

an explosive friendship!!

text
claude daigneault
illustrations
michèle lessard



a pyro and glucosina adventure

La Caboché

an explosive friendship!!
a pyro and glucosina adventure



La Caboché

Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec
and Library and Archives Canada cataloguing in publication

Daigneault, Claude, 1942-

[Amitié explosive!! . English]

An explosive friendship [electronic resource]

(Collection La petite Caboche)
Translation of: Une amitié explosive!!.
For children aged 4 and up.

ISBN 978-2-924187-11-1

I. Lessard, Michèle, 1982- . II. Daigneault, Mathieu, 1972-
III. Title. IV. Title: Amitié explosive!! . English. V. Series: Petite Caboche.

PS8557.A445A7313 2013 jC843'.54 C2012-942784-5
PS9557.A445A7313 2013

Legal deposit

- Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec, 2013
- Bibliothèque nationale du Canada, 2013

Éditions la Caboche

Phone : 450-714-4037 Fax : 450-714-4236

Email : info@editionslacaboche.qc.ca

www.editionslacaboche.qc.ca

All rights reserved for all countries

an explosive friendship !!

a pyro and glucosina adventure

text

claire daigneault



illustrations

michèle lessard

translation from french by

mathieu daigneault

collection

la petite caboche

La Caboche

Pyro the dragon is feeling sad, today. So sad that his two little wings hang limply on his back. By the open doorway to his cave, Pyro stares sheepishly at his friend Glucosina as she toils away in the billowing snow outside.

On the side of a nearby hill, the novice witch is hard at work shoveling snow. Gluco is trying to clear a path to her odd little home, a shack she built herself using magic.

But, as was often the case with the mini-witch, things hadn't exactly turned out as she had planned...



The chimney of her house, for example, protruded from one of the side walls, instead of from the top. The main door was round, and the windows were all triangles ! Even the roof was all wrong : it had been installed upside down, pointing downwards !

Pyro would have dearly liked to go help Glucosina clear a path to her home but, the night before, the two friends had a little falling-out, and had since stopped speaking to each other.

— It's all my fault, sighs the dragon, his heart heavy. If only I hadn't told Gluco I think she eats too many sweets...



But Pyro wasn't exactly wrong on this...

Waist-deep in snow, the plump little witch was wheezing as if she'd just run a marathon. Perched precariously on top of her short legs, Glucosina would heave snow over her shoulder, stop to catch her breath, and pick up her shovel to start all over again.

Sighing heavily, Pyro lowers his head before closing the front door. Shivering, he starts rubbing his front paws together to try and warm them; all around him, the walls of his cave are already covered with winter's frost.

— I need a good fire, decides Pyro.

Slowly, the dragon walks over to his fireplace, then takes a deep breath. Closing his snout to keep the air in his lungs, Pyro counts :

— Wone...Thwo...Thwee !

And Pyro blows his mighty breath into the fireplace.

But nothing happens !

Well, almost nothing ; tiny wisps of white smoke rise lazily from his nostrils.



Puzzled, Pyro takes another huge breath to fill his lungs with air. But just as he feels he's about to burst, a polar breeze suddenly slips in under the doorsill of his cave and goes tickling his snout.

— Atchi ! sniffles Pyro, unable to stop himself from sneezing. Atcha! Atchoff !
ATCHOUK ! Aaa... Aaaa... Aaaaaa ?...

Then, silence.

Holding a clawed finger under his nose, Pyro sighs, thinking he's finally managed to beat his sneezing frenzy.

But the dragon couldn't have been more wrong...

At-ta-ta-CHOWW...!!



Unable to help himself, Pyro suddenly lets out a mighty sneeze, much to his dismay.

— At-ta-ta-CHOWW!!!

The force of the sneeze is so powerful that it blows the front door wide open, and it goes clanging against the cave wall outside !

On the nearby hillside, startled by the sudden noise, Glucosina drops her shovel in the snow.

Looking around in surprise, she notices, through the big open doorway to Pyro's cave, that the little dragon is now lying on his back, bowled over by his own sneeze !

Lips pursed, the young witch glares.

— Humpf! she snorts. That's what happens when you're too skinny.

Bending over to pick up her shovel again, Glucosina suddenly feels light-headed. Shoveling snow seems harder than usual: she has to take a few deep breaths just to get her wits about her.

Vexed, the little witch stares at her protruding belly, pouting.

Maybe Pyro was right... Maybe she does eat too many sweets...



Softly, through the wind, she hears Pyro begin to sob quietly. Sitting on the floor of his cave, with his fists balled up over his eyes and his long tail lying limply on the ground next to him, Pyro seems to be crying. Even from afar, Glucosina can see the dragon's shoulders heave with each sob.

— Boo-hoo-hoo, cries Pyro. Sniffle... Boo-hoo... Snuffle... BOOOOO-HOOO-HOOO! Snurfle!

Glucosina hesitates. Should she go to him?

Surely she can't leave Pyro in such a sorry state!



Sighing, Glucosina throws her shovel in the snow. Then, clenching her fists, she scrunches up her face furiously, as if she's about to make a little fart. Suddenly, two tiny gossamer wings pop out of her back!

A determined look on her face, Gluco decides she's going to fly to her friend's aid... even if he did call her « tubby »...

The little fairy wings on the witch's back start fluttering madly away, but nothing much happens... Alas, three times alas, all Glucosina can manage is to hop around on her feet a few times and spin around in circles, much to the delight of a nearby family of hedgehogs who, covered in snow, can't stop laughing.

For all of her efforts, Gluco can't seem to take off ! Her head bent low, the witch folds back her fairy wings, making them rustle like old parchment paper.

What now ? she thinks, disappointed.



And then, Glucosina gets the most wonderful idea !

Mounting her shovel, Gluco grabs the handle with both hands and lets herself slide all the way down the hill, right up to Pyro's doorstep ! Just as she arrives at the entrance to the cave, she breaks in the nick of time, spraying snow all over Pyro's head !

— Stop crying, Pyro, she says, and tell me what's wrong.

— Oh Glucosina, whimpers the dragon. The fire in my tummy has gone out ! I can't even light a twig in my fireplace to keep myself warm !

— Don't worry, soothes Gluco. I've got just the thing to cure your ails !

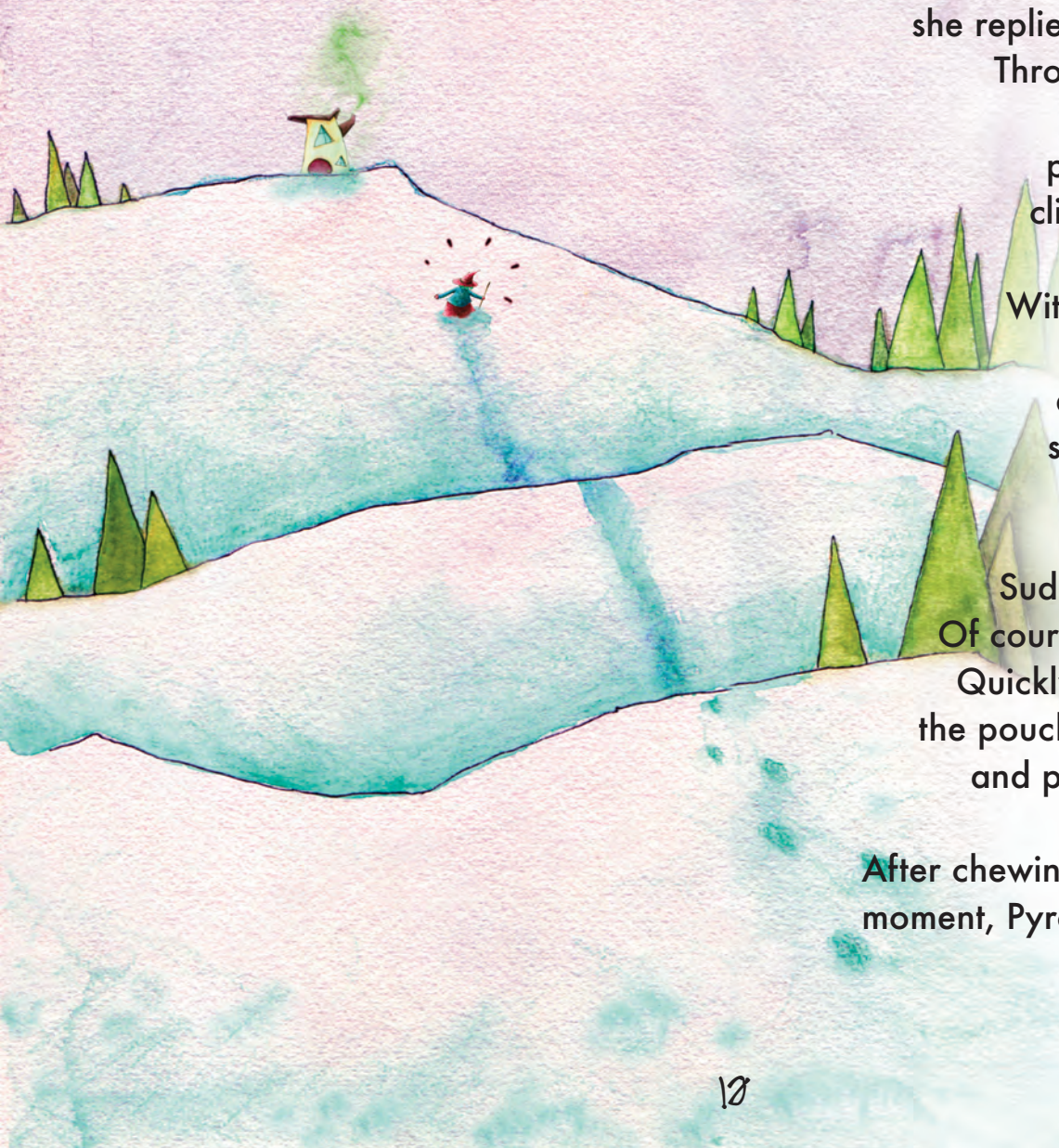




From one of her many pockets, Glucosina slowly takes out a small pouch made of sack-cloth. Tied closed by a piece of string, the pouch is inscribed with two words, « cayenne peppers », spread out over the drawing of a little sprig of twisted red peppers.

— Swallow a pinch of this, instructs Glucosina, and keep your snout closed tight until the flame in your belly starts up again. I hear it's quite potent... Or so I've been told... Okay, gotta go, now. I still have a lot of snow to shovel, you know !

— Oh, thank you, Gluco. Erm, Gluco ?... Are we still... you know, friends ?



The plump mini-witch grumbles as she leaves the cave.

— We'll talk about it later, Pyro, she replies before going outside.

Through the doorway, Pyro watches as Glucosina painstakingly begins the climb back up the hillside to her odd little home.

With snow up to her waist, she seems to be having a hard time : she has to stop numerous times just to take a breather.

Pyro feels so helpless.

Suddenly, his eyes light up.

Of course ! That's the solution !

Quickly, the dragon opens up the pouch of powdered peppers and pours the entire contents into his mouth.

After chewing feverishly away for a moment, Pyro's eyes suddenly grow wide in surprise.

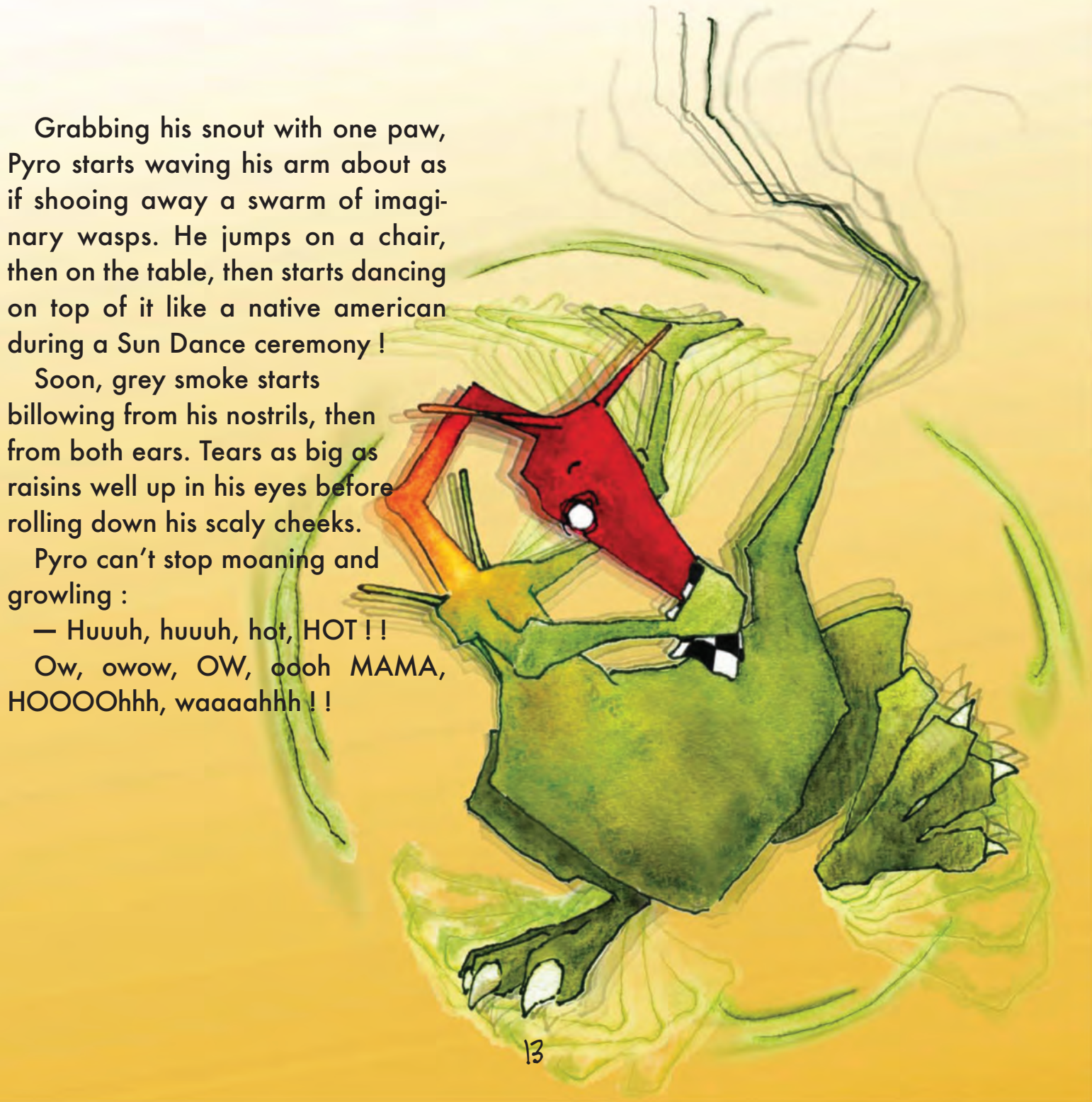
Grabbing his snout with one paw, Pyro starts waving his arm about as if shooing away a swarm of imaginary wasps. He jumps on a chair, then on the table, then starts dancing on top of it like a native american during a Sun Dance ceremony !

Soon, grey smoke starts billowing from his nostrils, then from both ears. Tears as big as raisins well up in his eyes before rolling down his scaly cheeks.

Pyro can't stop moaning and growling :

— Huuuh, huuuh, hot, HOT !!

Ow, owow, OW, oooh MAMA, HOOOOhhh, waaaahhh !!





Rolling off the table to the floor, Pyro quickly staggers back to his feet, swaying on his big hind legs.

Gosh, his belly feels as hot as a boiler, now !

Rushing to the fireplace, Pyro starts to sneeze violently, sneezing so hard that the portrait of his old dragon parents gets knocked off the wall and goes shattering on the cavern floor !

Unable to resist the urge to sneeze, Pyro releases a tremendous lick of red and yellow flame from his nostrils, directly onto the wood piled up in the fireplace. A glowing fire immediately begins to spit and crackle.



Satisfied, Pyro rubs his paws together in front of the fire for a moment, before spinning around to warm his wide bottom and his long tail. Happy as can be, the dragon smiles, finally warm and toasty.

Now all warmed up, Pyro rushes outside into the snow, determined to help his friend out. But Pyro can't stop sneezing! Sneezing all the way as he runs along the trail that leads to Glucosina's house, Pyro looks like a giant flame-thrower! Each time he sneezes, entire banks of ice and snow melt before him in the blink of an eye!

— Make way for the dragon snow plow! bellows Pyro between sneezes.

Arriving in front of a breathless Glucosina, who seems utterly spent after her efforts climbing back up the hill, Pyro blows one last breath, clearing a path through the snow right up to her doorstep.

Delighted, Glucosina hugs Pyro tightly in her chubby little arms. Both friends embrace for a moment, their cheeks red, their eyes brimming with tears..

— Gluco, begins Pyro, I'm so sorry I called you... « tubby », yesterday...

— It's all right, my little dragon. You weren't exactly wrong, were you? What do you say we celebrate our friendship? Let's go grab a bite to eat!

— EAT?! cries Pyro. I mean... Er, sure, Gluco, but... is that really necessary?

— Come on in, replies the witch with a smile. You'll see...





As he digs in hungrily, Pyro notices a waste basket sitting in a corner behind Gluco. The waste basket is filled to the rim with all sorts of sweets that the witch decided to throw away.

– Starting tomorrow, declares Glucosina, I'm going to start working out again. Soon, Pyro, we'll both be able to fly together in the sky, just like we used to !

– Yippee !! shouts Pyro.

But the dragon's enthusiasm gets the better of him. As he shouts, a great lick of flame surges from his mouth, spraying all of the fruits in the bowl !

Inside the big bowl, the fruits now look like so much applesauce...

All smiles, the two friends immediately sit down at the table to enjoy their snacks.

Worried that Gluco will start binging on candy again, Pyro follows his friend inside her odd little home.

But to his surprise, a great big bowl of plump, juicy fruits awaits him on the kitchen table !



As Pyro looks on sheepishly, Glucosina furrows her brow. Without saying a word, the witch fetches a long wooden spoon and begins to dunk it into the bowl of stewing fruit sauce, ready to serve them a much-deserved hot lunch.





The end

Friendship and helping each other out

The books in the series are designed to help young children from 4 to 7 years old to find confidence in themselves through the use of humor. This series is intended for parents who wish to teach their children how to learn and read a language free of limitations. The author is convinced that one should not be afraid of words, and that children are fully capable of learning a vocabulary that, at first, might seem a little daunting.

The author bases this assumption on his own childhood, as well as his personal experience with his children and those of his extended family. He firmly believes that regular implication by parents in their children's learning process can better prepare a child for the next step in their education, that being the first years of grade school.

The characters in these stories were inspired by comedic duos of the 1930's and 1940's, such as Laurel and Hardy, and Abbot and Costello. Pyro is a young dragon that lacks assurance, and who depends entirely on his plump best friend to help him out. Glucosina, an inexperienced mini-witch, lacks the necessary maturity to assume this role. But even though she might not possess all of the necessary skills quite just yet, she more than makes up for it with her rather determined mindset.

Essentially, the two characters are simply maladjusted friends who discover that friendship and a solid sense of humor can usually compensate for almost any shortcoming.

The author





La petite caboche

Children's books

4 years & over

Claude Daigneault

Une amitié explosive (2010)
Le grand projet (2011)
Pyro fugue (2013)

An explosive friendship (2013)
The big project (2013)
Pyro runs away (2013)

6 years & over

Lina Savignac

Les petits souliers roses et La chatte de Jeanne (2011)
Rutina, l'ânesse et Fridolin, l'homme de paille (2013)

After her friend Pyro makes an indelicate comment about her weight, Glucosina's feelings are hurt. The little orphan dragon would sure like to try and apologize, but the fire in his belly is dying out, and he's starting to freeze. Will the little witch be able to overcome her bitterness and help her friend out ?



*teach a child to read, and you teach
a child how to dream and open
up to the rest of the universe*