

## About Christopher Paolini

Christopher Paolini was born on November 17, 1983 in Southern California. He has lived most of his life in Paradise Valley, Montana with his parents and younger sister, Angela. The tall, jagged Beartooth Mountains rise on one side of Paradise Valley. Snowcapped most of the year, they inspired the fantastic scenery in *Eragon*.

Christopher was homeschooled by his parents. As a child, he often wrote short stories and poems, made frequent trips to the library, and read widely. Some of his favorite books were Bruce Coville's *Jeremy Thatcher, Dragon Hatcher*, Frank Herbert's *Dune*, and Raymond E. Feist's *Magician*, as well as books by Anne McCaffrey, Jane Yolen, Brian Jacques, E.R. Eddison, David Eddings, and Ursula K. Le Guin.

The idea of *Eragon* began as the daydreams of a teen. Christopher's love for the magic of stories led him to craft a novel that he would enjoy reading. The project began as a hobby, a personal challenge; he never intended it to be published. All the characters in *Eragon* are from Christopher's imagination except Angela the herbalist, who is loosely based on his sister.

Christopher was fifteen when he wrote the first draft of *Eragon*. He took a second year to revise the book, and then gave it to his parents to read. The family decided to self-publish the book and spent a third year preparing the manuscript for publication: copyediting, proofreading, designing a cover, typesetting the manuscript, and creating marketing materials. During this time Christopher drew the map for *Eragon*, as well as the dragon eye for the book cover (which now appears inside the Knopf hardcover edition). The manuscript was sent to press and the first books arrived in November 2001. The Paolini family spent the next year promoting the book at libraries, bookstores, and schools in 2002 and early 2003.

In summer 2002, author Carl Hiaasen, whose stepson had read a copy of the self-published book while on vacation in Montana, brought *Eragon* to the attention of his publisher, Alfred A. Knopf Books For Young Readers, an imprint of Random House Children's Books. Michelle Frey, executive editor at Knopf, contacted Christopher and his family to ask if they were interested in having Knopf publish *Eragon*. The answer was yes, so after another round of editing, Knopf published *Eragon* in August 2003.

After an extensive United States and United Kingdom tour for *Eragon* that lasted into 2004, Christopher began writing his second book, *Eldest*, which continues the adventures of Eragon and the dragon Saphira. Upon publication of *Eldest*, in August 2005, Christopher toured throughout the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Spain, Germany, France, and Italy.

In December 2006, Fox 2000 released the movie adaptation of *Eragon* in theaters around the world.

Early in 2007, as Christopher was writing Book Three, he realized that the plot and characters demanded more space than could fit into one volume and that a fourth book would be necessary to give each story element the attention it deserved. What began as the Inheritance trilogy became the Inheritance Cycle. Book Three, *Brisingsr*, was published on September 20, 2008.

In 2009 Christopher wrote *Eragon's Guide to Alagaësia*—an illustrated tour of the most interesting peoples, places, and things in Eragon's world. It was published in November of the same year.

Book Four, *Inheritance*, published November 8, 2011, completes the story that Christopher envisioned years ago when he first outlined the adventure. His tour for *Inheritance* took Christopher across the United States and to Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Czech Republic, Spain, The Netherlands, Australia, and New Zealand. Also in 2011, he was recognized by the Guinness World Records as the "youngest author of a bestselling book series."

Christopher is grateful to all his readers. He is especially heartened to hear that his books have inspired young people to read and write stories of their own. Although Christopher will one day return to the world of Alagaësia, he is currently working on a science fiction novel.

Visit [www.paolini.net](http://www.paolini.net) to find exclusive information on past and future projects, along with answers to commonly asked questions. Connect with other fans at [Shurtugal.com](http://Shurtugal.com). Also check out the following:

Christopher's Facebook page: [facebook.com/christopher.paolini](https://facebook.com/christopher.paolini)<sup>39</sup>  
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