



Lovabye Dragon

Barbara M. Joosse , Randy Cecil (Illustrations)

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In her bed in her room in her castle, a girl longs for a dragon.

In his nest in his cave in his mountain, a dragon dreams of a girl.

When a lonely dragon follows a trail of princess tears, a beautiful friendship is born. They march and sing, roar and whisper, hide and seek, then settle into snug companionship at bedtime. Barbara Joosse's fiercely protective and gently loving dragon cavorts across the pages, endearingly illustrated by Randy Cecil. At the end of the day, who can resist curling up in the embrace of a lovabye dragon?

Lovabye Dragon Details

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Author : Barbara M. Joosse , Randy Cecil (Illustrations)

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From Reader Review Lovabye Dragon for online ebook

Maria Burel says

I was first drawn to Lovabye Dragon for its bedtime story-esque cover and illustrations. Beyond the cover, though, is a wonderful story about an unconventional princess and her desire for a dragon. Meanwhile, we also meet a dragon, longing for a girl for a friend. When they meet, the bond is instantaneous. Despite all their outward differences, they are a perfect match.

Pam says

3.5 Actual

Kendra says

Oooh! Really liked this book! What great language to go with dreamy, cozy pictures. Just want to snuggle up with a little one and share it right now.

Kathryn says

A lovely, lyrical story with a fairy tale feel turns the usual "damsel in distress" captured by evil dragon on its head. For the little damsel in this story is distressed because she doesn't have a dragon. It's fanciful and cute how they find one another. And I love how it says the girl was little and the dragon was big but they were the same size inside. (A perfect match albeit an unlikely friendship!)

Kate says

Am I the only one who cannot figure out the rhythm of this text?? I have been practicing this for a readaloud and have been failing miserably. I love this story, but found the rhythm super clunky and awkward. Gonna give it a go anyway.

Olivia Slykhuis says

This book is a bit weird, but I dig it. It's about a girl who wishes she had a dragon friend, and a dragon who wishes he had a girl friend. I like that it's a girl who becomes friends with and isn't scared of the dragon. There's some cute rhyme, and the illustrations are a bit strange but lovely. Some of the writing doesn't really make sense, but I think it's more about playing with language and the feeling of it than developing the story at these points ("Dragon makes a fire / such a roasty, toasty fire / and he roars a dragon roar / such a rum-

below ROAR / that the giants and the monsters nevermore, nevermore / and she's lonely for a dragon nevermore.") Overall I like it, especially the changes to the typical princess/dragon storyline. I could pair this with The Paperbag Princess for a storytime with slightly older kids (maybe like 7+) and discuss the differences and similarities (one dragon is good, one is bad, neither girl is scared of the dragon, etc.)

Colleen says

Twilight for the junior crowd. A girl who cries to get what she wants, and whispers throughout the entire book. Yuck. Let's hear a temper tantrum! Pretty pictures though.

Molly says

A great little princess picture book, especially great for those little princesses whose parents aren't super thrilled about frills.

Sara says

Super sweet rhyming text, perfect for a dragon preschool story time. I love the fuzzy, soft illustrations, but I also love the fact that they are big and clear enough for the preschoolers to see all the way in the back of the room.

Leona says

little girl pines for dragon as a friend and miles away a dragon pines for a little girl for a friend. her tears reach the dragon and they are united. very beautiful rhyme and lovely sentiment about being different on the outside but "same in the middle."

Samantha says

A girl and a dragon long for one another and it is the girl's tears that lead the dragon to her door. Lyrical text makes for a good read aloud. Some of the artwork mimics a comic book layout. A muted color palette makes for a soothing bedtime story.

Angela says

I'll admit it, the subject matter gave this book an extra star. Yay for books about shy girls who want a dragon friend! I spy a little of myself in this princess, and I'm sure other girls will too.

This is a rhyming, cumulative tale that will be great for tuck-me-in time. The poetry does get just a little clunky in spots (rum-below roar?) but mostly it has a gentle, soothing rhythm.

The illustrations are shades of blue and purple, with a spot of yellow for a happy princess dress. I do wish they would have brightened a little more when the friends found each other, but I'll admit that I don't know how to have done that without disrupting the flow of the art. Lots of white-space, with the words on one page and illustration on the opposite, makes for easy reading.

Kristie Cardoso says

Lovabye Dragon was absolutely charming. A book about a lonely girl and a lonely dragon who find each other. The knight in shining armor in this story is the dragon. It's hard to say anything about this book simply because it's hard to verbalize what it makes me feel. It's so achingly sweet with its lavender and gray toned pages and whimsical illustrations and poetic words-that I felt all at once uplifted and melancholic. It's the kind of book I would have carried around with me as a child and probably have begged for my room to be decorated in...it appeals to both the adult and child in me. Simply put, this book is magic.

Tasha says

Once there was a girl who lived in a castle and longed to be friends with a dragon. There was a dragon who lived far off in a cave who wanted a girl for a friend. The girl was so sad that she wept silver tears of loneliness. Those tears trickled all the way out of the castle and to the cave of the dragon where they awoke him. The dragon followed the trail of silver back to the castle where he found the girl waiting for him. The two became immediate friends, spending all of their time together. Best friends forever.

Remarkably, Joosse does not feel the need to make the friendship between the girl and the dragon scandalous or attack it in any way. The two of them long for one another, find one another, meet and are immediately friends, and it works. A large part of why it works is Joosse's writing which has them doing many things together but also explains their friendship clearly in passages like this:

On the outside, Girl is little.
On the outside, Dragon's biggle.
But they're just the same size
exactly the same size
in the middle.

Cecil's illustrations are done in oils and have a wonderful richness and depth to them. The palette is more blues and greys than many primary-colored picture books. It plays to the sophistication of this story. Often the girl is the only spot of bright color in her yellow dress.

This solid picture book offers a shimmering story of unlikely friendship that really works. Appropriate for ages 3-5.

Dolly says

With a lyrical narrative and soothing, muted illustrations, I recommend this book for bedtime reading. The story is short and the dragon is quite adorable. There are some repetitive rhyming refrains that will likely appeal to younger children. It's a lovely story about friendship and we enjoyed reading this book together.
