









*For Tiloune, fearless princess!*  
C.A.

*To Fabienne,*  
*for his painting skills on my blank canvass.*  
F.S.

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Back cover and page 28: front of the building; page 29 top right:  
detail of the roof.

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Page 29 top left: main stairs; page 29 below: living room of the grand  
apartment.

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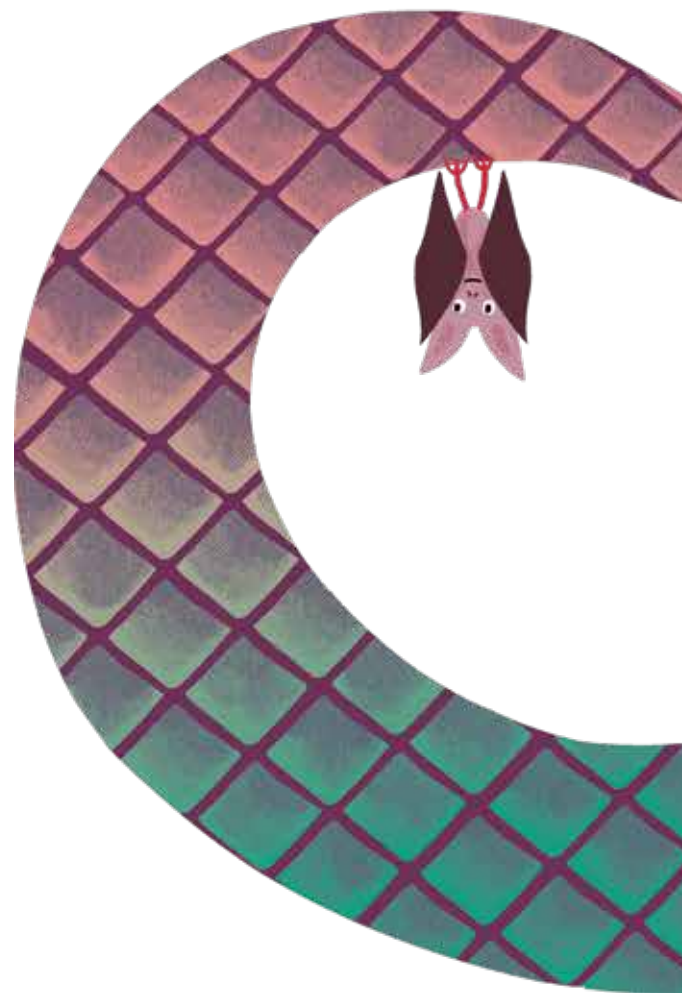
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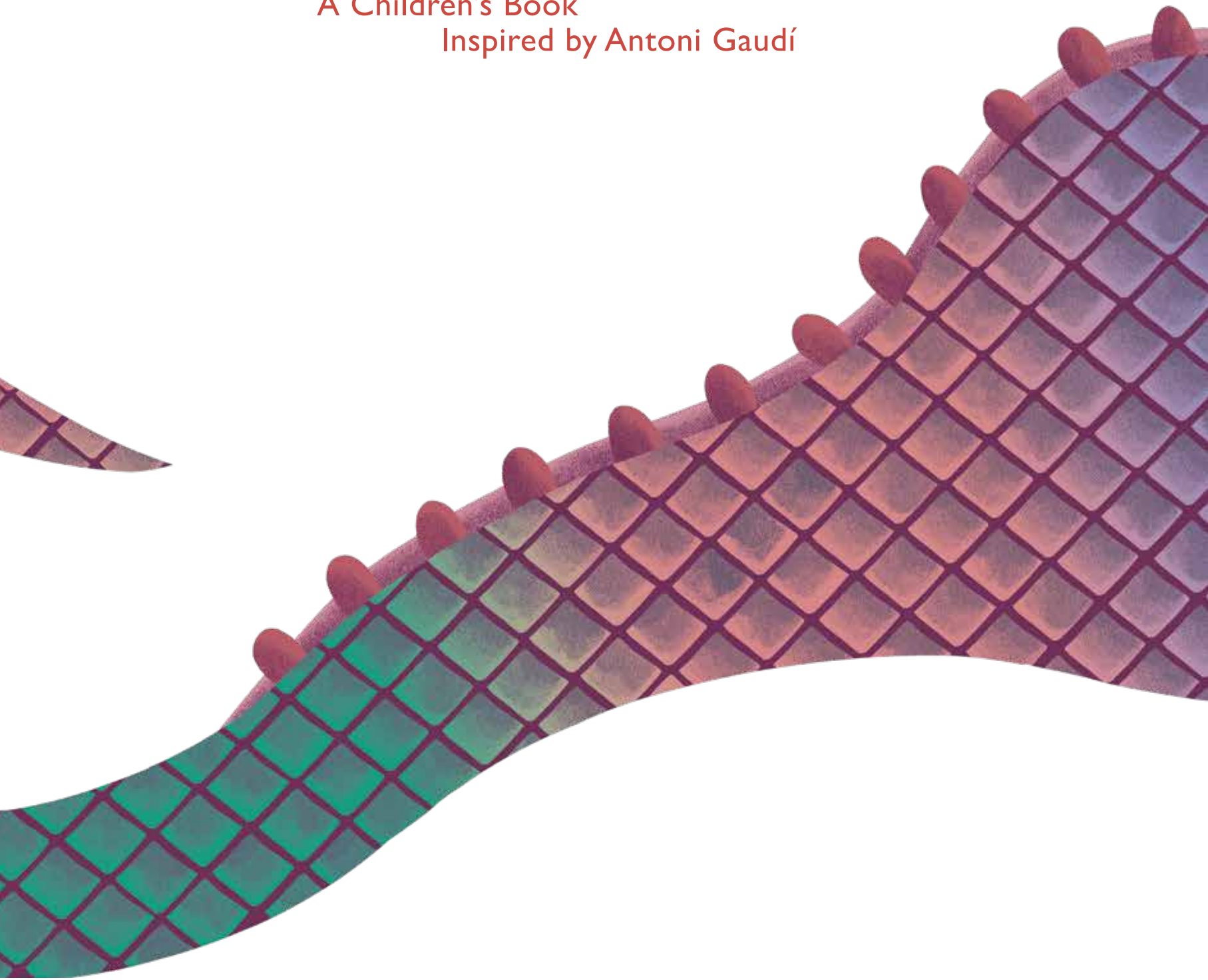
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# A DRAGON ON THE ROOF

A Children's Book  
Inspired by Antoni Gaudí



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Paloma is bored sitting in front of the fireplace. Doña Rosa, her elderly nanny, is falling asleep. "Stop fidgeting," she had told her, "you have to be a good girl, a buena chica!" But now the old woman has begun to snore, her chin resting on her bodice. Suddenly, a glint appears in Paloma's eyes.



**“If I went to the window, just for a moment,”** she thinks, “I could look outside and then return to my seat ... **nobody would be any the wiser!** Come on, let’s go!” She runs forward and presses her nose against the window pane.








Outside, the sky grows dark and the sun disappears.


The wind is on the rise, and the leaves are swirling around in clusters! What is that roaring in the distance? Is it a storm, a tempest, a tornado? All of a sudden, Paloma is startled by an odd creature that, with every last bit of strength in its tiny paws, is banging against the window pane. "Who are you?," marvels the child as she opens the window. **"It's the bat, of course!"**





Rushing inside, it flies about, bangs into something and appears quite distressed. "It's chasing me! What a disaster, what a catastrophe!" moans the bat. Paloma takes the animal in her hands and presses it against her heart. "Shush, shush... calm down. **What's happening?**

Who are you afraid of?" No sooner has she uttered these words than the walls begin to tremble.





The bat covers its head between its wings. "It's so horrible, it's on its way here!" sobs the bat. "Who is?" asks Paloma. "The destroyer of the sea! The fearsome beast that eats everything in its path."

