



Synopsis: Fee Krämer, *Jette erst recht!* / *Jette Will Do It!*

Illustrations by Judith Drews.

©S. Fischer Verlag, Frankfurt am Main, 2015

Content:

Jette is nine years old. Her father is single and owns a café called *Wohnzimmer* (“Living Room”). Jette’s mother lives in London and only writes from time to time – to the great disappointment of her daughter. Jette’s best friend is a boy named Konrad. She also has a pet rat named Herr Mann (“Mr. Man”) and sees herself as a reporter who likes to interview the guests of the *Wohnzimmer*. Jette thinks her father is overprotective and spends too much time on setting up rules for her. So she decides to get him a new girlfriend so that he will have less time to oversee his daughter.

When Konrad drops by at Jette’s place the next morning, they browse through his parents’ photo album and literally analyze the comments relating to the photos in order to understand what makes adults fall in love. “Love is contagious” becomes “You have to contract love with others already infected.”, “We are on the same wavelength” is transformed by the children into “The partners have to be good swimmers.” Their analysis is interrupted when Jesse’s father appears.

The results of the analysis fail the test of reality: None of the female guests at the café seem to be the perfect match for Jette’s father. One woman is nice, speaks about her work as a physicist and wears a colorful pullover, but she is a non-swimmer and leaves the café abruptly when Jette asks if she finds her father attractive. Another woman (black-haired, wearing bangs) does not want to answer at all when asked how tall she is – it turns out, however, that she is almost as tall as Jette’s father.

When Jette asks her father why he is single, he pretends to have no time for a girlfriend due to all his household and educational tasks. Jette is all the more convinced that she has to help him in finding a partner as his last choice (Jette's mum) was apparently a bad one. She hopes that dad would focus more on his future wife instead of on Jette herself.

The next night, Jette wakes up to hear the floor boards in front of her room creaking. Someone is inside the apartment! Jette grabs a billiard cue to defend herself against the supposed burglar – just to see the woman from the café with the colorful pullover disappear into the staircase. Jette, who did not understand what the woman had told her in the café about numbers and secret codes, thinks that she is a criminal bank-robber who wanted to kidnap her. When her father tells her that there was nobody in the apartment, Jette is scared all the more that the bank-robbery woman will come back kidnap her, so she hatches a plan: she will rub herself with stinky cheese so the woman will be disgusted and keep away from her.

The next day, Konrad and Jette go to the supermarket to buy some stinky cheese. At the cheese counter, they meet the perfect woman for Jette's dad: She is tall, loves cheese and music, and loves to swim. Unfortunately, she is at the supermarket with her husband. So the children just buy a piece of promisingly strong-smelling cheese and leave. At home, the cheese starts to do its job: the smell is incredible. To avoid fainting, Jette and Konrad spread a bit of toothpaste under their noses and enjoy their new red and white moustaches. Jette cuts the cheese into pieces and puts them everywhere in her clothing. Then the children go downstairs to the café to test the effect. Rikk, the bartender, smells the cheese right away. Several guests start fanning themselves.

The same evening, Konrad and Jette look out for the bank-robber in the colorful pullover. They prepare her arrival: they spread superglue on the floor of the apartment hall and hide behind a telephone table – an ideal position to observe the door of the apartment. Time passes, but the woman does not arrive. Konrad falls asleep and Jette imagines a bright future with a new woman in her dad's life who is more like a grown-up best friend than a new mother. The more she thinks about a partner for her father, the sadder she gets. Jette starts to cry ... when, all of a sudden, the door of the apartment is unlocked with a key. The woman in the colorful pullover is standing in the hall. She does not stick to the floor, however, but as the glue is still wet, she slips and falls directly onto the hiding children, hurting her foot. All three start to scream. Jette's dad wakes up and all of them go into the kitchen together. It turns out that the woman is called Bara and is in love with Jette's dad. Jette is deeply disappointed and starts to cry, as Bara does not match any of the established criteria which applied to Konrad's parents. She is way too small and cannot swim! Jette does not think her father is capable of making the right choice. So the children go back to Jette's room. Jette is still upset that her father lied to her about not knowing Bara, but Konrad thinks they are a nice couple.

During all these exciting events, nobody pays attention to Herr Mann. All of a sudden, Jette sees that he is lying on his back, his eyes closed. He is hardly breathing. Bara calls a vet and together, the four of them jump into a car to drive to the pet emergency ward. They cross the city in a hurry. The vet is a calm and nice man who saves the rat by giving it an injection. Still smelling strongly of cheese, Bara, Konrad, Jette and her dad drive back to the café to have some fresh baked waffles.

What makes this book special?

- An easy read: Colorful vocabulary, short sentences.
- A lot of humor stemming from the divergence between Jette's childlike interpretation of the world and the knowledge every reader has. This humor is easily understood by children as well.
- A feel-good story with charming oddball characters.
- The plot follows Jette's child-like logic and is refreshingly silly without lacking depth, though.

Technical features:

ISBN: 978-3-7373-5242-0

Hardcover

192 pp.

14.0 x 21.5 cm

Ages 8 +