

Norwich: A Place for Dragons

By John Evans *from the Cathedral Writing group*

Walking to school incredibly late
I met a dragon in Pottergate
He flapped down before me with a snort and a wheeze
Stopping me short with a shake of my knees

But then I thought
Of all the *friendly* dragons I'd read about in books
And Dad saying don't judge others just on their looks
Face like a croc, green with silvery scales
With wide grey wings the shape of Wales
Dad was no looker and nor was this beast
But I'd give him a chance, at the very least

So I stepped up to him
Think-ing
This is so weird
Him having appeared

So I said
Dragon!
What brings you to a place like this
At a time like this
in a winter like this

And he gave a hiss
and said
It's a drag to be gone so long in the clouds
Looking down on the city shopping in crowds
In the new Malls too, I'm no fool
I too like to look cool
To follow the fashion I'm ever so keen
And it turned me green
To see the girls and the boys
Having fun, making such a noise
And not to be part of it

And when he said 'of it'
A whisp of a flame
Burst from his lip
And when he said 'sorry'
A whisp of a flame
Flashed out again

So I moved away
and said
I won't stand so close
I don't want to be toast

And he said
Best thing to do
I've had bad flu

And my throats all red
I should be in bed
And it has to be seen
How *green* I've been

And I said
But dragons are green
And always have been!

At that the dragon went pink-
He was cross I think

And he said
This is why I've flown from France
To counter such gross ignor-ance
Come down to Norwich my first port of call
Come down here to Dragon's Hall
To explain to you all
About the birds and the bees
Indeed everything about my species
And because my dragnet of dragons....

Dragnet? What's that mean?
I said

And he said
You see! You've proved you need a dragon guide
'Cos dragnet is the word for dragon tribe..
so, as I was saying, my dragnet was flying south
Last summer, when muma dropped her mouth..

Dropped her mouth!
Dropped her mouth!
You can't drop a mouth!

Stop interrupting the dragon snapped
Its dragon speak for being gob-smacked

Oh you mean here jaw dropped....
I was about to say more, but stopped
Because the dragon did a very strange hop
Looked kind of flushed
And then another flame gushed
Though I managed to jump
While the dragon, in a bit of a frump
Did another flip-flop

And said
As I said
Last summer, flying ahead
Muma looked down at Norwich all askance
Because all she could see was ele-phants
And she turned to me and said
Fluffy-Puff Three

Fluffy-Puff Three!
I started to laugh, to giggle tee-hee
Until looking at me as if I were doomed
He boomed..

Yes she said
Fluffy-Puff Three, look there will you,
You know my dear-This just won't do!
Those elephants have taken over our city
But muma I said they do look pretty
and she roared that's not the point
it shows that things are out of joint
That's the city we helped to build
Working with the Dragon's Guild
That city was ours
We had rightful powers-
I remember playing mine host
In the Cathedral Close
Whilst the Dragonauts band
Played in Tombland
And there was Snap Dragon up at the Castle
Ready to crack Saxons who might give us hassle-
We were big back then
And we will be again!
Norwich belongs to us, it's not been flogged
But it's clearly gone to the dogs...

So I said
I thought she said its gone to the ele-phants
And the next thing I knew he'd singed my pants
Phew!
And he said
Be quiet you!

After the summer away
We came back one day
We circled above Norwich, blocked out the sun
Made the sky look like porridge
And talked to the spirits, the Dra-gone-to-the-gods
Who live in dragon heaven in circular pods
And they employed cloud-fund financiers
Image consultants, ex pigeon fanciers
To persuade you down here we are loveable and sweet
And how we needed a celebratory week
Or two or three, to make a fuss
Of us...

At this he did some more of a strange kind of prancing
Wouldn't get many votes on TV's Come Dancing!
I thought

After which he looked at me with his giant eye
And said I hope you will comply
With a minor request
Which we think makes sense

By way of recompense
For all those elephants
A request we have that is right and witty
That you rename Norwich,
Dragon City

And I thought
How absurd! What a nerve!
What rename the Canaries?
This dragon's away with the fairies!

And he said
By your silence I see you've wisely decided.
Thank-you my child-I've not liked your manners
But to make up for that you can write out some banners
Saying-Dragons United, Shall never be divided!

At this there was a buzz on his mobile phone
But by now, I knew I didn't like his tone
As he spoke to his mum
I got ready to run

I heard him say
In his dragooned way
They've agreed mama
Then he did his dance and hissed
Dragon City it is!

I thought
No that's not true!
Naughty you!
That doesn't suit
This dragon is such a bossy boot!

I'd had enough of being pally
So I turned and ran down Bridewell Alley
I ran and ran, he didn't give chase
He was still dancing, so I was safe

So I turned and shouted loud
Hey Fluffy-Puff Three you should be proud
You're welcome to our dragonfest
But don't makes yourself a dragon pest!

At this he stopped
his flips and flops
and stuck up his ears
and now free of fears
I gave him a wave
And screamed
If you misbehave you had better watch out!
Then cupping my hands around my mouth
I roared
Remember St George!

Later I told my dad
As I said goodnight and he gave me a kiss
And he said the moral of this poem is:-
Dragons are groovy, dragons are great
Dragons are friendly, they can be your mate
But before they get bossy and too in your face
Make sure your pet dragon, knows its place!