

East Dragon, West Dragon

By Robyn Eversole

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Two giant, imposing dragons confront their greatest fears…each other!

East Dragon and West Dragon live on opposite sides of the world. They have never met—and they like it that way. East Dragon is sure that West Dragon's huge wings mean that he is very, very strong. West Dragon fears that East Dragon's long, swishy tail means that he is very, very fierce. But when some meddlesome knights start a riff between their two kingdoms, East Dragon and West Dragon are finally forced to come face-to-fire-breathing-face. Might the two dragons finally discover they aren't so different after all?

Detail-rich illustrations combine with a lighthearted, inspiring message to create a playful twist on the classic theme of fierce, fearless dragons. This story of friendship across cultures begs to be read again and again!

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Editorial Review

Review
EAST DRAGON, WEST DRAGON [STARRED REVIEW!]
Author: Eversole, Robyn
Illustrator: Campbell, Scott

In this variant of "The City Mouse and the Country Mouse," two dragons learn to appreciate each another's talents and milieus. Sophisticated East Dragon lives in the emperor's palace with eight siblings. He dabbles in brush painting; a double-page spread of his family reveals skills ranging from sushi preparation and Kabuki performances to landscaping and storytelling. Whimsical caricatures hint at desktop Zen sand gardens and Pueblo storyteller dolls, anachronisms creating an additional level of enjoyment. West Dragon's habitat is a "boy cave." Surrounded by a tricycle, soccer ball, television set and books, he endures regular intrusions by the king's knights: "Nothing made a cave smell nastier than roast knight." While the dragons snub each other from their respective corners of the world, truth be told, each fears the other. It isn't until West Dragon's plot to distract the bothersome knights backfires, and he nearly drowns at the hand of marauding pirates, that their paths cross. Having just admired his counterpart's great wingspan and ability to fly, East Dragon swims swiftly to the rescue. All ends very well at a party complete with karaoke, pizza and a piñata. Eversole's spare narrative mixes tongue-in-cheek exaggeration, childhood fears and adventure, inspiring Campbell to contrast the rough and the refined, designing detailed watercolor worlds brimming with humor and beauty. This primer on friendship wrapped in hijinks is paced for maximum pleasure.
(Picture book. 3-7)
Kirkus Reviews, November 15, 2011 ***STARRED**

*****"Eversole's spare narrative mixes tongue-in-cheek exaggeration, childhood fears and adventure, inspiring Campbell to contrast the rough and the refined, designing detailed watercolor worlds brimming with humor and beauty. This primer on friendship wrapped in hijinks is paced for maximum pleasure."

--***Kirkus Reviews***, November 15, 2011, ***STAR**

East Dragon, West Dragon
Robyn Eversole, illus. by Scott Campbell. S&S/Atheneum, $16.99 (40p) ISBN 978-0-689-85828-4

Eversole (Red Berry Wool) offers a discursive story that attempts to contrast the cultures of east and west by way of two dragons who "lived on opposite sides of the world" and who mistrust each other more than a little. After delineating some of the differences between them—"East Dragon lived in a palace. West Dragon lived in a cave. East Dragon had golden scales. West Dragon was mossy green"—the story dissolves into a war when the pesky, dragon-hunting western king and his knights attack the eastern dragons and are imprisoned by the emperor. The West Dragon (who can fly) comes to his former adversaries' rescue and, after being hit by an arrow, is in turn saved by the East Dragon (who can swim), leading to reconciliation among humans and dragons alike. Campbell's (Zombie in Love) cartoony watercolors, which are packed with anachronistic details (in the West Dragon's cave, the marauding knights play video games and bounce on his bed), add a much-needed dose of humor, but don't make the story's muddied message any clearer. Ages 4–7.

--*Publishers Weekly*, October 31, 2011

East Dragon, West Dragon.
Eversole, Robyn (Author) , Campbell, Scott (Illustrator)
Jan 2012. 40 p. Atheneum, hardcover, $16.99. (9780689858284).

Though they're both dragons, East Dragon and West Dragon don't have a lot in common—so they think. Golden-scaled East Dragon and his nine brother and sister dragons are welcome in the emperor's palace for their good luck and sage advice. Muddy-colored West Dragon lives alone in a cave, occasionally plagued by pesky bands of the king's knights waving their pointy swords about. So West Dragon sends the king a map filled with "mountains and seas, treasures and quests, kingdoms and adventures," and the knights leave him in peace for greater glory. East Dragon and West Dragon finally meet when the knights show up at the emperor's palace and fill it with their special blend of mayhem, and the two dragons learn that maybe they're not so different after all. There's a message about not having your perceptions of others clouded by preconceived notions, but it's buried fairly deep beneath Campbell's packed, boisterous artwork. Here's a fantasy tale that, as an amusing diversion, is a bit off-kilter but right on target.

--*Booklist*, February 15, 2012

EVERSOLE, Robyn. East Dragon, West Dragon. illus. by Scott Campbell. unpaged. S & S/Atheneum. 2012. Tr $16.99. ISBN 978-0-689-85828-4; ebook $12.99. ISBN 978-1-4169-8704-8. LC 2010039609.
Gr 1-2–East meets West in a tale of two dragons who "kept a world between them, just in case." Living on opposite sides of the globe also makes it easy to build a defensive wall of beliefs about one another. The nine dragons of the East and one from the West live a peaceful, noncombative life amid people of their nations: "nothing made a cave smell nastier than roast knight." When West Dragon entices his troublesome, pesky knights and king to chase toward the east with a treasure map, misunderstandings, subsequent imprisonment, and a heroic rescue create an opportunity for both sides to meet and correct their self-made impressions about the other. Watercolor visions of both dragon realms combine traditional folk art and contemporary originality with cross-sectioned full-page images. Far-eastern architecture contrasts with European medieval castles, while modern technology, toys, and conveniences add a twist of the unexpected. Readers can search the pages for humorous scenes of modern comforts–a celebration with rock bands, karaoke, soccer for "tin" men and pizza for all. With an underlying message of the ills of prejudgment, this title should find a place in all libraries.
SLJ, March 2012

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—*School Library Journal*, March 2012

About the Author

Eversole, Robyn

Dr. **Robyn Eversole** is originally from Clarksburg, West Virginia, and now lives in Tasmania with her husband, Wayne; their daughter, Rebekkah; and various household members with fur, feathers, and fins. As an anthropologist, she has worked in South America and in universities across Australia. She has published six books for children.

Campbell, Scott

Scott Campbell’s paintings have appeared in numerous shows and publications around the world. He has created award winning comics, such as “Igloo Head and Tree Head,” which appeared in the Flight anthology, and is the illustrator of *Zombie in Love* and *Zombie in Love 2 + 1* by Kelly DiPucchio; *East Dragon, West Dragon* by Robyn Eversole; and *If Dogs Run Free* by Bob Dylan. Scott lives in New York City. Visit him at PyramidCar.com.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Roger Borquez:

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