

= Brisingr =

Brisingr is the third novel in the Inheritance Cycle by Christopher Paolini . It was released on September 20 , 2008 . Originally , Paolini intended to conclude the then Inheritance Trilogy in three books , but during writing the third book he decided that the series was too complex to conclude in one book , the reason being is that the single book would be close to 1 @, @ 500 pages long . A deluxe edition of Brisingr , which includes removed scenes and previously unseen art , was released on October 13 , 2009 .

Brisingr focuses on the story of Eragon and his dragon Saphira as they continue their quest to overthrow the corrupt ruler of the Empire , Galbatorix . Eragon is one of the last remaining Dragon Riders , a group that governed the fictional nation of Alagaësia , where the series takes place . Brisingr begins almost immediately after the preceding novel Eldest concludes .

Published by Alfred A. Knopf Books for Young Readers , an imprint of Random House Children 's Books , the book sold 550 @, @ 000 copies on its first day of sale , a record for a Random House children 's book . The novel debuted at number one on USA Today 's top 150 bestsellers list . Reviewers criticized the book for its length , while commenting on Paolini 's growing maturity in his treatment of characters .

= = Plot = =

= = = Setting and characters = = =

Brisingr begins about three days after the events in Eldest conclude . It continues the story of the Inheritance Cycle and takes place on the fictional continent of Alagaësia during a struggle for power as the small country Surda and a rebel group called the Varden attempts to overthrow the larger Empire . They are supported mainly by elves , dwarves , and Urgals , but the Empire is populated with large numbers of humans , who far outnumber Surda and its allies . The Inheritance Cycle focuses on the story of a teenage boy named Eragon and his dragon Saphira . Eragon is one of the few remaining Dragon Riders , a group that governed Alagaësia in past times but were almost destroyed by a Rider named Galbatorix , who took control of the land . Galbatorix 's greatest fear is that a new Rider will rise up and usurp his position as king of the Empire , so when he finds out about Eragon and his dragon , he sends his servants after them in an effort to capture them . Eragon and Saphira are forced to flee from their home , and decide to join the Varden .

Brisingr is told in third @-@ person from the perspectives of multiple primary protagonists . These characters include the humans Eragon , Roran , and Nasuada , and the dragons Saphira and Glaedr . The humans Galbatorix and Murtagh return as antagonists , along with Murtagh 's dragon , Thorn . The Ra 'zac return for a minor antagonist role , and Varaug , a Shade , also appears for a main antagonist role . Many minor characters reprise their roles in Brisingr from previous installments of the Inheritance Cycle , including the elves Arya , Islanzadí , and Oromis ; the dwarf Orik ; the humans Angela , Katrina and Elva ; and the dragon Glaedr .

= = = Plot summary = = =

Brisingr begins as Eragon , Saphira , and Roran travel to Helgrind , the home of the Ra 'zac , the creatures that had killed Eragon 's uncle , Garrow . There they rescue Roran 's betrothed , Katrina , who was being held prisoner , and kill one of the Ra 'zac . Saphira , Roran , and Katrina return to the Varden , while Eragon stays behind to kill the remaining Ra 'zac and dole out a suitable punishment to Sloan , Katrina 's father who was imprisoned in Helgrind . (Eragon was reluctant to kill him) . While he is fighting the remaining Ra 'zac , it mentions that Galbatorix has discovered the name of all names . Eragon doesn 't understand , and ignores the Ra 'zac after it pleads for mercy , and kills him . After consulting the elven Queen Islazadi , they come to an agreement on how to punish Sloan . Sloan is condemned to never meet his daughter again . Eragon arranges affairs so that Sloan will

regain eyesight in the future , should he repent for his crimes . As Eragon travels back to the Varden , he confronts a hermit in the name Of Tenga (He is later revealed to be a teacher of the herbalist , Angela) . Arya the elf had come in order to protect Eragon , as he traveled through the Empire . They have a conflict with a group of Soldiers , meet some spirits as they travel to the Varden . Arya reveals about her association with Faolin and crafts a boat made of grass , whilst Eragon sings a flower for her . Once they return to the Varden , Eragon discovers that Katrina is pregnant with Roran 's child and a wedding is arranged , which Eragon is to conduct . Just before it begins , a small force of enchanted troops attack alongside Murtagh and his dragon , Thorn . The enchanted soldiers had spells cast by Galbatorix that couldn 't allow them to feel pain . King Orrin , King of Surda , discovers a method to kill the soldiers , behead them . Elven spell @-@ casters aid Eragon and Saphira and cause Murtagh and Thorn to flee back to the Empire , winning the battle . After the fight , Roran marries Katrina . The leader of the Varden , Nasuada , then orders Eragon to attend the election of the new dwarf king in the Beor Mountains . He leaves with much reluctance as Nasuada forced Saphira to remain in the Varden , in order to protect the Varden from Murtagh and Thorn . Eragon travels with Nar Garzhvog , Leader of the Urgals to Bergan Hold , ancestral home of the Durmígrist Ingentium . They see a Shrrg , Nagra and an enormous bear , which Eragon regarded as a threat even for Saphira , on the way . After staying for a brief period in Bergan Hold , where he is shown the forest of stone , Eragon heads to Farthen Dur where the new dwarf king is to be elected . Once among the dwarves in Farthen Dur , Eragon is the target of a failed assassination , found to be the work of the dwarf clan Az Sweldn rak Anhûin , whom the dwarf Orík then forces into exile . Having earned the sympathies of the dwarves , Orík is elected the new king . Saphira arrives to Farthen Dur for Orík 's coronation and reconstructs Isidar Mithrim , the star rose which was destroyed in the battle of Farthen Dur .

After Orík 's coronation , Eragon and Saphira return to the elven capital Ellesméra to train . There , Saphira revealed from a memory that Eragon 's deceased mentor , Brom , is Eragon 's father ; which Brom asked her to show him when the time was right . Oromis and Glaedr too justify Saphira 's revelation . Glaedr also reveals the source of Galbatorix 's power : Eldunari , or heart of hearts . An Eldunari allows the holder to communicate with or draw energy from the dragon it belongs to , even if the dragon is deceased , or a great distance away . Galbatorix spent years collecting Eldunari , and forcing the deceased dragons to channel their energy to him through their Eldunari . Saphira is delighted to learn of the existence of the dragons , although imprisoned by Galbatorix 's dark magics . After training , Eragon visits Rhunön , the elven blacksmith who forges swords for Riders . But Rhunön wouldn 't create a weapon for him because long ago she swore an oath never to create a weapon again after the Fall of the Riders . Also her stocks of the metal , required to forge rider 's swords was completely exhausted . But by deciphering the werecat Solembum 's instructions Eragon is able to acquire the metal he requires , from under the roots of the Menoa Tree . After Eragon 's repeated requests , Rhunön creates a weapon by controlling Eragon 's body . Eragon gives a name to the sword , " Brisingr . " As Eragon 's body itself forged the sword , a special bond between the sword and Eragon had been created , thus making the sword burst into flames whenever Eragon utters Brisingr , even when he does not intend to use magic . Oromis suspects that " Brisingr " is part of the sword 's true name . Before Eragon and Saphira depart for the Varden , Oromis says that the time has come for him and Glaedr to openly oppose the Empire in combat alongside the Queen of the Elves , Islanzadí . Thus , Glaedr gives his own Eldunari to Eragon . If anything should happen to Glaedr , Eragon would still be able to get advice from him . Then Glaedr and Oromis fly to Gil 'ead , while Eragon and Saphira fly to Feinster , the city that the Varden are laying siege to .

Meanwhile , Roran is sent on various missions as part of the military force of the Varden . One of the targets is a convoy of supply wagons guarded by enchanted soldiers that can 't feel pain . The unit suffers extreme casualties , and the commander Martland Redbeard is replaced after losing his hand . During a mission to attack a large enemy force raiding a village , plans made by the new commander , Captain Edric almost cause the operation to fail , but Roran gives new orders and kills one hundred and ninety @-@ three enemy soldiers by himself , leading the Varden to victory . Despite saving the mission , Roran is charged with insubordination and is flogged as a punishment .

After the public whipping , Nasuada promotes Roran to commander and sends his unit on a mission . He leaves in command of a group of both men and Urgals to enforce the idea of men and Urgals working together . When an Urgal , Yarbog , challenges Roran for leadership of the unit , he wrestles the Urgal and forces him to submit . After returning to the Varden , his squad joins the siege of Feinster , a city in the Empire . As the siege begins , Eragon rescues the elf Arya and departs to find the leader of the city , but discovers that three magicians are attempting to create a Shade . While racing to kill the magicians , Eragon has a vision through Glaedr 's Eldunari showing Oromis and Murtagh fighting . Murtagh is using power of several Eldunari , and Glaedr and Thorn fight in the sky . Soon Glaedr is badly wounded . In the midst of the fighting , Galbatorix possesses Murtagh and tries to lure Oromis to his side : when he fails , and after Oromis suffers a seizure , Galbatorix uses Murtagh to kill him and Glaedr is killed shortly after . After the vision , the magicians have managed to create the Shade Varaug . Eragon and Arya fight desperately to slay Varaug . Eragon then distracts Varaug by battling him through the mind . Arya then stabs Varaug in the heart . After the successful siege , Nasuada tells Eragon the Varden 's plans for invading the Empire . Arya and Eragon are now both known as Shadeslayers .

= = Background = =

= = = Writing = = =

The first two books in the Inheritance Cycle , Eragon and Eldest , sold over 15 million copies worldwide together . Alfred A. Knopf Books for Young Readers , an imprint of Random House Children 's Books and the publisher of the books , prepared Brisingr 's release by printing 2 @. @ 5 million copies in advance , Random House 's biggest initial print run of a children 's book . Paolini said he tried not to let the expectations surrounding Brisingr affect him , stating that " As an author , I found that I can 't really allow myself to think about those things . I actually fell into that trap with the first part of Brisingr . I sat there and I started obsessing about every single word . " He turned away from his computer and began writing on parchment paper instead . The pages were rewritten on a computer document afterwards by his mother .

Unlike Eragon , Brisingr features multiple points of view . Parts of the book are written in Saphira 's perspective for the first time in the series . Paolini based the dragon 's behavior and attitude on the pets and animals he grew up around , particularly his pet cats : " I thought a dragon would be like a cat in some ways , that same sort of self @-@ satisfied attitude . " He added that it was challenging to depict scenes from the standpoint of a dragon , but he enjoyed doing it because Saphira " has so many interesting thoughts and opinions . "

The Ancient Language used by the elves in the Inheritance Cycle is partly based on Old Norse . The word brisingr is an ancient Old Norse word meaning " fire " , which Paolini found while reading through a dictionary of word origins . Paolini said he " loved it so much , he decided to base the rest of [the Ancient Language] on Old Norse . To find more words , I went online and dug up dictionaries and guides to the language . I invented more words based on what I learned and then formed a system of grammar and a pronunciation guide to fit my world . Developing this has probably been the most difficult part of writing the books . " The languages used by the dwarves and Urgals in the book were created from scratch by Paolini .

When asked by Sci Fi Wire what kind of challenges he faced while writing the book , Paolini said it was trying to avoid any references to modern items or actions . Brisingr takes place long before the industrial revolution , which Paolini said " limits not only the things my characters use and do , but it also informs their worldview . This constraint extends to more recent words and phrases as well . For example , in Brisingr , I was going to use the description short @-@ order . When I researched its origins , however , I discovered that it was coined to describe modern cooking : a short @-@ order cook . "

= = = Split and editing = = =

According to its author , Brisingr features a complex story with " weighty moral dilemmas " and " a sheer number of events that gives it a rich narrative . " Halfway through the writing of the book , Paolini realized the story was so complex that it was going to end up being 2 @, @ 000 pages . He decided to split it into two books , and thus the Inheritance Trilogy became the Inheritance Cycle . Paolini revealed this decision in an October 2007 press release , and stated that his development as a writer since Eragon is what caused the book to become so complex .

The decision to bring in and then kill a Shade at the end of the book was made when Paolini realized he needed a new ending for the book after it was split up . He was in need of plot points that were strong enough to keep the reader interested through the ending of the book . The point of view of Glaedr and Oromis ' confrontation with Thorn and Murtagh was combined with the Shade battle to further keep the reader interested .

The first draft of the book was finished in April 2008 . In a newsletter sent out that month , Paolini said he was busy " chewing [his] way through the editing , which has been a surprisingly enjoyable experience this time around . " The hardest part of editing was having to excise material that he spent days and weeks working on . " However , as most any writer will tell you , just because you spent ten days slaving over a certain scene is no reason to keep it in the final manuscript . The only question that matters is whether the scene contributes to the book as a whole , " he said . Michelle Frey , executive editor at Alfred A. Knopf who worked with Paolini on Eragon and Eldest , assisted Paolini as the editor of Brisingr .

= = = Title , cover , and audio book = = =

Paolini said " Brisingr " was one of the first words he thought of for the book 's title , as it was the first Ancient Language word that Eragon learned in the series , and it holds a particular significance for him . Unlike the first two books in the series , Brisingr has a subtitle : The Seven Promises of Eragon Shadeslayer and Saphira Bjartskular . Paolini revealed it in a newsletter at his official website , in which he said that it was added " because I felt it suited the story , and also because , in a way , I still view Brisingr and Book Four as two halves of the same volume ; the subtitle is merely the name of the first of these two sections . "

John Jude Palencar illustrated the English cover featuring the golden dragon Glaedr . The content of the cover was one of the few things initially confirmed by Paolini before he wrote the book . He had originally planned for it to feature a green dragon , but later indicated that this was affected by the expansion of the series to a four @-@ book cycle . Paolini liked the cover because it reflects that Brisingr is the longest and " most intense entry in the series so far . " The Japanese translation of Brisingr was so large that the publisher split it into two volumes . Since the Japanese did not want the same cover on two volumes , they commissioned Palencar to paint one of the Lethrblaka for the second volume . The Lethrblaka are the Ra 'zac 's steeds and parents . Paolini made drawings based on the book for the deluxe edition of Brisingr , including one with Eragon 's arm and hand holding the sword he receives in the book . The sword , named Brisingr , has flames around its blade .

Gerard Doyle provided the voice for the English audio book of Brisingr . In order to help Doyle with this , Paolini recorded the pronunciation of every invented name and word in Brisingr from a list over nine pages long . It was tricky even for Paolini to do this because he cannot " roll [his] r 's " properly . Doyle said he prepared for narrating Brisingr by going " largely by physical description . If there are specific details about the voices , I latch onto those as best I can . But if a creature ? s anatomical features are described , I try to imagine , for example , how the jaw might work ... and then try and adapt that and attach it to something that sounds okay to the ear and is still slightly stranger than normal . "

= = Promotion and release = =

In March 2008 , a spoiler about the book was released on the Inheritance Cycle 's official website ,

stating that " In Brisingr , Eragon will meet a god . " In May 2008 , Paolini posted a video message on his website stating that in the book , Eragon will meet " a new , rather terrifying enemy " that " likes to laugh , but not in a good way . " A third and final spoiler was released by Paolini in July 2008 , stating that one of the characters will become pregnant in the book . Excerpts from Brisingr were released both on the official Inheritance Cycle website and on MSNBC , which held an interview with Paolini the day before the release of the book . Paolini toured across ten cities in the North America to promote the book ; his first visit was to New York City on September 19 , 2008 , and his last was to Bozeman on November 22 , 2008 .

Brisingr was released in the United States , Canada , Australia , New Zealand , Singapore , and the United Kingdom on September 20 , 2008 , though it was originally supposed to be released on September 23 , 2008 . Nancy Hinkel , publishing director of Alfred A. Knopf Books for Young Readers , said the company received " an outpouring of requests from booksellers hoping to host midnight launch parties . We have responded to their enthusiasm by advancing the date , and we know fans will welcome the opportunity to celebrate the publication together . " More than 2 @, @ 500 midnight party events were held in the United States for the September 20 release . A deluxe edition of Brisingr was released on October 13 , 2009 , including deleted scenes , foldout posters , never @-@ before @-@ seen art by the author , and a guide to dwarf runes .

Brisingr sold 550 @, @ 000 copies in North America on its first day of an initial print run of 2 @. @ 5 million copies . Both the initial print run and first @-@ day sales were the largest ever for the Random House Children 's Book division . Brisingr sold 45 @, @ 000 copies on its first day in the United Kingdom and was the fastest @-@ selling children 's book in the country in 2008 . In Australia , the book sold 141 @, @ 000 copies in 2008 , making it one of the country 's top ten best @-@ selling books of the year . Brisingr debuted at number one on USA Today 's top 150 bestsellers list . It stayed on the list for 25 consecutive weeks until March 3 , 2009 .

= = Critical reception = =

Brisingr received mixed to positive reviews , with critical reviewers commenting on the book 's length and Paolini 's growing maturity in his treatment of characters . David Durham of the Washington Post gave the novel a moderately negative review , praising Paolini for his streamlined prose , but said the novel loses focus in the middle . He added , though , that Brisingr " reconnects with the core elements that animate Eragon 's tale " toward the end of the book , and Paolini shows growing maturity during some " quiet " moments in Brisingr , although Durham noted these parts could bore younger readers . Durham also found that Paolini 's new characters are original , and that Paolini added depth to some characters from the previous novels in the Inheritance Cycle . In contrast , Sheena McFarland of The Salt Lake Tribune said that Paolini " hasn 't learned how to create characters that readers can relate to , " although she praised him for strong female characters in Brisingr such as Arya and Nasuada . McFarland calls the last fifty pages " riveting " , but says they are a " paltry reward for trudging through the 700 preceding pages . "

Publishers Weekly gave Brisingr a negative review , criticizing the novel for relying on " classic fantasy tropes " , and noting that Brisingr might appeal to younger readers , but older readers might be unimpressed . Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA) reviewer Kathleen Beck criticized the length of the book , accusing Paolini of " plainly [enjoying] wandering around in his fantasy world " and urging him to provide a cleaner finish to the series . She further criticized the content of the book , asserting that " there is a lot of action in [Brisingr] but paradoxically not much forward motion . " Haley Keeley of The Buffalo News , however , commented that with alternating points of views every few chapters , Paolini " manages to convey the complexity of the situation while offering refreshing new perspectives . " Children 's Literature writer Jamie Hain gave the book a positive review , praising the action scenes , as well as the appeal to both male and female readers . She asserts that it is a " long read " , but it is " worth it for those who reach the end . "