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The Menagerie #2: Dragon On Trial



Synopsis

From the New York Times bestselling author of the Wings of Fire series, Tui T. Sutherland, and her sister, Kari Sutherland, comes the second exciting adventure in the Menagerie trilogy! Combining the magic of Brandon Mull's Fablehaven series and the charm and humor of Carl Hiaasen, The Menagerie #2: Dragon on Trial is perfect for young readers who love myths, fairy tales, and fantastic creatures. Someone or something has murdered the goose who laid the golden eggs, and the evidence points to a dragon named Scratch. Zoe and Logan are back on the case "but this mystery won't be that easy to solve |.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 770 (What's this?)

Series: Menagerie (Book 2)

Paperback: 320 pages

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Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (55 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #28,650 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #122 in [Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Dragons](#) #850 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Friendship](#) #1328 in [Books > Children's Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy & Magic](#)

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

WARNING: Review contains minor spoilers. The first book in the "Menagerie" series -- the story of a special reserve for mythical creatures in Xanadu, Wyoming -- was an enjoyable enough story, even if it didn't quite reach the levels of epicness that made "Fablehaven" such a hit. I see it as a good stepping-stone book, one great for kids who might not be quite ready for "Fablehaven" or "Harry Potter." The book did manage to resolve its main conflict -- the missing gryphon cubs -- but at the same time it ended on a blatant and annoying cliffhanger/sequel hook. I figured the unanswered

questions about the goings-on in both the Menagerie and the main character's life would be enough to get people to read the next book, but apparently the author felt otherwise...The second book in the series, "Dragon On Trial," suffers from some of the same problems as the first book. But it's still a fun read, full of both new and familiar mythical creatures and told with a rollicking sense of fun and adventure. Logan, newcomer to Xanadu, and Zoe, daughter of the caretakers of the Menagerie, have just managed to avert crisis and save both the gryphon cubs and the sanctuary... only to immediately discover that Pelly, the golden-egg-laying goose whose precious eggs keep the Menagerie operating, has been murdered. Despite only blood and feathers (but no body) to point to the grisly crime, all evidence seems to implicate Scratch, one of the three dragons living at the Menagerie. If Scratch is found guilty, he will be executed... and the Menagerie will be shut down.

I read The Menagerie for review when it came out last year and really enjoyed it. I was excited to see that the next book in the series had come out. This is a story full of mythical creatures and mystery and I really enjoyed it. Something...or someone has killed the goose that laid golden eggs (one of the main sources of the Menagerie's funding). Evidence is pointing to a dragon named Scratch who has had some mysterious behavior lately. However, Logan and Zoe aren't convinced and they are absolutely determined to prove that Scratch is innocent. There is more at stake here than Scratch's life, if the Menagerie shows that it can't control its animals then it might be shut down for good. This was a well done middle grade fantasy with lots of humor, some mystery, and tons of cryptozoology. I continue to enjoy this series about a secret compound that serves as a sanctuary for mythological animals. I also continue to enjoy the characters. Logan is not as lonely as in the first book and is continuing to enjoy spending time with Zoe and her crazy family. Blue is in the story a bit too, but not as much as he was in the first book. There is the addition of an incredibly humorous character named Marcus, who happens to be a wererooster |.yeah kind of sucks to be him. The plot has a few twists and turns (most of them were fairly predictable for me). Of course SNAPA is involved again. All the events are mainly leading up to a trial for the dragon Scratch and proving whether or not he is guilty in the killing of Pelly the Golden Goose. There is also some addition to the plot involving the disappearance of Logan's mother. Overall this was a fun read, with an excellent mystery to be solved, some fascinating creatures, and engaging/likable characters.

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