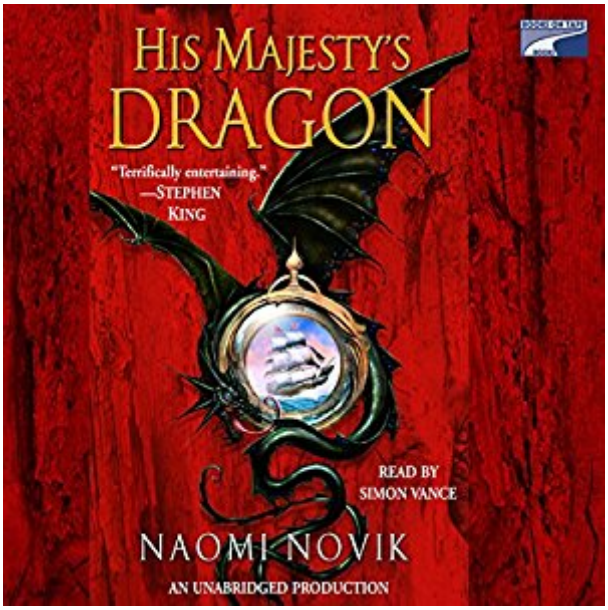
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His Majesty's Dragon: Temeraire, Book 1



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Synopsis

Aerial combat brings a thrilling new dimension to the Napoleonic Wars as valiant warriors rise to BritainÃ¢â ¬â„¢s defense by taking to the skies . . . not aboard aircraft but atop the mighty backs of fighting dragons.When HMS Reliant captures a French frigate and seizes its precious cargo, an unhatched dragon egg, fate sweeps Capt. Will Laurence from his seafaring life into an uncertain futureÃ¢â ¬â œand an unexpected kinship with a most extraordinary creature. Thrust into the rarified world of the Aerial Corps as master of the dragon Temeraire, he will face a crash course in the daring tactics of airborne battle. For as FranceÃ¢â ¬â„¢s own dragon-borne forces rally to breach British soil in BonaparteÃ¢â ¬â„¢s boldest gambit, Laurence and Temeraire must soar into their own baptism of fire. --This text refers to the Mass Market Paperback edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Years ago my husband and I were on a long car trip and stopped at a Cracker Barrel to eat and decided to rent a book to listen to. We happened to get this book and loved it but forgot about it, especially the title. Years later I was trying to find it because we wanted to listen to it again, but I could not find it in all the thousands of dragon books that are out there now. Then I happened on this on and thought it sounded good, so we bought it to listen to on a trip. Lo and behold it is the same book. We enjoyed it again and will be buying the rest of the series. The narration is quite good. The characters are well-developed, and we love the dragons. Even though they are a bloodthirsty lot (eating lots of meat and enjoying battle), some of them, especially the main one,

Temeraire, have good qualities you sometimes don't find in humans like intelligence, loyalty and the ability to care about others, even other species. There is also a fair amount of humor throughout the book which we love.

This is an outstanding series, combining alternate history with fantasy. Set during the Napoleonic Wars, Novik uses a writing style while not truly reminiscent of the era, manages to convey an earlier, more formal time. Yes, there is an agenda, but it doesn't intrude on the rrader's enjoyment. If you haven't met Temeraire, don't waste any more time. The excitement of aerial combat - on dragonback! - and the sheer joy of these well-developed characters and well-constructed plots made me terribly sorry to finish the ninth and final book. I'd give the book 10***** if I could.

After reading the first few pages, I wasn't sure that this book was for me. I am not much of a history buff, and I didn't know anything about the Napoleonic Era. However, as soon as the dragons were introduced I was sold. The characters evolve to be so brilliantly dynamic. I still have a few pages left, but I can't wait for the second book of the series to arrive in the mail.As a side note, for some reason a few of the pages had a sticky substance on them that glued the pages together, and when I pulled the pages apart, it darkened a few words. Not really a huge issue and probably a fluke, but I have attached a picture. Note, the picture contains a later portion of the book and may be considered a spoiler.

Oh no! I have been caught by a series! This story was so good that I simply must read more! I liked the careful description of the various types of dragons. Combining this fantasy with historical events adds to my interest. I recognize names and places. Though war and battles are not my usual choice in reading, these are different enough to hold my interest. I liked the strategy discussions. The characters are interesting and varied. I will read more.

I was delighted to find this series. I'm posting this review later than usual because I've been so caught up in reading subsequent books that I forgot all about reviewing.I had never heard of this series or of [author Naomi Novik before I heard about, read, and loved her recent award-winning novel Uprooted. Books about dragons aren't generally at the top of my list, but after reading Uprooted and then seeing favorable reviews of this series, I plunged happily in.The basic conceit is alternate history: humanity has always coexisted with dragons, and national militaries have long incorporated them, pairing them with human aviators. The series begins during this alternate Earth's

Napoleonic wars. (Caveat: I am not well versed in this period of our own history, and don’t know how closely the series’ version tracks ours.) Naval captain Will Laurence’s British ship captures a French vessel and discovers a dragon’s egg, nearly ready to hatch, in its hold . . . and so begins the saga.At least a cursory attempt is made to explain dragons’ ability to fly, which is refreshing. The other characteristics of dragons, in general and for particular breeds, are intriguing, and are revealed sporadically, adding interest throughout the narrative.Laurence is a well-constructed character, bright, honorable, and courageous, yet with limits and foibles that keep him from becoming a Mary Sue. The dragon Laurence names Temeraire is very much a co-protagonist, well worth getting to know, and with depths not entirely plumbed even in the first two novels. (I’m currently reading #3.)I also appreciated the varied tactics used in a number of battles and other conflicts, as well as the book’s realistic (IMHO) view of the sometimes short-sighted functioning of government bureaucracies, military and otherwise.

What I Liked:The writing is excellent.I love dragons, so I immediately fell in love with Temeraire, an intelligent dragon who speaks to humans.I found the relationship between Captain Laurence and Temeraire endearing. In many ways, this is a quiet book about a manÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s journey into a new relationship, a new career, and a new lifestyle.Novik captures the Victorian manners and sensibilities, especially in Captain Laurence. This probably seems a little odd, but Laurence is a rather uptight, upper-class Brit, who adheres to his classÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ sense of morality. Once he joins the air corps, he finds himself among people who are far more casual and challenge his sensibilities.I enjoyed his personal growth and change. He changes but retains his essence. Some have described the characters as flat. I didn’t find that to be true. Laurence is a product of his time, and his personality reflects his cultural upbringing.The alternate history is exciting and great fun.What I WasnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t Crazy About:There was a lack of strong, complex female characters. There were female characters but they were more props than fully developed characters.I found this book fun and engaging enough to continue the series. I would caution readers who are looking for high adventure and continuous war with flying dragons; this isnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t that kind of book.

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