

Harriet
the
Dragon

by Lincoln Bergman

Harriet the Dragon
Lived in a mountain cave
Colored like a rainbow
Wise and kind and brave.

Real dragons are not scary
They're kind as they can be
Help the weak, guide the strong
Want people to be free.

Their wondrous dragon powers
Cannot be bought or sold
They're found around a dragon's neck
Three shining bells of gold.

These bells are how a dragon flies
High as clouds above
Written on them are three words:
Freedom, Justice, Love.

But Harriet is crying
She can't fly or cast good spells
A wicked vicious vulture
Has stolen her golden bells.

On a dark and stormy night
The wind was icy cold
A beak as sharp as razor blades
Cut off her bells of gold.

The vulture took her bells
Hid them far and wide
Harriet lost her powers
She cried and cried and cried.

He buried the bell of LOVE
Beneath the desert sands
So far underneath it could not be reached
By a thousand digging hands.

He dropped the bell of JUSTICE
As he howled with evil glee
Down to the very bottom
Of the deepest place in the sea.

He imprisoned the bell of FREEDOM
In the vault where his masters stored
All of their money and jewels
The vulture stood guard at the door.

His masters were two evil brothers
Who kept the people enslaved
They tricked them and kicked them and whipped them
Money and power they craved.

One made the people work faster
His name was Greedalot
The other brother liked to fight
They called him Bleedalot.

The brothers did their dirty work
They did it very well
But they did not count on a little girl
Whose name was Mirabel.

When other children wished
For bicycles or wagons
Mirabel had one thing in mind:
She always dreamed about dragons.

For you see she always believed
Somehow she just knew
That a wise and wonderful dragon
Would show her what to do.

But you can well imagine
How sad it made her feel
No one else in the valley
Believed that dragons were real.

She only talked about dragons
To her sister, so gentle and sweet,
And sometimes they talked to a very nice boy
Who lived right down the street.

But Greedalot took her sister
To work in his kitchen all day
And Bleedalot sent the boy down the street
To fight in a war far away.

Mirabel looked at her people
Her heart overflowing with tears
How long would all of this misery last?
How many unhappy years?

One day she was sent to a market
In a town some miles away
She heard some people laughing
She overheard them say

That halfway up the mountain
Lived a woman, very old,
They made fun of the old woman
And the stories that she told.

They said that this old woman
Whose name was Touch-the-Sky
Still believed in dragons
Even said she'd seen one fly.

Mirabel's heart was pounding
She knew what she must do
She had to go see Touch-the-Sky
To find out all she knew.

The way was hard and rocky
The path was very steep
Sometimes she cut her arms and legs
As up the rocks she'd creep.

For three long days she journeyed
Exhausted up the slope
Her spirit was strong and shining
She would not give up hope.

Then something wonderful happened
To give her step new spring
Far far off in the distance
She heard a sweet bell ring.

The ringing seemed to tell her
You can make it if you try,
Then she saw a little cabin
And out came Touch-the-Sky.

"Come in, my child," said Touch-the-Sky
You're tired as can be
"Come in, I've been expecting you,
Sit down and have some tea."

The old women told her story
Mirabel listened well
And on the little table
She saw a golden bell.

Mirabel asked the old woman
If she'd seen the dragon fly
"Oh, yes, I saw the dragon
Soaring in the sky."

My child, how can I tell you
A truly marvelous sight
All colors of the rainbow
Shone in the sun's bright light.

I knew her name was Harriet
My great grandma told me so
She helped our people once before
In bad times long ago.

My great grandmother told me
The bells on Harriet's neck
Carried magical powers
The people to protect.

I wanted to talk to the Dragon
I saw all the pain down below
How Greedalot and Bleedalot
Hurt the people so.

But those two evil brothers
Knew about Harriet's might
They sent their vicious vulture
To rob her in the night.

"One night when I was sleeping,"
Said kindly Touch-the-Sky,
"Awakened by loud thunder,
I heard a horrible cry."

"I ran to look out my window
And shivered at the sight
An ugly giant vulture
Was screeching through the night."

"I've seen terrible things my darling
In my long hard-working life
But that vulture was by far the worst
His beak cut like a knife."

"I thought I'd have a nightmare
After hearing that awful scream
But when I managed to go back to sleep
I had a wonderful dream.

The dream was rainbow-colored
I heard a joyful song
A dragon rested on the clouds
A voice rang loud and strong.

Rainbow rainbow colors glow
Breezes blow and flowers grow
Sing in the new, fling out the old
Find three shining bells of gold

Search and find them, search and find
You will help the world be kind
Seek in desert and in sea
Wherever Love and Justice be
But for the third bell you will need
To find a way to end all greed.

Whatever happens, do your best
Others come to do the rest
Long hard journey, many a mile
In the end the Earth shall smile
Breezes blow and flowers grow
Rainbow rainbow colors glow.

"So off I went," said Touch-the-Sky
"Over hill and hedge
I walked for more than one whole year
Till I reached the desert's edge."

"I sought the bell in dunes of sand
Never turning back
A million times more hard to find
Than needle in haystack."

"I staggered alone, tired and sad,
I fainted I felt so weak
Then a camel knelt beside me
Woke me up licking my cheek.

"The camel nudged against me
With gentle little bumps
I saw the camel meant for me
To ride between its humps.

The camel ran like the wind itself
I held on tight with my knees
Then suddenly rose before us
A cluster of lush palm trees.

An oasis bloomed in the desert,
Dates as big as your hand
A pool of clear fresh water
Sparkled amid the sand.

Pushed up from roots to branches
Of the tallest strongest tree
My eyes beheld a golden bell
I pushed to shake it free.

Down it came like ripened fruit
From its branch so high above
Ringing the sweetest melody
On it was written LOVE."

"So I returned," said Touch-the-Sky
"And how I have wanted to go
To find the other two golden bells,
But I've grown too old, too slow."

"So here I have watched and waited
Knowing I'd done my best,
For you to arrive, as my dream said—
Others will come for the rest."

"When you've rescued JUSTICE and FREEDOM
Return for the bell of LOVE here
Then climb to the dragon above the clouds
May Love's spirit be with you, my dear."

Mirabel listened to Touch-the-Sky
Felt her wisdom too
Took the lessons to her heart
Knew what she had to do.

Racing back down the mountain
To valley spreading wide
She pondered Touch-the-Sky's story
And the clues it might provide.

Back in the valley Mirabel told
Her sister and friend of her trip
To find gold bell of Justice
She'd need to sail a ship.

Her friend had returned from Greedalot's war
Near where the big rivers flow
He'd heard of a man who sailed the seas
Whose name was Hideho.

A friendly old man with a thin wisp of beard
This sailor they called Hideho
Whenever he smiled his eyes twinkled like stars
Straight to his boat she did go.

They sailed way out on the ocean
Wild waves they pounded and roared
Mirabel had to hang on for dear life
So as not to be thrown overboard.

At last they reached the deepest place
Hideho knew it well
Mirabel made ready to dive
To rescue the golden bell.

Mirabel was a great swimmer
She knew she had to try
But she couldn't get down to the bottom
Gasping she started to cry.

Just then a beautiful dolphin
Heard her mournful wail
The dolphin swam to the surface
Propelled by its powerful tail.

"Dolphin," Mirabel shouted
"Can you swim to the bottom here?"
Can you find the bell on the ocean floor?
Said the dolphin, "Never you fear..."

"I've seen this bell
Of which you speak
I know it well
That bell you seek."

The dolphin brought the golden bell
Up from the deep blue sea
Mirabel hugged the dolphin
JUSTICE rang out joyously.

Back to the boat swam Mirabel
Away to the shore they did go
Before she left, Mirabel gave
A big kiss to Hideho.

Back in the valley her sister
Gave her a happy surprise
Told her she'd seen the third golden bell
With her very own eyes.

She'd been sent into Greedalot's storeroom
Under vulture's watchful eye
As she polished the gold and silver
She'd seen on a shelf way up high—

The precious bell of FREEDOM
Locked in a prison of greed
Together the sisters figured out
A way for the bell to be freed.

Secretly late at night
Quietly as a mouse
They began digging a tunnel
Starting behind their house.

Their friend came to work beside them
They labored hard and long
Carved by pick and shovel
Their tunnel crept along.

Burrowing deep underground
Like a gopher or a mole
When morning came they carefully
Covered up the hole.

When they were under the vault
They tunneled up through the floor
The vulture was standing guard outside
Once they heard him snore.

They carried the bell of FREEDOM
Out their underground way
Their spirits were strong and shining
Their hearts were shouting hooray!

Mirabel ran back to the mountains
Her feet they fairly flew
The dragon lived above the clouds
She knew what she must do.

Mirabel kept on climbing
Success shone in her eye
She could hardly wait to show the bells
To wise old Touch-the-Sky.

But when she first saw Touch-the-Sky
Her face looked very pale
She stretched her arms to Mirabel
Said, "I know that you won't fail."

"My child," said she, "you're marvelous
I see you have found what we seek,"
Mirabel quietly nodded her head
So sad she could hardly speak.

"Come now," my child, said Touch-the-Sky
"I'm at least one hundred and two,"
I'm just overjoyed to have seen this day
Three golden bells and you."

Mirabel gazed in the wise woman's eyes
Saw passage of the years
Touch-the-Sky spoke sure and calm
Quieting Mirabel's fears.

"Under a free and starry sky
Hear the people's freedom cry
Go granddaughter of my heart
Each of us must play our part
Dragon powers you'll restore.
Then people shall be slaves no more

Now my time to leave draws near
But I am with you never fear
For Love never dies, goes on and on
Always gives birth to another dawn
No matter how hard, come what may
You and Love will find a way
Justice and Freedom will be won
Rainbow dragon shine in the Sun
Together we've traveled many a mile
In the end the Earth shall smile.
Go quickly my dear on wings of a dove
I kiss you forever with all my Love."

So on her way went Mirabel
They said their last good-byes
As she struggled up the mountain
Tears fell from her eyes.

There's many who believe it
Some who swear it's so
Wherever her tears struck the Earth
Now waterfalls do flow.

Now Mirabel did not know it
But down in the valley below
Things were already changing
FREEDOM was starting to grow.

The people no longer could stand it
They began to make a plan
They decided to join together
Every child, woman, and man.

Mirabel reached a towering cliff
At the top she saw a cave
She tried and tried but could not climb
No matter how strong or brave.

She closed her eyes and thought
Of Touch-the-Sky and Love
Then she felt a fluttering in the air
Beheld a beautiful dove.

A dove as large as a condor
Spread its wings near Mirabel
Flew her up the towering cliff
To the cave where Harriet dwelled.

When Mirabel saw the dragon
And Harriet Mirabel
The feeling springing between them
No words could ever tell.

Tenderly, recalling her journey,
Living out Touch-the-Sky's dream
Mirabel fastened the golden bells on
They began to gleam.

With Mirabel riding the dragon
Thrilling with power of flight
They soared down over the valley
What an incredible sight!

The people had taken power
Risen up in FREEDOM'S name
Thrown out Greed and Bleedalot
Things would never be the same.

Harriet and Mirabel
Chased Greedalot you see
Out to the very farthest edge
Of the very farthest sea.

As for the other brother
Here's what people say
Bleedalot started running
And he still is running today.

People sang of JUSTICE and FREEDOM
Voices rang in praise of LOVE
Told of Touch-the-Sky and Mirabel
The dragon, camel, dolphin, and dove.

Harriet the dragon
Smiled lovingly and long
Then she spoke these simple words
Her voice so wise and strong:

“You should always remember
The people play the main part
You see what makes a dragon real
Is the Love in your own heart.

Or putting it another way
Part of me is there
Every single precious time
A child learns how to share.”

Then Harriet flew to the clouds
Her work after all was through
She flies to where she is needed
Perhaps a mountain near you

And who knows, perhaps tonight,
As the Moon casts magic spells
You might dream of a wonderful dragon
And three shining golden bells.

The End