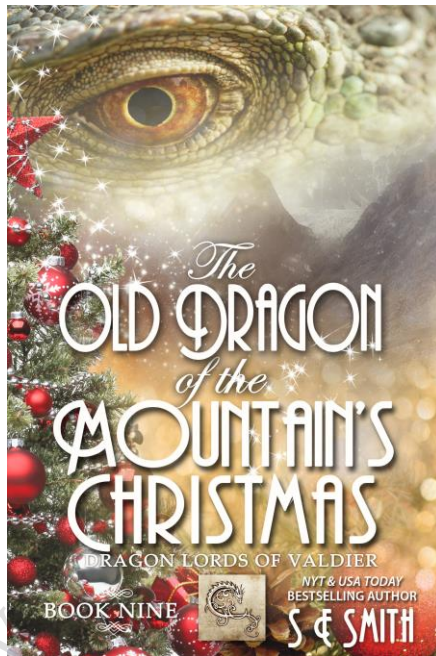


**The Old Dragon's Christmas:
Dragon Lords of Valdier Book 9**



By S. E. Smith

Acknowledgments

I would like to thank my husband Steve for believing in me and being proud enough of me to give me the courage to follow my dream. I would also like to give a special thank you to my sister and best friend, Linda, who not only encouraged me to write, but who also read the manuscript. Also to my other friends who believe in me: Julie, Jackie, Lisa, Sally, Elizabeth (Beth) and Narelle. The girls that keep me going!

—S. E. Smith

To Dulcie and Jose – for showing that love has no age limits.

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Science Fiction Romance

The Old Dragon of the Mountain's Christmas: Dragon
Lords of Valdier Book 9

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Summary: An alien goddess gives a deformed dragon shifter a second chance to find love with a human woman on Earth who teaches him that love can happen at any age.

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Synopsis

Born prematurely, Christoff wasn't as big or as strong as his older brother or the other younglings in the village. Unable to fit in, he does the best he can, helping his father and mother on their farm. His life changes when the mountain near their farm awakens. Believing he is the only one who can quiet it, he retreats to the mountain to watch over the village that shunned him.

A hermit for centuries, he dreams of the day he can move on to his next life; a life that he hopes will give him a chance of finding his true mate. He knows his time has come when the mountain begins to tremble again. What he doesn't expect is a group of younglings who suddenly appear in the hopes of saving a thing called Christmas. When the mountain erupts, he never expects to awaken on a strange planet light years away, or to meet an unusual woman who sees beneath his deformity to the warrior hidden within.

Can the love of a special woman and her family heal Christoff's tortured soul? Find out what happens when the Goddess Aikaterina gives The Old Dragon his very own special Christmas.

Author's Note:

For those who have not read the Dragon Lords of Valdier, here is a little background.

The Valdier are dragon shifters who have a golden symbiot, yes, symbiot, just the way I want them to be called as they are characters in themselves. The Valdier consist of three parts: the dragon, the man/woman, and their symbiot companion. They are friends with the Curizan (a species able to harness the energy around them) and the Sarafin Warriors (a cat shifting species). The following is a character relationship for those new to the series:

Zoran Reykill, Leader of the Valdier **mated to** Abby Tanner: one son: Zohar

Mandra Reykill **mated to** Ariel Hamm: one son: Jabir

Kelan Reykill **mated to** Trisha Grove: one son: Bálint

Trelon Reykill **mated to** Cara Truman: twin daughters: Amber and Jade

Creon Reykill **mated to** Carmen Walker: twin daughters: Spring and Phoenix

Paul Grove **true mate** to Morian Reykill

Cree and Calo Aryeh (Twin Dragons) **true mate** to Melina Franklin: one daughter: Hope.

Vox d'Rojah: King of the Sarafin Warriors **mated to** Riley St. Claire: one son: Roam.

Viper d'Rojah **mated to** Tina St. Claire

Asim **mated to** Pearl St. Claire

Ha'ven Ha'darra, Prince of the Curizan **mated to** Emma Watson: **one** daughter: Alice.

Aikaterina: Unknown species; accepted as a Goddess to the Valdier, she is the oldest and most powerful of her kind.

Arilla and Arosa: Unknown species, still young for their kind, they are twins and thought to be Goddesses.

Christoff aka The Old Dragon of the Mountain **mated to** Edna Grey: daughter, Shelly, from previous marriage, son-in-law, Jack, granddaughter, Crystal.

Author's Note:

I hope you enjoyed Christoff and Edna's story. I didn't plan to write it, it just came. I knew once I started, I had to finish it. I think I have laughed and cried more through this story than I have any of my others. They were good tears. If you are like me, you'll need a box of tissues for this one!

Excerpt:

Aikaterina had remained behind after the dragonlings, Roam, and Alice's parents had rescued them. She had been curious when the old dragon had turned away from the entrance. She had planned to give his symbiot a touch of her blood to regain its strength so that it could help Christoff escape, but hesitated as a new thought came to her.

While her species normally tried not to interfere with the circle of life, she found it increasingly difficult to stay away from them. She had followed the dragonlings and their friends on their journey. They had each captured a special place inside her with their innocent love. It wasn't until she saw their gift of friendship and love that she knew she needed to help Christoff.

She had once again been torn when the entrance had caved in. It has been his symbiot's quiet plea for mercy for it's friend and companion that had sealed her decision. The flashes of the old dragon's life had pierced her resolve. She remembered two other dragons, twin brothers who had felt the pull of the loneliness. It was in part her fault that they had never found their true mate. As her consciousness grew for this species, so did the understanding that she needed to help them if she could.

Floating down, she sat on the edge of the bed. Her gaze softened at Christoff's calm acceptance of his death. Lifting an invisible hand, she soothed it over his brow, knowing what she had to do.

“Not yet, my warrior,” she softly whispered through his consciousness. “I hope you accept my Christmas gift to you.”

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