



Cora and the Nurse Dragon

H.L. Burke

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Cora's a young girl with two dreams: to be a dragon jockey when she grows up and to own a pet dragon now. She constantly buys "egg packs" at the dragon emporium in hopes that one will hatch into a rare pet-sized dragon, but only gets short-lived mayflies. However, when an unexpected egg does develop into something new, Cora may be over her head.

Cora and the Nurse Dragon Details

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Author : H.L. Burke

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From Reader Review Cora and the Nurse Dragon for online ebook

C.O. Bonham says

Cora and the Nurse Dragon by H. L. Burke is a cute Middle grade fantasy about a girl and her dragon.

The technology level is about nineteen thirty. I like that it's set in what one would think of as the past. it gives the story not only an old timey nostalgia, but a level of realism.

This book makes me long for the good old days when a kid could run to the local emporium and buy a pack of dragon eggs for a nickel.

Cora is a great protagonist, she is determined, smart and a bit of a tomboy. She also loves Dragons more than anything. So it comes as no surprise that she just might change everything.

A great read aloud for the family looking a book that will appeal to multiple ages and genders.

Roger says

This was a fun, quick read that contained two young friends that find a dragon that can make their dreams come true. There is some innocence and some conflict in this book and even the tiniest bit of love. The book touches on the beginning of a relationship of young adults along with the importance of a good parental relationship. For something that I picked up on sale for pretty cheap I was pleasantly surprised by this book. It's nice to read something a little less weighty than epic fantasy every once in a while.

K.M. Carroll says

Ah, another 5 star review for a Burke book. As with her other Dragon book, she never fails to entertain and intrigue.

The world is America in the 1920/30s, and dragons are like Pokemon trading cards. You buy packs of short-lived mayfly dragon eggs, and hope that one hatches into a rare, cat-sized dragon that will live much longer.

Cora hatches a discarded egg, and out comes Cricket--a little brown dragon unlike any she's ever seen. Cricket can change common dragon eggs into rares. When he starts doing this, it lands Cora and her friends in serious trouble--like, the RIAA-suing-MP3-downloading-kids kind of trouble.

This book gets kudos for lightly touching on racism and social issues, like, Cora is black, and her friend's mother is a lawyer (an inappropriate vocation for a woman at the time). These issues are handled delicately, in a way that kids can understand.

It's a short, sweet book, and I do wish it were longer, just to spend more time with the little dragons. :-)

E. Writes says

Cora and the Nurse Dragon was a delightful read about childhood dreams, the reality that often clashes with those, and the truth that can resolve all of the above if one is only courageous enough to travel it's difficult path.

The characters were very well brought to life, and they were unique and rounded as well as having refreshing twists built into the framework of their lives. Those who seem to be friends aren't always, and the same goes for those who seem to be enemies.

Again, a lovely story with a lovely ending. :-)

Elise Edmonds says

Excellent children's book about a young girl fascinated by racing dragons. She hatches an unusual dragon and the adventures start. I love the dragon lore in this novel and all the detail of their colonies. Despite being for children this book also covers some interesting issues like legality vs morality. Gentle Christian themes throughout. Excitement and adventure to the end.

Clare O'Beara says

What a great story, in the tradition of dragon keeping. Some unique features and plucky young characters make this a tale to remember. I would recommend Cora to anyone from ten to adult. The writing is extremely good and we are given much food for thought.

This is an unbiased review.

N.W. Moors says

Cora and the Nurse Dragon is a wonderful Middle Grade book that adults will also enjoy. Cora wants to be a dragon jockey. When she buys an "egg-pack" at the local pet store, she usually gets some short-lived mayflies. She is finally lucky enough to get a dragon that she names Cricket. Then she and her best friend Abry are off on a series of adventures. The local rich boy Xavian also joins in and they all become friends. This is a great book about treatment of animals, but not in a Hallmark sappy way. There is humor and lots of fun as well as some real teaching moments. And it has dragons! What more could you want.

This is a perfect book for your Middle-Grader. If you're lucky, they'll let you read it too.

Perry says

I officially love these dragons now!

Dragons are cool, but after this book, I think I need one! Can't wait to recommend this to my younger siblings! (Delighted it's truly age-appropriate and I'll be able to recommend it!)

A. Powers says

I won this book in a giveaway hosted by the author, and this might just be one of the greatest gifts I've ever received in my life. It's a quick read, probably better suited for younger teens and pre-teens, but I'm well past that age and found myself enjoying it more than I expected. Like every other book by H.L. Burke I've read, this one is amazing and impossible to put down!

Cora would love to save up enough money to buy a pet dragon, but with her dad's income as a gardener, she has to make do with buying small kits of dragon eggs and hoping to hatch a good one. So far she's gotten only the tiny mayflies, but her luck changes when she rescues a thrown-away egg and out hatches a supposedly extinct nurse dragon. Cora immediately forms a bond with the dragon, but the little guy lands them in some difficult situations...

I feel like this book should be made into a major motion picture; it's that awesome. The writing is superb, the characters are fun, and the story is engaging, to say the least. To be honest, I can't even come across anything negative to say about this book. I loved it so much, and I look forward to reading many more of Heidi's books!

Janeen Ippolito says

I downloaded an eCopy of this book on a free book day, and I am very glad I did. Cora and the Nurse Dragon is an entirely appropriate MG/YA fantasy story with clever characters, great dragons, and Burke's characteristic clean writing voice.

First of all: DRAGONS! I love dragons and so does this author. Her dragon world-building is perfectly integrated into the story. It is also unique and yet easy to understand. I thoroughly enjoyed how Burke explored the concept of free vs. kept animals, and the responsibility of humans to their environment. The theme is effortlessly woven into the plot and adds depth.

There are some intense scenes at the end, but they make sense with the story, so just keep an eye out if your kids are pretty little or sensitive.

Final Verdict: smartly-written, thoroughly enjoyable, and dragons! Another great story by H. L. Burke!

Denae Christine says

Reader thoughts: It was like Jeremy Thatcher, Dragon Hatcher mixed with Because of Winn-Dixie, a girl hatching a dragon and bringing friends together.

I liked the idea of a nurse dragon (one that takes care of eggs), and the creative ways the young girls decided to make a secret business from it.

I liked that Cora apologized to Xavian, even though he was so mean. "Hurt people hurt people," and Xavian may never have learned to be anything but a bully if *somebody* didn't try to be nice to him at least once.

You know a book is good when it mentions "dragon Robin Hood."

I love that the end turned more toward Free Willy and Baby-Sitting Is a Dangerous Job.

This was an interesting setting. Maybe 1920s or so, except a different world? It didn't mention any countries, but a few people had cars. Cora wore overalls. There were dragon races and betting, and 5 cents bought half a dozen dragon eggs. Cora had been saving for months to get some. There were lawyers and hand drills and boxes and a telephone. I'm sticking with 1920s.

Writer thoughts: Why did HLB choose that era? I think it was the right time/setting for several reasons.

1, dragons just became extinct in the wild. Some of the characters were more distraught about this than others. If the setting had been too primitive, this wouldn't have been believable. How could all the dragons be in captivity? If the setting were too modern, no one would have cared about wild dragons anyway.

2, technology hasn't surpassed dragons yet. There were few cars. This makes dragon racing seem a more important business for Mr. Algernon (sp? I'm bad at guessing names from audiobooks).

3, the culture is sophisticated enough to have attorneys and suing and court cases, which make Cora's questionable business a danger. Her dad might lose his job or even go to jail.

booknerd_dork says

This was amazeballs and cute! I enjoyed it very much! The story and writing hooked me from the first chapter. Cora is nice but Abry I love her! Her planning and being a bookish person made me adore her. I love them both, their friendship is amazing!

And Cricket! Can I have him he just adorbs! If I would have a pet dragon it would be him! And now I wish there were dragons lol! Just similar to Abry :D

I want more of this world, hope so there would be. Loved it! Got an arc in exchange of an honest review.

E.D. Martin says

Cora and the Nurse Dragon is a fun read. Cora lives in a world where dragons are common pets - for those who can afford them. She dreams of racing dragons one day but is stuck raising cheap, tiny mayfly dragons who only live a few months. Her luck changes when her nemesis throws an egg at her, which hatches into a rare nurse dragon with a very unique ability.

While I enjoyed this book as an adult, it'll definitely appeal to its target audience of kids. Cora and her best friend Abry strike a fine balance between following and breaking rules, between independence and reaching out to the adults in their lives for help. They find a way to deal with bullies, as well as higher issues of what makes a law moral. The climax is darker than I expected, but nothing kids can't handle.

Overall, it's a great clean read for kids with some good messages along the way.

Emily Ross says

I was given this free review copy audiobook at my request and have voluntarily left this review.

This was a pleasant enough middle school book about childhood dreams. It had a nice message, but it could be a little boring at times.

Intisar Khanani says

Cora and the Nurse Dragon is a fun, light read that still takes on a few big issues--bullying, feeling neglected by a parent, and engaging your parent in your adventure. I loved the idea of a world where dragons are commercialized, bred only in captivity and owned by only a few major corporations. Cora hatches a dragon egg that may not have been bred by the companies. When that dragon turns out to be a nurse dragon--capable of providing the stimulus needed to change what sort of dragon will be born from an egg--Cora finds herself neck deep in serious issues. With bullies around the corner, dragon control officers knocking on the door, and a dragon that starts hatching out all sorts of rare dragons from a-dime-a-dozen eggs, what will she do?

A few notes: I might have wished for a little more nuance where the bad guy was concerned, but then I'm used to YA reads that tend to get a little darker and more complex, so that might be me. There is also a slight Christian thread running through the story--I actually appreciated it given that it wasn't preachy, sledgehammer, or the like, just part of the story. And again, I really appreciated that the adults were involved in this story, as supports to the young people, but also with their own backstories and struggles. Finally, I don't usually read MG, so I'm rounding up a bit here realizing that I'm not quite the target audience for this book.
