



RAINY DAYS AND MONDAYS

JANE HARRIS



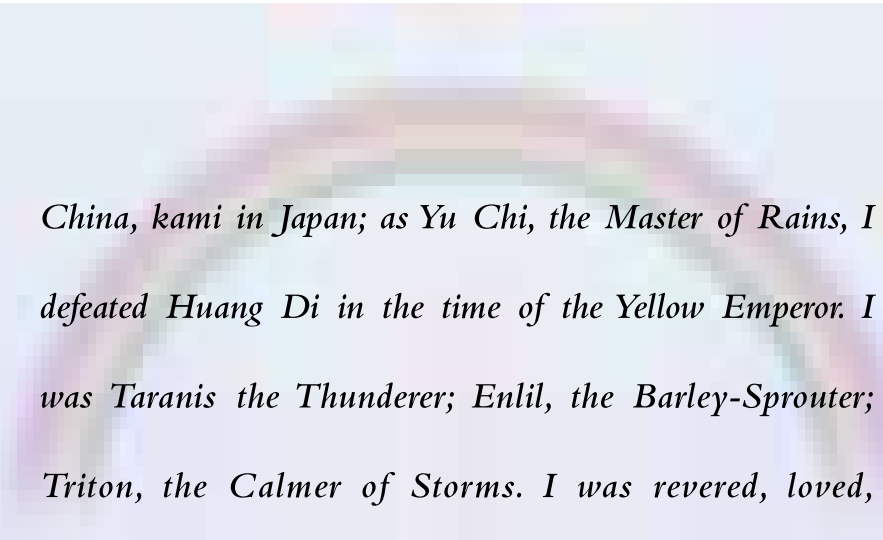




Rainy Days and Mondays

You'd think you'd need to apply to be a raingod. That when someone was dishing out the heavenly attributes, they might just have stopped to think for a moment about what it might mean to be the recipient – to be rained on, day in, day out, winter and summer, morning and night. Though to be fair, it isn't just rain; all kinds of precipitation apply, including snow of all kinds, sleet, mizzle, drizzle, sudden downpours, Scotch mist, London fog, April showers, lightning storms, hail, tropical monsoons and of course plain old rain; light, moderate, heavy, and all other possible variants thereof.

But someone has to do it; and for the past five



China, kami in Japan; as Yu Chi, the Master of Rains, I defeated Huang Di in the time of the Yellow Emperor. I was Taranis the Thunderer; Enlil, the Barley-Sprouter; Triton, the Calmer of Storms. I was revered, loved, worshipped, blessed, cursed, entreated and invoked.

Nowadays, I just do my best to keep dry.

You know, it's tough being a raingod past his prime. In the old days, rain mattered; a winter storm brought fear and awe; a summer shower was cause for celebration. Nowadays the weather forecasters have it all stitched up. Nowadays you just watch the people go by with their raincoats on and their umbrellas unfurled and you think; why bother?



