



The Homeless Dragon

Completed by Juliet Stevenson

Emily didn't believe in dragons, that is, until she came across one sleeping in between the garbage pails behind her uncle's deli.

'There are no such things as dragons,' her uncle assured her. But Emily saw the dragon every afternoon when she emptied the trash from her uncle's store. The dragon appeared after a very windy and rainy afternoon. The dragon was small, at least for dragon's, Emily thought. It was about the size of a small car. Apparently, the dragon was also invisible, at least to everyone but Emily, because she was the only one who ever saw him (she thought dragon looked like a boy dragon). Emily started to pull food scraps from the garbage and place them at the dragon's feet. At first, he would wait to eat until after she returned inside, but eventually, he started to eat from the palm of Emily's hand. It wasn't until another very windy, rainy afternoon that the dragon disappeared. Fearing for the dragon's safety, Emily went searching for him and . . .

– The Dreamstarter Book

found him whimpering in another back alley way. He looked as hungry as he did the last time she saw him. Emily couldn't just leave him there, so she ran as fast as a rocket to her uncle's deli. She grabbed the first thing she saw and ran back. When she got there the dragon was gone. Where was he? She thought. She went looking for him and found him again in another alleyway. Why did he keep doing that? She sighed in frustration. She opened her hand, and seeing for the first time what she had grabbed, was an old limp orange peel. The dragon sniffed it curiously then all in a blur he snatched it out of her hand and ate it all in one gulp. "Well I guess you'll eat anything. Even a dead orange peel." Emily had no idea what she was going to do with him. She looked up at the sky. Clouds started to form a big angry storm. Looking at the dragon with a sigh she found some sandwich crusts in her backpack on, picked them out, and began to make a trail to her house.

Once at her house, she unlocked the door and tried to shove the dragon in. Since he was the size of a smart car, she had to let him in the cellar door. Once inside the dragon stared at her with so much hope and pleading. With a groan she went upstairs, got the old dog bed from the attic, found a warm blanket, went downstairs, got some carrots, and went to the dragon. Emily put the bed down on the floor next to the dragon and put the food next to him as well. "You need a name" She finally said to the dragon. "How about Miracle, because its a miracle that such a thing exists." She thought he liked it because he stood up, rubbed her leg like a cat would do. "Emm-i-lyy!" Great it was her mom. She ran upstairs. "What were you doing downstairs? I thought I told you never go down there

without my permission.” her mother scoffed irritably.

“Sorry”

“Good, now go up stairs and wash your self off. You look you need a bath.”

She ran upstairs, locked herself in her room, and started to think. Her room was her best thinking place. She could write and think for hours. Her mother would always worry about her no getting enough sunlight. “You need to go outside and get some vitamin D. You can’t just be locked in your room for the rest of your life. Go play outside on that swing your dad bought you.” Her dad. He had died two years ago when she was about 10. Her mom still got a little teary when she mentioned him. Emily would sneak her book or journal outside and sit on a big branch her mom would never allow her to even go up there. At lest she couldn’t see the tree from the window.

Now, Emily thought about what she could do about Miracle. She could keep him in the cellar because he seemed invisible to just about everyone except for her, but her mom would get suspicious about her going down to the basement every day and night. She could take him to the zoo but they would never allow it. They couldn’t even see him. She gave up on thinking and started to make a list. She crossed everything out except for sneaking him into the zoo. She could do that, somehow. If no one could see the dragon then she could buy a ticket, get him in, and lock him in an empty cage because the zoo always had empty cages. The only problem was how was he supposed to get food? She could figure that out later. She was an abrupt thinker.

The next day Emily set out to go to the zoo with Miracle. She had told her mom she was going over to a friend’s house and would be back before dinner. When she got in there were tons of things she wanted to see and do, but she had to focus on Miracle. Emily and Miracle wondered to the reptile section. “ You like this part of the zoo? I bet you would make many friends.” He shook his head, no. “ How about the empty cage besides the tiger?” Again he shook his head no. “ This is going to take forever if we have to visit every section of the zoo!” Emily groaned. Then she saw it. A sign that said ‘*MYTHICAL CREATURES*’. “Prefect” she exclaimed. There were lots of empty cages here. Miracle could lie in peace and never be seen.

Very quietly, so not to be heard, she opened the cage (finding it unexpectedly open) shoved Miracle in and locked the door behind him. She had brought some carrots and raisons for him and tossed those in too. Then she just stared at the cage with Miracle who sat whimpering behind the bars. “ Umm... Miss, why are you looking at that empty cage? This exhibit has been closed for almost three years now.” She whirled around not knowing she had an audience. *I’m looking at this cage because there is a dragon in it, you idiot. Can’t you see him? She wanted to say. Of course you wouldn’t be able to see it because for some reason nobody else but me can see him. Why does this matter to you any way?* “ Uh I don’t know, I was just about to go on my way though. Excuse me.” she said hastily.

“Hey Emily!” someone shouted. She turned around. It was Sarah, her best friend. Surely she could trust her and tell her phony story. “Sarah, come over here.” She skipped happily to her side and waited for her to say something.

“Can you see anything in that cage?”

“Yeah. It’s a.. holy crow its a dragon!?”

“Yep, so you can see it too?”

“If I’m not mistaken, its a monster with green skin, big white wings, spikes on his

tail, very big feet with claws, and nostrils with steam coming out of them.”

Then Emily had a thought. If that stranger couldn't see him and her uncle couldn't see him, but Sarah could see him and when she was walking to the zoo, little kids were giving her strange looks. They must of seen him walking beside her. “ Sarah! Only kids can see him!” Emily explained her theory to her. Sarah just gawked at her.

Later that evening she and Sarah were lying on her bed, listening to music. “ So what should we do?” questioned Emily

“Well, I think we should charge kids to see Miracle”

“You think that is even illegal?”

“Sure.”

“Well... what should we do with the money after word?”

“We could donate or save up for something.”

“Not a bad idea”

After a week had past, the girls were in business. They would charge kids a dollar to see Miracle for 10 minuets and /or feed him some fruit. They had moved him to a safer place where police couldn't see them charging kids a dollar to look at something that was invisible. The children all got together and created a device. If parents were coming, the device would pick up their footsteps. Then the children would cover up Miracle and act as if they were just getting together for some kind of special event.

Later when they closed up shop for a lunch break, the girls went to the animal shelter to donate their money to the shelter. They walked out after with a big smile on their faces and went back to the zoo.