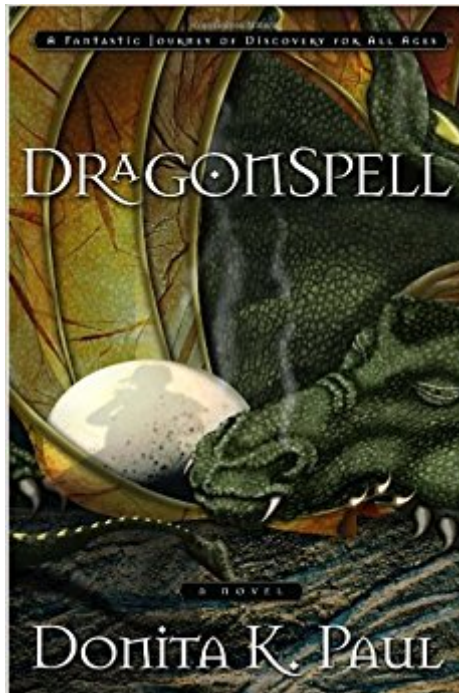




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# DragonSpell (Dragon Keepers Chronicles, Book 1)



## Synopsis

One Dragon Egg Holds the Key to the Future. When Kale, a slave girl, finds a dragon egg, she is given the unexpected opportunity to become a servant to Paladin. But on her way to The Hall, where she was to be trained, Kale runs into danger. Rescued by a small band of Paladin's servants, Kale is turned from her destination. Feeling afraid and unprepared, Kale embarks on a perilous quest to find the meech dragon egg stolen by the foul Wizard Risto. But their journey is threatened when a key member of the party is captured, leaving the remaining companions to find the Wizard Fenworth, attempt an impossible rescue, and recover the egg--whose true value they have not begun to suspect. Weaving together memorable characters, daring adventure, and a core of eternal truth, *Dragonspell*--the first book in the Dragon Keepers Chronicles--is a finely crafted and welcome addition to the corpus of fantasy fiction.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Grade 4-8  
After 14 years as a slave girl in the village of River Away, Kale is free, because of a dragon's egg. Since she found it, the village elders have decided that she must present herself and the egg to the great wizards of the walled city of Vendela, where she expects to become a servant of Paladin, the earthly representative of Wulder, supreme being of Amara. Her journey is interrupted first by attacking ogres, then by a detour into a cave that hides seven more dragon eggs, and finally by a daring escape aided by dragon-riding rescuers who become Kale's guides, tutors, and closest cohorts on her travels. Two of her precious eggs hatch on the way and become her

constant companions—first green Gymn, who heals, and then purple Metta, who sings. To them, Kale is much more than just a slave girl—she is the last of the great Allerion dragon-keepers. This is classic quest fantasy with echoes of J. R. R. Tolkien's "Lord of the Rings" trilogy (Houghton) and of Christopher Paolini's Eragon (Knopf, 2003). As in C. S. Lewis's "Narnia" books (HarperCollins), Christian allegories and messages are clearly presented and easily found, but it is equally possible to read this as Kale's story as it happened in Amara, a world completely separate from our own. It would be a shame to limit readership by relegating this clever and inventive story to the genre of Christian fiction. There is plenty of room for sequels, and readers will want to know much more about Kale and the remainder of her quest.

Susan L. Rogers,  
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"In Dragonspell, Donita K. Paul has created an amazing world of fantasy adventure. From riding on dragons to jumping off cliffs to moving mountains, this story is sure to spark a reader's imagination—both young and old. And with a message of identity transformed from slavery to servanthood, it's a book families will love reading and discussing together."

Christopher P. N. Maselli, children's author of Reality Shift and founder of TruthPop.com

"A reluctant heroine, her fainting dragon, and an assortment of colorful companions—make for a delightful read in Donita K. Paul's Dragonspell. This is adventure and fantasy at its finest—a must read for the imaginative soul."

Linda Windsor, award-winning author of Along Came Jones and the Fires of Gleannmara trilogy

"Dragonspell is a fine, well-written tale guaranteed to entertain both old and young alike. This was proven in our household when our eleven-year-old son snatched up the book and devoured it. Upon returning it, he exclaimed, 'It's good!'—high praise from a rabid fan of Tolkien, Lewis, Jacques and company. I can only nod my head in agreement."

Christopher A. Lane, Gold Medallion and C.S. Lewis award-winning author of children's and adult fiction

"Inventive, engaging, witty, insightful, touching, and profound—Dragonspell is all this and more. If Donita K. Paul's only intention was to create a world where readers encounter novelties and wonders at every turn, then she has succeeded admirably. But she actually does much more than this: she enables us to see our relationship with God and His world through new eyes. A delight for all true fans of fantasy literature."

Jim Ware, author of God of the Fairy Tale and co-author of Finding God in the Lord of the Rings

"Enchanting! A perilous quest, a timeless

battle, an unlikely heroine, and a rousing adventure in a world of magic and mystery!

—Donita K. Paul has concocted a tale brimming with eternal truth and seasoned with delightful and amazing characters that linger in the senses long after the last page. *Dragonspell* is destined to become a classic for a new generation of adventurers!

—Susan May Warren, award-winning author of *Happily Ever After*

—“The greatest thing any author can do is to catch you up and transport you right into the very scene, the very action, the story . . . in such a way that you live the book, not merely read it. That is exactly what Donita K. Paul does with *Dragonspell*. For a few hours, you will take a journey to a place you have never been, with a story you will never forget. Enjoy the trip!

—Stephen Bly, author of *Paperback Writer* and Christy-award-winning *The Long Trail Home*

—“*Dragonspell* is a tightly written fantasy quest set in an extraordinarily rendered storyworld. With seven intelligent races, seven evil races, several delightful dragons, one weird wizard, and an endless supply of exotic plants and animals, you will NOT be bored.

—Randy Ingermanson, Christy award-winning author of *Oxygen* and *Premonition*

—“No one will ever be able to read this and doubt that Christian fantasy is a viable genre for spreading God’s word.

—Christine Lynxwiler, president of American Christian Romance Writers

—“Charming, well-drawn characters, a story chock full of adventures and misadventures, a land populated with dragons, doneels, emeraldians, grawlgs, and all sorts of other fascinating inhabitants — ask you, what more could any reader want? With *Dragonspell*, Donita K. Paul has nailed a complex and engaging fantasy world. Whether nine or ninety, you won’t be disappointed.

—Kathleen Morgan, author of *Consuming Fire* and *All Good Gifts*

—“*Dragonspell* has a heart-thumping, page-turning plot that is sure to captivate and enthrall even the most reluctant reader!

—Peggy Wilber, author of *Reading Rescue*

My three children and I love sharing reading time together each night. With sons 9 and 7 years old and a daughter who is 3, finding stories that appeal to all of us is a real challenge. This is the first book in a long time that holds all our interest. The story is exciting and just the right pace for my kids to follow as I read aloud. We usually cover two to three chapters each night, and they beg me not to stop reading. Donita K. Paul’s writing is beautiful and intelligent. As a parent, I like that her language is creative and articulate, which helps my children increase their vocabulary, without being so complex that they can’t understand. And as a Christian parent, I am thrilled to have found a series of book which reinforce our family’s values and echo our faith and obedience to our Father. Just as

when we read the Narnia series, my older kids are eager to discuss the parallels they see between Wulder and God, Paladin and Christ. Even my husband and I look forward to story time each night, to hear what happens next for Kale, Dar, Leetu, and their friends. We can't wait to read the rest of this wonderful series!

My family loves this series of books. In fact, this is our second set, as the first is on loan to friends. All ages have read and enjoyed, and I am currently reading the second book to my 6 and 7 year olds. They can't stop at 3 or 4 chapters and are constantly asking for the dragon book.

This is okay to pass the time. It is a fast read and holds your interest, mostly. The characters are pretty well developed and main ones are likable. I especially enjoyed the young dragons and Dar. There are a few things that would have improved my opinion of the book. There are seven high races and numerous others, all with unfamiliar names. It would have been extremely helpful if there had been a short definition of each at the beginning of the book. Instead, it is necessary to figure it out as you go along. Also, our heroine is supposed to be 18, yet she acts and speaks as though she is 10 or 12. Perhaps this is to illustrate how her development was slowed by being a slave. The attempts to throw in humorous dialogue just do not work. Finally, the story-line itself is just so-so and is certainly not one I will long remember. I will not move on to the later books of the series.

My children never tire of The Dragon Keepers series. Donita K Paul did an excellent job of creating a world where adventures abound, in language accessible and challenging for young readers. Her characters strive to learn and do well. They sometimes fall, and receive the teaching and gift of forgiveness and grace to move on in order to build the Kingdom. Lots of subtle, beautiful lessons evolve naturally, that we discuss over dinner many nights. This series is a definite for the hard copy Library because your children will return to it again and again !

I'm not quite sure how to rate this one. I liked it, but there were elements that really dragged it down for me. I give 1 star for the setting. The races were interesting and the world building was good. 1 star for characters. They were easy to like and felt real. 1 star because I wanted to read on to see what happened. This is usually enough for me to give more stars. Sadly I can't. -1 star for easy ways out of situations. I sometimes felt that the author had written herself into situations she didn't know how to get out of, and the solutions were too easy and hastily written. -1 star because there were A LOT of things never explained. The main character asks questions, but her companions just don't bother to

answer her on most of the things. You would think that after her ignorance has put them i trouble a couple of times they would understand that they had to tell her things, but no. This kinda annoyed me, because I didn't get to know a lot of things that would helped me get more into the story.All in all I got the feeling that the book was originally longer, but because it's a YA book it was cut to shorten it. And in that prosess it got cut in the wrong places.All in all I think I am too old and experienced reader to overlook the flaws. A younger reader might overlook these weaknesses. And it's not a bad book. I might even buy the next in the series.

I always find myself coming back to read these books. I first found this book nearly ten years ago, and I love it just as much now as I did when I first read it. Beautifully imagined. It is so wonderful to read about fantasy races that aren't elves, dwarves, or humans. Paul made many races, but more than that, she made them distinct and engaging.

I started this series in the middle because I bought some discounted books on sale. I loved the story and wanted to read the entire series. A Christian author wrote a exciting and fascinating fantasy with characters who are decent, moral, likable, original. Great escapism for someone who does not want to have to read offensive language and situations. One of the very few series that I have reread and hold in fond memory. Written for the young but I am 65.

I love reading about dragons and so enjoyed this book. I am hoping the next book will develop even more interaction with dragons and ...more dragons!

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