# Django the Dachshund – Stories from a Very Small Dog

## Written for children, and the adults they will become



Meet Django the Dachshund, the loveable lead character in a new series of children's books that do much more than simply tell a story. Created by psychologist, Dr Julie Paine, and based on life with her best friend, Django's adventures are, uniquely, both written for children, and the adults they will become.

> **"Over the years, I've seen so many adults for whom understanding, and emotional regulation were difficult in childhood. Time after time I think, if only I could have spoken to them as children, they might be in a very different place right now – less anxious, more confident, flexible, and resilient; better placed to deal with what life has dealt them."**
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> **Julie may not be able to turn back time, but she can, with the help of her beloved Dachshund, Django, encourage today's children to develop some emotional resilience in this uncertain world. "Realising that many people hold on to the same worries as you do can come as a complete revelation. I don't want them to have to wait for later life therapy to understand that."**

Django the Dachshund
Stories from a very small dog

storiesfromdjango

www.djangothedachshund.com

# About Joss and the Lucky Boots

## (for readers aged 6-9 years)

Through warm, uplifting stories and enchanting illustrations, Django reaches into the hearts of children, understands their worries, and suggests new ways of looking at the world. Feisty, funny, and incredibly loveable, Django wants nothing more than to be a child's best friend.

In Joss and the Lucky Boots, Julie's first book, about a sporting challenge, Django discovers the real reason behind Joss's worries and encourages her to take a different approach. Just when everything seems to have gone horribly wrong Joss has a brilliant idea…

# Julie says…

### The Concept

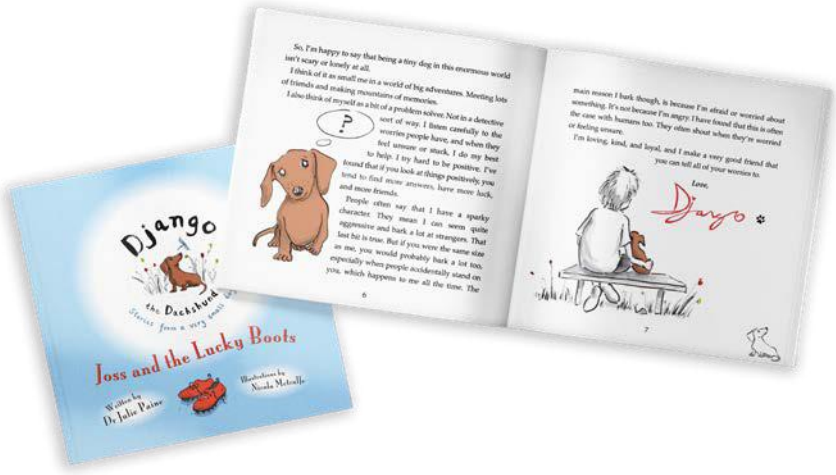
"I'm not here to tell parents how to parent, or children how they should feel or behave. The concept was born from years of experience in adult psychology, identifying the common childhood threads, of trying to navigate complex emotions, and often feeling confused, misunderstood and anxious. Viewed through the eyes of Django, as narrator, the stories encourage perspective-taking and emotional resilience and help children to gain agency over anxiety."

### Why Django?

"Always here, no matter what. Django is my constant companion, devoted, and affectionate – we have an impenetrable bond. I've had several dogs over the years, but none as emotionally intelligent as Django, who always seems to know how to make me feel good, and there's real comfort in that. A small child and very small dog create a beautiful dynamic; one I wanted to replicate in these stories. They share being small in a big and often confusing world."

### Django on paper

"I always knew exactly how I wanted Django to look on paper, and I hope children will fall head over heels in love with her. I needed someone who could take what I had in my head and bring it to life. Illustrator, Nicola Metcalfe, did just that. I'm so thrilled with the way Django, and all the characters, are depicted."



## Django, the worry dog



"Children, just like adults, can find it hard to voice their worries, or find relief from them, often believing they are unique to them. That's why I was so passionate about creating something tangible to sit alongside the book. I envisaged a comfort dog that children could share their troubles with, based on the idea behind Guatemalan worry dolls. Django is not magic, but she can hold their worries so that they don't have to think about them all the time. Producing Django, the worry dog, has been a labour of love. The end result, small enough to fit in a pocket, school bag or down a sock."

## Promoting discussion

"Encouraging readers, parents, and educators to talk to children about the themes in the book was really important to me. That's why I created a section at the end of each story to promote discussion and understanding. Django's Daily Dogma encourages children not to overthink and to be positive, and then we move on to explore key themes, set reading objectives, and embed learning – a useful tool for parents and teachers."

# Praise for the author

*"Django, the loveable dachshund, has earned a very special place in the hearts of the children at Checkendon School. The illustrations are delightful, and the discussion prompts really encourage thoughtful conversation. This story is not only enjoyable but gently supports children exploring feelings and empathy in an accessible way. We all look forward to more adventures with Django!"*

*The children were completely engaged and couldn't wait to hear more about Django. Some of their reflections were:*

*"It shows how feelings can affect you and how you behave when you're feeling sad."*

*"It helps to talk about your problems – that's what Django does so well, she listens."*

*"I'd tell Django my worries – Django's so clever."*

*"I like the book because it shows how a dog and a human can be best friends."*

**Mrs Sarah Hillier, Headteacher, Checkendon Primary School**

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*"If you want to be uplifted, go and read to a group of young children; their inquisitiveness, energy and insightfulness when discussing the book's themes left me on a high every time."*

**Dr Julie Paine**



## Contact Details

To feature Julie, speak to her, or find out more about the book series, contact Julie at:

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