

Brillo the Snail on the Rainbow Trail

by Diliانا Ovtcharova

It was the first the day of spring. Brillo's eyes slowly began to wiggle and creep open. The sun was shining, birds serenading the flowers, and cherry blossoms flying in the breeze like baby butterflies. Brillo shook the dirt away from his shell and emerged from his winter slumber. He was excited to see his friends Iduna and Mika, the two little girls who lived in the house above his tunnel.

Brillo couldn't wait to garden with Iduna and Mika. They always let him sit in their palms as they tended to their strawberries and tomatoes.

Brillo slid around the yard, searching for the girls but to no avail. He soon found an entire city sleeping. The roads were empty, the hum of engines gone. The sound of children laughing, replaced by the wind's whispers.

After a while, Brillo saw Iduna and Mika through a window. They were drawing a giant rainbow. It was beautiful. They carefully carried it to their window and taped it up. As they looked out, they saw Brillo waving at them. The girls jumped in excitement and called him closer to the glass. They told Brillo about what had been happening. A tiny invisible germ had escaped from its dungeon and was making some people very sick. The tiny germ could fly very fast and far, like a baby dragon. Until it was captured and brought back to its dungeon, everyone had to stay inside.

Brillo thought that sounded very lonely and he wanted to do something to make his friends smile. Iduna and Mika told him that children all over the world have been drawing rainbows to cheer up neighbors and remind them that they're loved.

Brillo had an idea. As the girls looked out their window curiously, he began growing larger and larger before their eyes. Brillo collected curvy sticks, shiny rocks, flowy leaves and flowers. His shell grew, and grew, and grew until he was as tall as a bear.

Iduna and Mika had heard about children making rainbow maps in towns far, far away. They quickly started sketching one of their own for Brillo to follow. He set off on his first journey, singing songs and spreading joy around the streets. The next day, he noticed the girls had added more rainbows on the map for him to visit. Every day, more and more rainbows appeared in children's windows. The children in town would wave, cheer, and dance as Brillo passed by. He would go to sleep with a smile on his face every night knowing that he had helped bring a little joy to those who needed it the most.

As autumn arrived, the chilly air reminded Brillo that it would soon be time to go back to a long winter sleep. The tiny germ still flew around the world, but people were growing stronger and finding ways to keep it away from their castles. The children continued to decorate their windows with colorful rainbows and looked forward to dancing with Brillo in the sunshine soon.

The End

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