

DRAGONWATCH

 **SHADOW MOUNTAIN PUBLISHING**

“DRAGON LOVERS ANONYMOUS”

An original mini-play by Brandon Mull for use in classrooms and libraries

Written by Brandon Mull

Kendra: Come on Seth, this is for your own good.

Seth: Why now, Kendra? I've got things to do, places to explore.

Kendra: Because you have gotten too hooked on dragons. I'm really worried about you.

Seth: So what if I want to look at them all the time? And so what if I want to hang out with them? And maybe touch one. Or ride one...

Kendra: People don't ride dragons!

Seth: Raxtus carried people.

Kendra: Nobody really rode him. And Raxtus is a rare exception. Dragons eat people.

Seth: Raxtus did eat somebody. Sometimes dragons don't eat people. Sometimes they burn them.

Kendra: You need Dragon Lovers Anonymous.

Seth: I do not! I can quit whenever I want.

Kendra: Then quit.

Seth: I don't want to.

Kendra: That's why you need Dragon Lovers Anonymous.

Seth: Then you need Unicorn Lovers Anonymous!

Moderator: Seth, Kendra, come join us. We're just getting started.

Seth: [muttering to Kendra] I'll get you for this.

Moderator: Welcome to Dragon Lovers Anonymous, the group for humans with too strong an attachment to dragons. We have two new members attending today, Seth Sorenson, and his sister Kendra.

Seth: I don't have a dragon problem. I'm the dragon solution.

Moderator: A lot of our members start out with similar attitudes. Everyone?

Everyone: Dragons are fascinating but incredibly dangerous.

Moderator: I want our new members to meet the group. First we have Eragon.

Eragon: I hatched my dragon. Her name is Saphira. We have a close relationship. I ride her.

Seth: You ride her?!

Eragon: And my name is the title of my book. Eragon. It's like if your book were called Seth.

Seth: Eragon is just "dragon" with an e instead of a d. Talk about a dragon wannabe!

Moderator: Let's keep this friendly.

Hiccup: I ride dragons too.

Moderator: This is Hiccup, from How to Train Your Dragon.

Hiccup: My dragon is called Toothless.

Seth: How old is he?

Hiccup: Toothless is young. Retractable teeth. Riding dragons is awesome.

Moderator: How did you lose your foot?

Hiccup: Riding dragons.

Moderator: How to Train Your Dragon did a lot of damage in our community. As if dragons can be tamed. As if dragons can be safe. Everyone?

Everyone: Riding a dragon is like kissing a lion. Or tickling a crocodile. Or flossing a shark. You may survive, but not for long.

Moderator: Dragons are apex predators. They are not our friends.

Pete: My dragon is my friend.

Moderator: This is Pete from Pete's Dragon. And Pete, we've been over this. Dragons make friends with humans the way cats make friends with mice. They're just playing with their food.

Pete: I'm with my dragon all the time. We're best pals.

Eragon: That doesn't sound like any dragon I know. Saphira is a friend. But not a pal. Dragons are too powerful to be pals.

Hiccup: Is your dragon real?

Pete: People ask me that a lot. It's cause Elliot can turn invisible.

Moderator: I can think of one reason a dragon would turn invisible. To eat you!

Seth: Or maybe so other dragons can watch as he digests you.

Kendra: Who are those kids on the end?

Moderator: They're from the cartoon Dragon Tales. I forget their names.

Max: I'm Max.

Emmy: And I'm Emmy.

Seth: Aren't you a little young to deal with dragons?

Emmy: We just hold a dragon scale and say—

Max & Emmy: I wish, I wish, with all my heart, to fly with dragons in a land apart.

Max: And then we do!

Kendra: This is getting ridiculous.

Moderator: Shows that make dragons seem safe and friendly are incredibly dangerous. It's like having a show where kids are encouraged to climb into a cage and pet a tiger. Guess what tigers eat?

Hiccup: Gazelles?

Moderator: Something that walks on two legs.

Pete: Monkeys?

Moderator: Come on!

Kendra: People.

Moderator: Right. And guess what eats tigers?

Eragon: Dragons.

Moderator: That's right. Dragons are at the very top of the food pyramid. The highest link on the food chain. They eat alpha predators as snacks. And nothing eats them.

Seth: What about black holes?

Moderator: Okay, maybe black holes. But black holes also eat stars. We're talking creatures. Everybody.

Everybody: Dragons eat just about whatever they want. That includes me. And everyone I love.

Emmy: And dragons eat gumdrops!

Max: And pudding!

Moderator: I'm not sure I'm getting the idea across. I brought in a special guest. A dragon expert. Bilbo Baggins of the Shire.

Seth: He looks old.

Bilbo: I thought I was old on my eleventy-first birthday. That was ages ago.

Moderator: Tell us about your dragon, Bilbo.

Bilbo: Dragon? I burgled a dragon once. In the Lonely Mountain. Went by the name of Smaug. Good thing I was invisible.

Pete: My dragon turns invisible.

Seth: How'd you turn invisible?

Bilbo: I had a magic ring. Don't have it anymore though. It's a long story.

Moderator: Especially the extended version. Bilbo, should people ride dragons? Or be friends with them?

Bilbo: Goodness no, dear boy. A dragon would kill you as soon as look at you. A dragon is as powerful as a hurricane. A hurricane that spews flame instead of water. But with the intelligence of a wizard. Only one thing to do with a dragon—find the weak spot and kill it before it burns up your town.

Max: [pointing] He's a mean man!

Seth: Couldn't we at least put them onto a sanctuary?

Bilbo: Sure! Everyone has to die sometime. Why not die at a dragon zoo! Young people make no sense these days. I'm going back to the elves.

Moderator: Are you beginning to see how dangerous dragons are? They don't make good friends. They are more likely to destroy your nation. The nice ones might only make you sacrifice a maiden to them once in a while.

Hiccup: Sounds fair. If you get to ride them.

Seth: Is that why they're called fair maidens?

Moderator: Sacrificing maidens to dragons is not fair! Dragons are not safe! Everybody, time to recite our credo.

Everybody: Dragons want to devour me. They want to devour you. Nobody should pet them or ride them or even make eye contact with them. We should avoid dragons at all cost because they want to kill everyone and rule the world.

Kendra: That is really good advice.

Seth: Unless you really want to see one.

Eragon: Or ride one.

Hiccup: Or teach them tricks.

Pete: Or take a nap with one.

Emmy: Or jumprope with them.

Max: Or skip through the candy cane forest with one!

Moderator: Please. You're taking us into Puff the Magic Dragon territory. That song is so subversive. Dragons don't frolic. We're out of time. Maybe next week we'll talk about the perils of giants.

Seth: I fought a giant before! They're cool!

Moderator: Thanks for attending. And stay away from dragons!!