For Mom, who teaches us everyday what strength looks like.
Hannah

First published in the United Kingdom in 2021 by Lantana Publishing Ltd.
www.lantanapublishing.com | info@lantanapublishing.com

American edition published in 2021 by Lantana Publishing Ltd., UK.

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Illustration © Anna Cunha, 2021

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A CIP catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

Distributed in the United States and Canada by Lerner Publishing Group, Inc.
241 First Avenue North, Minneapolis, MN 55401 U.S.A.
For reading levels and more information, look for this title at www.lernerbooks.com
Cataloging-in-Publication Data Available.

Printed and bound in China.
Original artwork using mixed media, finished digitally.

Hardcover ISBN: 978-1-911373-63-6
PDF eBook ISBN: 978-1-911373-69-8
Trade ePub3 ISBN : 978-1-913747-60-2
S&L ePub3 ISBN: 978-1-913747-47-3

ANITA AND THE DRAGONS

HANNAH CARMONA
ANNA CUNHA

Lantana



"They aren't real dragons," my brother Juan reminds me. "They're just planes in the sky."

"Humph," I say. "Leave my palace at once. You servants can be such a nuisance."

"We don't live in a palace!" my older brother Tony retorts.

"Of course *you* don't! I, *Princesa* Anita, would never allow a toad like you inside my walls."



I breathe in the sea salt-drenched air deeply. I send a silent message to my island. A message filled with mango-sweet kisses; black, stormy nights; glassy, blue waves; spicy, hot heat—and sandy, snug hugs. I will see you again.