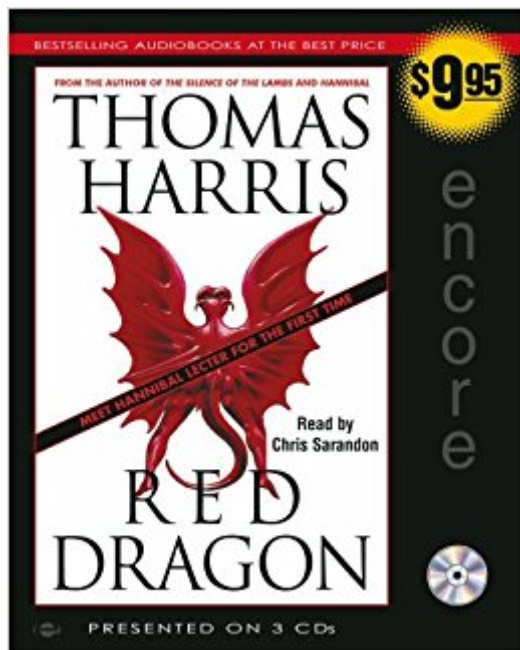


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# Red Dragon



## Synopsis

In the realm of psychological suspense, Thomas Harris stands alone. Exploring both the nature of human evil and the nerve-racking anatomy of forensic investigation, Harris unleashes a frightening vision of the dark side of our well-lighted world. In this extraordinary tale -- which preceded *The Silence of the Lambs* and *Hannibal*, Harris introduced the unforgettable character Dr. Hannibal Lecter. And in it, Will Graham -- the FBI man who hunted Lecter down -- risks his sanity and his life to duel a killer called... *The Red Dragon*. A quiet summer night...a neat suburban house...and another happy family is shattered -- the latest victims of a grisly series of hideous sacrificial killings that no one understands, and no one can stop. Nobody lives to tell of the unimaginable carnage. Only the blood-stained walls bear witness. All hope rests on the Special Agent Will Graham, who must peer inside the killer's tortured soul to understand his rage, to anticipate and prevent his next vicious crime. Desperate for help, Graham finds himself locked in a deadly alliance with the brilliant Dr. Hannibal Lecter -- the infamous mass murderer who Graham put in prison years ago. As the imprisoned Lecter tightens the reins of revenge, Graham's feverish pursuit of the Red Dragon draws him inside the warped mind of a psychopath, into an unforgettable world of demonic ritual and violence, beyond the limits of human terror.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Lying on a cot in his cell with Alexandre Dumas's *Le Grand Dictionnaire de Cuisine* open on his chest, Hannibal "The Cannibal" Lecter makes his debut in this legendary horror novel, which is even better than its sequel, *The Silence of the Lambs*. As in *Silence*, the pulse-pounding suspense plot

involves a hypersensitive FBI sleuth who consults psycho psychiatrist Lecter for clues to catching a killer on the loose. The sleuth, Will Graham, actually quit the FBI after nearly getting killed by Lecter while nabbing him, but fear isn't what bugs him about crime busting. It's just too creepy to get inside a killer's twisted mind. But he comes back to stop a madman who's been butchering entire families. The FBI needs Graham's insight, and Graham needs Lecter's genius. But Lecter is a clever fiend, and he manipulates both Graham and the killer at large from his cell. That killer, Francis Dolarhyde, works in a film lab, where he picks his victims by studying their home movies. He's obsessed with William Blake's bizarre painting *The Great Red Dragon and the Woman Clothed with the Sun*, believing there's a red dragon within him, the personification of his demonic drives. Flashbacks to Dolarhyde's terrifying childhood and superb stream-of-consciousness prose get us right there inside his head. When Dolarhyde does weird things, we understand why. We sympathize when the voice of the cruel dead grandma who raised and crazed him urges him to mayhem--she's way scarier than that old bat in *Psycho*. When he falls in love with a blind girl at the lab, we hope he doesn't give in to Grandma's violent advice. This book is awesomely detailed, ingeniously plotted, judiciously gory, and fantastically imagined. If you haven't read it, you've never had the creeps. --Tim Appelo

--This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Acclaim for the novels of Thomas Harris: For *Black Sunday*: "Frighteningly believable." •Chicago Tribune "Suspenseful, nightmarish." •Los Angeles Times "Breathtaking. All forces converge with an apocalyptic bang!" •New York Times "Fast-paced, all too realistic... with a shattering climax." •Kirkus Reviews "A spellbinder... The race to save the Super Bowl is hair-raising, one that will keep you rooted to your chair." •Hartford Courant For *Red Dragon*: "Red Dragon is an engine designed for one purpose... to make the pulse pound, the heart palpitate, the fear glands secrete." •New York Times Book Review "A gruesome, graphic, gripping thriller... Extraordinarily harrowing." •Plain Dealer, Cleveland "Want to faint with fright? Want to have your hair stand on end? Want to read an unforgettable thriller with equal parts of horror and suspense? Harris was obviously only warming up with his best seller *Black Sunday*." •Daily News, New York "Irresistible... A shattering thriller... Readers should buckle themselves in for a long night's read because from the first pages... Harris grabs hold." •Publishers Weekly "The scariest book of the season." •Washington Post Book World "Easily the crime novel of the year." •Newsday

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I read a lot of thrillers and I'm generally disappointed. Many of them, most probably, I don't bother to review. This one set the standard for the modern serial killer thriller novel and it's a great book. Granted, *Silence of the Lambs* is a better book, but this one is great. All that said, Hannibal was so horrid I cannot bring myself to think about it. I never even read the last installment because I was so sad over the loss of good story telling that was foisted upon me with the third installment of the Hannibal series. Oddly, Harris didn't write Hannibal Lector as a character he meant to repeat, he states in the foreword of this edition of *Red Dragon* that he didn't even know Dr. Lector would show up in *Silence* until he'd started writing it. Amazing, seeing as how popular the character ended up becoming. While part of that can be attributed to the great performance of Anthony Hopkins in the film adaptation, it's hardly the only reason. He is a fantastically written character in the first two books. If you haven't read *Silence of the Lambs* yet, I'd suggest reading this one first, although it's not necessary to follow and understand the story.

After watching the movie *Silence of The Lambs* I found myself under the spell of this series, fascinated more by Clarice than by Hannibal however. I wanted to read the novel but thought it best to prep by reading this. Thinking it would be a great introduction to Hannibal. It was, but what I found was not as good as I hoped. Lector was creepy, but more like the high school nerd who knows creepy things about you. I found Hannibal to not be the sinister and wicked villain he will be, but the pathetic killer caught and confined. The rest of the novel follows the same parts of the genre that perhaps this novel contributed to the formation of. An eccentric investigator that can't seem to piece together the significant clues that is obvious to the audience's god-like vision. This knowledge is given to us through the narration by slowing down the pace and telling the story from the killer's point of view, giving back story and humanizing him to make the final conclusion tense. Ultimately, the disparate strands come together in a conclusion that leaves our protagonist physically damaged. The prose was easy to read, but the substance made it a slog. Besides frustration, I only experienced excitement or 'thrills' in maybe the last 20 pages where something genuinely unexpected happens. A last minute stab at plot twist that was, I concede, effective. To say I was disappointed is an understatement. I'm not sure what I was expecting, but it actually swayed me away from reading *Silence* and just being content with the film.

I will talk first about the conditions of the book when it reached my hands, then about the book's contents. I must say I'm extremely satisfied with the book in all possible ways. Based on how tight it felt it was obvious it had never even been read before, which is a rare sort of luxury that's hard to

get even in bookstores. It came in perfect conditions, not even a single stain of any kind, no traceable damage, nothing wrong. The Silence of the Lambs was a major page-turner and a succulent read, and that's the very least I can say. The pacing is magnificent, the prose is very simple while maintaining a sophisticated vocabulary and being profound like few others have managed. Truly an engrossing story from beginning to end. It is different to some degree to the movie, for example, Dr. Lecter behaves more sophisticated in the novel than in the book and the dialogue is simply exquisite to read over and over again. There was not a single moment I could go without reading it without thinking about it. Thomas Harris really surpassed himself by a lot compared to Red Dragon, though I must say that I liked the killer in Red Dragon a lot more than the one we see in The Silence of the Lambs. However, we get more Dr. Lecter than we do in Red Dragon, which surpasses both killers by plenty. I very strongly recommend this book from this seller. I am so satisfied I would dare buy it again because truly, this is one rare luxury.

Sure, most of us have seen the movie version. I don't know why it took me so long to actually pick up the book and read it. I'd read Red Dragon years ago and just got lazy...and maybe just a little busy with all the other books I decided I just had to read...so I just never got around to The Silence of the Lambs. I'm glad I finally decided to sit down and give it a go. It's hard to get the image of Sir Anthony Hopkins out of your head when reading, but it didn't distract or detract me from the story. It plays out much the same as the movie but it is tighter and paced well. The characters are all well drawn and unlike a lot of thrillers in this genre, you actually find yourself rooting for Dr. Lecter...or at least I did! Granted I still wouldn't like to be invited to one of his dinner parties! If you've never seen the movie, definitely start with the books. If you've already seen the movies, what are you waiting for?

My original copy cover did not have the Blake illustration on it. I remember going to a nearby city library and having the reference librarian help me find a book with a copy of the illustration. He asked why I was looking for it, and I merely said that it was referenced in a book that I was reading, and that I was curious about it. He said he had asked because I was the second person that had come to the library, looking for the same information. This was, of course, before home computers and the internet. It made that much of an impression. Hannibal Lecter was a horrible, but secondary character. I actually prefer this book to "Silence of the Lambs". Read both of them, and make up your own mind.

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