

# HOLIDAY HOUSE



## **THE RELUCTANT DRAGON**

by Kenneth Grahame • illustrated by Ernest H. Shepard

### **FOND REMEMBRANCES**

“Growing up, evening was the magical time. After baths, my two younger sisters and I would snuggle up in a ‘sandwichy sort of way,’ wearing our footed pajamas and mother would read to us.

“It was here that we learned about places far and near. Our imaginations and our vocabularies would soar as mother read Grahame’s gorgeous words such as ‘pestilential scourge.’ (That is such a wonderful way to talk—loved it!) We loved the cozy feel of Shepherd’s illustrations— dragons became our delicious delight!

“Then she would sit down to the piano and play while our father would sing ‘The Green Eyed Dragon with the Thirteen Tales.’ We would squeal with delight as he would chase us into our bedroom and into our beds.

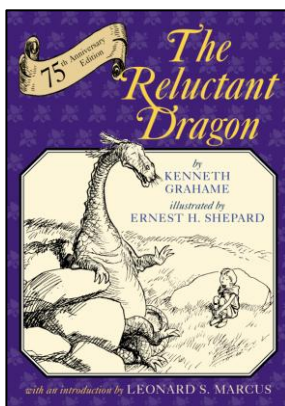
“Those truly were ‘Dream Days.’ Thank you Holiday House, Kenneth Grahame, and Ernest Shepherd, and especially mother and dad for those precious memories.”

—Barbara Moon  
Suffolk Cooperative Library System, Bellport, NY

“As a child, I remember finding the idea of a dragon who didn’t want to fight very amusing—and a fitting companion to Ferdinand the Bull—and I liked the fact that the Boy was in charge. As an adult with children of my own, I find myself admiring the mother and father more and more.

“ ‘And his parents were very fond of him, and rather proud of him too, though they didn’t let on in his hearing, so he was left to go his own way and read as much as he liked.’ Now there’s some parenting advice for the 21<sup>st</sup> century!”

—Kathy Jarombek  
Perrot Memorial Library, Old Greenwich, CT



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