



Seraphina

By Rachel Hartman

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Lyrical, imaginative, and wholly original, this *New York Times* bestseller with 8 starred reviews is not to be missed. Rachel Hartman's award-winning debut will have you looking at dragons as you've never imagined them before...

In the kingdom of Goredd, dragons and humans live and work side by side – while below the surface, tensions and hostility simmer.

The newest member of the royal court, a uniquely gifted musician named Seraphina, holds a deep secret of her own. One that she guards with all of her being.

When a member of the royal family is brutally murdered, Seraphina is drawn into the investigation alongside the dangerously perceptive—and dashing—Prince Lucien. But as the two uncover a sinister plot to destroy the wavering peace of the kingdom, Seraphina's struggle to protect her secret becomes increasingly difficult... while its discovery could mean her very life.

"Will appeal to both fans of Christopher Paolini's *Eragon* series and Robin McKinley's *The Hero and the Crown*." —*Entertainment Weekly*

"[A] lush, intricately plotted fantasy." —*The Washington Post*

"Beautifully written. Some of the most interesting dragons I've read."
—Christopher Paolini, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Eragon*

From the Hardcover edition.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Amazon Best Teen Book of the Month, July 2012: In *Seraphina*, dragons and humans maintain an uneasy peace and for a woman who is both there is nowhere to turn for acceptance--not even within herself. Seraphina has spent her young life concealing the truth of her parentage and authentic nature, a task that proves ever more difficult when she is thrust into the spotlight of the royal court. Author Rachel Hartman's dragons take human form but shun the messiness of human emotion by remaining "in ard" (a highly rational state of mind), while their counterparts cling to a dangerous assumption of species superiority. As the anniversary of the treaty between the two sides approaches, court intrigue reaches a fever pitch and hard-won truths, betrayals, and intricacies of the heart are laid bare. *Seraphina* is a beautifully complex fantasy that delves into the most basic of desires—to be loved, to belong, and to find peace in self-acceptance. --*Seira Wilson*

Guest Review by Tamora Pierce

Tamora Pierce is a best-selling author of fantasy books for teenagers. Her books, known for their teenaged girl warriors and wizards, have received critical acclaim and a strong fanbase. Her newest book, *Mastiff*, is the third book in The Legend of Beka Cooper series.

In *Seraphina*'s world, coldly intellectual dragons can take on the shapes--and feelings--of human beings. Sometimes this results in a surprise. Seraphina's father married a beautiful musician, and discovered too late that she was a dragon. She died, leaving him with a daughter who confuses him and his new wife and children.

Now the half-dragon Seraphina is the assistant to the cranky royal music master. She is in charge of Princess Glisselda's music lessons; she books performers for the 40-year celebration of the peace treaty between dragons and humans, and she rehearses the rowdy court musicians. She has to hide the scales on her arm and around her waist, and she can never let anyone find out that Orma, her music teacher, is actually a dragon.

When she plays the solo for the funeral of the realm's murdered prince, Seraphina is suddenly raised into entirely new, visible levels of peril. People she always avoided are noticing her. She has to attend social functions, where she is caught up in court politics, between those who support the treaty and those who want to destroy it. She runs afoul of conspirators who want to start the war again--one of them may be her own grandfather. She even discovers that Prince Lucian, who is betrothed to Princess Glisselda, is not only very sharp-eyed but also very agreeable to be around. He appreciates her insights on intrigue at court and in the city and uses her as an unofficial investigator into the ongoing unrest.

The plot thickens. A new religious order plots riots and revolution. Exiled knights return to report an unregulated dragon flying near where the old prince was murdered. The dragons are trying to send Orma for corrective surgery--they think he's gotten too human and they want to cut those parts out of his brain. Seraphina fears that if she tells the prince and the princess what she is, they'll hate her forever, but their work to preserve the treaty celebrations is bringing them closer together. And all of them are terrified that the dragons will decide that humans are not worth the trouble, and will destroy them at last.

I loved this book even more the second time I read it than I did the first. The characters are interesting and

engaging, and I love the new look at dragons. For all that she's half-dragon, Seraphina is a very believable human being, caught between different loyalties and just trying to keep everyone she loves alive. But don't take my word for it--read it yourself!

From School Library Journal

Gr 7 Up-For nearly 40 years, the treaty between the humans of Goredd and the dragons of dragonkind has held strong. Humans must not enter dragonkind territory and dragons, upon entering human lands, must take their human shape, or saarantrai. In Goredd, Seraphina's human father, a high official, needs her to stay anonymous. The dark secret that she must hide is that her mother was a dragon. Because of her musical talents, Seraphina becomes Goredd's music assistant, helping prepare for the anniversary celebration. Layers of clothing disguise the scales on her arms and stomach, but unlike dragons, her blood runs red, not silver. Also, to keep from having fainting spells in which she relives her deceased mother's experiences, Seraphina must clear her head each night. She calls the figures in her vision grotesques, and each night, she must ensure all is calm in her mind-garden. When the decapitated body of Prince Rufus is found just days before the anniversary festivities, many humans are quick to accuse a dragon of breaking the pact. Seraphina's grotesques begin acting strangely, and the whole court is investigating the murder. When the celebrations are in full swing, all hell breaks loose as the rogue dragon that killed the prince enters Goredd in his dragon form and attempts to take control. Seraphina must risk revealing her true identity (and that of her fellow hybrids) in an attempt to save the kingdom. Hartman creates a rich story layered with intriguing characters and descriptive settings. Seraphina is a complex and fully developed protagonist. Although long, this unique novel (left open for a sequel) will surely appeal to fans of Christopher Paolini's "Eragon" books (Knopf) and wherever readers enjoy fantasies.-Lauren Newman, Northern Burlington County Regional Middle School, East Columbus, NJ(c) Copyright 2011. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

Review

Shortlist - Governor General's Award - Children's Literature (2012)

"Full of grace and gravitas, Seraphina's first-person voice is a welcome change from today's snark-infested YA novels. Readers loath to turn the last page of this lush, intricately plotted fantasy will rejoice in the knowledge of next summer's as-yet-untitled sequel."

—*The Washington Post*

"In Hartman's splendid prose debut, humans and dragons—who can take human form but not human feeling—have lived in uneasy peace for 40 years. . . . Dragon books are common enough, but this one is head and talons above the rest."

—*Kirkus Reviews*, Starred review

"Hartman proves dragons are still fascinating in this impressive high fantasy. Equal parts political thriller, murder mystery, bittersweet romance, and coming-of-age story, this is an uncommonly good fantasy. . . . An exciting new series to watch."

—*Booklist*, Starred review

"Establishes Hartman as an exciting new talent. . . . There's a lot to enjoy in Hartman's debut, from the admirably resourceful heroine and intriguing spin on dragons to the intricately described medievalesque setting and emphasis on music and family."

—*Publishers Weekly*, Starred review

"*Seraphina* makes dragons fascinating once again. . . . While the book is full of court intrigue and

(sometimes literal) backstabbing, the prose itself is an absolute joy. It's thick and rich without being difficult to read . . . Everything about the book feels really well-crafted... Not one sentence seems slapdash."

—*io9.com*

"Passion and musicality—those are the qualities prized by Seraphina, the fiercely intelligent, headstrong half-human/half-dragon heroine in Rachel Hartman's debut novel of the same name. They also emanate from every element—from prose to plot—in this beguiling YA fantasy."

—*National Post*

"Beautifully written, well-rounded characters, and some of the most interesting dragons I've read in fantasy for a long while. An impressive debut novel; I can't wait to see what Rachel Hartman writes next."

—Christopher Paolini, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Eragon*

"A book worth hoarding."

—Naomi Novik, *New York Times* bestselling author of the *Temeraire* series

"I love this book!"

—Tamora Pierce, *New York Times* bestselling author

"A wonderful mix of thrilling story, fascinating characters, and unique dragonlore."

—Alison Goodman, *NYT* bestselling author of *Eon*

"Characters I will follow to the ends of the earth."

—Ellen Kushner

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Eddie Drennan:

Book is to be different per grade. Book for children until eventually adult are different content. As we know that book is very important for all of us. The book Seraphina seemed to be making you to know about other understanding and of course you can take more information. It is rather advantages for you. The book Seraphina is not only giving you considerably more new information but also to get your friend when you sense bored. You can spend your spend time to read your guide. Try to make relationship together with the book Seraphina. You never sense lose out for everything should you read some books.

Robert Dunham:

Do you one among people who can't read enjoyable if the sentence chained within the straightway, hold on guys this specific aren't like that. This Seraphina book is readable simply by you who hate those perfect word style. You will find the info here are arrange for enjoyable studying experience without leaving even decrease the knowledge that want to provide to you. The writer regarding Seraphina content conveys the idea easily to understand by many individuals. The printed and e-book are not different in the content but it just different in the form of it. So , do you still thinking Seraphina is not loveable to be your top record reading book?

David Barnett:

Spent a free time for you to be fun activity to complete! A lot of people spent their sparetime with their family, or their particular friends. Usually they undertaking activity like watching television, gonna beach, or picnic within the park. They actually doing same thing every week. Do you feel it? Do you need to something different to fill your own personal free time/ holiday? Could possibly be reading a book could be option to fill your free of charge time/ holiday. The first thing you will ask may be what kinds of guide that you should read. If you want to attempt look for book, may be the reserve untitled Seraphina can be good book to read. May be it can be best activity to you.

Nathaniel Mathis:

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