



DRAGON MASTERS

SONG OF THE POISON DRAGON

BY

TRACEY WEST

ILLUSTRATED BY

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DRAGON MASTERS

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A TALE OF TWO KATIES:

This book is for my sister, Katie Noll,
for all the stories we wove together growing up.
And many thanks to Katie Carella,
who is a genuine wizard of editing. –TW

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Summary: Petra, the newest dragon master, is scared to death of the Hydra dragon she is supposed to bond with—but when the Hydra accidentally poisons the King, and then her fellow dragon master, Drake, she must find a way to connect with her dragon, because only the Hydra’s song can cure them. ISBN 0-545-91387-X (pbk. : alk. paper) — ISBN 0-545-91388-8 (hardcover : alk. paper) 1. Dragons—Juvenile fiction. 2. Magic—Juvenile fiction. 3. Fear—Juvenile fiction. 4. Poisons—Juvenile fiction. 5. Singing—Juvenile fiction. [1. Dragons—Fiction. 2. Magic—Fiction. 3. Fear—Fiction. 4. Poisons—Fiction. 5. Singing—Fiction.] I. Jones, Damien, illustrator. II. Title. III. Series: West, Tracey, 1965- Dragon Masters ; 5.

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A black and white illustration of four children standing in a courtyard in front of a castle. From left to right: a girl with long dark hair in a long tunic, a girl with braided hair in a dress, a boy in a tunic and trousers, and a boy in a tunic and trousers. They are all looking towards the right. The background shows a large stone archway leading into a castle.

THE NEW DRAGON MASTER

Drake looked out at the crowd of people waiting by the castle gates. It seemed like everyone in the Kingdom of Bracken was there! It was a special day. The new Dragon Master was coming!

Drake stood with the other Dragon Masters—Ana, Rori, and Bo—in front of the castle.

Drake turned to the wizard standing near them. “Griffith, did the Dragon Stone tell you what the new Dragon Master will be like?” he asked.

Griffith shook his head. “All I know is that her name is Petra. She comes from the southern lands. And she is eight years old, like all of you.”



Each of the Dragon Masters had been chosen by the magical Dragon Stone. The stone chose children who could connect with dragons. So far, it had chosen four children from all over the world to live in King Roland’s castle. There, Griffith taught them how to work with their dragons.

Now there was a new dragon at the castle. She was a hydra, a dragon with four heads. An evil wizard named Maldred had attacked the kingdom, riding the hydra. Maldred was sent to the Wizard's Council prison. And the Dragon Stone had chosen a Dragon Master for the hydra.



“Petra will be here any minute!” said red-haired Rori. “I wonder what she will be like! What if she’s mean?”

“Why would she be mean?” asked Bo.

“Well, the hydra shoots poison,” said Rori. “And poison isn’t nice.”

In the battle with Maldred, the hydra had shot poison from her four mouths. Her liquid poison could melt rocks! And her poison mist had stung the wing of Rori's dragon, Vulcan.



“Just because the hydra shoots poison doesn’t make her a mean dragon,” Drake said. “That’s her power, like how each of our dragons has a different power.”

“Right,” agreed Ana. “The hydra’s heart is good, and I think Petra will be good, too.”

“Look!” Bo cried.

Drake saw horses coming down the road. The crowd started to get excited. Some people waved flags with dragons painted on them. Little kids played with wooden dragon toys along the side of the road.



Drake remembered the first day he had come to the castle. One of the king's soldiers had scooped him up on a horse. That had been scary!

I wonder if the new Dragon Master feels scared? Drake thought.

The crowd cheered as the horses stopped at the gates. A soldier helped a young girl down from one of them.



“That must be Petra,” Bo whispered to Drake.

Petra wore a long blue dress with brown leather shoes. She had blond curly hair. Her bright-green eyes stared out at the crowd and up at the castle.

The crowd got quiet. Everyone was waiting to hear what the new Dragon Master would say . . .

Petra shivered.

“Is it always this cold here?” she asked.

