



The Ice Dragon

George R.R. Martin , Yvonne Gilbert (Illustrator)

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The ice dragon was a creature of legend and fear, for no man had ever tamed one. When it flew overhead, it left in its wake desolate cold and frozen land. But Adara was not afraid. For Adara was a winter child, born during the worst freeze that anyone, even the Old Ones, could remember.

Adara could not remember the first time she had seen the ice dragon. It seemed that it had always been in her life, glimpsed from afar as she played in the frigid snow long after the other children had fled the cold. In her fourth year she touched it, and in her fifth year she rode upon its broad, chilled back for the first time. Then, in her seventh year, on a calm summer day, fiery dragons from the North swooped down upon the peaceful farm that was Adara's home. And only a winter child--and the ice dragon who loved her--could save her world from utter destruction.

"The Ice Dragon" marks the highly anticipated children's book debut of George R.R. Martin, the award-winning author of the "New York Times" best-selling series A Song of Ice and Fire and is set in the same world. Illustrated with lush, exquisitely detailed pencil drawings by acclaimed artist Yvonne Gilbert, "The Ice Dragon" is an unforgettable tale of courage, love, and sacrifice by one of the most honored fantasists of all time.

The Ice Dragon Details

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Author : George R.R. Martin , Yvonne Gilbert (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review The Ice Dragon for online ebook

Melissa ♥ Dog/Wolf Lover ♥ Martin says

First, I have had this little book FOREVER. I got it from BookOutlet and it has a little tear in the dust jacket and until I picked it up and read it, I had no idea there was an awesome poster on the other side of the dust jacket. I will show y'all after I get it laminated, tear be damned!! Here's what it looks like though!! I freaking love it!!

I fell in love with Adara who loved Winter (like me). She was cold to the touch and could play with the ice lizards and was friends with the ice dragon and eventually would ride him during the winter.

Adara's family loved her but not as much as the other children because she wasn't warm and whatever, until all of that changed.

Anyway, the book is filled with beautiful pictures!! I love them!

I'm going along, loving the book and thinking yeah, lets go show them and then show the fam the dragon. Welllll, it didn't happen that way!!!

At that point I wanted to throw the book!! BUT, I still gave it 4 stars for the beginning and the illustrations!

Happy Reading!

Mel ✽?

Alex Ristea says

Fuck me. Worst reviewer ever.

It's been a while since I read this and I forgot what it's about. I remember it being good though. Maybe.

Geo Kwnstantinou says

Ωρα?ο παραμυθακι..και αφο? ε?χε και δρ?κους μ?λλον ο μικρ?ς θα μου ζητ?σει να του το ξαν? διαβ?σω α?ριο! ?

Mohammed Arabey says

Because it's Game of Thrones Season...It's Winter Season..
And Because it was the season finale..

And, Summer Child, It has an *Ice Dragon*

Melanie says

This story left me feeling pretty haunted, so please keep that in mind and maybe read the book yourself first, before giving this to your child. I do think this story packs a pretty big punch with a pretty impactful message, even though I think the message could be misconstrued.

For me, the message, or symbolism, was it is okay to be cold and alone, but sometimes it is worth it to take a risk to feel someone else's warmth, especially the love of your family. It's completely fine to deal with your pain and hurt on your own, but sometimes just feeling loved will heal the biggest of wounds.

This book stars Adara and is mostly about three years of her life. She is a "winter child", because she was born during the worst freeze in history. Snow, ice, and cold do not bother her in the slightest, and she kind of gave me an Elsa vibe because she also likes to make ice castles (*smooth, GRRM, smooth*). She lives with her older brother, her older sister, and her father. When she is four she comes in close contact with "her" ice dragon. Then, when she is five "her" ice dragon lets her go for a ride. During these two years of her life, Adara is very closed off and recluse. In my opinion, she is scared to accept love and doesn't know how to deal with her pain and guilt. Also, there is constant talk of a war with dragons. They hear about the new from their Uncle, Hal, who is a dragonrider for the king's army.

When Adara is seven, the dark dragons come. Her father refused to leave their home, because this is where his wife and his parents are buried. Three dark dragons come and begin to attack their village with their riders. Adara is then forced to choose the safe, lonely, cold life or choose to protect the warmth of her family's love.

Now, in my opinion, again, this book also has underlining ASOIAF symbolism, too! I mean, it's literally ice versus fire! This book is set before the Seven Kingdoms, but I wouldn't at all be surprised to see ice dragons in Westeros. (Especially with a title like The Winds of Winter!)

I also have to mention the absolutely gorgeous illustrations in this book. My eyes have never been blessed with Luis Royo's work before, but they very much appreciated what they saw in this story. I could look at this book for hours, it's so breathtaking. I also think the illustrations were a big reason this story resonated so much with me and, in turn, made me feel so haunted.

Timothy Urges says

The Ice Dragon is a fine children's tale about family, warfare, and dragons. This is my first taste of George R. R. Martin and just maybe I will read more of his work.

I probably would have enjoyed this more had it not been for the ending.

Elizabeth Sagan says

If this short story wouldn't have been written by George R.R. Martin, I wouldn't have read it. Or, if I would have, I wouldn't have liked it – for the simple reason that it's basically a children's tale and I'm not part of that age group anymore. But the story is set in Westeros. And there are dragons. If you crave any kind of information about this world, I guess you'll be satisfied.

*

An enjoyable read if you are a GRRM fan and you want to get through everything that he has written. Otherwise, stay away.

C.G. Drews says

It honestly boggles my mind that George RR Martin can write STORIES SUITABLE FOR CHILDREN. So naturally I had to read it. **And while I LOVE and adore the dragonness...I'm really kind of weirded out about what message it was trying to send????** So that kinda spoilt my enjoyment.

BUT DRAGONS, DUDES, DRAGONS.

Plus the **illustrations are literally the most BEAUTIFUL things in the universe.** The book is super tiny and short because it's stuffed with the most gorgeous dragon dragons of my life. Like I wanted to pet this book and keep it forever. (Which would be awkward because it's a library book. BUT AH WELL.)

And the story was really epic too. Very child-friendly. IT WAS. I mean, people die all over the place because dragons eat them, but eh. That's life. (And it's not graphic.) And the story had a very distinct **fairy tale** vibe...whimsical and dragony and wintery. VERY WINTERY. It smelt of Westeros winter. With less graphic violence. Ahem.

LOOK I'M STILL STRUGGLING WITH THE FACT THAT GEORGE RR MARTIN KNOWS HOW TO WRITE NICE BOOKS. Ahem.

So why did I have qualms? Well, it just ended with (view spoiler) Consider me not very happy with that aspect.

But *dragons*. Dragons everywhere. And icy dragons and frosty dragons and firey dragons. And also the most cold and serious little female protagonist. Her heart was basically ice. LOVE IT. I relate. Icy Vulcans who

like dragons FTW I say.

All in all: a whimsical dragon read about ice and battles. Very simple. Very short. People die, but it IS George RR Martin. And you really ought to be careful while reading because you are likely to fall in love with the illustrations and run off and marry them at dawn.

Γι?ργος Δ?μτσιος says

Πολ? ωρα?ο και καλογραμμ?νο παραμ?θι. ?χι και τ?σο παιδικ?, ?μως. Προσωπικ? δεν θα το ?δινα σε μικρ? παιδι?, ?χει μ?σα κ?ποια πρ?γματα που θεωρ? ?τι θα τα ψιλοσοκ?ρουν... (Πχ, η σκην? με τον θε?ο της Αντ?ρα προς το τ?λος).

Σε ?ποιον αρ?σει το φ?ντασι και θ?λει να περ?σει ?να χαλαρ? απ?γευμα, το συνιστ? ανεπιφ?λακτα.

Isa Cantos (Crónicas de una Merodeadora) says

"The ice dragon breathed death into the world; death and quiet and cold".

Primero que todo, a los que dicen que el dragón de hielo de la serie de TV de *Game of Thrones* es imposible... ¿han leído el título de este libro? Okay, dejando eso de lado...

¡ADORÉ ESTA HISTORIA! Sí, es bastante infantil y con tintes de cuento de hadas, pero con dragones y muertes y guerra y una niña super valiente. Me gustó muchísimo cómo las ilustraciones se iban entrelazando con una historia que era al mismo tiempo inocente y oscura. Sólo George R. R. Martin podría escribir algo así.

Stephen says

Stop.....the.....presses! A thoughtful, intelligent **children's** book?...Yeppers, it's true...behold...

...*The Ice Dragon*.

That **wascally wabbit**, George R. R. Martin, has done it yet again! He's written an elegant, pulchritudinous children's/YA novella that spins a captivating tale that has the added virtue of respecting the brain matter of its readers. Well done, **Ser Martin**, well done...

...okay, you've been dipped in glory and praisified...now get yon self back to thy scribing of the next SOIAF volume before thou ist given the **slappeth** of bitch by thou adoring but impatient fanatics.

I feel better now...

I call this a children's story but this is really located somewhere along the murky, contentious border between YA and kiddy book. It's structured much like a children's story but deals with subtle, more **adulty** themes as well as being infused with a number of **Martinesque** dark moments...Hey, it's GRRM so what would you expect?

Call it a **tweener**, but a tweener that this adult (and I use that term VERY loosely) found well done and read-worthy with or without the offspring.

PLOT SUMMARY:

The main character is a clever little girl named **Adara** who lives on a small farm with her father, brothers and sisters after her mother died giving birth to her (*I told you, it's GRRM, so just be happy she wasn't raped or tortured first*). Adara is known as a “Winter’s Child” for she was so ice cold when she was born that she was almost blue and has remained this way all her life.

In addition to being physically cold, and here the true genius of Martin’s story pops up to say “hello,” Adara is also emotionally distant and detached from her family and outwardly shows virtually no emotion. She’s never cried and even when in physical pain, her reaction is muted and stoical. Martin uses this “fantasy” element of Adara’s physical temperature and the tie in to her emotional detachment as a roadmap for exploring Adara’s growth and change throughout the tale. While the prose is straight forward and child-friendly, there is a depth to the writing that is often lacking from stories aimed at a younger audience.

Brief pause so I can info dump:

Here is a less than subtle world-building/backstory exposition that's not really important to my review but is included for those, like me, who like a sense of the story setting.

The tale takes place in what seems to be a pretty standard medieval type locale with the only fantasy elements being Adara’s condition and the existence of dragons. The land that Adara lives in has been in a long, protracted war with a neighboring kingdom. Each army has their own core of trained dragons that act as air support for ground troops. Adara’s uncle is a captain of a regiment of dragon riders and is the means by which Adara and her family (and us as the reader) are made aware of events outside the farm.

... End of brief pause...

Back to the review.

So Adara’s favorite time of the year is, DUH, winter and this is the only time she feels truly content. One winter, she meets and befriends the titular Ice Dragon, an extremely rare breed that, unlike the fire-breathers, have never been tamed or interacted with humans. The Ice Dragons are considerable larger and more powerful than the more common fire-breathers but can only survive in the cold. Here is an excerpt from the book in which Martin does a great job of describing the Ice Dragon:

The ice dragon was a crystalline white, that shade of white that is so hard and cold that it is almost blue. It was covered with hoarfrost, so when it moved its skin broke and crackled as the crust on the snow crackles beneath a man's boots, and flakes of rime fell off.

Its eyes were clear and deep and icy. Its wings were vast and bat-like, colored all a faint translucent blue. Adara could see the clouds through them, and oftentimes the moon and stars, when the beast wheeled in frozen circles through the skies. Its teeth were icicles, a triple row of them, jagged spears of unequal length, white against its deep blue maw.

When the ice dragon beat its wings, the cold winds blew and the snow swirled and scurried and the world seemed to shrink and shiver. Sometimes when a door flew open in the cold of winter,

driven by a sudden gust of wind, the householder would run to bolt it and say, "An ice dragon flies nearby."

And when the ice dragon opened its great mouth, and exhaled, it was not fire that came streaming out, the burning sulfurous stink of lesser dragons. The ice dragon breathed cold. Ice formed when it breathed. Warmth fled. Fires guttered and went out, shiven by the chill. Trees froze through to their slow secret souls, and their limbs turned brittle and cracked from their own weight. Animals turned blue and whimpered and died, their eyes bulging and their skin covered over with frost.

The ice dragon breathed death into the world; death and quiet and cold.

So Adara and the Ice Dragon, these two creatures of winter, form a special relationship over several winters. That is, until the outside world in the form of the ongoing war changes circumstances forever and Adara is forced to make some very difficult and life-changing decisions.

I thought this story was smart, engaging and deftly done. I think that older children can read this and enjoy it even if they don't absorb the more subtle points of Martin's narrative (which the grown ups will be happy are there). One of the better children stories of its type that I have read and one that I HIGHLY RECOMMEND.

4.0 stars.

N?ρα says

Μια καλογραμμ?νη μικρ? ιστορ?α που σε ταξιδε?ει στον κ?σμο του Τραγουδιο? της Φωτι?ς και του Π?γου?.νοι μαγευτικ? παραμ?θι,αλλ? και πολ? λυπηρ? ταυτ?χρονα,με μην?ματα και συμβολισμο?ς.Για μ?να,το κυρι?τερο μ?νυμα της ιστορ?ας,?ταν ?τι δεν πειρ?ζει να ζεις μ?σα στο κρ?ο και μ?νος,αλλ? μερικ?ς φορ?ς αξ?ζει τον κ?πο να π?ρεις το ρ?σκο και να αισθ?νθεις τη ζεστασι? κ?ποιου ?λλου,ειδικ? την αγ?πη της οικογ?νει?ς σου.Θαυμ?ζω πολ? το σ?νολο της δουλει?ς του Luis Royo,αλλ? εκτ?μησα ιδια?τερα αυτ? που ε?δα σε αυτ? το βιβλ?ο.Η εικονογρ?φηση ε?ναι φανταστικ?,πραγματικ? σε βοηθ?ει να συλλ?βεις την ουσ?α της ιστορ?ας.Δεν ?ταν κατ 'αν?γκην κ?τι εξαιρετικ?,αλλ? αλλ? το απ?λαυσα και θα το πρ?τεινα σε ?λους τους οπαδο?ς του Μ?ρτιν.

Bookdragon Sean says

Of all of George R.R Martin's short stories this one is by far my favourite. It may be because it is the only one with dragons in it or it may be because it is an early prelude to *A Song of Ice and Fire*. The publishers have hinted that this is set in Westeros. It's not. There is no mention of an actual setting, but what is does show is an early application of an idea that he eventually used in his wonderful fantasy series: it shows us dragons that are ridden into combat at the service of Kings.

An unlikely friendship

Adara is a winter child; she has the coldness in her blood and in her soul. When its summer she longs for winter, and when its winter she is happy. This is because with winter comes the ice dragon. He comes to visit her and is the only thing that can cure her loneliness; he is her only friend. When she eventually reaches seven years of age he allows her to ride him across the winter sky. He takes her further each year as she gets older. When summer eventually returns the dragon leaves. Adara waits the entire year for her ice dragon to return.

War approaches Adara's little home, an invading nation with their own dragon riders are ravaging the landscape. Her uncle has his own dragon, and urges her to flee with him to safety. She refuses as she could not leave her dragon or her father who refuses to leave his home. The enemy dragons attack so she defends. She mounts her ice dragon and a fight between ice and fire begins. So, just a small parallel here, perhaps Martin used this as a stepping stone for his later novels. The writing of *A Game of Thrones* began with the scene with the Starks finding the direwolves, I think after that he included aspects from this story.

Wonderful illustrations, but not worth the money

The illustrations in this edition are fantastic. They really help to capture the essence of the story. The close up drawing of the ice dragon is a particular favourite of mine. Those being said though, many of them feel like mere page fillers. This edition is beautifully illustrated, but it is also packed out. Each time there is a new chapter there is a double page to tell you so. The publishers really did try to milk some money out of readers when they printed this. This would be better in an illustrated collection of all his fantasy short stories.

This edition is great overall, but it is expensive for what you get. The story only takes around thirty minutes to read, perhaps forty if you spend a few moments admiring the artwork. Therefore, although the price tag may cover printing costs it does not cover reader value for money. I bought this edition because the short story was my favourite amongst Martin's *Dreamsongs*. If you've not read any of his short stories then I don't recommend this edition; I recommend just buying the short story collection I just mentioned. It is cheaper and contains this short story along with many others that are fantastic. If you, like me, love the Ice Dragon story then this edition is an expensive buy, but a nice addition to a George R.R Martin bookshelf.

Overall, this is a great short story that I do recommend to fans of *A song of Ice and Fire*. It's a magical and enchanting tale, but one that is very sad. But, as I mentioned, if you don't already love this then you're better off delving into *Dreamsongs*.

An expensive four stars: five for the story, and three for the overpriced edition.

Rebecca says

You can read this review and more on my blog

In a nutshell: The Ice Dragon is a great fantasy read for all ages with beautiful illustrations.

I picked this book up from my library in the spur of the moment. I'm a big fan of *A Game of Thrones* and I've been eying The Ice Dragon ever since I heard about its re-release fairly recently. It was a well-written little story set in the world of ASOIAF. The premise is a simple one but I really enjoyed reading it.

The Ice Dragon is about a young girl named Adra, a child born in the winter, and her beloved ice dragon. A war is waging and the pair seem to be the only ones capable of saving Adra's world from destruction when dragons from the North attack. It's essentially a story of winter, dragons, war and sacrifice. (view spoiler)

It is fairly short and a nice, quick read. The illustrations by Luis Royo compliment the story well. They are beautiful, especially the drawings of the ice dragons. Like a lot of people, I've always been fascinated by dragons and I was especially interested in this book thanks to the dragons.

The Ice Dragon was not necessarily anything extraordinary but I enjoyed it. I'd recommend it to fans of fantasy - especially dragons - of all ages, though I can imagine it would be a nice read for younger readers.

Will M. says

Another short story that I didn't enjoy that much. Nothing new, it's probably all on me again.

This middle grade novel tells a story about Adara and her struggles, or at least, the struggles of people around her. Every winter, the ice dragon comes to the place she lives in. Lucky for her, winter is the time of her birthday. She looks forward to every visit that the ice dragon does, but everyone around her hates the dragon. It brings harsh winter effects and hinders the crops to grow. In actuality, the dragon is a curse for everyone.

One thing that I can really commend on is the artwork. This edition is illustrated and even the text is color blue. It's vivid and engaging, but unfortunately the plot didn't amaze me.

3/5 stars. Not the best thing I've read from Martin, but it seems like a short prequel to the Song of Ice and Fire series.

seak says

I always have high expectations when reading George R.R. Martin. He really did it to himself, have you read A Game of Thrones? So going into The Ice Dragon, GRRM's children's tale, I still had nothing but the highest and happiest of attitudes until I was completely disappointed...in nothing at all. :D

Okay, I've learned from the cases I've been reading in law school that in order to have a successful argument, all you have to do is act like you're going to decide one way, but then go the exact opposite. Did it work? (No, I'm not simplifying it at all, why would you say that?)

The plot is simple, yet extremely subtle as we've come to expect from Martin. Adara is a winter child who's not only physically cold, but distant from her family as well. She was not only born in winter, but was the reason for her mother's death and her father has had a difficult time with that.

Adara loves the winter and counts the days until it comes back. She stays out longer than anyone else and can even hold the ice lizards for long periods of time without hurting them like other children end up doing.

Soon the eponymous Ice Dragon enters the picture, visiting Adara at times during the winter, even letting her

ride. You see, ice dragons are not only rare, but it is known that ice dragons never let anyone ride them. Other, smaller dragons are used by people, especially for war as we see in this story.

Without going into too much more detail, the land is filled with war and it is creeping toward Adara and her family, but her father belongs with the land as is important for many in the medieval-type society.

While we follow Adara closely, the land and the environment were probably my favorite part of the story. It's filled with hard-working farmers and dragons are commonplace. I would really love to read more of this world Martin's created, possibly outside of a children's tale.

But on that note, I would read more children's tales as well at this caliber. Although, I don't quite know if I'd categorize The Ice Dragon as a children's tale. About 99% was for children, but there was a section about split-heads and relatively gruesome scenes for children.

In the end, I highly enjoyed The Ice Dragon and would recommend it, especially at this time of year...or maybe not, GRRM does such a good job with atmosphere I was actually colder while reading it. Maybe wait till summer. Then again, you're probably hot enough. And you wonder how I get all the ladies. :)

4 out of 5 Stars (Loved it)

Note on the eBook: This is an illustrated novel and I can't say they're done justice on the Kindle Touch at least (or anything with eInk). Mostly you can see them fine, but there are still quite a few that are hard to make out and all of them are at least somewhat difficult to view.

Nikoleta says

Η ιστορία μου ?ρεσε πολ?, ?να παγωμ?νο κορ?τσι που οι π?ντες το ?χουν σε απ?σταση, η Αντ?ρα συναντ?ει ?να πλ?σμα το οπο?ο οι π?ντες το φοβο?νται, ?ναν δρ?κο του π?γου, απ? τ?τε μια ?τυπη συμφων?α γεννι?ται, συναντιο?νται κ?θε χρ?νο στα γεν?θλια της... Η γλ?σσα ε?ναι απλ? και η αφ?γηση ?μορφη. Αυτ? ?μως που με συνεπ?ρε ε?ναι η εικονογρ?φηση του Luis Royo. ?χι οτι χρει?ζεται συστ?σεις... ?να απο τους λ?γους αν?γνωσης του βιβλ?ου, ε?ναι οτι ?μαθα οτι το εικονογραφε? Luis Royo. Απ? το τοπ?ο μ?χρι τους δρ?κους, απ? το κορ?τσι μ?χρι το χι?νι ?λα ?ταν παν?μορφα. Εξαιρετικ?. Ο συνδυασμ?ς της ιστορ?ας με τις εικ?νες δε, βγ?ζουν ?να πολ? καλ?

4/5

Councillor says

I already knew that Mr. Martin could write damn well. Not always in the most accurate way and often lacking closeness to the characters, but still engaging and allowing the reader to delve deeper into the fantasy worlds he builds so excellently. He is world-renowned because of A Game of Thrones and its sequels, but also widely criticized because of the huge amount of time it requires him to finish his next book. Yes, I understand the frustration readers have with his slow working pace. But I still want The Winds of Winter to

be the best sequel to the five previous books in the *Song of Ice and Fire* series as it could be, and this is why I will respect the fact that GRRM seems to need what feels like thirty years for finishing three pages. So, what can be more suited to fill the gaps between his books than some sweet little short stories?

At only 7,700 words, George R.R. Martin narrates the story of a young little girl called Adara, an extraordinary girl who was born in winter and has remained cold on her body as well as in her heart ever since. She loathes summer and longs for winter, for snow and cold ... and a reunion with the most beloved thing in her life. Not only is Adara physically cold, but also emotionally distant and unsociable towards her family, yet the only living creature she seems to be able to warm up to turns out to be an **ice dragon**. In a world torn apart by war and destruction, Adara seeks peace and solace in the presence of 'her' ice dragon, but the arrival of war at her family's home will prove to be an obstacle too huge to overcome for a small girl like her.

Entering the story, I fully expected to find interesting dynamics between the main character and the ice dragon. The latter one, however, remained rather soulless in comparison to the dragons GRRM invented for his fantasy world set in Westeros. (It has been argued that "The Ice Dragon" is set in Westeros as well, but apart from slight indications, nothing within the text manifests this theory - and one shall bear in mind that this story has been written many years before "A Game of Thrones".) Adara is the only character we are allowed to grow attached to, while her family is characterized only casually and without giving further attention to them. This may either be a result of the story being restricted to a small scale, or rather of Adara's emotional coldness - which also causes the destructive war to be left unexplained throughout the course of the story.

Even before starting the ASoIaF series, GRRM was able to restrict his stories to the eyes of their protagonists, so we did not see anything which Adara didn't see. I quite like this concept in contrast to the more Shakespearian dramatic irony, where the reader knows more than the characters, since it allows us to grow more attached to the protagonist. However, something was amiss for the duration of the story, and it mostly lacked some more vital dynamics between the two main players (Adara and the Ice Dragon). George R.R. Martin's writing style is enthralling as ever, though, and leaves only few details to be missed. Even if only for the beautiful illustrations, this short story can definitely be recommended for fans of the *Song of Ice and Fire* series who cannot get enough of Martin's writing.

Inés Izal says

Las ilustraciones son preciosas, y la historia es muy tierna, aunque con un leve toque de melancolía y sangre (Todos sabemos lo que le gusta eso a R.R Martin)

Jayson says

(B+) 76% | Good

Notes: A latter-day Grimm's tale, it's endearing and atmospheric, though its symbolism's peculiar and its message abstruse.

