

HAPS/1

DRAGON WORLD



DRAGONWORLD

Did you think dragons only existed in books? You're going to enter a world where they *do* exist — where they walk and talk and do tricks and ask riddles. The only thing they won't do is eat you. Well, they probably won't do that.

You're going to enter a strange world, a world of sorcerers and magic, a world of bright light and pitch darkness. Use your eyes; use your ears; use your brains. And use your imagination. Things aren't always quite what they seem; but if something puzzles you, talk about it with someone else. Everything has got a reason, a reason that *you* can work out.

Dragonworld is a place somewhere just the other side of somewhere else. The sort of place you sometimes visit in your dreams — or when you're just about falling asleep, but just a little bit awake as well. At times like that, things can sometimes be a little frightening, but don't worry! It will all turn out right in the end. Keep your head, and you'll keep your head!

Dragons do have a bad reputation, but most of the ones you'll meet aren't at all dangerous. And some of them will even help you on your way. You just have to tickle their sense of humour. Most of all, they love riddles, so you'll have to do a lot of puzzling. And you might even get the chance to ask a dragon a riddle, as well.

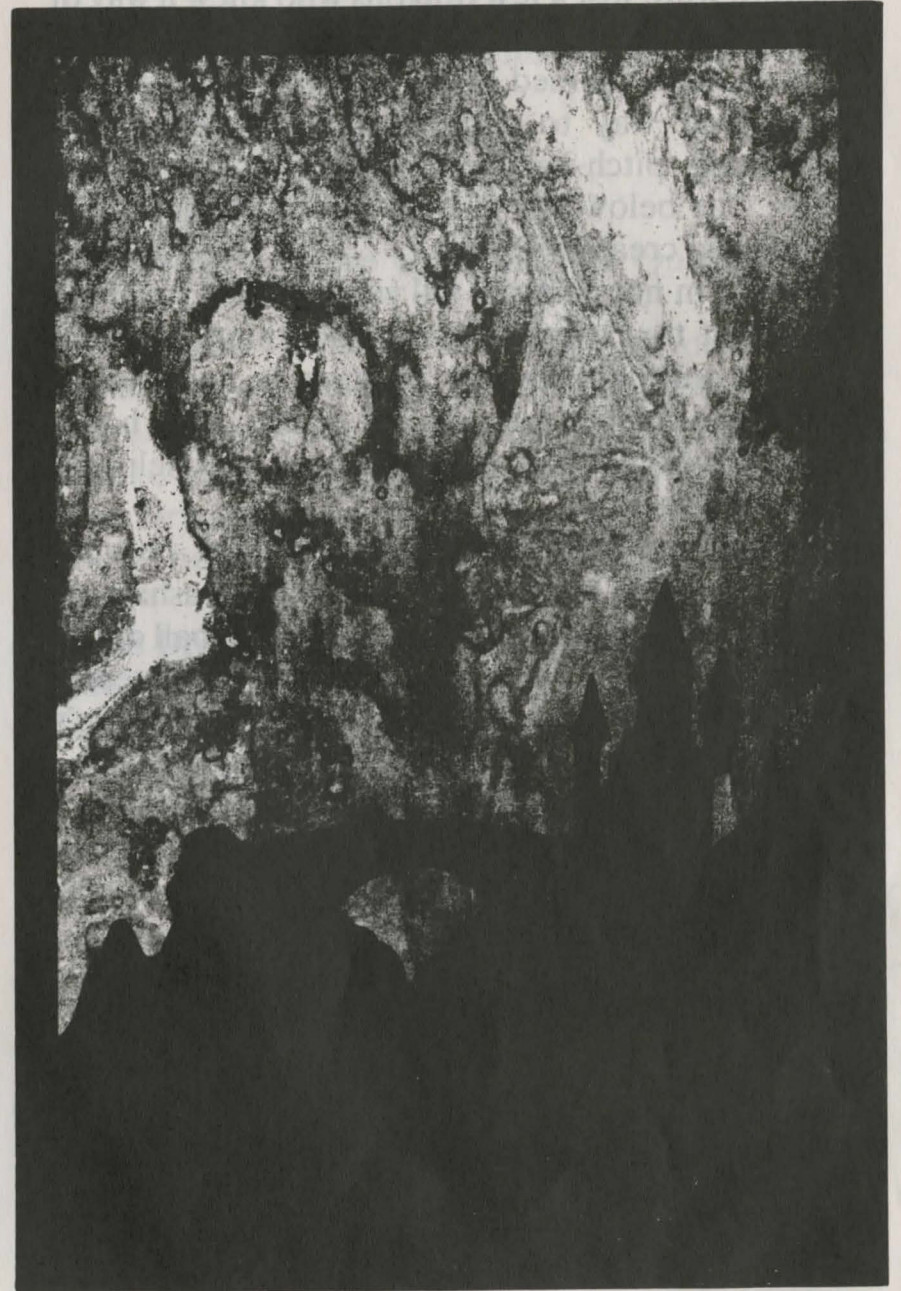
Now, you'd better be told why you've come to Dragonworld.

A long, long place ago, in a faraway time, some-when beyond the magic tree in Granny's garden, there lived a race of dragons who had everything any dragon could ever have wanted. Plenty to eat, drink, happiness, good health, good friends, and an everlasting supply of free firelighters. But in the middle of one of those long hot summers when rain seems like something from another planet, disaster struck.

There was a squabble which turned into a fight, a fight that turned into a battle, and a battle that turned into a war. All the dragons got caught up in it, whether they wanted to or not. The red dragons breathed fire at the green dragons, the green dragons breathed fire at the red dragons, and the blue dragons breathed fire at everyone. Even the yellow dragons huffed and puffed a little bit, although it was very much against their principles.

I'm afraid it's all too easy to imagine what happened with all this fire being breathed about. In months without rain, the grass had become as dry as straw. Wherever a stray flame from a dragon's nostril fell, the grass burst into flames itself. Within a very short time, most of the land was ablaze.

As soon as the dragons realized this, of course, they stopped the fighting immediately — except for one or two who were so caught up with being angry that they didn't see what was happening. But by this time, the fire was almost everywhere, and spreading fast. For most of the dragons, there was nothing for it but to unfurl their powerful wings, and fly away, away, in search of another home somewhere on another planet.



There were just a few dragons who knew a way of staying on their beloved home planet Earth. These dragons hadn't joined in the fighting. Instead, they made their way to a secret pathway through a frightening pitch-dark cave, deep in the earth's centre, far below the terrible inferno their foolish friends had created.

Now, I'm not going to tell you what the squabble was about that caused this terrible thing. It seems too tiny and unimportant a matter to have nearly destroyed a planet for. Ah, but on the other hand, perhaps I should. You never know, it may help you in your quest.

I hope there aren't any dragons listening, because they're going to be very embarrassed and ashamed. The squabble that turned the earth into a ball of fire was caused by . . . an argument about some teeth. Five teeth, to be exact. Five measly little dragon's teeth.

As I said before, it was superb summer weather. All around, dragons were basking in the sunshine. Red, blue, yellow and green dragons, all friends together, peaceful, calm, relaxed.

* * * * *

(Sounds of summer. All the dragons are snoring gently. Blue Dragon comes running quickly towards the group.)

Blue Dragon: Wake up! Wake up! Quickly, wake up!

Red Dragon: *(sleepily)* What's the rush, dear?

Green Dragon: *(sleepily)* Hello, hello, hello.

Red Dragon: Save your energy, love. There's no need to rush about in weather like this.

Blue Dragon: You wait! You wait! You wait till you've heard what I've done. You'll sit up alright then!

Green Dragon: I doubt it very much.

Blue Dragon: Oh yes you will. You will. Look!

Yellow Dragon: This mossy bank is just too comfortable.

Blue Dragon: Look! Come on, look! Just look what I've got in my hand.

Red Dragon: Perhaps later on. When the sun's a little bit lower in the sky.

Blue Dragon: No! Now!

(He makes Green Dragon sit up.)

Green Dragon: Get off!

Blue Dragon: No, No. Come on. You look. Come on, open your eyes. Come on, look.

Green Dragon: Oh, anything for a quiet life. Go on, hold it still. Just calm down a bit.

Blue Dragon: Well?

Red Dragon: Looks like some teeth. Five of them.



Green Dragon: Ah! Been to the dentist, have you? Had five teeth out and glad to have got it all over with?

Blue Dragon: No! No!

Red Dragon: Don't forget. Put them under your pillow tonight.

Blue Dragon: Look, you fools. These aren't my teeth. They aren't any old teeth. They're the sacred magic teeth of Bewgo.

(There is music in the air.)

Green Dragon: Where did that music come from?

Red Dragon: I don't know. It just seemed to come out of the air when our friend here said the word . . . what was it again?

Blue Dragon: Bewgo!

(The music is heard again.)

Green Dragon: There it goes again.

Red Dragon: Well I never!

Blue Dragon: Can't you see, you idiots? It's the teeth. They're the magic teeth of Bewgo.

(The music is heard again.)

Red Dragon: Hey, that's very good! Did you hear that?

Green Dragon: Terrific.

Red Dragon: I don't suppose you'd like to tell us how it's done, would you?

Blue Dragon: Don't you understand? It's . . .

Green Dragon: Hey, everyone. Come and listen to this. Our blue friend here has got a great trick.

Red Dragon: Hidden a tape-recorder, I expect.

Blue Dragon: It's not a trick! Don't you see? They're the magic teeth of Bewgo!

(The music is heard again.)

Red Dragon: Amazing. Really good.

Yellow Dragon: I've never seen anything like it.

Green Dragon: I don't know how he does it.

Red Dragon: Every time he says 'Bewgo' . . .

(The music is heard again.)

Red Dragon: Hey! It worked again, when I did it.

Yellow Dragon: Now that really is clever!!

* * * * *

And so it went on, with all the dragons taking it in turns to say the magic word and make the music happen. Everyone thought it was really good fun, except of course for the blue dragon who had shown them the teeth in the first place. He got angrier and angrier, while the other dragons got more and more helpless with laughter. Finally, they were all rolling about on the ground, and this gave the blue dragon his chance.

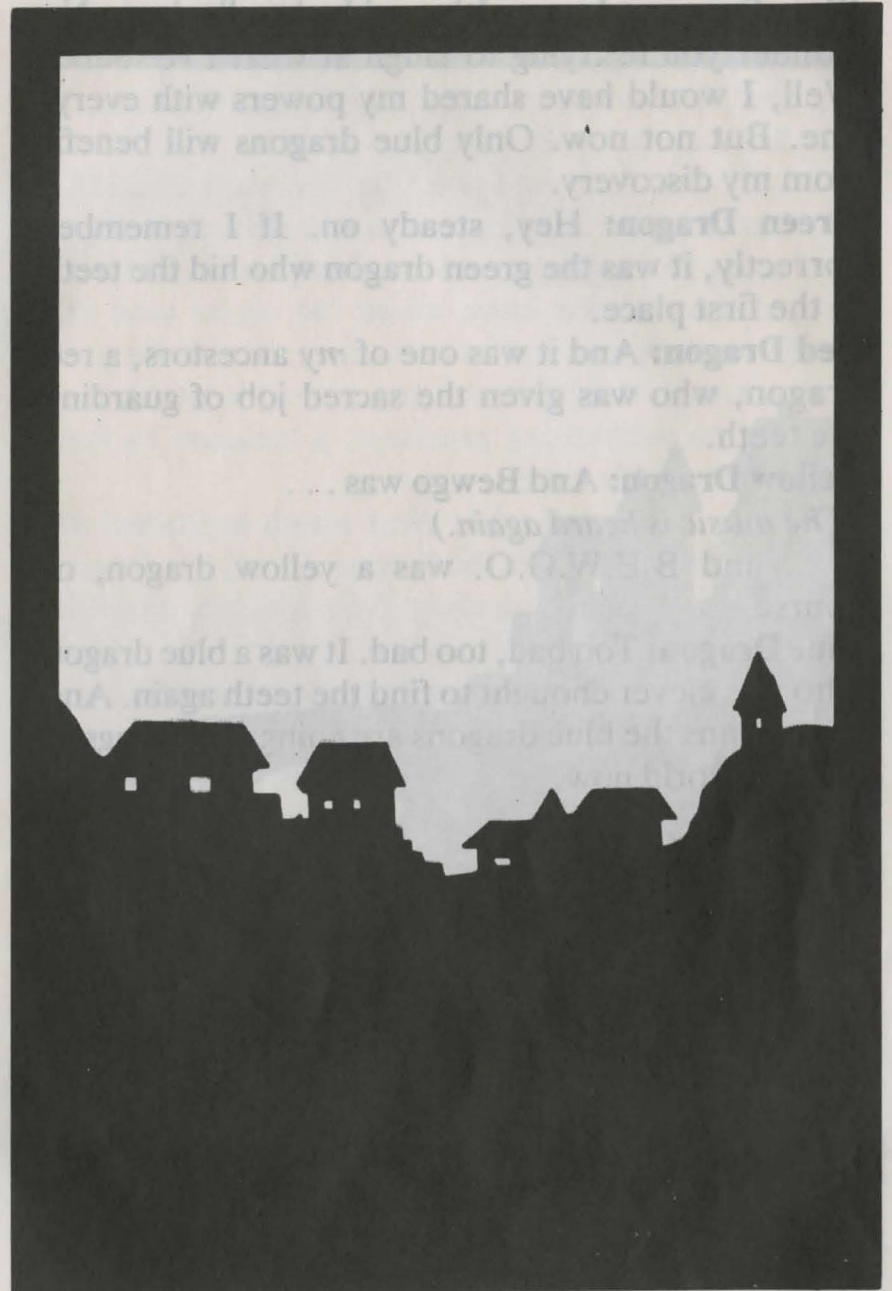
* * * * *

Blue Dragon: Listen. Listen, or you'll regret it!

Red Dragon: I say. Steady on, old chap.

* * * * *

There was a moment's silence. And in that moment, looking round the gathering of dragons, the blue dragon noticed a very unfortunate coincidence. He was the only blue dragon there. Everyone else happened to be red or green or yellow.



Blue Dragon: I see. It's suddenly all clear. No wonder you're trying to laugh at what I've found. Well, I would have shared my powers with everyone. But not now. Only blue dragons will benefit from my discovery.

Green Dragon: Hey, steady on. If I remember correctly, it was the green dragon who hid the teeth in the first place.

Red Dragon: And it was one of *my* ancestors, a red dragon, who was given the sacred job of guarding the teeth.

Yellow Dragon: And Bewgo was . . .

(The music is heard again.)

. . . and B.E.W.G.O. was a yellow dragon, of course.

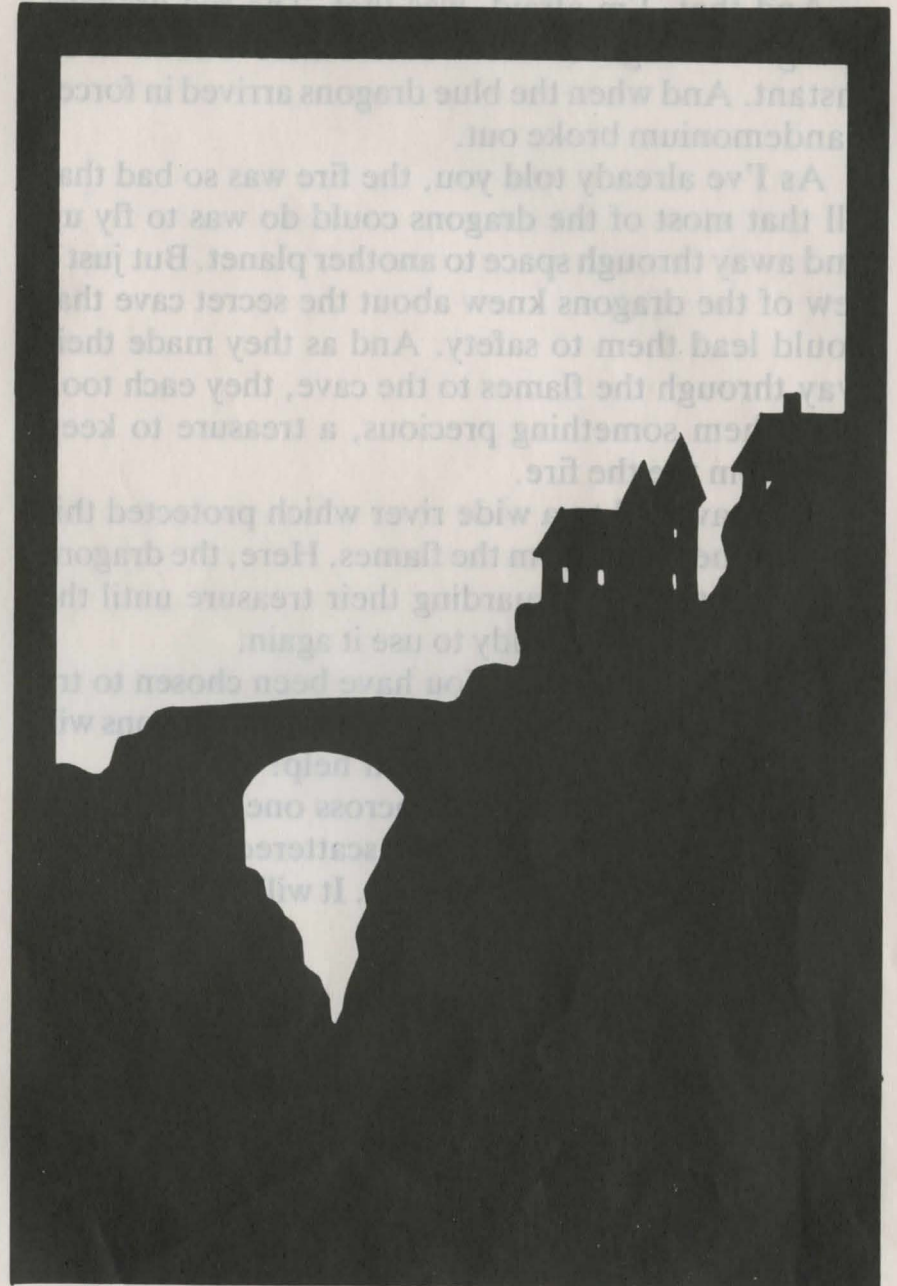
Blue Dragon: Too bad, too bad. It was a blue dragon who was clever enough to find the teeth again. And that means the blue dragons are going to be kings of Dragonworld now.

* * * * *

With that, the blue dragon tried to run off to find more blue dragons. But before he could get away, a red dragon snatched the teeth from him. The blue dragon ran to get help, and the red dragon held the teeth up in triumph.

Red Dragon: There! Now we'll see who has the power. Red dragons are the rightful guards of the teeth.

Green Dragon: Oh no they're not!



And that, I'm afraid, was that. The red dragons and green dragons were at each others' throats in an instant. And when the blue dragons arrived in force, pandemonium broke out.

As I've already told you, the fire was so bad that all that most of the dragons could do was to fly up and away through space to another planet. But just a few of the dragons knew about the secret cave that could lead them to safety. And as they made their way through the flames to the cave, they each took with them something precious, a treasure to keep safe from the the fire.

The cave led to a wide river which protected this part of the world from the flames. Here, the dragons lived contentedly, guarding their treasure until the world outside was ready to use it again.

That day has come. You have been chosen to try to find the treasure once more. And the dragons will help you — if you deserve their help!

And if you should come across one of the magic teeth of Bewgo which were scattered and hidden during the fighting — pick it up. It will be very useful to you.

* * * * *

