



Dragon Run

Patrick Matthews

[Download now](#)

[Read Online ➔](#)

Dragon Run

Patrick Matthews

Dragon Run Patrick Matthews

A boy goes on the run in this fast-paced fantasy debut.

Can a zero become a hero?

Testing Day is supposed to be a day of celebration for Al Pilgrommor. Born into a wealthy family, he expects to follow in his successful father's footsteps. Of course, that all depends on the rank number Al receives at the testing. The higher the rank he has tattooed onto his neck, the better his life will be.

To his surprise and horror, Al is revealed to be rank zero, the lowest of the low. He's now not only an outcast — he's also a danger to his entire family. So Al goes on the run, fleeing the brutal Cullers, men who hunt down zeroes . . . and put them to death.

Cast out of his home, cut off from his friends, and armed with only a sword and his wits, Al is reduced to just surviving. As he meets other outcasts, however, he begins to suspect that he is a pawn in a larger game — and that he might have the power to tip the scales in a high-stakes struggle between man and dragon.

Dragon Run Details

Date : Published March 1st 2013 by Scholastic Press

ISBN : 9780545450683

Author : Patrick Matthews

Format : Hardcover 336 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Dragons, Childrens, Middle Grade, Adventure, Magic, Fiction

 [Download Dragon Run ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Dragon Run ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Dragon Run Patrick Matthews

From Reader Review Dragon Run for online ebook

Emily says

This was definitely not one of those books that I was sad to finish reading. In fact, I skimmed the last 70 pages or so, and really, I still got what I needed from the story. This isn't a bad book, but it is underdeveloped. It focuses a lot on plot and setting, with very little character development or background. I just didn't care about the main character - Al. The setting is really intriguing - fantastical kingdom ruled by dragons where everyone is ranked from 0-7 at the age of twelve. But the author never really digs in any deeper to the back story or uses any kind of description to give me the depth of information that I wanted about the setting. Just a two, and now I can move on to better reads.

Nilsson says

They got the better of the Dragons, and I'm glad it was easy for them. On the part of the Dragons, I thought they could be more cunning than that. It seems like a fish story, but fact is stranger than fiction.

demonslayer666 says

i love how in the sunken city some thing rubbed against his leg and he freaked out it was such a funny twist and the suspsense in it was amazing i read it because it was awesome i love it please make a second book.

Laura says

My 10 year old sped through this book and really enjoyed it. I'll try to get him to write an actual review soon.

Sam says

Not only does Dragon Run have a great cover, but it also was a great story.

Patrick Matthews has created a fun, exciting, action packed story that is full of relatable and realistic characters. Truly a book I'd recommend to anyone looking for a good read.

As mentioned Dragon Run is full of action. It has sword fights, daring escapes from killers, and fire breathing dragons. The story though is what really hooked me and kept me glued to the pages. Dragon Run is fast paced, explains itself, so reader's are not left with gaping holes in the story, and just plain well written. I really enjoyed every page and couldn't wait to see what happened next to Al, Trillia, Bird, and Wisp. This is book is great for readers of all ages.

Of course, what made Dragon Run such a great book in my opinion were the characters. Matthews does an

amazing job creating a group of characters (especially the protagonist Al) who show real emotions in a way that readers will be able to commiserate with the lots fate has thrown at them. Not only that, but while these 12 year olds do make a big difference (they being the protagonists and all) it wasn't completely out of the blue. The fulfilled plans that had been in place for generations. Al's sword fighting ability was good, but not extraordinary, his escapes from a dungeon, the Cullers, and the magistrate were all because of the help of others. Basically what I'm saying is while Al does turn the tide, everything that takes place in the book makes sense and is realistic. Society is not changed forever because one boy decided to make it so in a matter of days. Even Al's escape and exile lasted weeks on end, and none of it could have been achieved if not for the help of others. Further, none of the characters emotions are fake. Readers will be able to see the shift from shock, to acceptance, to anger, to resentment, to determination, and all of the changes will make sense.

All in all, Dragon Run is a fantastic book. I have no problem recommending it to anyone who enjoys fantasy or YA and can't wait to read more books by Patrick Matthews, especially if it includes further adventures with Al, Trillia, Wisp, and Bird.

<http://whatchamacallitreviews.blogspot.com>

Peter says

It is surprising long. It is an AMAZING adventure story with so much action and an extremely well developed plot. The magical world inside the book is also amazing. I couldn't stop reading it.

Mary says

I know Pat Matthews as an inspired board game designer, so could not wait to read his book as well. It did not disappoint - read it in 2 sittings! Highly recommend it to anyone looking for a good story to get lost in. :)

Ms. Yingling says

Al has high hopes for his Testing, but is assigned a zero, the lowest rank in his medievalish community. A guard helps him escape because of a hat he has borrowed, and tells him that Cullers want to kill not only him, but his entire family. His friend Wisp's father, a former military man involved in a horrible dragon battle, knew that Al would be a zero and warned the family. Al heads to Brighton and teams up with Bird, an "earther", and the two are in the city when it is attacked by rockeaters. They are then accused of stealing and meet Magister Lundi, who is impressed with Al but throws him in jail anyway. He escapes, and ends up in Dockside, where he reconnects with Wisp as well as friend Trillia. Al has discovered that the dragons whom he has been taught protect everyone really are evil and are sucking Potentia out of everyone. Will's zero rating means that he transmits the least amount of power to the dragons; hence he is useless to them, and the Cullers are there to insure that zeroes are wiped out. After escaping Cullers yet again, Al proves invaluable to Magister Lundi in defeating the evil Lord Archover and the dragons.

To check out a lot of background information on the different types of creatures, etc., check out the web site at <http://www.dragon-run.com/>.

Strengths: There are never enough fantasy books to keep hard core readers happy, and this action packed adventure will be just the ticket for lovers of dragons and medieval adventure. The class rank system is very interesting, especially given how Al's zero works out for him in the end. The best part of this is the action-- Al is a great sword fighter, there are scenes like the rockeater attack and multiple fights with the Cullers, as well as a huge dragon battle.

Weaknesses: There were a lot of things about the world of this book that could have been explained. They made sense eventually, but I would have understood more easily with an up front explanation. Fantasy is really not my thing. Fantasy is not my thing, but I have students who will adore this.

Christiana says

Fun and unpredictable-I liked this world a lot! The best thing you can do for booktalking this is give no description-I loved getting to be surprised because I had NO IDEA what the book jacket said. Easier said than done, I know, but the results are worth it.

Experiment BL626 says

Dragon Run was exciting and fun!

+ the plot

The first half was good. I liked how exposition was conveyed without tipping into info-dumping territory. Never once did the story feel slow going. In fact, there was always suspense which surprised and thrilled me.

Once the plot hit the half mark, it ran faster. There was CONSPIRACY. It appeared Al's induction as a rank zero triggered converging schemes into motion. Hot damn!

When the plot reached last quarter mark, it ran furiously. Revelations struck, bam! War against the evil dragons began, bam! The hero rushed to accomplish his mission before all hope was lost, bam, bam, bam! Action, action, action. I loved it!

+ the characters

I liked Al a lot. He had a lot of anxieties and insecurities in the beginning but near halfway in the book he began to discover courage, resourcefulness, and this thing called thinking on your own. He began to grow into the hero I hoped he would become. I liked how what made him a hero was his inner strength, not his status as a rank zero which thankfully never devolved into a special snowflake.

What I loved most about Al was the fact that he learned from his mistakes, in particular how he continued to practice his sword skill — on his own, without anyone's provocation — because he knew it was survival skill he must learn. A hero learning from his mistakes and trying to be smart and practical? Say what? *Hell yes!* The kid rocked the story in the last half with his awesomeness. I never felt like he was out of his depth or too young for the task. Hot damn, Al put a lot of the adult heroes I read in my adult books to shame. *A lot, a lot.* Ocean wide.

I also liked Al's friends. I loved that Trillia and Wisp reappeared by the half mark and teamed up with Al to save him which quickly turned into save the world from the evil dragons. Two boys, one girl, one mission to the save world; it's a true and tried formula.

I liked Al, and Wisp was okay, but I loved Trillia the most! She was a lady, but she was no damsel in distress. If anything, she would be the knight in shining armor on a white horse who would ride to rescue her dudes in distress, Al and Wisp. I would not have been surprised if that happen in some form. She was so awesome but fortunately for Al she never shone so much that she took the spotlight away him, although to be honest I wouldn't have minded it much.

I pitied Wisp. He was just pitifully average in comparison to his heroic friends, but I'm glad he turned out to be a true friend and a helpful person (read: not a burden) in the mission. I quickly forgave Wisp for his single act of betrayal against Al.

+ niggles

The characters were great but there some niggles with the supporting characters, besides the one with Wisp for being pitifully average. Readers never learn who Lady Sapphire truly was or what specific role Al's father played in regard to the Third, a clandestine militia who went anti-Dragons because their Dragon lord betrayed them. It was not as if there was a lack of opportunities because there were many. Then there was Al's sister who was always mentioned but never in-depth as if she was insignificant which struck me as odd. I liked that the plot always kept things moving, but it did to an extent where I felt like an inch of depth was sacrificed in the process.

My last niggle was the ending. It was great, but I wished there was an epilogue to extend the celebratory mood and allow me to see the aftermath.

In Conclusion

I rate *Dragon Run* 4-stars for I really liked it. I decided to bump it a star because it was a fun read which I don't get enough of lately, especially when one of the last books I recently read had a protagonist who was only a year older than Al but it was a brutal read. *Dragon Run* was a great followup after that book.

I recommend *Dragon Run* if you're looking for a fun read. Don't let the fact that it's a Middle Grade book deter you if you don't usually read Middle Grade like me. If you love the movie *How To Train Your Dragon* and desire a similar entertainment, try *Dragon Run*.

Jen Marqt says

First time book author, Patrick Matthews, has created a wonderful, believable, couldn't-put-it-down story. My only 'complaint' is that I wanted more explanation about everything! But for the average intermediate student it is just right. Characters were real and other races that inhabit this world are creative and multi-dimensional. I really, really hope there will be a sequel. The two small bits of girl-interested-in-unsuspecting-boy are easily read over and so boys, as well as girls, will be putting themselves in this ordinary-boy-turned-hero fantasy. Give this to Harry Potter fans still looking for magic in their life. Grades 3-7. For more, visit the book's website: <http://www.dragon-run.com/magic.htm>.

Sarah says

The first 75% of this book was so completely pointless, it almost made me want to stop reading it. Okay okay, we got it in the first chapter that zeros are bad and that the Cullers are going to kill not only Al, but his entire family as well.

But this book took its damned sweet time in actually getting to the point after the initial set-up. Most of the book after Al was ranked was just him running around and... um... not dying? Yeah, okay. I don't really want to read a book about that.

But once the actual reasoning behind the rankings was explained and all of the nonsense with the dragons, too, it stopped being something that I wanted to put down and never pick up again. It just baffles me why a book would take 3/4 of the entire time to actually get to the point, and then everything just sort of ends.

Maybe I would have enjoyed this better if I'd been the intended age demographic (10-12 or so). And maybe if the first half of the book hadn't reminded me of that pretentious communism book, *Anthem*, that I had to read in high school.

Stacy Goodworth says

It was fun, fast paced, and enjoyable. Kids would love it. And it certainly was an interesting twist on the old story where a nobody is the only one who can change the world for the better.

Tamara Richman says

Oh so close to excellent, there were moments I thought you would cross over but... no. Still a quite acceptable dragon fantasy with enough originality to keep ones interest. The furred warriors (forget their name) were cool. I actually wanted more background on the dragons, magisters and cullers and less on Al's thoughts and feelings. Ah well, by all means hand it to your 3rd-6th grade dragon fans.

Shanshad Whelan says

(Review of an Advanced Reader Copy, so basing this on things that may change by the final print) Okay . . . so this lands at about a 3.5 for me. Which is pretty amazing considering I was ready not to be won over at all by a "dragon" book. A lot of the plot elements in here are not particularly new: a society living under dragon overlords are all ranked on their testing day--and that rank will define their place in the world. Al is a young man who expects and hopes to get a high rank number . . . and winds up a zero. Al didn't even know zero was a rank, now he's on the run and about to discover the truth about his world.

This sort of plot has been covered again and again. It doesn't make it a bad one. Patrick Matthews manages to spin off a fairly fun and fresh take on this. Plenty of action and adventure along with magic . . . and, dragons. Now I have some issues with parts of the writing especially towards the end. The climax scenes of the book are pulled off at nearly the last few pages, and wind up being quite abrupt. I felt like the last few

chapters should have been a bit longer on the wrap up, instead of tying everything up in a few paragraphs.

Still, this book has a lot to recommend it for young fantasy readers. My favorite part about it is that our young hero, despite his ranking remains a capable and "powerful" hero. He's not the youngster starting out wide-eyed and fearful with no skills to keep himself safe. He knows how to fight and how to survive, and makes every effort to do so.

I think a lot of the young fantasy readers I know will enjoy this.
