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# The Hero and the Crown

*By Robin McKinley*



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The Hero and the Crown By Robin McKinley

**In Robin McKinley's Newbery Medal-winning novel, an outcast princess must earn her birthright as a hero of the realm**

Aerin is an outcast in her own father's court, daughter of the foreign woman who, it was rumored, was a witch, and enchanted the king to marry her.

She makes friends with her father's lame, retired warhorse, Talat, and discovers an old, overlooked, and dangerously imprecise recipe for dragon-fire-proof ointment in a dusty corner of her father's library. Two years, many canter circles to the left to strengthen Talat's weak leg, and many burnt twigs (and a few fingers) secretly experimenting with the ointment recipe later, Aerin is present when someone comes from an outlying village to report a marauding dragon to the king. Aerin slips off alone to fetch her horse, her sword, and her fireproof ointment . . .

But modern dragons, while formidable opponents fully capable of killing a human being, are small and accounted vermin. There is no honor in killing dragons. The great dragons are a tale out of ancient history.

That is, until the day that the king is riding out at the head of an army. A weary man on an exhausted horse staggers into the courtyard where the king's troop is assembled: "The Black Dragon has come . . . Maur, who has not been seen for generations, the last of the great dragons, great as a mountain. Maur has awakened."



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## **The Hero and the Crown By Robin McKinley Bibliography**

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## Editorial Review

### Review

"[*The Hero and the Crown*] confirms McKinley as an important writer of modern heroic fantasy, a genre whose giants include C. S. Lewis, J. R. R. Tolkien, Ursula K. Le Guin." —*The Washington Post*

"An utterly engrossing fantasy." —*The New York Times*

### About the Author

Robin McKinley has won various awards and citations for her writing, including the Newbery Medal for *The Hero and the Crown*, a Newbery Honor for *The Blue Sword*, and the Mythopoeic Fantasy Award for Adult Literature for *Sunshine*. Her other books include the New York Times bestseller *Spindle's End*; two novel-length retellings of the fairy tale Beauty and the Beast, *Beauty and Rose Daughter*; *Deerskin*, another novel-length fairy-tale retelling, of Charles Perrault's *Donkeyskin*; and a retelling of the Robin Hood legend, *The Outlaws of Sherwood*. She lives with her husband, the English writer Peter Dickinson; three dogs (two hellhounds and one hell terror); an 1897 Steinway upright; and far too many rosebushes.

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#### Mandi Rice:

As people who live in typically the modest era should be up-date about what going on or information even knowledge to make these people keep up with the era which can be always change and advance. Some of you maybe will probably update themselves by studying books. It is a good choice for yourself but the problems coming to you actually is you don't know what one you should start with. This *The Hero and the Crown* is our recommendation to cause you to keep up with the world. Why, as this book serves what you want and need in this era.

#### Joseph Cosgrove:

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