



“The Story of the Little House Who Wanted to Be a Home”

Text and illustrations by **Piret Raud**

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Picturebook, fiction

Age: 3+

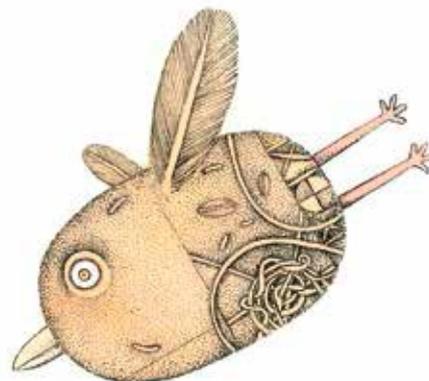
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Deep in the countryside lives an empty little house. She is lonely and sad, and would dearly like to be someone's home. One day, she decides to find someone who would like to live in her. Who could it be? A dog? Or a fish? Or a bird? Or maybe even the homeless man Jim? Or someone entirely different? On the last page of the book, we find an illuminated window: it turns out the little house's quest hasn't been in vain, after all!

Awards:

2018 5 Best-Designed Estonian Children's Books,
special prize of the Estonian Graphic Designers'
Union

2018 Good Children's Book



Reading sample

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The little house continued on her way.

Soon, the day was coming to an end. It was time for everyone to head back to their homes. The sun was rolling to the west, a cloud was sailing to the east, and the breeze was settling down in its treetop.

No one paid the little house any attention.

Dusk arrived. All the homes were filled with someone; only the little house was still empty and alone. Nobody wanted her. She felt so miserable that she started to cry.

Suddenly, she heard someone whisper:

“Look at how homey you are!”

The house looked around, but couldn't see anybody.

“Who are you?” she asked.

“I'm a lonely ghost,” the voice replied. “Please let me move in!”

“But that's impossible,” the little house wailed. “There's no such thing as ghosts!”

“You're right,” the ghost agreed. “There's not. And that's exactly why I feel so lonely.”

Now, the ghost started to cry, too, and so, they cried there side by side.

Oh, how many tears they shed!

Actually, being lonely together like that felt wonderful. The little house wiped away her tears and smiled.

“It doesn't matter that there's no such thing as you,” she said, “On the contrary: this way, I don't have to go and change myself for anyone. You are most welcome to live here!”

The ghost smiled, too, and moved in at once.

It's true that he didn't exist, but that didn't matter. He was the little HOME's very own ghost, and was very dear to her.

Translated by Adam Cullen

