As long as the people of Pern could remember, the Holds had protected them from Thread, the deadly silver strands that fell from the sky and ravaged the land. In exchange for sanctuary in the huge stone fortresses, the people tithed to their lord Holders, who in turn supported the Weyrs, whose dragons were Pern's greatest weapon against Thread.

But not everyone on Pern was part of that system of mutual care and protection, particularly those who had been rendered holdless as punishment for wrongdoing. And there were some, like Jayge's trader clan, who simply preferred the freedom of the roads to the security of a hold. Others, like Aramina's family, had lost their holds through injustice and cruelty. For all the holdless, life was a constant struggle for survival.

Then, from the ranks of the criminals and the disaffected, rose a band of renegades, led by the Lady Thella. No one was safe from Thella's depredations, and now her quarry was Aramina, reputed to have a telepathic link with dragons. But when Thella mistakenly vented her rage on Jayge's family, she made a dangerous enemy. For Jayge was bent on revenge—and he would never let her have the girl who heard dragons!
Reviews of the The Renegades of Pern (Dragonriders of Pern Series) by Dick Hill, Anne McCaffrey

Gom

The Renegades of Pern is a bridge between The White Dragon and All the Weyrs of Pern. We need to read it if we are to follow the plot and understand what is happening. It is here where they discover AIVAS, here where we find out about Aramina, here where Master Robinton recuperates in the southern continent from his heart attack. I had to read it several times, however, in order to follow the action. I got the feeling that it was simply several plot ideas that never developed into full-blown books and were thus thrown together to form a book as all of them could have been added to other books rather than being pieced together as they were. I felt that she introduced characters that she then either didn't like or didn't know what to do with and so got rid of them quickly, although she didn't want to completely abandon the work she had done in creating them.

One problem with her Pern books is that they are not well edited and so she sometimes contradicts herself. For example, Early in the series, she states queens cannot eat firestone, they vomit it up, and are genetically created to do so. Later she states they CAN eat firestone but will be sterile if they do so. Lytol at first rides a green, but then his dragon suddenly becomes a brown and remains so for the rest of the series. Jaxom is referred to by Lessa as the last of the Ruathan bloodline, but he is NOT of the blood, and both Lessa and her female cousin and her children have escaped Fax's massacre. Ruth is constantly referred to as 'he' but is in reality a hermaphrodite, as 'he' is all the colors, meaning 'he' is both male and female, including a queen.

In The Renegades of Pern, the dragonriders band together to help the northern lords capture Thella, who has run away rather than be married off against her wishes and who has become a robber who has been robbing them, yet the same people loudly declaim the aid requested by Toric, who is being robbed by Denol and by Jayge when Thella threatens HIS family.. Suddenly the dragonriders can't put enough space between themselves and the people asking their help.
I like the Pern series, I like following the trials and tribulations of its people, yet, at the same time, I find that I don't quite like its people. Robinton is a high functioning alcoholic. I got tired of reading his requests for "more wine, please". Commenters elsewhere have noted that Pern is a man's world. Women are put in their place in ways sometimes so subtle that I had not noticed until other readers brought it to my attention. For example, only men are given the honorific contraction. No female dragon rider is thus honored. That is never explained and it passed right by me. Likewise, Jaxom is not given the honorific, which is actually a subtle insult to him, as it places him with the women, not the men. Men can do virtually anything they want on Pern, but women are kept in very strict gender roles. Strong women end up crazy, ugly and dead, like Thella, and Kylara or 'tamed' like Lessa or ridiculed, like Mirrim. Men, however, are always referred to with respect. It is interesting to see how the settlers went from being equals, male and female, to being so gender imbalanced and feudal. I would have liked to see if they rose beyond their feudal mentality.
Too bad McCaffrey didn't give permission for someone other than her son to continue the series. Instead of going forward, after McCaffrey's death, her son chose to go back, and I myself was not interested in those books he wrote. I want to know what happens next. The only thing I am interested in from the past is to learn why they started clipping the watchwhers' wings and chaining them, instead of letting them fly. That was a bit of cruelty that was never explained.

**Via**

The rating is for both the digital condition (on Kindle) of the novel and the novel itself.
The text was full of typo's, random strings of numbers and missing words. I would give the Kindle version a 2 star rating. I have only had a digital reader for 6 months and I am totally unimpressed with the quality of the books in this format.
I was a fan of the Pern books for years, and just started to re-visit the series and to fill in the ones I missed at publication time. This is one I don't have in print. I don't think I missed much.
The book starts with a series of vignettes, about how people become homeless on Pern as Thread fist begins to fall again after the long Pass. The people mentioned are going to have a role to play later, motivated by their own back story, but characterization is so brief, that it is hard to remember or care who most of these people are or why they are behaving this way, by the time they appear again. The most compelling stories were about Jayge and the Lilcamp traveling traders and how they survived the first completely unexpected and devastating Thread fall, and Thella, the willful and thwarted Lord Holder's daughter. Both back stories could have been detailed and fleshed out more, with the supporting character having their stories integrated briefly (or not at all) as they appeared later, to much better effect.
The whole book seemed like a writer's notes polished up to set the stage for Jayge's and Thella secondary story line in All the Weyr's of Pern.
Which is a shame, because it was a good opportunity to expand on the citizens of Pern who were not in the administrative power structure of the Lord Holders, Master Craftsmen and Weyr Leaders/Dragonriders and get their point of view. I give the story 3 1/2 stars, mostly for Jayge and the traders.

**Mushicage**

This story is unique in that its timeline runs parallel with several other novels in the Pern series. It has a two-fold purpose. One is to tell a new story of the trader Jayge trying to protect Aramina, the girl who hears dragons. Interwoven through their story are glimpses of important historical events taking place in Pern society which were seen in other novels, but retold this time through new eyes.

At the beginning section of the novel, I was unsure how McCaffrey was going to tie in the many different character she introduces in the prologue where she quickly jumps through brief mini-stories, giving us glimpses of different characters. Like a ribbon on a present, she neatly ties all the loose ends together, giving us a wonderful gift showing off her story-telling talent.

I recommend reading this book after you have completed the two collections: The Dragonriders of Pern and the Harper Trilogy. Renegades takes place during the same time and sets you up for the BIG conclusion which comes in the novel All the Weyrs of Pern. I know, there are still more Pern books beyond that, but All the Weyrs of Pern addresses the BIG issues that all the previous books have been hinting at.

**santa**

This books starts before thread starts to fall again. No one believes that thread will fall again because it's been over 450 years. Then it jumps to present times then to when the southern continent has some holds under Toric who wants to hold ALL of the southern area. We find out what is going on at the Landing.

**Anarasida**
After reading so many Anne McCaffrey novels with the characters having good natures on Pern, having a group of people that was pure evil was stunning. I wanted so much to help the good people capture the evil. The story really got me engaged.

INvait

This is an interesting "fill in" book that provides background on the settling of Paradise River Hold and the discovery of the AIVAS. In the chronological history of Pern it spans the Dragonriders of Pern series and is the introduction to All the Weyrs of Pern. I would consider it a parallel story. Good read but then I've never found a bad Anne McCaffrey book.

Shadowbourne

Love the series.

Great series

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Great series

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