



## Dragon's Oath

*P.C. Cast, Kristin Cast*

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*The first in an enthralling new mini-series of novellas from the #1 bestselling authors of the House of Night, Dragon's Oath tells the story behind the House of Night's formidable fencing instructor – the love that will transform him, and the promise that will haunt him*

In early 19th century England, long before he's a professor at the Tulsa House of Night, Bryan Lankford is a troublesome yet talented human teen who thinks he can get away with anything... until his father, a wealthy nobleman, has finally had enough, and banishes him to America. When Bryan is Marked on the docks and given the choice between the London House of Night and the dragon-prowed ship to America, he chooses the Dragon – and a brand new fate.

Becoming a Fledgling may be exciting, but it opens a door to a dangerous world...In 1830's St. Louis, the Gateway to the West, Dragon Lankford becomes a Sword Master, and soon realizes there are both frightening challenges and beautiful perks. Like Anastasia, the captivating young Professor of Spells and Rituals at the Tower Grove House of Night, who really should have nothing to do with a fledgling...

But when a dark power threatens, Dragon is caught in its focus. Though his uncanny fighting skills make him a powerful fledgling, is he strong enough to ward off evil, while protecting Anastasia as well? Will his choices save her—or destroy them all?

## Dragon's Oath Details

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## From Reader Review Dragon's Oath for online ebook

### **Jessica Williamson says**

I loved this novella. It was just plain beautiful. The present time parts are absolutely heartbreakingly beautiful but learning the story behind Dragon and Anastasia was truly a gift from the authors.

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### **Fangs for the Fantasy says**

There is something absolutely wonderful about a short story from the House of Night series – it doesn't have enough room or enough people to be nearly as awful as the main series. Yes, this book hereby gets the prize for being the first House of Night book that I DON'T think will inspire an invading alien species to wipe us out because the universe needs to be spared our bullshit.

This makes the book good in comparison to the series – but not good.

As I say with every short story as part of a series, I look for a point. What does this story add to the larger story of the books? Why should readers read this book as part of a greater whole? Because the best short stories both add to the larger series, without being essential (so a reader can skip them without being lost in the main plot but still add interesting new elements to the main story).

And I can't say I see a big point on this book. We get an insight into Dragon and Anastasia... but firstly both of these characters are dead. It's not like they're characters who are going to have continued affect on the book series. Secondly, they're not exactly influential characters. I honestly would find it bemusing if any fan of the series (of course I find "fans" of this series bemusing in general) could genuinely say they were intrigued by these characters. I mean, beyond "she loved Dragon and she died" what pertinent information did we have about Anastasia? What was so intriguing or important about her that anyone really needed to read her story?

The same applies to Dragon – was there any reason to care about this character? Like Anastasia, he was a cardboard cut-out of a character – the guy who can use a sword. That was his pretty much only definition of him.

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### **Annie says**

The following disclaimers apply to the following review: I've never read anything by either author, I have no idea what series this book belonged to and therefore read it as more of a stand-alone novel, and I won this as a Goodreads First Read.

I've read worse. At least this was relatively short- though not short enough.

All I could think about was the term 'fluffy bunny,' which is a "pejorative expression used since at least 2001 in Wicca (and in Neopaganism generally) to refer to adherents of the religion who are thought to be superficial or faddish. They are considered to dislike darker elements and emphasise goodness, light, eclecticism and elements taken from the New Age movement, or follow it as a fad." - Wikipedia

There was absolutely nothing happening for the vast majority of the novella. Most of it was unnecessary dialogue and tedious descriptions about made-up spells with moronic rhymes. *But if you throw in a bunch of amateur couplets, it makes everything MAGIC!!! oh wait, 'magick.'* No. Lame. Stop it.

The characters were very generic. You had the bad guy who was obsessed with dark power and fed his dark beast blood, not to mention that he was a rapist. You have the wise, gorgeous, and innocent earth-affiliated priestess who is nothing but purity and goodness and peace. And then there's the good, handsome young guy who has to find himself and his inner balance. Lame!

Speaking of the characters, they had no unique characteristics whatsoever. Their distinctive, complex personalities? Non-existent.

The romance? Typical. The good, pretty girl takes one look at a future image of some gorgeous boy and falls in love within, what, a day? No. Shut up. I'm so sick and tired of this bull in my books. Knock it off, this love at first sight because omg-they're-hot bull is the #1 way to #\$@% up your novel.

*By the way, if I see the words "magick" or, god forbid, "vampyre," ever again, I will tear someone's hair out.*

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### **Selin says**

Güzel ve ben bu kitab?n daha çok pc cast tarf?ndan yaz?ld???n? dü?ünüyorum...  
Uslubu iyiydi,hikayeyide sevdim de?i?ik bir havas? vard? ve yazarlar?n önceki kitaplarndaki gibi saçmal?klar ve s?rf sayfa say?s? arts?n diye yap?lm?? ?i?irmeler yoktu. Ancak yinede ikilinin çabuk a??k olduklar?n? ve ejderhan?n bir anda de?i?ti?ini dü?ünüyorum...  
Sonunun iyi bitmesini isterdim,mutlaka okunmas? gerekmez ama gece evinden daha güzeldi kesinlikle,zoey art?k bayd?...

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### **hayden says**

<http://www.goodreads.com/photo/user/2...>

Seriously. How awesome-looking is that?!

Now, for the review. . . .

DRAGON'S OATH took me exactly 28 minutes and 17.5 seconds to read. That's it. No joke. I timed myself. That being said, there's not a whole lot of new and exciting content. It almost seemed like a short story to me, one with a lot of really extended, unnecessary detail.

The first chapter and the epilogue were in present-day HoN, and chapters two through eight were back when

Dragon was Marked and all the chaos that ensued. (I know. Eight chapters. That's it?) Nevertheless, the novella was really well-written, and although it lacked length, it made up for it in plot and characterization. The primary reason DRAGON'S OATH wasn't five pages was because every chapter ended on the left page, the right page after was blank, the left page after had an illustration, and the right page started the next chapter. So, basically, about three pages are blank per chapter, which just seems lazy on PC's part.

That all being said, PC and Kristin Cast's latest miniature (literally) installment in the House of Night series was thoroughly enjoyable. I enjoyed reading about the spell casting and about the Darkness, a prominent theme in current House of Night books (AWAKENED, I'm sure DESTINED as well), and I'm sure we'll hear more about that in future books. I look forward to DESTINED!

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### **Donna {Book Passion for Life} says**

I've always been a fan of the House of Night series so I was looking forward to reading more about another character. Admittedly when I found out this book was Dragon's story, I was a bit hesitant but I actually really enjoyed his story. With this novella only being 160 pages, I flew through the book and found I enjoyed Dragon's story a lot more because it didn't drag. It was a nice short and simple read and just what I needed.

Dragon for me has always been a likeable character and after losing Anastasia he did start to change, especially in Awakened....I felt like he kind of lost his way. I actually started to dis-like him in the last book with how he treated Rephaim and turning his back on Zoe so I felt this was a great time for the Cast's to introduce Dragon's past.

Dragon's story shows you he was marked and how he matures into the person you see in the House of Night books but most importantly, we find out how he met and fell in love with Anastasia. Although I felt they were quiet brief and short scenes, I do feel they showed the readers what they were meant to show...it's all about love. The bond the couple share is strong and unbreakable, so to lose Anastasia the way he did, no wonder Dragon's struggling with her death. I actually glad we got to see how they fell in love because now, I feel I can sympathize with Dragon more as a character and have a better understanding of what he's going through. The end of the book does leave readers wondering what choice's Dragon will choose in the next House of Night books and I for one am looking forward to seeing what happens.

Overall, this book is a great addition to the House of Night Series and I highly recommend it to any fans of the series.

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### **Teresa says**

4 Stars

I never really connected with Bryan "Dragon" Lankford in the full length novels, he seems distant, cold and more then a little aloof.

Except ,of course, to Anastasia.

Then I read this novella and I saw him in a whole new light.

While at the beginning he is an arrogant, spoiled son of an English Earl, that soon changes. As his world comes crashing down, he finds out the hard way that he is not near as important as he thought he was.

Anastasia was a Quaker until she was Marked by Nyx. A compassionate pacifist who thinks little of Dragon, his conceited arrogance or his penchant for violence.

Anastasia sees another side to him when she learns she is his saving grace, quite literally. She was shown by the goddess Nyx what Dragon will become with out her and it was not good. Not good at all. He will become a heartless killing machine, killing without conscience or mercy.

At the end of this story, I hurt for him and yet was happy that he had become the "good" version of himself. One blessed by the goddess Nyx.

I have already read the novel \*Hidden (House of Night #10) and know what destiny awaits Dragon. It is heartbreaking yet beautiful.

This is so well written. It has a better flow then most of the full length novels. If you are a fan of this series then this is a MUST READ. A companion piece to let you see into the life and love of Bryan "Dragon" Lankford and his Anastasia.

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### **Daniela Rosas says**

"Juramento do Dragão" é um livro que conta uma das memórias mais fortes de um dos professores da Casa da Noite de Tulsa, Dragão Lankfort.

Neste livro ficamos a conhecer como é que Dragão foi transformado e como foi o seu quarto ano na Casa da Noite de Tower Grove em St.Louis no ano de 1833. É durante o "funeral" do iniciado Jack, que morre às mãos de Kalona, que o Dragão Lankfort, após a morte da sua sacerdotisa e companheira Anastasia, que também é morta por Kalona, fica completamente descontrolado e desconsolado e jura vingar a morte da sua amada.

A partir daqui ele dá-nos a conhecer a sua memória e o momento em que fica a conhecer Kalona, na forma de espírito. Dragão sente-se responsável pelo mal que se levantou das profundezas da terra e que só causou dor e sofrimento, pois se ele tivesse tomado outras decisões numa certa altura nada daquilo poderia estar a acontecer.

Este é um livro repleto de amor, dor, sofrimento, ódio, mas acima de tudo de esperança de que um dos guerreiros mais fortes da Casa da Noite de Tulsa possa terminar com o malvado Kalona, pois quando um guerreiro jura ele cumpre a sua promessa.

Durante todo o livro temos muitos momentos de poesia lindíssima, que ocorrem durante os rituais de sacrilégios, que Anastasia tinha que realizar.

É um livro lindíssimo, e que com muita pena minha é um stand-alon. Adorava ficar a saber mais sobre a vida do Dragão.

Tenho realmente pena que as autoras não tenham decidido continuar com a história deles (Dragão e Anastasia).

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## CxtheeBooks says

**Come by my blog, Forever Lost in Books, for MORE reviews, giveaways, interviews and memes!**

My (High!) Opinion : So, this is the first book in the House of Night Novellas series, which is a story set in the the Cast's House of Night world, which is awesome.

First, let me say I really like the HoN (House of Night) series by the Casts. And i was really excited when my library contacted me to say this book had arrived in my account. I almost screamed. Okay, maybe not, but I was really happy. I had really high expectations and \*drum rolls\* I loved it!

I even thought the book was better than the HoN series. I thought Dragon/Bryan Lankford was sooooooo cute! All arrogant and funny \*grin\*. And Anastasia was all peaceful, and beautiful. So, I really liked the characters.

The writing was, from my opinion, better than the one in the HoN. It was soft, and also fast-paced, and I liked the way the author used Dragon's arrogance.

And don't you love the cover? I hope that's Anastasia, because she is so beautiful. And I hope that's Dragon's sword. It's awesome.

I thought Dragon's decision was heart-breaking. I almost cried. Poor him; he \*SPOILY SPOLIER\* lost Anastasia, and betrayed Nyx \*Okay, you can continue\*.,

Anyway, I am hoping the next House of Night Novella will be as good as this one.

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## Lala says

"Oh!" She breathed a long, awestruck breath. "They are so beautiful." With a trembling hand, she reached out and traced the new tattoos of the fully Changed vampyre beside her. "What are they? What do they look like?" he asked. "Dragons," she said. "They look exactly like dragons."

Cute. I enjoyed this very short little glimpse into the younger Bryan "Dragon" Lankford. As well as glimpsing Bryan we get to see Anastasia and how they came to be together. It was a very sweet little tale. I would have loved to have read this story much earlier on in the series. I found that this story brought me closer to both Bryan (Dragon) and Anastasia and I think had I read this earlier I would have felt closer to these characters, and therefore appreciated their sacrifice more. I do however, look forward to going back to the beginning of the HON series and re-reading it. Perhaps then I can embrace these characters as much as I do the young fledglings :D

I realize I was supposed to read this prior to reading Destined (I did not, I recommend that you do) but I can see there were some set ups for what takes place in Destined. Well done. And Bryan...as a young man...quite swoon worthy!

"Your death has broken me; the dragon is all I have left to be"

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### **Jessthebookslover says**

The Casts never fail to surprise me. There writing style always a pleasure to read. Going back to this world, thanks to this FANTASTIC novella, was heart-warming and heartbreakng at the same time. I might have to plan a re reading session of the entire series soon.

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### **?? Carmen the Bootyshaker Temptress ?? says**

A quick read but an enjoyable book.

Both characters Bryan aka Dragon and Anastasia are strong headed characters but with the darkness looking to destroy them both I wonder if Dragon will be strong enough to ward off evil and protect Anastasia too or will he have to make a choice? I guess I will have to continue to see.

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### **Lissa Notreallywolf says**

This wasn't worth the trouble of carrying it home from the library. While it seems to be about Dragon, it's actually about his romantic entanglement with his professor. Although there is little age difference between Dragon and Anastasia, there is the reiteration of the breaking of professional boundaries, just as there was between Zoey and the Poet Loreate, Loren. The Casts seem to think this is an appropriate plot line because it is the second time it has been employed.

Yes, age would be a very important factor in vampire novels because the vampires are almost immortal. So far none of them have shown much maturity for their advanced age-Dragon is still under the evil headmistress's spell despite the fact he has lived for a hundred years with Anastasia. Apparently he was a slow student, or she lost her preceptive powers as time went on, because Nefret had both of them confused, and then Dragon is willing to overide his oath and his sneaking distrust of Neferet. The closest thing we have to peeking into a love matured by a lasting long term relationship is on the cloistered Isle of Skye, which has a fairy tale quality about it. There is no social evolution evident in vampire culture.

One of my discomforts with this series was reading about Zoey with a man four years her senior, especially for the first time. There are some good reasons for statutory rape laws, because there is a threshold of development, emotionally and physically that people pass in their own time. The law seeks to protect minors from experienced predators. The rules about students and teachers are also put there for good reason. Pop culture tends to exagerate girls getting grades by office hours with male professors, but it never really explores what this says about female education-if you believe that women are as smart as men, why would they take this path unless they were simply lazy? And at what cost to their self esteem? What meaning would a diploma based on prostitution provide one?

But Zoey and Dragon weren't seeking to seduce their instructors in grade prostitution. Zoey was being undermined by Nefret, and Loren was Nefret's tool. Zoey's self esteem is tanked out very briefly, but only because of her fear that others will think she is a 'ho. Zoey's concerns are very animalistic-she fears her own

desires and projects them on to her peers. When she has given it up to Loren, she is mostly concerned about being torn apart from or by her pack. As usual she's saved from any introspection by Impending Doom. In Dragon's Oath, the male saves his professor from harm, several times, a Warrior motif, but one that leaves one doubting Anastasia's abilities. And she isn't in control of her sexuality any more than Zoey is, because she pursues Dragon, or allows him to pursue her. In the 1890's sexuality of any kind usually debarred female school teachers from teaching. Male teachers might be married, but the women were not allowed the privilege and paid far less. There is no real historical sensitivity in Dragon's Oath.

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### **Anne says**

First, let me say that I *hate* the House of Night series. So, if you look at it that way, a 2 star rating really isn't that bad. Still. It wasn't good.

For those of you who have read the HON books, this is Dragon and Anastasia's story. For those of you who haven't read the series...*lucky you*.

It's got all of the usual House of Night mumbo-jumbo in it. It reads like a wiccan *coca-cola* commercial. ***If the whole world could just get together and hold hands, then everything will be ok!*** Whatever.

I know what you're thinking. Why the #\*@! did you read the book if you hate House of Night? Ok. There's a perfectly rational explanation for this.

I recently moved, so I'm just now getting to know my neighbors. I finally met a really nice lady (*who just happens to have kids the same age as mine! Score!*), and she noticed that I was reading some book in a paranormal series. She told me she loves those kinds of books, too. *Bonus!* Then she told me that she *loved* the House of Night series. *\*balloon deflates\** Hey, nobody's perfect, right? Anyway, she sort of assumed that I liked the series, because I admitted that I had read the books. I *may* have neglected to mention that I would rather eat hot coals than read another one. Sooooo. I did a nice thing for once in my life, and told her that there was new House of Night novella that just came out. I should have remembered that *no good deed goes unpunished*.

She bought it.

She loved it.

She gave it to me to read next...'cause she's nice. Dammit!

As I saw it I only had three choices.

- 1)Fess up. Which would mean essentially telling her that she has *horrible* taste in books.
- 2)Lie. Wait a week or so. Give the book back. Pretend that I had read it. And then pray to God that she didn't ask me any questions.
- 3)Suck it up. At least it was only a *novella*, right?

So I decided to just suck it up. *Did I mention that our kids are the same age?*

Now I only have to worry that she'll buy the *next* House of Night book when it comes out. *Did I mention that she's super-duper nice?* Oh God...I feel sick. See, kids? This is how a lie can snowball on you.

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**Maria Mercedes The Oracle Reviews says**

I've been looking forward to this novella for a while now. Dragon Lankford was my favorite of Zoe's instructors. I always knew there was more to him than beat the eye. This is the story of how he came to be a vampire & how he fell in love with his Anastasia. The mother daughter team tie the modern day story line in perfectly. it is truely a great read!

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