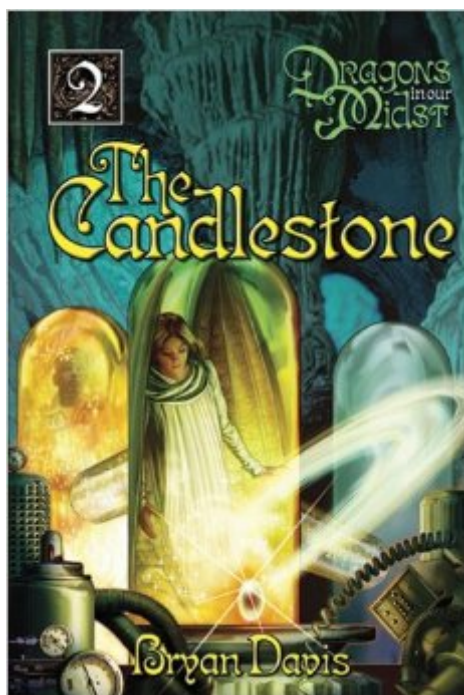


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The Candlestone (Dragons In Our Midst, Book 2)



Synopsis

Â Â Â The first book, *Raising Dragons*, plunged two teenagers, Billy Bannister and Bonnie Silver, into mind-boggling mysteries, life or death pursuits, and deadly sword-to-sword battles.Â Â Â In *The Candlestone*, a mysterious book leads Billy into mortal combat with a powerful dragon slayer. Separated from his friends and finding his dragon traits useless against this enemy, he has to rely on new weapons, a sword and shield he cannot even see.Â Â Â A scientist lures Bonnie to his laboratory with amazing newsâher mother is still alive! And he should know; heâs her father. He has learned the secret of long lifeâdragon blood, and he wants Bonnie to help him with his experiments. But first he must send her to retrieve her mother from the candlestone, that strange, paralyzing gem that absorbs light and with it the strength of dragons and their offspring.Â Â Â The candlestone is also a prison that imprisons people who have been transformed into light energy by Excalibur, King Arthurâs great sword. When Bonnie enters the stone, she learns that many disembodied souls have fallen prey to the gemâs powers, but no one has ever escaped. Her only hope is for Billy to overcome the dragon slayer and find a way into the candlestone, and, more importantly, a way out.Â Â Â Billy and Bonnie face their greatest fears, and they learn to use their strengths, both innate and newly found, as they battle powerful enemies, ancient fiends from times long past, and the horrors of the blackest of prisons, captivity with the walls of unearthly darkness, the crystalline tomb of the candlestone.Â

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (95 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

Since the discovery of his dragon heritage, Billy Banister and fellow dragon Bonnie Silver have been

on the run from a dangerous sect of dragon slayers who will stop at nothing to destroy them. Both are adjusting to their new life; Bonnie is looking forward to being adopted by the Foley family and Billy is training in hand-to-hand combat, preparing for another encounter with dragon slayers. However, things take an unexpected twist when Bonnie's dad, a sort of mad scientist, shows up and announces that her mother is still alive. While having serious misgivings, Bonnie agrees to go with him to a secret lab in Montana in an attempt to help her mother. I love the Dragons in our Midst books, they are so good. They have dragons, knight, sword-to-sword battles, and fair maidens in need of rescuing. I haven't been able to find many Christian fantasy series but this one is definitely worth reading.

You must read this book if you love good fantasy...well, if you've read the first one, Raising Dragons. If not, go get it. Bryan Davis continues his story of the growth and education of Billy, Bonnie, and all the others in their little band as they quest to understand a prophecy that seems to involve all of them. This is a story about family, about faith, about honor, and a thousand other good virtues that seem to be forgotten as we move further in time. If I had children, I would read this to them. I hope you will considering doing the same.

If you thought Bryan Davis created a masterpiece in the first book, then this book will leave you shaking your head in awe. And I'll tell you many reasons for that in my next review. In this blurb however, I want to credit Mr. Davis with creating a spiritually marvelous and uplifting novel. Yes, it was a page turner (up until 4:00 and 2:00 am on successive nights), yes the writing gets tighter and the characters deeper. But the biggest impact that The Candlestone had on me was spiritually. I'm guessing we all have moments in time when we are spiritually at a low ebb. Ironically, Christmas day was one of those low points for me. I was toast. However, during the course of reading The Candlestone I couldn't help but be re-energized by the very same power and Spirit that are the source of strength for young Bonnie, The Professor and Billy. Yes, the book is far more "Christian" than the previous book, but it turned out great for this old boy that it was so. The reliance of the characters in scripture and on the basic principles of foundational Christian doctrine helped to remind me of the foundations of my own faith. There was enough scripture (without constant Bible references) and enough power in the "imagined" prayers - though I'm sure that large parts of those prayers are prayed every day somewhere by someone - that the prose sparked my own faith and continued to bring my mind back to my Savior and his wonderful love. Yah. I know it sounds sappy. Kind of odd for a guy who typically likes stuff that has an edgier feel and characters that have rapier

wit, but there are certainly some days when truth does far more for the weary soul than just good writing alone. Great job Bryan. One last comment. There's a lass that left her opinion (which she has the right to do) regarding this book and series being occultic or involving sorcery. I think she missed the point. And in fact, I'm not sure she could have read the entire book with its references to Christ and still come to that conclusion. I will share that my opinion - as a Christian for 22 years, a youth leader, worship leader, outreach ministry head and children's and adult Sunday school teacher - is that Mr. Davis has done a great job of reshaping a legend and imbuing it with a sense of the scared and supernatural without making it hokey, trite and obvious. Quite refreshing indeed. But you know what? Don't just believe me, experience *The Candlestone* yourself and then let me know what time you were up until ;-)

I bought this book after reading *Raising Dragons* (*Dragons in Our Midst*, Book 1). The great story continues with Billy, Bonnie, and friends against Devin. This book is for young readers, but I couldn't put it down. I got into the story pretty easily and enjoyed the tension, the fight scenes, and the friendship that develops in these books. Whatever your age, these are great books! Start with the first and you won't want to stop!

RAISING DRAGONS introduced us to a whole new world in Christian fiction - a place where myth and legend could easily coexist with the Bible and God. The first book also gave us interesting characters and glimpses into mysteries to be unfolded. Two of those mysteries circled around two fabled objects: the candlestone and the sword Excalibur, and in book #2, *THE CANDLESTONE*, both of these mysteries are thoroughly explored. This time around, Bonnie is about to be adopted by Walter's family, Billy is struggling with the new form of his father, and Professor Hamilton has come to tutor the three students. But then Bonnie's father shows up, telling his daughter that her mother is still alive and wants Bonnie to come be with her. Dr. Connor whisks Bonnie away, and Billy and company soon follow, concerned for her safety. When Bonnie and her father arrive at their destination, Bonnie finds she must go into the candlestone, a gem that has trapped the life force of her mother inside. *THE CANDLESTONE* expands greatly on *RAISING DRAGONS*, keeping the same characters consistent and developing. However, this book is not completely without some flaws. The first chapter sags a little into "boring", and the ending is almost predictable. But don't worry - get past the first chapter, and get through what SEEMS like a predictable ending, and there are definitely a few surprises to be had at the end of this second installment. Again, Billy and Walter share some painfully cheesy lines, and every once and a while Davis' writing is trying to be much

too flowery for its own good. Definitely check this one out, as the plot is something so completely original, and definitely equal in greatness to RAISING DRAGONS.

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