



## Green Smoke

*Rosemary Manning , Constance Marshall (Illustrator)*

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Not everyone can meet a dragon. But reading this book is the next best thing!

## Green Smoke Details

Date : Published April 30th 1974 by Puffin Books (first published 1972)

ISBN : 9780140302974

Author : Rosemary Manning , Constance Marshall (Illustrator)

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## From Reader Review Green Smoke for online ebook

### Kahn says

Some years ago now, I began to have a memory of a book series I loved as a child.

There was a boy, who lived in St Albans, and there was a dragon and adventures ensued.

I read them while at primary school - books still existing back in those days - but in my adult life I could not find anyone who remembered these books.

Then, fortune favoured me. A clear out of my old stuff at my mum's house revealed three books - Dragon In Danger. The Dragon's Quest and Dragon In The Harbour.

OK, the hero was a girl and the town was "St Aubyns" - BUT, I wasn't mad and these books existed.

So HA!

Then, brilliantly, Green Smoke was pointed out to me - the first in Rosemary Manning's series and the one where Sue meets R. Dragon (nope, can't reveal that, sorry) while on holiday in Cornwall with her parents.

Essentially, Green Smoke is a series of short stories - told by Dragon to Sue - strung together by the loose holiday narrative.

Some of the stories are popular fables, some are the work of Manning, but to be honest the provenance doesn't really matter because a) it's a children's book and 2) they're still well told.

The secret of this book's long lasting success lies in the relationship between Sue and Dragon.

Here Manning creates a warm friendship built on mutual trust and buns. The book teaches you that people can get along just by getting to know each other, even if one is a young girl and one is a green dragon from the time of King Arthur.

The book just has warmth and love oozing from every page, the author's affection for her characters - and, it has to be said, Cornwall - drawing you in and keeping you safe while people fly around meeting mermaids and the like.

Reading the other books in the series as a child fired my imagination and cemented my love of reading.

Discovering Green Smoke as an adult rekindled that first love, and brought back those feelings of discovering a new world and new adventures.

I suspect I shall be re-reading the rest of the series before long...

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### Alison says

Wonderful

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### Edward Davies says

I loved Rosemary Manning's Dragon books when I was a kid - imagine my horror when I realised I'd never read one of them - The Dragon's Quest. Charity shops here I come! This is a cute tale about a girl who befriends a 1500 year old dragon and the adventures they share together. Wonderful innocent fun.

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### Shiq1e3 says

This book " Green Smoke " is about the magical adventures shared by a child , Susan , and a dragon "who lived by the sea " , this Green Smoke it's full of all the things that friends really do , like sharing biscuits and

stories , and forgiving each other for getting cross . R.Dragon isn't one of those frightening dragons you may know , because he has no teeth ans was tamed by St.Petroc after a life of doing wicked things like eating sheep and maidens. He's still very greedy , though , and that is how Susan comes to meet him - sneezing out green smoke because some people whose thrown -away sandwiches have pepper in them. He's also vain, and loves combing the patch of hair he has grown as a result of using hair restorer on his head ,and begin told how special and clever he is .But what he is really good at is, of course, telling storeies. Each time Susan shares her biscuits and buns with him he tells her another one,and they are well worth paying for. For Susan 's Dragon is no ordinary dragon , and can tell Susan about some of the most interesting things that happened there as well as some wonderful old English fairy tales . R.Dragon is the one you will probably like most, because you can imagine actually sitting on his back and fly away with him - on a wish, and puff of the Green Smoke .

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## **Megaball says**

I had very fond memories of this book from my childhood, so snapped up a copy when I saw it back in print.

It's a very simple story (or maybe series of stories?) in which a girl called Susan meets a dragon while on holiday in Cornwall. Her parents are content to let her explore the beaches and caves by herself, so most days she manages to sneak off and visit him (usually taking a bun or some biscuits to mollify the eccentric creature). He either takes her to see something or else tells her a tall tale, and that's pretty much it.

There isn't much in the way of action or adventure here, but the charm of the book lies in the dialogue between Susan and the dragon. It's beautifully quaint (sometimes laugh-out-loud ludicrous) and raises a big smile on pretty much every page. The dragon happens to be a charming, very cultured dragon who learned his manners at the court of King Arthur. Occasionally - like an old scholar recalling the wildness of his undergraduate days - he notes with regret the fact that he used to devour maidens.

Re-reading it as an adult, there's definitely a lot less plot than I remembered, but like I say - every page managed to raise a smile. It's a very (wonderfully) old-fashioned book, and worth picking up if you want to be transported back to a happier time - when children could explore beaches by themselves, and a bun could buy you a dragonback ride to Tintagel Castle!

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## **Michelle Wiles says**

This book was a 1970's edition that I recently purchased, along with some others from the same era. I hadn't actually read this story as a child, so decided to read it now. I really enjoyed it and thought it was a truly delightful story.

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## **Robert says**

I devoured this book and (two of) its sequels as a child and now I'm reading it to my own eight year old, who's enjoying it nearly as much as I am.

I hadn't realized until this re-read how strongly this book is structurally influenced by Puck Of Pook's Hill, whose template it adopts wholeheartedly. But that's not a ding -- the structure isn't the source of the value, it's just a frame off of which to hang a charming series of anecdotes, fairy stories and modest meditations.

Here we find plenty of Athuriana but also Child Rolande, a dash of Greek myths and a mermaid tale which parents whose kids have read Julia Donaldson will immediately recognize.

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### **Dove Harbour says**

A childhood favourite.

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### **Gail Robertson says**

First paperback book I ever read myself, all the way through at school. I hated reading at school...

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### **Fiona says**

I loved reading this as a child. Dragons, mermaids, King Arthur, knights, giants, nursery rhymes - and the enjoyment of being let into a secret from which adults were excluded due to their inability to believe! As an adult, it was a perfect read after finishing a very intense and, at times, disturbing book - an escape into light fantasy and the memories of childhood.

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