

Serafina &



Emily Jane



You may think that dragons aren't real, but you would be wrong. It's just hard to see them... you have to look with your heart.

Emily Jane loved living in her new home. The man and woman loved her, as well as the other animals and dolls that lived at their house. Besides the stuffed animals they had, they also had real, breathing dogs too.

One was a funny brown and black dog who had long floppy ears and short legs; when he barked, he said, Aroooooo! The other one was still really a puppy, even though he was big – he liked to lay on the couch and take naps, while the woman rubbed his head. He was very funny; he liked to run up and down the hall and bark when the man came home. At first all the barking scared Emily Jane, because she wasn't used to it- she thought the dogs were going to try to eat her up, but after just a day or two, she realized they were just talking to the man and woman in their own way.





The man and woman liked other animals too- the man kept dog cookies in his pockets at work, and sometimes fed dogs he met; he even fed some pretty white ducks too!

Sometimes stray cats would come up on their front porch and the man and woman would feed them too; one night they came home and even found a 'possum sitting on the front porch with the cats, eating supper out of the food bowl!

One day, the man and woman took Emily Jane to visit some of their friends out in the country. They had horses and cows, and Emily Jane liked watching them.



On their way home, the man was driving and the woman and Emily Jane were looking at the way the leaves were changing color. It was almost December, and the weather was finally getting a little cooler. Emily thought back to when she was lost, and how cold and afraid she had been- now she had a wonderful home, and she didn't ever have to be afraid again.



As she was looking out the window, she saw something moving under a tree, and then the woman saw it too. It was a young dragon, scrambling around on the ground – one of its wings was hurt and it was trying to fly, but it couldn't get off the ground. The hurt wing just flopped and hung on that side.

Emily looked up at the woman, and the woman asked the man to stop. She told him there was something hurt under a tree.

They all got out quietly – the woman got a blanket from the back seat, and they walked towards where the dragon was sitting; she had started trembling and breathing hard, and pacing around the tree; Emily knew she was afraid.



The woman tried to reach out to the dragon, but she drew back behind the tree. They were making soft sounds, trying to soothe her, but it wasn't working.

The man said, "We can't just leave her here – she'll starve because she won't be able to find food



like this.” The woman said, “Yes, but what can we do?”

Then they both looked at Emily Jane...

The woman said, “Could you try to talk to her and see if she will let us help her? She might listen to you.”

Emily was afraid – she looked at the dragon’s long claws, and at her snout. The woman touched her on her back and then Emily again thought about cold she had been, and how scary it is to be on your own, with no one to help you.

So Emily took a deep breath – and then she smiled at the dragon, who was now peeking out from behind a tree.

Emily Jane took two steps towards the tree, and the dragon hid again. Emily said, “I know you’re scared and hurt; but if you’ll let me help you, you won’t have to live by yourself anymore. Won’t you let my friends help you? I promise they won’t hurt you.”

While she was talking the dragon had slowly come out from



behind the tree- when Emily finished, the dragon stepped into a ray of sunlight, stood up as tall as she could and then quickly snapped her wings open wide. They stretched high above Emily's head. Emily Jane flinched, but she didn't back up – she could see a long tear in one of the dragon's wings.

The sun shone on the dragon's shiny red scales; she had long eyelashes that curled around her eyes, and she had her long tail curled over her back.

Emily stretched her hand out and touched the dragon's nose softly. She said, "You are so beautiful! What is your name?"

The dragon slowly closed and opened her eyes, and then in a gravelly voice that sounded like fire, she said, "Serafina."

Serafina then told Emily how she'd hurt her wing while trying to catch a rabbit for supper one night- a broken tree limb was sticking out into her path, and she didn't see it until it had torn a hole in her wing. She'd fallen under the trees, and for several



days, she hadn't been able to move except to lick the dew off the dead leaves. She was thirsty and hungry, but still she stood up straight, holding her wings out.

After looking at the tear in Serafina's wing, the woman got her first aid kit from the truck. She gently smeared some ointment on the tear, and Serafina's wing immediately felt better; the cooling ointment made the pain stop. Then she took a clean cloth and wrapped the wing up close to Serafina's side so she wouldn't move it and hurt it more.

The man gently picked up Serafina and put her in the back of the truck, and Emily Jane climbed in beside her.

+ PET + HOSPITAL

Then the man looked at the woman, and said quietly, "What are we going to do with a dragon? Do you think the vet can do anything with that wing?"

The woman smiled and said, "Well, I guess we'll find out in a few minutes."

It was rough at the vet's office- at first the vet's technician didn't believe them when they told her what they'd found; then the vet wasn't sure he could even work on dragons.

The dogs and cats could smell Serafina; the dogs were barking and scratching in their crates and the cats were yowling; there were strange smells in the office, sharp smells that stung the inside of Serafina's nose. The table she was sitting on was cold and slick, and her claws couldn't grab hold and help her stay upright. All that scared her and made her try to move her wings to catch her balance. Emily Jane kept talking to her and tried to help her not be afraid, but it wasn't working very well.

The vet kept looking at her and shaking his head- he finally said, "I just don't know if I can do anything or not." But he gave

it his best shot; they got the wing sewn up, and he gave Serafina a shot of antibiotics. The vet said, "It might not help, but it won't hurt anything. Just keep it as quiet as possible 'til those stitches dissolve. Let me know if you have any problems- not that I'll know what to do, but I'll do what I can."



Serafina's wing finally healed – it left a bad scar, but she could move her wings and get off the ground a few feet; the vet told them she'd never be able to fully support her own weight, so she'd never really be able to fly again. One day they had a scare, when a feral cat tried to catch her. Serafina was so surprised that she didn't have time to breathe

flames at the cat - she just jumped up into a low-hanging limb. The man came outside and yelled at the cat, and it ran off.

At first, Serafina refused to come into the house- she wanted to stay outside. She thought she could still hunt for food and keep herself warm. She tried roosting in a tree, but the pesky cat kept coming back for her when she dozed off.

Emily Jane finally talked her into coming in to the house

one cold afternoon. “Just try it, please! You don’t have to stay inside. But at least give it a chance. They’ll make sure you have plenty to eat until you can take care of yourself.”

Serafina agreed; she walked into the back door, where the woman offered her a bowl that held yummy smelling salmon. She licked the bowl clean, and while she was cleaning her eyelashes, one tiny little fiery burp came out. The woman giggled and Serafina closed her eyes- how undignified she’d become!

Then she perched on the arm of the sofa; each dog came



and gave her one sniff, then walked away; she was left to sit and enjoy the warm air.

Serafina was so glad she'd finally found somewhere she could stay where she had friends; she and Emily Jane slept together each night; Emily curled up in her blanket at Serafina's feet, and Serafina would put her nose under her wing as she slept (dragons sleep standing up, just like birds).

The only thing she regretted was being unable to fly. She missed it so much! She remembered the summer, before she hurt her wing. Flying through the trees, the air rushing over her wings, her scales twinkling in the sunlight – and oh, the smells! Blooms in the trees, cows in the fields, even fish jumping in the



lakes had their own special smells, and she missed each one. Oh, to be able to fly just once more... but she knew she'd never really fly again. She could move her wing, but she knew it was too weak to hold her up.

Some nights she'd dream of flying again, but when she woke, she knew it wasn't true.

One morning, Emily came to her and said, "We have a big surprise for you! Come with me and see what it is!"

They came outside – the man and woman had their motorcycles pulled out of the carport. The woman's bike had a beautiful golden basket tied onto the back seat. The man lifted Serafina into the basket, and the woman put a harness on her.



Then they put Emily Jane inside the man's jacket- she was smiling so big that her whole face lit up.

The woman smiled at Serafina and said, "Hold on!" Then they got on their bikes, cranked them up, and rode up the highway. Her nose reached over the woman's shoulder and she could smell so many wonderful things; cows and horses, fish, grass, even the hot pavement smelled good. Soon Serafina's wings were opening up, trying to stretch, catching all the wind she could! The scar still hurt a little, but she could feel it easing as they went faster and faster. Serafina stood in the basket, the straps holding her safely, her wings stretched out as far as they could go- she was finally flying again!



As always, we pray that you have a wonderful Christmas and holiday season- remember that Jesus is the real reason we celebrate this time of year.

May you get to spend time with every person you love; may your home overflow with fellowship and love; may you be fortunate enough to be able to bless someone else - and most of all, may you remember you are loved!

Beth & Randy Rogers



Genesis 1:26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

Proverbs 12:10 - A righteous [man] regardeth the life of his beast: but the tender mercies of the wicked [are] cruel.

Proverbs 27:23 - Be thou diligent to know the state of thy flocks, [and] look well to thy herds.



A big thanks to the Crenshaw County Animal Society for their help; they do a lot for stray, lost and injured animals in our area. Please visit them online at www.crenshawcountyanimalsociety.com



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For more stories about Emily Jane and her friends, please visit our website. (www.aroundtheloopdesigns.com)