



A Dragon's Guide to Making Your Human Smarter

Laurence Yep , Joanne Ryder , Mary GrandPré (Illustrations)

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For fans of *How to Train Your Dragon* comes a new tale about dragon Miss Drake and her human pet Winnie, by a two-time Newbery Honor winner, featuring illustrations by Caldecott Honor winner Mary GrandPré.

Three-thousand-year-old Miss Drake has arranged to send her dear pet Winnie to The Spriggs Academy, an extraordinary school for humans and magicals alike. Winnie is particularly excited about magic class and having Sir Isaac Newton for science. She's also making new friends—and frenemies. . . .

When a plot to snatch Winnie from her San Francisco home is uncovered, Miss Drake is ready to use all her cunning and magic to thwart it. Not that feisty Winnie needs the help. . . . As a team, the intrepid duo you first met in *A Dragon's Guide to the Care and Feeding of Humans* is unstoppable!

With equal doses of whimsy and humor, Laurence Yep and Joanne Ryder have crafted an enchanting story about true friendship.

Praise for *A Dragon's Guide to Making Your Human Smarter*

- "Yep and Ryder keep the magic coming with their whimsical fantasy, enhanced by Grandpré's sweet drawings. The story positively vibrates with fun." —*Kirkus Reviews*
- " Lighthearted episodes of unusual school lessons and field trips, illustrated by GrandPré's winsome spot art, are grounded by Miss Drake's more serious encounters with the goons...a gratifying development as this buoyant, fantastical series continues."—*The Horn Book Review*

Praise for *A Dragon's Guide to the Care and Feeding of Humans*

- *"Warm humor, magical mishaps, and the main characters' budding mutual respect and affection combine to give this opener for a planned series a special shine that will draw readers and leave them impatient for sequels." —*Booklist*, Starred
- "The tale is alternately comical, suspenseful and sometimes sweetly emotional." —*Kirkus Reviews*
- "Miss Drake's arch narration and the sharp back-and-forth between the characters create an enchanting story, accented by GrandPré's whimsical black-and-white spot illustrations." —*Publishers Weekly*
- "With a black-and-white spot illustration opening most chapters, an engaging narrator, and a consistently fluid writing style, this title makes a fine dragon choice for readers." —*School Library Journal*

From the Hardcover edition.

A Dragon's Guide to Making Your Human Smarter Details

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Joanne Ryder , Mary GrandPré (Illustrations)**

From Reader Review A Dragon's Guide to Making Your Human Smarter for online ebook

KittyAilla says

Ma??stwo nadal utrzymuje delikatn? dzieci?c? atmosfer?, jednak ksi??ka wydaje si? by? ju? dojrza?sza. Styl autorów nadal pozostaje dopasowany do kategorii wiekowej. Tym bardziej, ?e nadal w ksi??ce spotykamy si? z niesamowitym humorem oraz lekk? atmosfer? grozy.

Winnie i panna Drake nadal nie mog? si? pogodzi?, która si? któr? opiekuje, ale dzi?ki temu wynikaj? same zabawne sytuacje. Dodatkowo na pole wkracza dziadek Winnie, a dziewczynka idzie do szko?y, gdzie poznaje niezwyk?e przyjaciółki. Akcja rozp?dza si?, aby zaskakiwa? nas na ka?dym kroku. Nie przewidzicie, jak zakończy si? konflikt z Jarvisem. Dodatkowo mo?ecie lepiej pozna? wykreowan? wcze?niej spo?eczno?? magiczn?.

Panna Drake nadal pozostaje zrz?d?, ale taki urok jej wieku - te? by?cie zrz?dzili maj?c kilkaset lat. Poza tym smoczyć? naprawd? da si? lubi?. Winnie by?a dziarsk? panienk?, ale w tym tomie zdecydowanie dojrza?a. Najlepsze jest w jej kreacji to, ?e jednocze?nie nadal zostaje dzieckiem. Intryguj?c? bohaterk? okaza?a si? matka dziewczynki, Liza. W starciu z wiedz?, do której niewiele osób ma dost?p, pokaza?a si?? swojego charakteru. Nowe kole?anki Winnie to wachlarz przeró?nych charakterów, a poznawanie ich staje si? integraln? cz??ci? akcji.

Winnie i panna Drake jako narratorki spisuj? si? ?wietnie - mo?emy pozna? histori? z dwóch perspektyw: wiekowego smoka oraz dziecka. Z zaciękwieniem ?ledzimy ich losy, razem z nimi poznajemy ?wiat magii oraz nowych przyjaciół. Nadal podtrzymuje moje zdanie - ksi??ka powinna przypa?? do gustu ka?demu (a zw?aszcza porady, jak wychowa? sobie cz?owieka) :)

MJ says

Such an easy read and funny too! What's not to like?

Erica says

Wini's life has completely changed when her great aunt dies and leaves everything to her and her mother, including her great aunt's dragon. Wini and Miss Drake work well together in finding the BALANCE Wini needs away from her controlling Grandfather. Wini shows great COMMITMENT to her studies and new friends. Because she's had so little she could count on in life she shows great APPRECIATION for all that she has.

Fun story to here a story told from a dragon's perspective as well as Wini's.

Beka says

Even better than the first book! I think both Winnie and Miss Drake show some definite growth in this book,

and I definitely enjoyed the additions of the school and their servants. Love this series!!

Roli says

Sweet and simple - I especially liked the Afterword :-)

Ms. Yingling says

Copy received from Young Adult Books Central

In this sequel to *A Dragon's Guide to the Care and Feeding of Humans*, we find Winnie and her mother much better off. They are living in Miss Drake's house, and Winnie's mother has a job at a local stable. Even though their lot is improved, Winnie's grandfather Jarvis is trying to gain custody of Winnie by having his goons follow her. In order to learn more about magic, as well as to be kept safe from her grandfather, Winnie is enrolled in Spriggs Academy, a school for magicals. Since Miss Drake is a big benefactor of the school, Winnie should be welcomed with open arms, but the mean girls give her a hard time. Luckily, she meets Liri and Mabli, who take her under their wing and share their magic with her as much as they can. The school has field trips to Loch Ness, a massive Halloween party, and lots of fun activities, and soon Winnie feels like a part of the magical community.

Told from both Winnie and Miss Drake's perspective, this has a lot of charming details about the magic in Miss Drake's world. Famous people from the past (like Isaac Newton) show up as teachers at the academy, and the students learn all sorts of spells and potions. Vasalisa, the family cook, has a delightful Small Doll who comes to Winnie's aid at school-- but be careful, no chocolate is safe in the house when she's around!

The San Francisco setting is fun as well, and Jarvis' spies add a level of tension to Winnie's experience. This book would be good for readers who really would like to pick up Harry Potter but are not yet strong enough readers, or for readers who want a less scary alternative to David Lubar's *Monsterific Tales*.

Aeicha says

Winnie and 3,000 year old dragon, Miss Drake, are back for another dragon-sized adventure! Winnie starts at The Spriggs Academy, an all-girls school for humans and magicals. With teachers like Sir Isaac Newton and classes about magic, Winnie quickly finds herself enjoying school, and even makes great friends. But a new danger, in the form of Winnie's paternal grandfather, Jarvis, lurks in the shadows. Miss Drake is determined to do whatever she has to to keep Winnie safe. And precocious Winnie has her own frenemy to deal with at school.

I absolutely LOVED *A Dragon's Guide to the Care and Feeding of Your Human* and authors Yep and Ryder have created magic again with *A Dragon's Guide to Making Your Human Smarter!* With a sparkling, pitch-perfect voice and a story that just bursts with charm and whimsy, this book simply dazzles and delights. The magical secret-world of San Francisco and the quirky Spriggs Academy, make for captivating and imaginative settings. In every corner of Winnie's lovely home, the city, and Spriggs Academy, there are fascinating objects, people, and magic to find and young readers will love every minute of discovering it all. The Spriggs Academy, with its unusual classes, unforgettable (and at times, wonderfully wacky) teachers,

and unbelievable field trips (meeting Nessie in the Loch!), this is one school readers will wish they could attend!

What I loved most about book one in this series, were the fantastic characters, and Yep and Ryder bring back witty Winnie and lovable Miss Drake, and introduce readers to a gaggle of new, fun and engaging characters, both humans and magicals. Readers will enjoy seeing Winnie's friendships blossom, be entertained by her frenemy situation, and love her heartwarming and tender friendship with Miss Drake.

my final thoughts: A Dragon's Guide to Making Your Human Smarter is filled with adventure, humor, heart, and wonder from beginning to end, and readers will find themselves utterly charmed!

Stacy Mozer says

I enjoyed A Dragon's Guide to the Care and Feeding of Humans. I adored - loved - must get a copy of A Dragon's Guide to Making Your Human Smarter. Told from both Winnie and Miss Drake's points of view, Winnie starts school and makes friends and enemies under the watchful eye of Miss Drake. But that doesn't stop Winnie from getting into trouble.

Mrs. Downs says

NOT AVAILABLE

GR:

Lexile: 840

Wini's life has completely changed when her great aunt dies and leaves everything to her and her mother, including her great aunt's dragon. Wini and Miss Drake work well together in finding the BALANCE Wini needs away from her controlling Grandfather. Wini shows great COMMITMENT to her studies and new friends. Because she's had so little she could count on in life she shows great APPRECIATION for all that she has.

Fun story to here a story told from a dragon's perspective as well as Wini's.

Dena (Batch of Books) says

Winnie is starting school at Spriggs, an academy for magicals. Miss Drake finds out that Winnie's grandfather is still on her trail and might pose a significant threat to her. Thankfully, being a dragon has its benefits. While Winnie gets adjusted to her new school, Miss Drake does everything in her power to ensure Winnie's safety. But a cryptic prophesy from an ancient beast makes both Miss Drake and Winnie wonder what the near future might hold.

My kids and I enjoy reading this series. We started with the first book, A Dragon's Guide to the Care and Feeding of Humans and liked it quite a bit. We liked this book just as much. My kids especially liked the field trips the students go on and the magic they performed at different times in the book.

I read this out loud to my kids at the same time that I was reading another book. I got some of the characters and minor points confused because of the similarities. However, it's a well written and fun story that kids will like. I'm looking forward to more adventures with Winnie and Miss Drake!

Content: Clean

Source: I received a copy of this book for consideration from the publisher. All thoughts expressed are my own.

My blog: Batch of Books

Keira Chu says

Absolutely loving these Dragon books - from the perspective of a feisty soft-hearted dragon!!! Refreshing, well written, captivating and so full of imagination! Wish it would be made into a movie like the Harry Potter books.

Miss Clark says

2.5 stars

It capitalizes on all the best qualities of the first book and integrates the "evil" grandfather into the story, allowing Winnie to both save herself and to perhaps forge a relationship with her distant and lonely grandfather.

Miss Drake was enjoyable and I liked all the supporting friends.

Sarah says

Things I Storming Love About This Book:

-**Miss Drake** who is lovely and determined to protect Winnie and her mother at all costs and not spoil Winnie's chance of a lovely childhood.

-**Winnie's relationship with her mom** because Winnie's mom is actually present in the story for the most part and Winnie wants to tell her stuff and only reluctantly doesn't (which is rather the opposite of the usual) and they genuinely love each other and care for each other and protect each other and it makes me happy.

-**Magical school that doesn't make me groan.** Possibly because it's not exclusively a magic school; it teaches ordinary things in extraordinary ways and then adds some extraordinary stuff too. And the "naturals," as they're called, aren't looked down on by the populace as a whole, just by some snooty, prejudiced people. And that really is quite different from most of the magical schools I've heard about and it's quite refreshing. On that note, Isaac Newton as science teacher is the Absolute Best. Just saying.

What I Didn't Like:

-Ok, I'm sorry, but the school setting, particularly the interactions between students, started off more than a little cliché. And while it did get better, I was worried for a while.

-The ending seemed . . . easy? Not entirely realistic, and not the same type of unrealistic as dragons and fairies and dwarves.

Overall, it was good, but not as good as the first one. We'll see how the last one does in comparison.

Tom says

I liked some of the resolution with the main and secondary antagonist. But there was a lot of annoying stuff and things that didn't make sense, too. Overall, I thought was downhill from book 1. The author(s) also take a long time getting plots started and working out conclusions after the resolution. This doesn't work too well for me. And I still wish Miss Drake were a bit more authoritarian with Winnie. But I do like the emphasis here in some of the plot resolution that Winnie's particular characteristics are uncommon.

Mark Buxton says

My name is Miss Drake, and Winnie, my pet human, has started school at Sprigg's Academy, a school for magics and mortals. I've been secretly watching to make sure her temper doesn't get her into trouble again, especially with Nanette's attempts to bully her. She seems to be adjusting well, although I should have spent more time over the summer teaching her about magical history. Unfortunately, Winnie's mother knows nothing about magic, and my shape-changing has kept her from discovering I'm a dragon. Our biggest problems are that Winnie's grandfather Jarvis is plotting to get custody of her, and the school is requiring Nanette and Winnie to spend every minute together. Winnie is a strong girl, but an Internet video may bring an end to our friendship.

Unfortunately, I did not read the first book before reading this one. The story is told from alternating points of view, but the author added a cute twist. Winnie and Miss Drake each believe the other is her pet, especially Miss Drake, although it's clear they're close friends. I found the mixture of magic and technology amusing. Miss Drake, the teachers, and other creatures performed spells, but Miss Drake still needed to check her texts and emails. An endearing character is Small Doll. This small doll cleaned the house every night, but no one ever saw it move or heard it speak. It especially loved sweets. Winnie carried it with her on her first day at the magical school, and Small Doll was able to foresee problems and turn the tables on would-be pranksters. Jarvis created the conflict in the plot, but he wasn't an active character. The threat of his behind-the-scenes actions was the big problem. For most young readers, the issues at school are probably most relatable. Winnie didn't want to stand out, and she wanted to make friends. Nanette didn't like her, but that was partly due to Winnie's innocent intentions. It wasn't Winnie's fault the teacher's liked her better than Nanette. Overall, this was a cute story that should be enjoyed by most young readers.
