

February 2007

Dear Marilyn,

What a thrill to hear that *Eragon* won the Missouri Association of School Librarians Gateway Award! I am honored that *Eragon* is such a favorite with students.

Please extend my thanks to everyone who participated with this project. Enclosed is a letter to the students readers, which I hope you can share with them.

Three cheers for librarians and teachers who year after year introduce youngsters to books and encourage them to read!

With gratitude,

Christopher Paolini

Dear Students,

Greetings from Montana, where snow adorns the craggy Beartooth Mountains. Thank you for choosing *Eragon* to receive the Missouri Association of School Librarians Gateway Award!

I'm delighted to know that you've discovered the joy of reading. When you read a book, you are transported into strange new worlds where anything is possible. You can battle Icelandic warriors from *Njal's Saga*; stand upon Venus, as imagined by Robert Heinlein; or watch enormous spice worms plow through the cinnamon-scented sands of Frank Herbert's planet, *Dune*. You can learn how Native Americans made horns and antlers into bows. And you can read the words of Benjamin Franklin as he wrote them in his autobiography, and see the world as he did.

A good book makes you think. I hope that reading becomes a lifelong quest for all of you. Stories can change your life.

I hope that you find *Eldest*, which continues *Eragon* and *Saphira's* adventures in *Alagaësia*, just as interesting as *Eragon*. You might be interested to know that I am currently writing *Book Three* of the *Inheritance* trilogy. No release date is set, for I have many plot points to explore. Although the name of *Book Three* is still secret, I can tell you that the cover art will show a green dragon.

Once again I thank you. May you soar on dragon wings, and, as my hero, *Eragon*, would say . . .

May your swords stay sharp!

Christopher Paolini