René Kaiser

Julian and the Hidden Worlds

Book 3

The Library of Unfinished Stories



Book 3 · English edition

Julian and the Hidden Worlds

The Library of Unfinished Stories

René Kaiser



Maps · Doors · Worlds · Connections

Not Every Ending Needs a Crown

Dear children and everyone reading aloud,

After the button city and the rooftop sea, Julian's third Atlas journey leads to a library. Stories that are still being worked on live here. Palu is a friendly paper horse: at first, his rear shape exists only as a draft. He is not injured; part of his story has not yet been written.

Julian, Lio and Kaja meet Bente, the librarian Seren, Nori and the hungry bear Brumm. Their routes need different widths, and their stories need different next steps. A ready-made ending does not suit everyone.

The 25 chapters continue Book 2. Reading in order is recommended; important connections are explained again. The Atlas is borrowed, and Julian's compass with its ten stars stays at home.

The library's connections belong to an imaginary world. Adults handle binding work, needles, heavy books and higher shelves. Children observe, ask questions and help with light working sheets.

Read together and pause whenever it suits you. An open question may wait until tomorrow too.

Contents

1. A Hoof beside the Wooden Buoy 6

2. Bente and the Unwritten Part 8

3. Seren and the Last Lines 10

4. The Loveliest Wrong Ending 12

5. Three Doors instead of One 14

6. Brumm Is Wider than His Pot 16

7. A Little Route towards Lunch 18

8. The Boy beneath the Big Hat 20

9. A Beginning by Agreement 22

10. The Staircase That Wanted to Finish Speaking 24

11. The Garden inside the Little Map 26

12. Four Hooves from the Right Design 28

13. Two Open Routes and a Waiting Bear 30

Contents · continued

14. A Measurement with Shoulders 32

15. A Hungry Visitor in the Beginnings Drawer 34

16. Pages That Will Still Be Needed 36

17. An Apple instead of a Race 38

18. Soup May Have a Pause 40

19. Tarin Comes through the Wide Door 42

20. The Section That May Wait 44

21. Palu Brings the Next Invitation 46

22. What Julian Writes for Himself 48

23. An Open Library at Goodbye 50

24. Two Moons, Many Questions 52

25. Check before the Ending 54

CHAPTER 1

A Hoof beside the Wooden Buoy



The paper hoof jumped out of the Atlas when Julian opened the third page after breakfast. It hopped over his pencil and caught against Jonte's wooden buoy. The little bell rang.

Lio drew back his paw. "Unfinished horses apparently have quite finished intentions."

Julian picked up the piece. It was flat and light, with a pale pencil line on one side. The paper horse they had seen the previous evening was still waiting in the Atlas. Its front half was folded paper; towards the back, the lines became a transparent drawing.

"Does it need this?" Julian held the little hoof beside the picture. He did not want to stick anything on before he knew what it was.

Kaja knocked from the pale return envelope. She had brought the new library letter, kept separately in her postbag.

“Seren is expecting us,” she said. “We may visit today.”

Julian showed her the piece. Kaja examined both sides, then found a small paper sleeve for it.

“We’ll take it along and ask.”

Julian packed the Atlas. The water-resistant cloth from the rooftop sea protected its cover. The sewn-in city button stayed in his backpack. His compass, with its ten stars, remained on the desk beside the still quiet plant pot.

Lio examined the library letter with his nose. “Paper. Apples. A promising address.”

Kaja opened the permitted route. A firm threshold appeared between two drawn book spines. Julian pocketed the sleeve and waited until the steps lay complete before them.

CHAPTER 2

Bente and the Unwritten Part



The library smelled of wood, paper and warm apple tea. Tall shelves reached up to arched windows. Drawings hung between them, some colourful, others little more than a few lines.

A sandy-haired boy hurried towards them. A pencil rested behind his ear. Beside him walked the paper horse, slowly, without crossing the threshold.

“I’m Bente. This is Palu.” The boy noticed the sleeve in Julian’s hand. “You found the piece of the old pattern!”

Julian showed him the little hoof. “Is it his?”

“It belongs to the original drawing,” Bente explained. “Not to his body. A loose cut-out slipped through the connection. Could you keep it safe until we find the whole design?”

Palu lifted one of his solid front hooves. “Nothing missing here. Further back, however, something remains unwritten.”

His rear shape could be seen as fine lines on transparent paper. There was no wound or broken leg. The drawing simply stopped turning into solid folds.

“My sentence says: And then Palu galloped …” The horse waited. “Nothing comes after that.”

Bente stroked his folded neck. “He used to visit the garden along the routes between books. Now he can only reach his last written line.”

Julian put the sleeve safely away. Through a window, he could see a red apple on a tree.

Palu followed his gaze. “It’s been hanging there since yesterday.”

Lio sat down. “At least it hasn’t run away from us.”

CHAPTER 3

Seren and the Last Lines



Seren approached with a bookmark in her hand. Another held back her silver hair. She parked the book trolley and greeted Kaja as though they had often met between letters and shelves.

“Welcome to the stories that are still being worked on.” She showed Julian an open book. Inside it, a girl was assembling the sails of a windmill. In another, a bear stirred a pot.

“Are all the stories broken?” Julian asked.

“No. Some simply need time. Others need another sentence. And sometimes people don’t yet know which sentence.”

Seren led them to three garden doors. Small dark dots held their connections closed. One door was low, one taller, while the third was meant to be especially wide. In the Atlas, however, they looked almost the same.

“Tarin folded the garden border and closed the routes beyond the last written lines,” Seren explained. “He wanted no loose endings in the book. In doing so, he made different routes into one.”

Bente stopped with Palu outside the middle door. The horse could see the apple tree but could not reach it.

Kaja opened the round workshop window in the Atlas cover. Tarin listened to Seren’s account. He could prepare the connection, but needed actual measurements and confirmed routes.

Julian took out his working sheet. He did not have a finished map yet.

Lio considered the many dots. “Remarkable how much a full stop can block.”