look for her and ambush her.

There was one other option, but she would never do it. The choice was clear. She had to stay and fight.



## Chapter 7

"No!" she screamed as she saw her friend lying limp on the cold, hard floor. Blinded with fury and pain, she held Amber Moon's neck and charged towards the princess.

Paralysed with fear, she saw the princess summon dark magic into her hand. Beside Luna, Layla seethed red with anger as she glanced at Ash lying on the floor. She couldn't be gone. Not after what they had been through.

"You distract her while I tend to Ash." Layla had said while passing behind Amber Moon on Echosong's Fury. Luna opened her mouth to argue, but shut it once again as she remembered that Layla was best at healing.

"Hey come here princess, or are you afraid?" she teased, hoping to have grabbed her attention.

Her golden curls were half burnt from the fireball Ash had sent, but her innocent smile was replaced with a sinister grin. The princess chuckled to herself, as Luna wanted to dive headfirst into the battle. Was she enjoying this? She summoned all the deadly weapons she knew, not much as she was only in her first year, fighting stronger than she ever had to avenge her injured friend.

The dragons helped too: Echosong's Fury was defending her rider, breathing out all the elements at once.

Moonlight Mystery didn't leave her rider's side, but was attacking as hard as she could, worry and grief piercing the dragon's heart.



## Chapter 8

"Murderer!" Luna shouted, tears running down her cheeks.  
"I should have known!"

She held the princess off while protecting Ash and Layla. Her heart skipped a beat as, with all her strength, she summoned the elements, Ash and Layla doing the same.

Suddenly , everything froze. The princess held out the dark orb and pointed it at Luna. Muffled screams echoed

inside her head as she summoned an elemental shield a second before the dark orb had zapped it into pieces.

But instead of fearing for the worse, Luna found herself crying tears of joy.

"Elemental magic and dark magic do not cooperate nicely and lead to an elemental burst that later on backfires for the dark magic, wiping out all of the user's power," she explained to the others, who seemed as relieved as she was.

"Guys we did it!" Layla squealed, "we saved all of the dragons. Don't you realise what that means?" She looked at them expectantly, "Well, I'll tell you - we get The Award of Honour!"

"You have received it through your strength and courage of your quest," Luna joked, imitating what would happen.

"Oh no! Just as I am starting to be normal, I get more and more famous," Ash sighed dramatically.

"What do you mean?" Layla questioned.

"I mean, my parents are going to brag about me, my sister gets jealous, I am expected to do too much and worst of all, my parents coddle me." Ash explained

"Oh well, tough luck for you then," Luna had joked and they all burst into laughter.





## Chapter 9

They had returned home after their battle and had been treated like they had saved humanity.

"I'm not used to this much attention!" Ash said, "actually, I'm not used to any attention. My parents are usually all over my sister, but now it's like she doesn't even exist."

"This 'saving all the dragons thing' is making us so famous," Luna said happily.

"Exactly. One time, I was going for an afternoon stroll and a little girl asked me to sign her notebook," Layla added.

"I just want to go back to training!" Ash complained, "I don't need to stay in this stupid hospital! My leg is fine! No need for ten doctors tending to me at the same time!"

"Well, lucky for you, you can leave now!" Layla gushed, "Surprise! The doctor told me when I got here. You can train with us again!"

Ash let out a squeal, hugged Layla and Luna and soon they were home again.

Everything went back to normal. They had carried on training and soon all the attention died away.

They were regular dragon riders once more, who wouldn't go on any secret adventures again.

Or would they?

We hope that you and your family and friends enjoy the book that you have created.

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SWITCHED ON!

*It has been a year since Luna had entered the academy and bonded with her beloved dragon Amber Moon, but darkness lurks in the shadows and secrets of the past are slowly revealing themselves.*

*Will Luna and her companions be able to repel the darkness, or will they be too late?*