

Ezra Atlas
Mr. Pace
DC English IV
Reading Project #3
6 January 2020

Title

Humans are truly incredible, we will do almost anything to survive. It is insane how far people can push their body and their mind to accomplish tasks. In novels, it is even more mind boggling how far characters push themselves to complete a task. Characters in novels overcome more struggles, problems, and seemingly impossible quests than any human has ever even imagined. The characters of *Dragonwatch* by Bradon Mull are no exception. Seth and Kendra have both overcome more than any of the other characters, and have both given up so much. In this novel, there are three main reasons that Seth and Kendra sacrifice so much for the greater good of the world: they are the only ones capable, there is no other way, and for their loved ones. These main points show that people and characters will sacrifice almost anything to succeed.

Kendra and Seth start their adventure when they are recruited to become caretakers of Wyrmoost, the dragon preserve. This their first sacrifice, they must do this because they are the only capable of the job. There are uprisings and back stabbing all over the world, and there are just not enough people qualified to run the preserve, “You’re so young [...] I wish I had other options. We really are in a crisis. [...] We have to do this. The world needs us” (109). By accepting they are sacrificing their freedom, and they will be in constant danger. They give up so much to make sure the world is safe for everyone, and they do not stop to think what it will cost them. Seth and Kendra lose their freedom to ensure that humans are victorious over dragons, so that dragons can not take over the world.

When there is no other way to accomplish a task people start to get desperate, and in some cases do anything to complete them. Seth is the perfect example of this. By himself he made a plan that would get a very important scepter back to the castle, and he only told people whom he needed help from. Everyone else was scrambling to come up with any plan to accomplish this to no prevail. Seth knew his plan would work but did not tell his family because they would stop him, “That foolish, brave boy. He knew exactly what he was doing. He sacrificed himself to save the sanctuary [...] I would of never let Seth do this, Kendra. I would have stopped him. But it might work”(342). Seth knows exactly what he was doing, and he knows that it is the only way to save the sanctuary. He is one hundred percent sure that everyone else will be safe, and that he will be the only one in danger. This part has the most sacrifice, and Seth lays down his life to let everyone else succeed.

The power of care and love is something that drives many decisions, and it is something that gives people the power to do anything. Kendra steps up to confront Celebrant, The Dragon King, she chooses to speak with him alone. Dragons produce a paralyzing fear, and Kendra is vulnerable to it. She can not move or speak, but she thinks of all the people that need her and something clicks:

“Kendra knew she was not unfit. She and Seth had just retrieved the scepter! She had killed the Demon King! She could remember the feel of Vasilis in her hand, the power humming through her. In that dark moment, with the demons bearing down on them, her family needed her. All of the fairydom had needed her. And now they needed her again”(357).

Kendra overcomes the paralysis, she calls Celebrant a coward and a fake. This strengthens her leadership over the sanctuary, so Celebrant can not kill her for being unfit. This shows that in a time of need Kendra is a strong leader and does what it takes for her family and for the world. She also lays her life down to protect all the people and creatures of the Earth.

People face great pressure and hard choices, and sacrifices must be made in order to succeed. The characters of *Dragonwatch* are no different. They sacrifice for the ones they love, and for the greater good of the world. Their choices still leave scars and wounds, but they do not let those get to them. All that matters to the hero is the safety of all the innocent, and they will do anything for those who can not protect themselves. If more people were as selfless as these characters than the world would be a better place.