

Jimmy and the Magic Space

by Marcus Liefert

This is a story about my friend Jimmy The Dragon, who was the first one who ever told me about the “magic space”. Jimmy lived up in a cave in the hills in [Oakland/Berkeley/etc] up right near... [some relevant landmark]. He lived with his parents and his little sister. Jimmy had a favorite toy. Do any of you have favorite toys? Jimmy’s favorite toy was a red fire truck. He would play with his red fire truck all day long, and drive it all around the room and up and down the walls, putting out all the fires that he would make. He would breathe fire, and then the fire truck would zoom over with its siren, and put it out.

One day when he was playing with his fire truck, his sister grabbed it and said, “MY TUUUUUUUUUURN!” and Jimmy said, “NOOOOOOOO! IT’S MINE!” His sister said, “YEEEEESSSSS!” Just then, their mom walked in the room and said, “Yes, Jimmy. It’s her turn now.” Jimmy’s sister grabbed the truck, yanked it from Jimmy’s hands, and just then he tripped over his pet gorilla.

That’s when Jimmy got MAD. Really, really mad. Madder than mad. Madder than a mad mad hatter. Jimmy was ANGRY. Jimmy let out a ROOOOOOOOAAAAAAR. A red, red fiery roar. Jimmy felt like a volcano ready to explode.

First, Jimmy yelled at his mom and said, “You’re not fair!”

Did that make Jimmy feel better?

NO! Jimmy felt powerful, but he still felt angry.

And he yelled at his sister and said, “Girls shouldn’t even be allowed to play with fire trucks!” And he pushed her, hard.

Did that make Jimmy feel better?

NO! Jimmy felt powerful, but he still felt angry.

He grabbed the stuffed gorilla, and pulled the head off of it, and all the stuffing popped out. And then he ran into his room, and slammed the door, hard. Pop.

Did that make Jimmy feel better?

NO! Jimmy felt powerful, but he still felt angry.

And then, and then, and then he didn't know what to do, because he was still angry. So he sat on his bed, crossed his wings and sulked. I hate my sister I hate my sister I hate my sister I hate my mom I hate my sister I hate stuffed gorillas I hate fire trucks, oh, wait a minute, I don't hate fire trucks, I hate my sister! I hate the whole world!

Did that make Jimmy feel better?

NO! Jimmy felt powerful, but he still felt angry.

Then he looked at the world outside his window, and decided he just had to destroy it all...

So he broke thru the glass, flew out the window found the first city he could and burned it to the ground (make sound of fiery roar)

Did that make Jimmy feel better?

NO! Jimmy felt powerful, but he still felt angry.

So he found the next two cities he could and burned them to the ground (make sound of fiery roar twice)

Did that make Jimmy feel better?

NO! Jimmy felt powerful, but he still felt angry.

He had yelled at his mom, he had pushed his sister, he had ripped his stuffed gorilla, he had slammed the door, he had sulked on his bed, he had burned down three cities!

Did that make Jimmy feel better?

NO! Jimmy felt powerful, but he still felt angry.

So he flew and flew and flew, and flew and flew and flew 43 times around the world until finally he couldn't fly anymore. And he collapsed onto a tall, grassy mountain.

He was so exhausted and out of breath from flying, that he had to take a deep breath. He breathed so deeply that he filled up like a giant bubble, like a hot air balloon.

It was the first deep breath he had taken since he got angry.

He breathed real deep like this, everybody try that.

As he let it out, he started to cry. He cried and cried, and I don't know if you knew, but dragon's tears are not like people tears.

When a dragon cries, each tear that comes out is a beautiful diamond. so as Jimmy cried and cried, his hands filled up with beautiful diamonds. and when he couldn't cry any more he looked down and he saw in the diamonds reflected on every side (do you know how diamonds work, they have all these little sides...) and each side reflects the world around it so Jimmy looked into those diamonds and he saw from that high spot on the tallest mountain the whole world – reflected in his tears he saw great redwood forests, he saw dipping golden valleys, he saw the wide, wide ocean, he felt the cool wind nipping at his scales, and smelled the fresh scents of lavender and lemons and he heard the sounds the birds that wake him up every morning and this time instead of being annoyed that they were waking him up early, he just heard how beautiful their sounds were like it was a Mosaic song.

The wide world comforted him.

Did that make Jimmy feel better?

He had found the MAGIC SPACE!

He couldn't wait to tell his sister, and his mom and his grandad and the whole world about it!

So quick as a wink, he flew back home!

He knocked on the door to the cave, (knock, knock, knock) and when his mom let him in, she said "welcome home Jimmy"; and his sister said "welcome home Jimmy" and his Granddad said "welcome home Jimmy!"

And Jimmy showed them all his diamonds and told them about the magic space. And you know what they did with those diamonds? They hung them up in the windows so they could remember Jimmy's magic space and that each of them had the power to create their MAGIC SPACE.

Now whenever any of them get angry, they take a deep breath, fill up like a hot air balloon. They let their tears wash the MAD out and they remember Jimmy's MAGIC SPACE!

the end