

Dear Chris D' Lacey,

I hated reading. I'll admit it. I hated it so much I didn't even read the stories teachers threw at me. I avoided it like a plague. I especially didn't like reading about dragons. I always thought of them as overgrown lizards that were able to spit substances that can kill. Until. . . I came across your masterpiece The Fire Within. I was mystified, literally, when I saw the cover in the book orders by Scholastic. I mean, I've never come across a book cover with only a dragon's eye and bits of scales around it. I got curious and read the first chapter. I actually enjoyed it! I had never thought of a dragon, a vicious-evil-looking monster, being able to hold onto its pride and being gentle at heart. Also, the dragons knew they held an important place in the world, I found that very interesting. I'm pretty sure an average pet wouldn't know from the bottom of their hearts where their place was in the big wide world. I loved it so much, I bought the series excitedly. I dove in like a swimmer dives in a lake. That is when it clicked for me. It all changed.

The moment I started reading your books it changed me! When you wrote, "Mrs. Pennykettle clucked like a hen," the picture that popped unto my mind had me on the floor in seconds, laughing out loud. That day I got the desire to read. I read your books five times each.

My teachers were stumped by my progress. Now, in 8th grade, I'm so different than I was in 6th grade! I have straight A's and B's compared to the D's and F's I used to get. I even want to become a writer. Actually, I am! I already started my first book, The Protectors and

the True Amulets. I am currently editing it and changing it up a bit by creating different versions, seeing which one is better.

I chose to write this letter to you about The Last Dragon Chronicles because without you, David Rain, and the Pennykettles, I wouldn't have actually been able to enjoy the feeling of loving a book with all my heart! But now, I can!!! 😊

Thank You So Much,

Emily Cordero

P.S. - I've only read your first seven books in The Last Dragon Chronicles. I will read the last book soon, and I know I will enjoy and value it.