



2010

Firelight

Debbie Barr

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Jordan, Sophie. *Firelight*. HarperCollins, 2010. ISBN 9780061935084. \$16.99. 336 p.

Reviewer: Debbie Barr

Reading level: Young Adult

Rating: Dependable

Genre: Informative; Fantasy fiction;

Subject: Dragons--Juvenile fiction; Shapeshifting--Juvenile fiction; High schools--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

Jacinda is the first fire-breather born in hundreds of years. Her clan of half dragon–half human Draki is desperate to keep her protected. When she sneaks out for a day flight, hunters appear and chase her down. She escapes after a kind hunter lets her go, but her clan is furious. That night, her mother and sister, who have both lost their ability to manifest as dragons, take Jacinda and escape to a new home in the desert, hoping Jacinda’s inner Draki will die. On her first day of school, Jacinda meets Will, the hunter who helped her escape, and they fall in love. Whenever she is around Will her draki reawakens, making it hard for her to keep her secret. After many romantic moments and a fight with a popular girl, Jacinda accidentally reveals her true self to Will and his family of hunters. She flees with a member of her clan in order to keep her family safe, leaving the story on a cliffhanger for the sequel.

Fans of paranormal romance will be excited for this new twist in the popular genre, which adds dragons and hunters into the equation. The story, however, is more focused on the romantic tension between Jacinda and Will. The fantastical elements of the Draki are used more as a background, which may disappoint readers who are hoping for more action. Though the story mostly takes place at a high school, there is still plenty of tension and excitement to move the plot forward. *Firelight* is a great fit for teens looking for more paranormal romances after reading *Twilight* or *Shiver*.

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