



# Dragons and Unicorns: A Natural History

*Paul A. Johnsgard , Karin Johnsgard*

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Is it generally safe to walk by dragon weyrs on sunny days? Do dragons really lay golden eggs? Do dragon teeth have any medicinal value? And what about unicorns: Do some rare ones have two horns, and when aren't unicorns white? What is a unicorn "sneeze call," and what exactly is the best way to capture a unicorn, anyway?

Find the answers to these and other questions in this charming and carefully researched book that presents the first scientific look at two of the earth's most mysterious and elusive creatures. From the evolution and anatomy of dragons and unicorns to their own special skills (fire-breathing in dragons, reliable virgin detection in unicorns), this unique book of whimsical zoology, complete with drawings, will delight and enchant any modern reader.

## **Dragons and Unicorns: A Natural History Details**

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# **From Reader Review Dragons and Unicorns: A Natural History for online ebook**

## **Dracostellarum says**

Not a good book at all. It tries to come off as logical, but it leaves more questions than it answers. It is filled with inconsistencies that further destroy its believability. It could have been a wonderful book if it had been well done.

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## **Anna says**

I liked the structure of this book - it attempted to organize the histories of the unicorn and dragon in a manner worthy of a textbook. Obviously, much information was lacking for it to be a true textbook, but I appreciate the attempt. Sometimes, the attempt at "factual narrative" was a little insulting, since general knowledge denies these as facts. But it was an interesting perspective.

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## **Lisa says**

Dragons and Unicorns: A Natural History by Paul Johnsgard (1992)

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## **Jennifer says**

I really liked this book, being a big fan of dragons and unicorns. The illustrations are beautiful and myths and legends concerning the two animals incredibly interesting. This book was clearly well researched as I had vaguely heard of many of the myths before. A lovely read for fans of the mystical and magical. Highly recommend.

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## **Alistair Follansbee says**

I found this to be a singularly frustrating book. If you merely want a whimsical/humorous romp with nothing but a passing nod to mythology, feel free to give it a read and you may enjoy it. Personally, I was hoping for some more solid mythology, and not some poorly thought out evolution of the dragon and unicorn. As a biology undergraduate, this book became even more frustrating, as "A Natural History," it is not.

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## **Scott says**

<http://www.lincolnlibraries.org/depts...>

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## Kim Wyatt says

I don't know. I found this book trying to hard to make dragons and unicorns seem to real. A little magic and fantasy would have been nice.

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## Margot says

*Dragons and Unicorns: A Natural History* is a fictional amalgamation of fantasy, mythology, and history couched as a non-fiction history about these two mythical creatures who, in this book, are not mythical at all but merely--possibly--now extinct or very rare.

I bought this book nearly two decades ago, knowing nothing about it but drawn to it in the bookstore because of my love of unicorns. It has taken me that long to actually, *finally* sit down and read it. (Motivated more by the idea of reselling some of my books, to clear space, rather than a desperate need to read about the topic at hand.) And once I really put in a concerted effort to read this book, I realized why it had taken me so long to get around to it. Despite the great topic and fun premise, this book is insanely dry and dull to read. And that's why I must have picked it up half a dozen times before and immediately set it back down again. I persevered this time, but not to much end. I found it interesting how the authors took history and mythology and made it into a fictional alternate history. But the presentation was extremely lack-luster.

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## Nostalgia Reader says

I read this with both a serious "dragons and unicorns are totally real" mindset, as well as a completely skeptical and ready to point out all questionable facts mindset. This, of course, made for a very bipolar reading... half of my notes seem to be saying "well, this is BS, and purely correlation, not causation" while the other half notes interesting facts and mythologies. And that half-and-half aspect I think sums this book up. Parts are quite interesting, and really expanded my knowledge of overall dragon and unicorn mythology and history. Other parts, however, were a bit redundant and repetitive, and provided more of a social commentary, rather than a "real" history. I also found it a bit disproportionate; the unicorn myth section was quite extensive, but the dragon mythos wasn't really discussed. There was also the fact that water dragons, which the authors right off the bat seemed to discredit as "real" dragons, were discussed as if they *were* real dragons, seemingly just so they could talk about Nessie.

Despite a lot of faults, it was still a fun read, and there are some aspects that I now want to research further. I've never been much of a "fan" of such trite mythic creatures like dragons and unicorns, but after reading this I see a lot more worth in them, and want to learn more!

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## Becca says

I loved this book, but I'm taking away a star for the parts on dragon culture, which were irrelevant and not well-detailed. On the whole, I really enjoyed reading the descriptions distilled from various legends and am

looking forward to seeing how many species I can spot (erm, well, sort of). I found this book randomly in a bookshop (Twice Told Tales) in Seattle, and I'm so glad I bought it.

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### **Brittany says**

This was such a fun romp. Very old-fashioned and fusty, and very enjoyably witty anyway.

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### **Megan Paxson says**

Informative in some areas, mostly in the Unicorn section. The Dragon section had little facts, and some seemed very made up to fit the writer's beliefs. If this were more of a fiction book, rather than a "biology" book, then I'd accept what the authors had written for the reader to learn - but it's not.

If you're studying Dragons, I don't recommend this book, though it can be good for comparison to others to confirm facts; if you're studying Unicorns, this book has a better list of history, and most of the traits mentioned are fact (others questionable).

In a nutshell, if you need multiple resources to confirm fact from fake on Dragons and Unicorns, then this book will be useful. I do not recommend it as a singular study.

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### **Nutella4zuzanna says**

Dragons and Unicorns: A Natural History

A great book for anyone who is interested in mystical creatures and for some who believe in the existence of dragons and unicorns. This book gives a good amount of information on ether dragons or unicorns. It was a good read for me as to being interested in the general subject.

zuzanna

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### **Daleb. says**

Monday Dec. 19, 2011

I've had this one before but can't remember the details, so i think i shall read it again to refresh my memory (probably last year about this time i think)

xoDaleB.xo

Mon. Dec. 26, 2011

Well, it was just as interesting the second time around...I'd put this on my shelf w/my Graeme Base books  
Wish i could spot a few of these on my walks ;oP

xoDaleB.xo

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**Kailey (BooksforMKs) says**

Informative and fun, but too much biology and evolution stuff. I'd rather hear more fairy tales and myths.

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