Introduction: Martin and Morristown



Illustration by Jorge Lopez

Martin is a dragon who lives in Morristown. It is a small town and has a population of about ten thousand people. Morristown also has a smaller population of about ten dragons.

Martin was the first dragon to arrive in Morristown. Last March, David and Nora Swann went for a hike in the woods in Concord Park. While walking through tree roots and brambles, they found an egg.

They took the egg home, nurtured it, and cared for it. Some weeks later, the egg hatched into a dragon. They named him Martin.

David and Nora realized that Martin was growing at a rapid pace. Not only in his size, but he was learning as fast as they could teach him.

Nora took Martin to the library, where he devoured all the children's books and was soon reading the young adult books. He became friends with the town librarian, Mrs. Hadley, who would recommend stories and biographies she thought Martin would enjoy. After a while, she suggested to Nora that she enroll Martin in school. After some assessment tests and some meetings with teachers, Martin was placed in the second grade. He would start in the fall.

That year, Martin was the only dragon in school. He and his friends had many adventures and made discoveries together about friendship, humans, and dragons. Martin's birthday party was in March. He invited his five closest friends from school: Charlie, Leo, Josie, Mirna, and Chloe.

At the end of the birthday party, an unusual mist rolled in, and nine dragons walked into Martin's backyard. Martin, his friends, and his parents all wondered how they had arrived.

One dragon stepped forward and introduced herself as Zara, a Guardian. Zara explained they came from the Gateway Isles on a place they called Skytherra. She went on to explain that they were here to find out how and why Martin's egg had ended up in Morristown.

They also knew today was Martin's hatch-day, an important day for dragons. They had been planning and preparing for this trip for almost a year. They were there to help Martin understand his abilities and dragon reflexes as they awakened.

Zara explained that the portal had been sent to Morristown with Martin's egg through a crack between their worlds. They called it The Rift. The Dragon Scholars had been studying the Rift and the portal. They had learned that the portals were always connected, but only for communication. They also learned they are only able to travel between the portals when the Rift is open. However, if they didn't leave soon, the Rift would soon close and not open again for a year.

Four of the dragons were going to return to the Gateway Isles: the two Guardians, Corwin and Harlan, and the two Escorts, Elba and Fenn. The returning dragons said they would ask an elder dragon, known as Sage, to communicate with them through the portal. Sage's experience as an elder and a scholar might help them to uncover Martin's mystery. Sage also had insight into the Dragon Council, which could prove helpful.

Zara was to stay in Morristown and watch over the local portal. Harlan was to return home and watch over the portal there. Zara and Harlan could communicate telepathically through the portal. They would share information back and forth from both sides of the portal. Corwin would continue to investigate from within the Gateway Isles.

The remaining four dragonlings were cousins of Martin: Mags, Otto, Hank, and Callie. They had come to help discover why the egg had been placed in Morristown. They were also going to assist Martin in learning how to be a dragon. They also wanted to understand Morristown and the people who lived there. Maybe the egg had been placed here because of its people.

Zara explained her role as Guardian required her to live in the forest by the portal. Because there were four young dragons staying to help Martin, Elba and Zara spoke with Nora and David about where the four dragons would stay. Martin's friends were excited about having more dragons in town. The parents of the children were contacted. After much discussion, the parents decided the dragons would stay with Martin's friends from school. Nora and the parents would work alongside Mrs. Hadley to fit the dragonlings into the correct grades and classrooms.

The details of these stories, along with more adventures of Martin and his friends, can be found in the series *Martin's Adventures*. Join Martin's Adventure Guild to read Martin's origin story and follow along as the adventures continue.