

How a Cozy Rainy Day Led to an Exciting Trip to Dragonland



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Julie Völk

Rainy Dragon Days

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Actually, Toni and the dog wanted to spend the rainy day on the sofa – with pillows and cocoa and books. Then the doorbell rang and in walked Fred, an elegant dragon and a great friend, carrying an umbrella. Fred needed to pee, but Toni's loo was much too small for a dragon. What to do? Toni and the dog offer suggestions, but none of them seem right for a dragon with style. After all, who has ever seen a dragon peeing against a tree? No one!

Fred has to deal with it, because it's becoming urgent. So he sweeps up his friends and sets them on his back for a flight to Dragonland, where there are magnificent floating pagodas. Julie Völk's atmospheric picture worlds are not just an homage to cozy rainy days. The artist manages to tell a witty dragon adventure story while addressing a need that we all, not just dragons, sometimes have when we need to find a private place to go.

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Julie Völk

born 1985 in Vienna, grew up in rural Lower Saxony. At first she drew fashionable princesses, then child orphans and then buildings. Julie Völk studied illustration in Hamburg. Her much-anticipated illustration debut was *The Lion Girl* as told by Kim Fupz Aakeson, which was awarded with the Serafina and the Troisdorf Illustrated Book Prize in 2015. Her book *Good Morning, Little Tram!* and her fairy tale book *A Time When Wishing still Helped* won the Austrian Children and Youth Literature Prize. The artist lives with her family in Austria.



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