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# Inheritance Cycle

Maggie Mason Smith  
Clemson University, [mason5@clemson.edu](mailto:mason5@clemson.edu)

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“You are engaged in historic events, Eragon, and the roots of the difficulties you face lie in happenings from decades, centuries, and millennia ago. If I were you, I would study at every opportunity the lessons history has to teach us, for they may help you with the problems of today.” – *Brisingr*, page 288

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When Eragon goes hunting in the mountains one day, before him a blue stone appears. Hoping to sell or trade the stone in the nearby village, Eragon takes it home; however, to his surprise, the stone hatches to reveal a dragon. Despite knowing that the Empire will kill him if knowledge of the dragon, which he names Saphira, reaches the king, Eragon hides her in the forest near his home. Eragon and Saphira quickly develop an unusual connection: the two can sense each other's presence over a great distance, communicate through thoughts alone, and even feel each other's pain. Thus, they develop an intimate bond the strength of which Eragon has never before experienced.

When strange servants of the Empire appear in search of Saphira's egg, both Eragon and Saphira must flee their home. While traveling, Eragon learns valuable skills such as sword fighting, dragon care, and rudimentary magic. Eragon also learns the history of the Dragon Riders – the mission of whom is to guard and protect the entire land of Alagaësia, – and learns of Galbatorix, the Rider gone mad who has proclaimed himself king of the land. But most importantly, Eragon learns that Saphira is one of the last of her race, and with her, he must try to overthrow the king. With a revolution in mind, Eragon and Saphira continue to journey throughout Alagaësia in an effort to acquire allies as well as information. But even with knowledge of the past and aide from races across Alagaësia, Eragon and Saphira may not be strong enough to free the land from Galbatorix's oppressive reign.

Reminiscent of the Lord of the Rings trilogy in scope and suggestive of the Shannara series in terms of adventure, Christopher Paolini's Inheritance Cycle is an extensive high fantasy saga. As with any lengthy series, the amount of detail in each book may at times seem

overwhelming; however, Paolini drives the plot forward using well-developed characters that are prone to mistakes and a unique setting that includes not only dragons, elves, and dwarves, but also folkloric werecats and creatures called urgals, which are unique to Paolini's work. Additionally, each book contains glossaries, maps, and a pronunciation guide, to ensure that the abundant detail of the *Inheritance Cycle* is navigable and to allow readers to fully immerse themselves, alongside Eragon and Saphira, in the land of Alagaësia.