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Announcing the 75th Anniversary gift edition of the classic fantasy **THE RELUCTANT DRAGON**

New York, NY—This September, Holiday House is thrilled to bring a beloved classic to a new audience of young readers with **THE RELUCTANT DRAGON: 75th Anniversary Edition** by Kenneth Grahame, illustrated by Ernest H. Shepard, and featuring a fascinating and informative introduction by children’s literature historian Leonard S. Marcus.

Before he wrote *The Wind in the Willows*, Kenneth Grahame penned **THE RELUCTANT DRAGON**, which originally appeared as a chapter in a book of short stories titled *Dream Days* in 1898. Originally published as a stand-alone children’s book by Holiday House in 1938, **THE RELUCTANT DRAGON** is a once-upon-a-time story about a boy who befriends a poetry-loving dragon. When the townsfolk send for St. George to slay the dragon, the boy devises a clever plan to save his new friend. He introduces St. George to the dragon, and together they stage a fake joust for the villagers. Although the joust is later revealed as farce, the townsfolk are won over and readily accept the dragon. In his introduction, historian Leonard S. Marcus writes, “Grahame launched his literary reputation as an elegiac chronicler of lost childhood innocence for a world-weary adult readership on both sides of the Atlantic. *The Reluctant Dragon’s Boy*, the author tells us, reads ‘natural history and fairy tales’—fact and fiction—‘in a sandwich sort of way, without making any distinctions.’ “

Boasting gorgeous pen-and-ink illustrations by Ernest H. Shepard, the illustrator of *Winnie-the-Pooh* and *The Wind in the Willows*, this new gift edition with its gold-embossed jacket will have a new generation of young readers and children’s book collectors alike clamoring for a copy of this whimsical story of a clever boy and his kind-hearted dragon.

Here is a sampling of original reviews for the book:

“‘The Reluctant Dragon’ by Kenneth Grahame is a typical Holiday House book: original in itself, perfect of its kind, and utterly charming. Has anybody ever pointed out that these books make ideal collectors’ items?”—*Publisher’s Weekly*, 1938



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“With this intriguing triumvirate, Kenneth Grahame has given us a little classic; so march up, ladies and gentlemen, and procure your first editions . . . for we prophecy that they will become valuable.”—*Boston Herald*, 1939

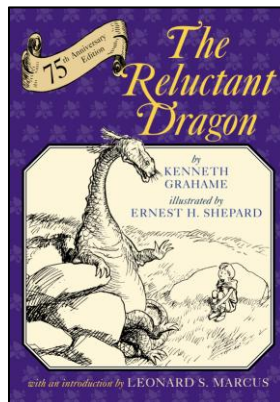
“It is a title for every child’s library. And a good many adults, if they do not already know him, will be delighted with his delectable dragon who had a kind heart. . . . It belongs wherever it finds a kindred spirit.”—Marjorie F. Potter, *Library Journal*, 1939

“A rare combination of wit and imagination on the part of the author, humor on the part of the illustrator, together with outstanding format designed by Helen Gentry, make this a delightful edition of a popular fantasy.”—*Booklist*, 1938

Kenneth Grahame (1859–1932) was a Scottish short story writer who is most famous for writing *The Wind in the Willows* (1908). His other books include collections of short stories first published in periodicals: *Pagan Papers* (1893), *The Golden Age* (1995), and *Dream Days* (1898).

Ernest H. Shepard (1879–1976) was an English artist and book illustrator. He is best remembered for his sensitive illustrations for books such as *The Wind in the Willows*, also by Kenneth Grahame, and *Winnie-the-Pooh* by A. A. Milne.

Leonard S. Marcus is a noted historian of children’s literature and has published several books about children’s literature and their creators, including his most recent title, *Funny Business: Conversations with Writers of Fantasy*. His incisive book reviews appeared in every issue of *Parenting* magazine for twenty-one years. Marcus currently reviews for the *New York Times Book Review* among other publications, and he also writes “Site Reading,” a regular column on illustrated books for *The Horn Book*. He lives with his family in **Brooklyn, NY**.



THE RELUCTANT DRAGON: 75th Anniversary Edition
by Kenneth Grahame • illustrated by Ernest H. Shepard
with an introduction by Leonard S. Marcus
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Disney’s movie version of Grahame’s classic premiered in 1942 and is still available today.
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