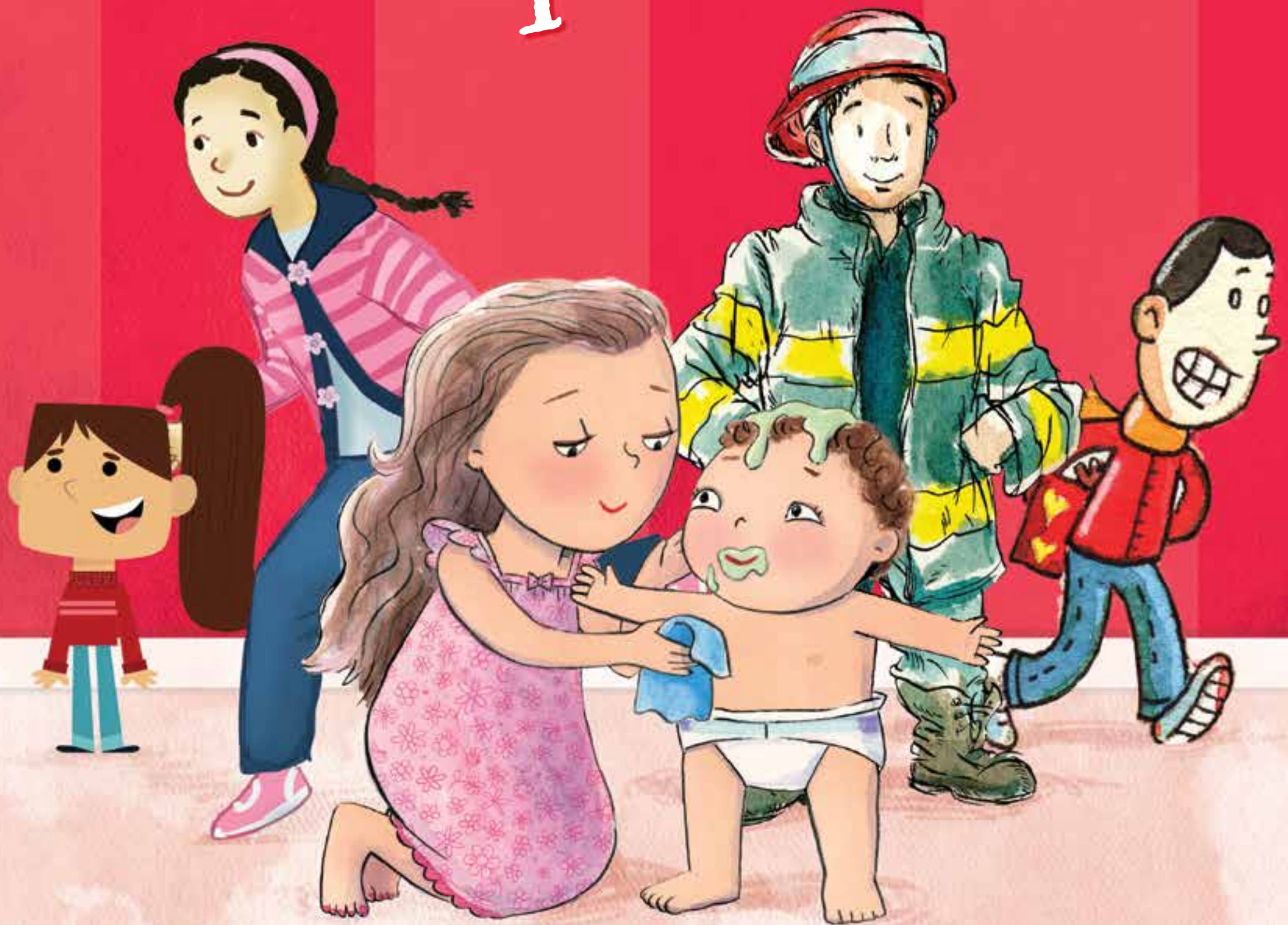


A compilation of stories as told by children

Once Upon a Care



Written by Jazlene, Annie, Matthew, Brianna, Rene
and Patricia Lakin

The power of care can change the world.
It brings people together, helps us overcome our
differences and creates a sense of connection and love.
Care is what makes us human.

These stories were based on actual caring
events as described by children.

We hope it inspires those who read it to act
and help make the world a more caring place.

care
inspires
care™

Thanks to your download, this book has been
generously printed and donated to a school library.

To meet the storytellers and find out how this book
came to be, visit careinspirescare.com/en/once-upon-a-care

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Jazlene Saves the Day

Written by Patricia Lakin and Jazlene

Illustrated by Eugene & Louise

It was Saturday.



That meant laundry day at Jazlene's house.

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That meant laundry day at Jazlene's house.

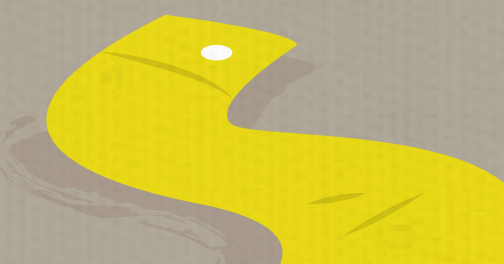
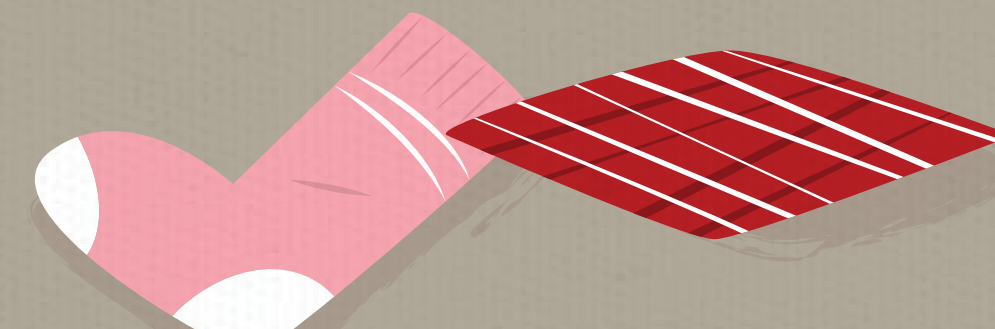
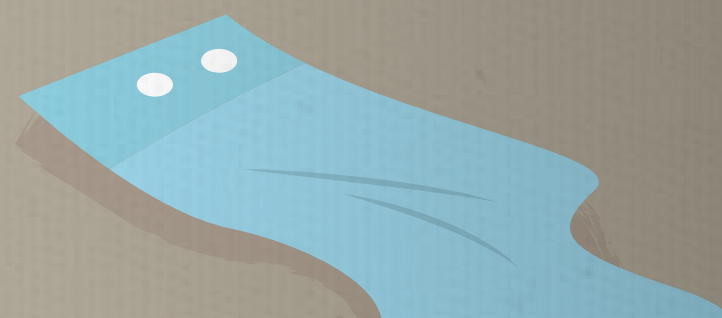


Jazlene knew that Mom didn't like doing laundry.

So she decided to help.

Jazlene picked up all the dirty clothes.

Then she tossed them into the hamper.



“Ready,” she said to Mom. She helped Mom carry
the big hamper all the way down the street.
“There sure are a lot of dirty clothes this week.
This is going to take a while,” said Mom.

LAUNDROMAT





Jazlene had an idea to help cheer Mom up.
“Let’s make doing laundry fun!” said Jazlene.
“How do we do that?” asked Mom.

“Pretend we’re playing basketball,” said Jazlene.

“I’ll give it a try,” said Mom.

“Score!”

said Jazlene when her shirt
went into the washer.



“I missed!” said Mom when she took her shot.

“Let me try again.”

“I like your game,” said Mom. “But you’re the winner!”

“Maybe you’ll win next time,” said Jazlene.

“I won something better,” said Mom.

“You made
this job fun.”





Then Jazlene put the quarters in the machine and read a book with her Mom. By the time Mom and Jazlene finished reading, the clothes were done.

Just as they walked in the door, the phone rang.
It was Grandma. Jazlene knew phone calls with Grandma
always kept Mom busy for a very, very long time.





“Do I have a clean shirt?” Dad called out.
Jazlene wanted to help Dad. But she didn’t want to bother her busy Mom.

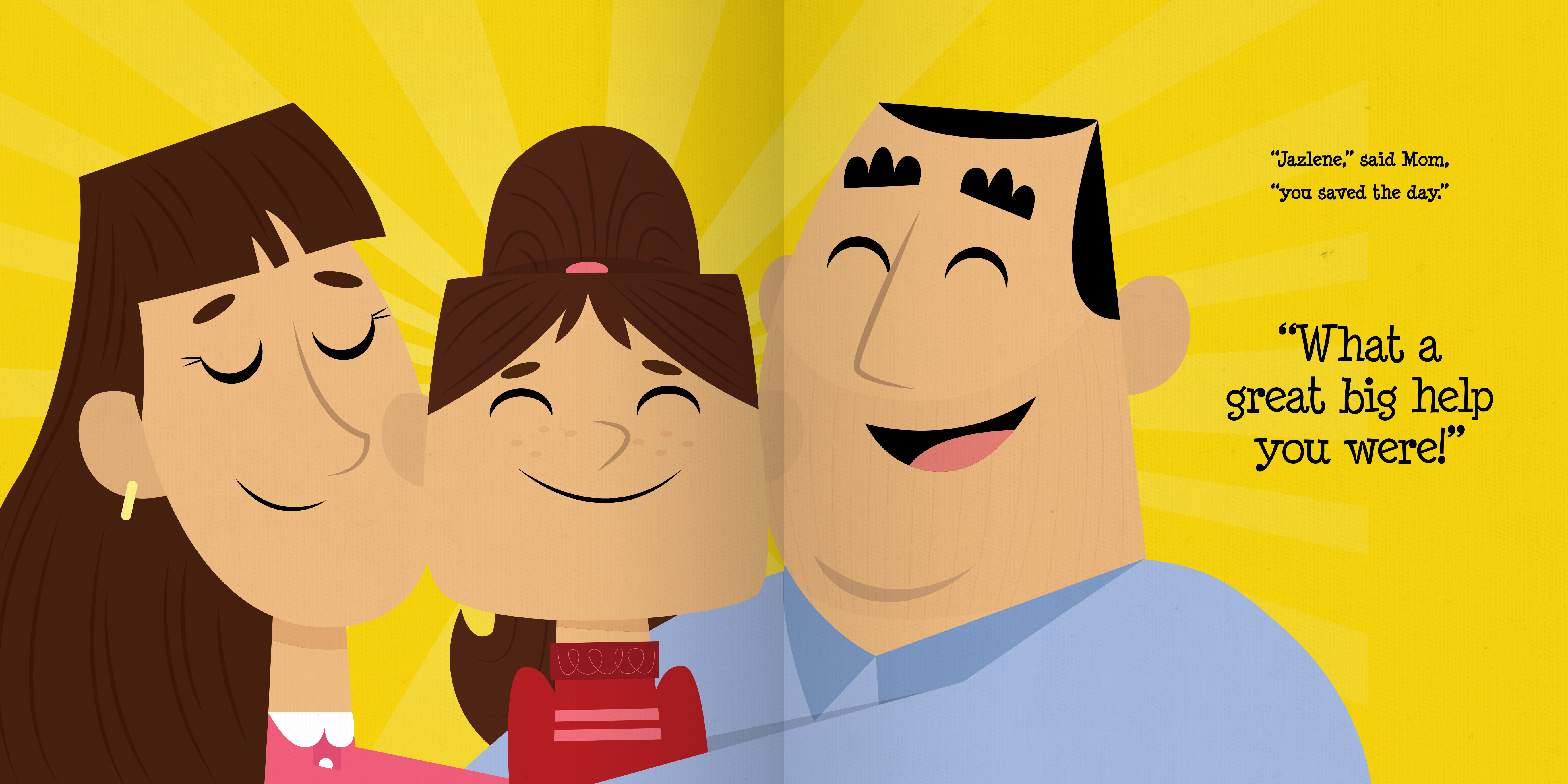


That’s when she had another great idea.
I want them to be surprised. I will put away my clothes, she thought.

Jazlene worked quietly
and quickly, wanting to help
without being asked.



When Mom and Dad found her,
she had finished sorting everyone's clothes.



“Jazlene,” said Mom,
“you saved the day.”

“What a
great big help
you were!”



“Thanks to Jazlene—
we’re one clean family!”
said Dad.

A Helping Hand

Written by Patricia Lakin and Annie

Illustrated by Margeaux Lucas

At recess, Annie and her best friend,
Noelly, raced onto the playground.

“Let’s play tag!”
said Annie. “I’ll be it.”



Whoosh! Noelly took off.
She raced past the swings and then the slide.



“Oh, no!” Annie called out.
“Watch out for that rock!”



Too late! Annie watched her friend sail through the air...

...then crash to the ground.



Instantly, Annie thought, "I should help her."

Annie raced over to her friend.

"Are you okay?" Annie felt her heart beat fast.

"I'm hurt," Noelly moaned. "My foot. My knee."

Annie knew she had to act fast.



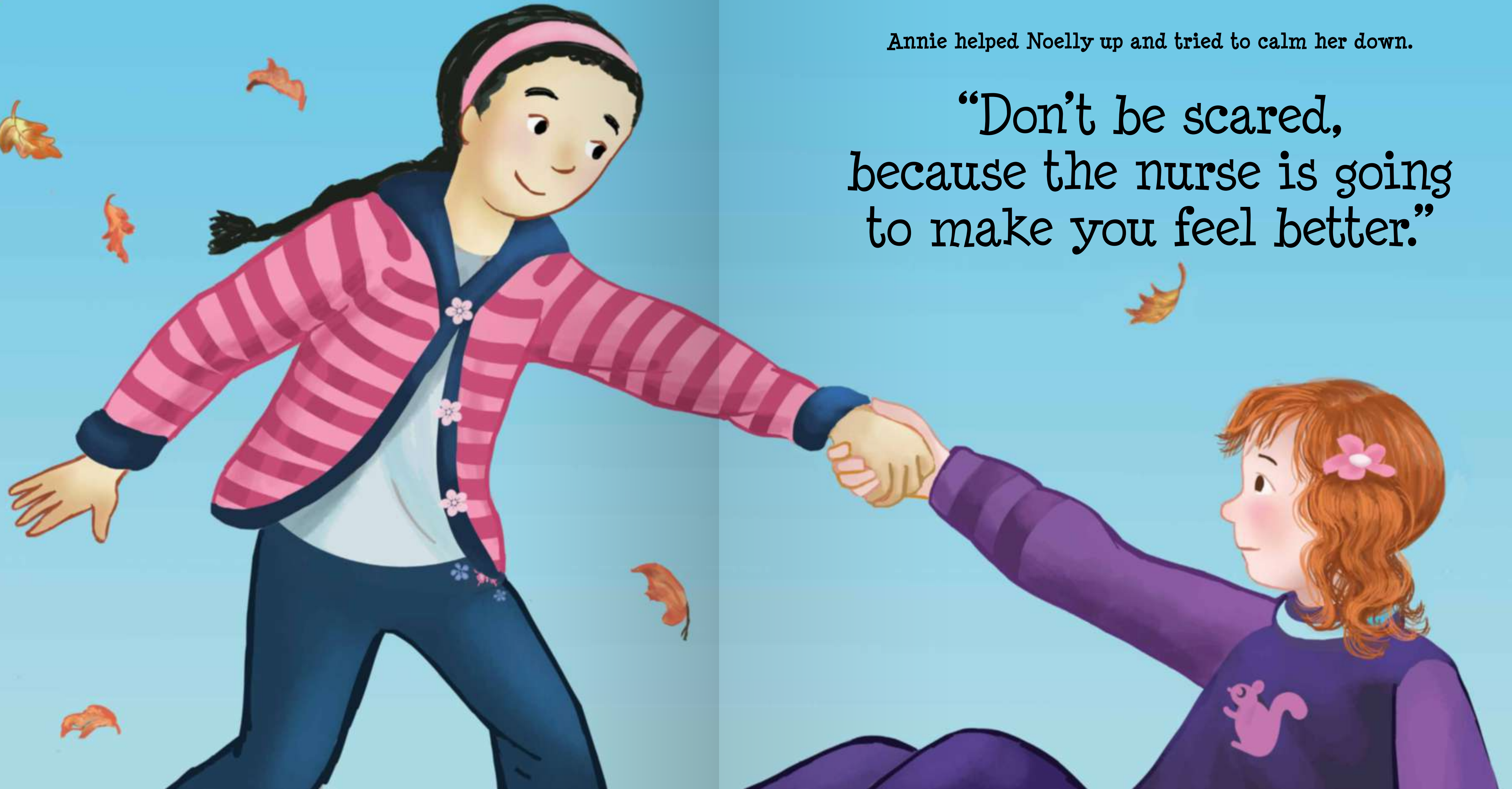


“We need to get you to the nurse.”

“But I can’t get up.
And I’m scared,” said Noelly.
“What will the nurse do?”

Annie helped Noelly up and tried to calm her down.

“Don’t be scared,
because the nurse is going
to make you feel better.”





“Then hop,
hop, hop,
like you’re a bunny!”

“I can’t walk,” said Noelly as she leaned on Annie.

The two laughed and then hopped to the nurse's office.

"What a caring friend," the nurse said to Annie.

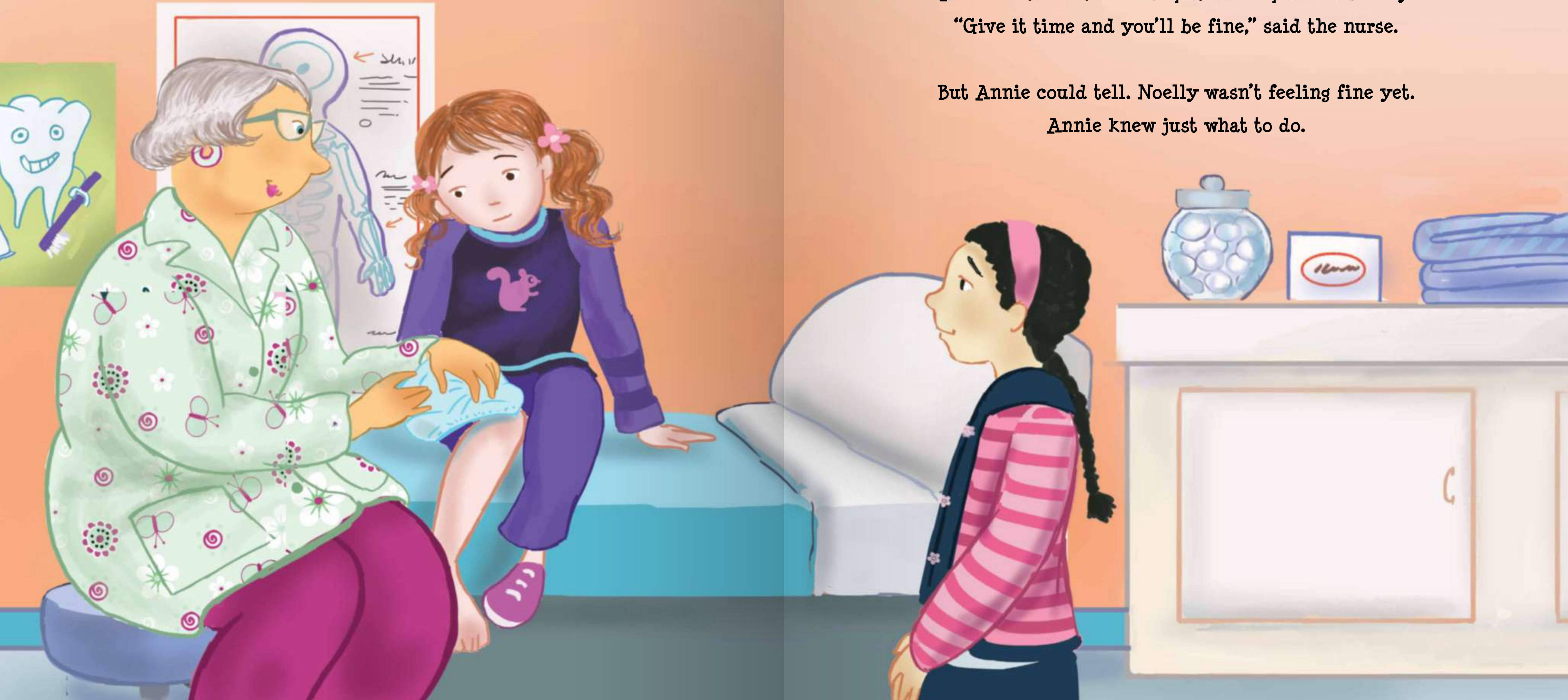


Annie watched the nurse put an ice pack on Noelly.

“Give it time and you’ll be fine,” said the nurse.

But Annie could tell. Noelly wasn’t feeling fine yet.

Annie knew just what to do.

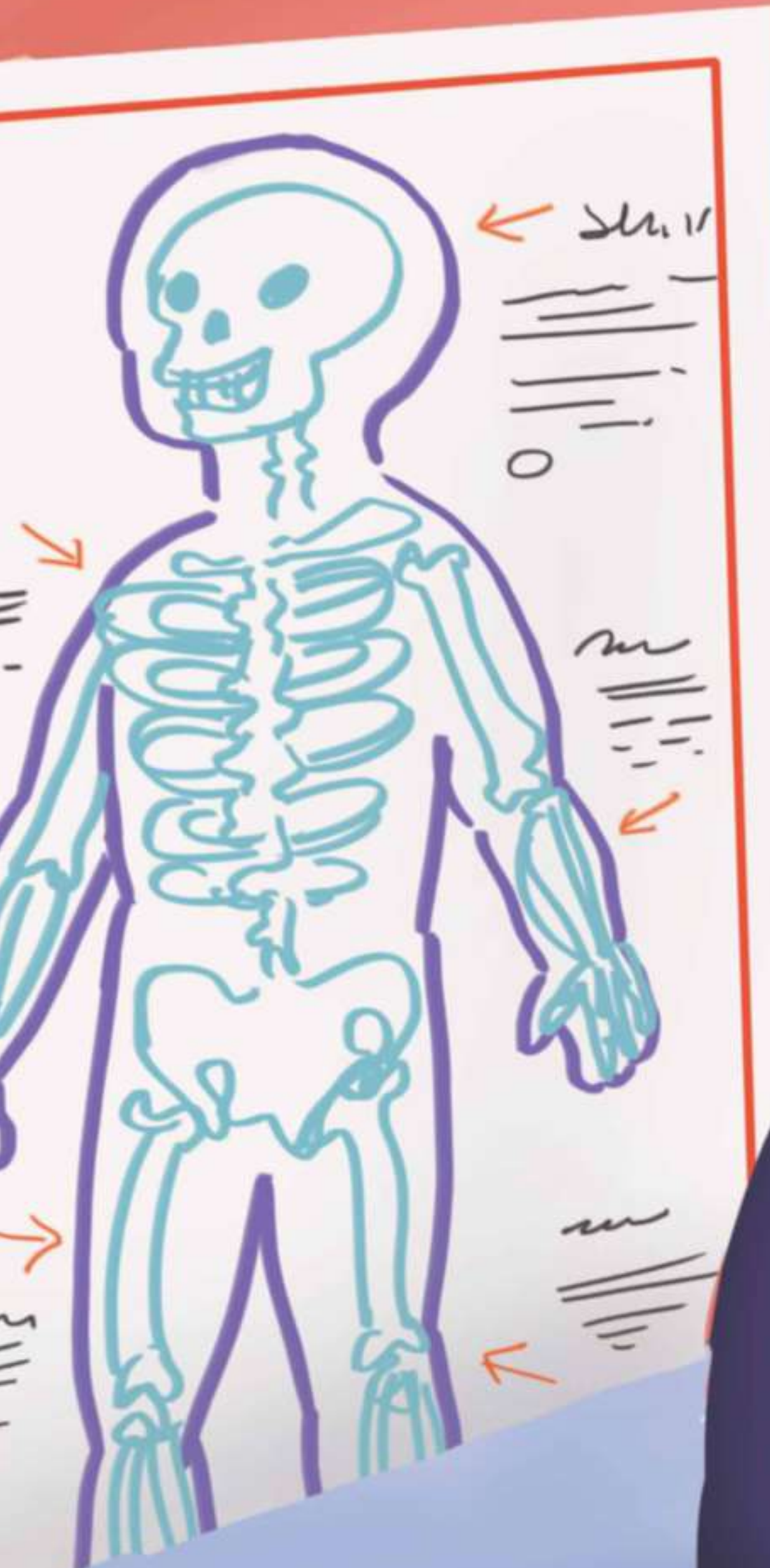


“Knock. Knock.”

“Who’s there?” Noelly asked softly.

“Tank,” answered Annie.

“Tank who,” Noelly answered and laughed.



“You’re welcome,” said Annie.

“And thanks to Annie, it looks like
you’re feeling better already,” said the nurse.



Matthew's Wish

Written by Patricia Lakin and Matthew

Illustrated by Paul Hoppe

One day, Matthew was riding his two-wheeler.
He and another boy decided to race on their bikes.

Zip!
Zoom!



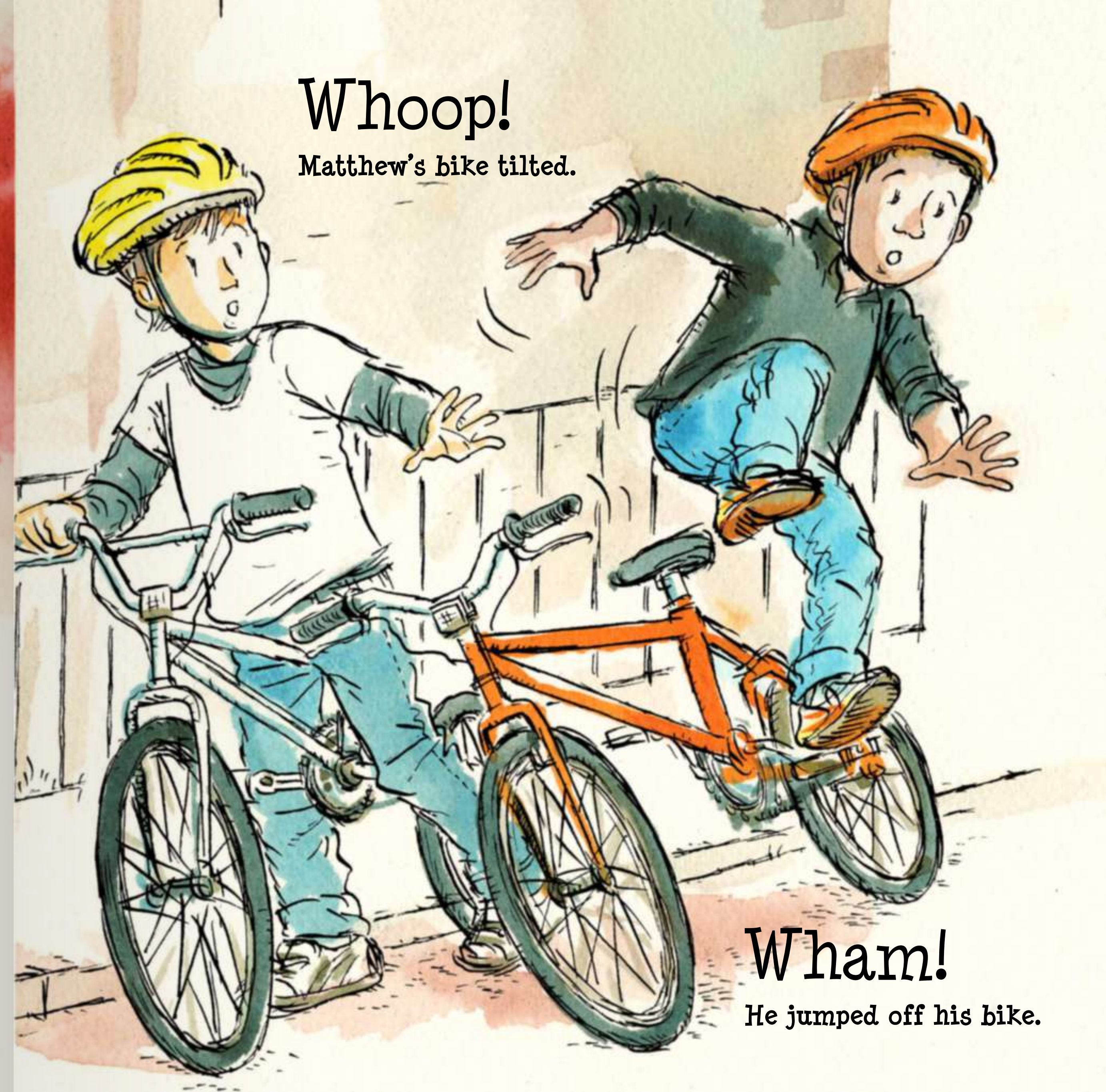


Wheooo!

Wheooo!

Wheooo!

What was happening?



Whoop!

Matthew's bike tilted.

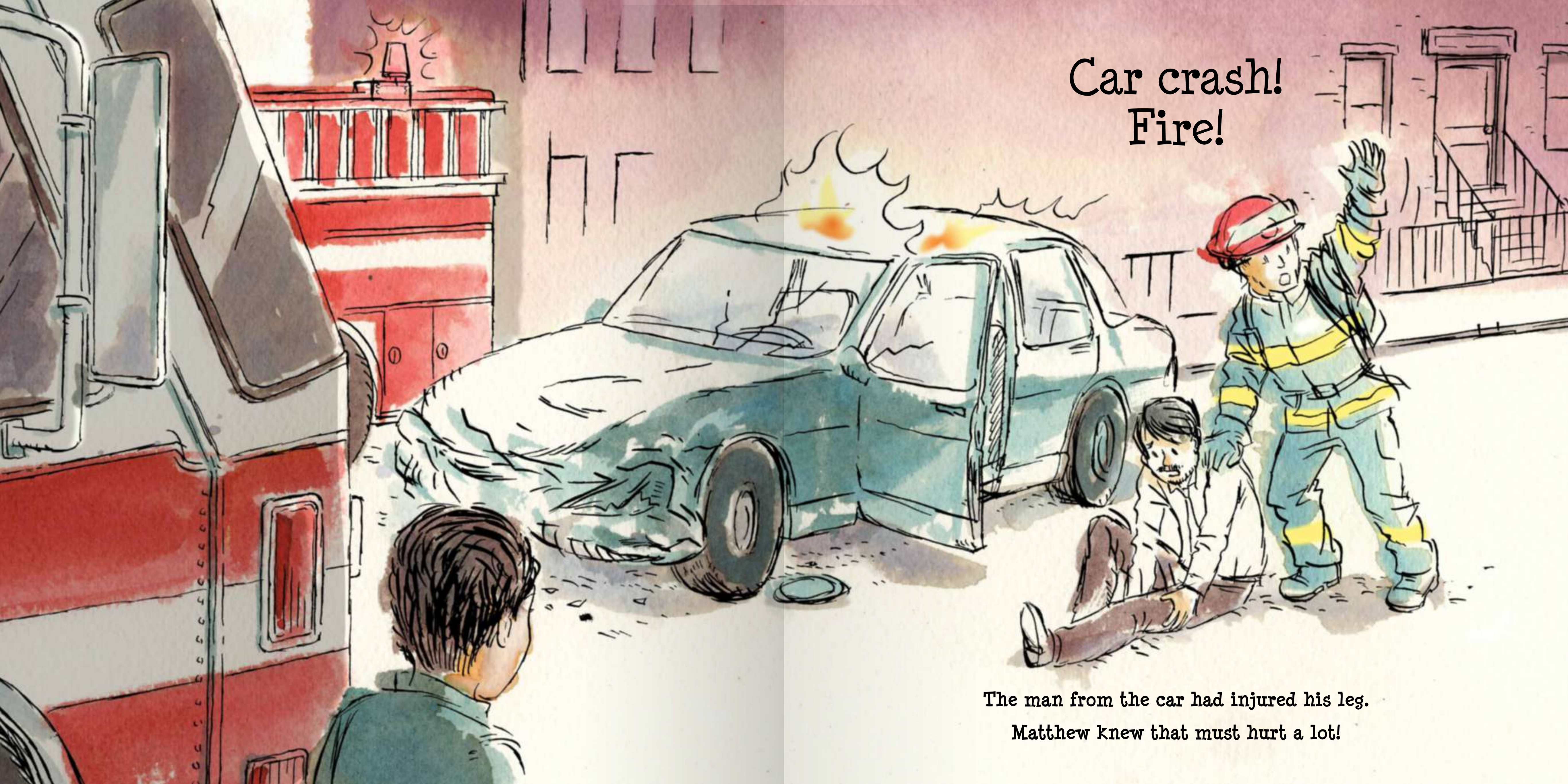
Wham!

He jumped off his bike.

Maybe someone was hurt.
Matthew ran down the street!
Could he help?



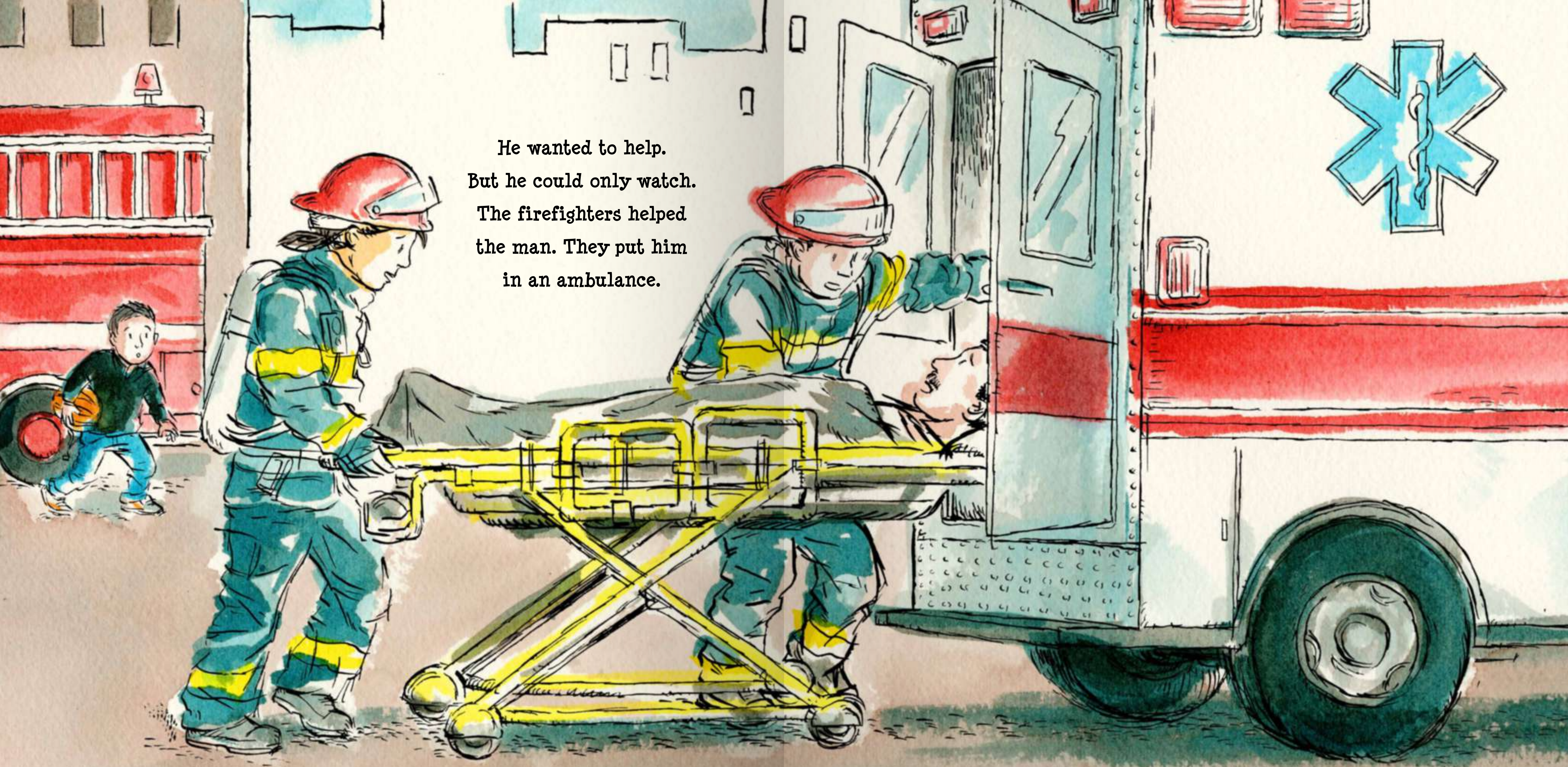
Car crash! Fire!

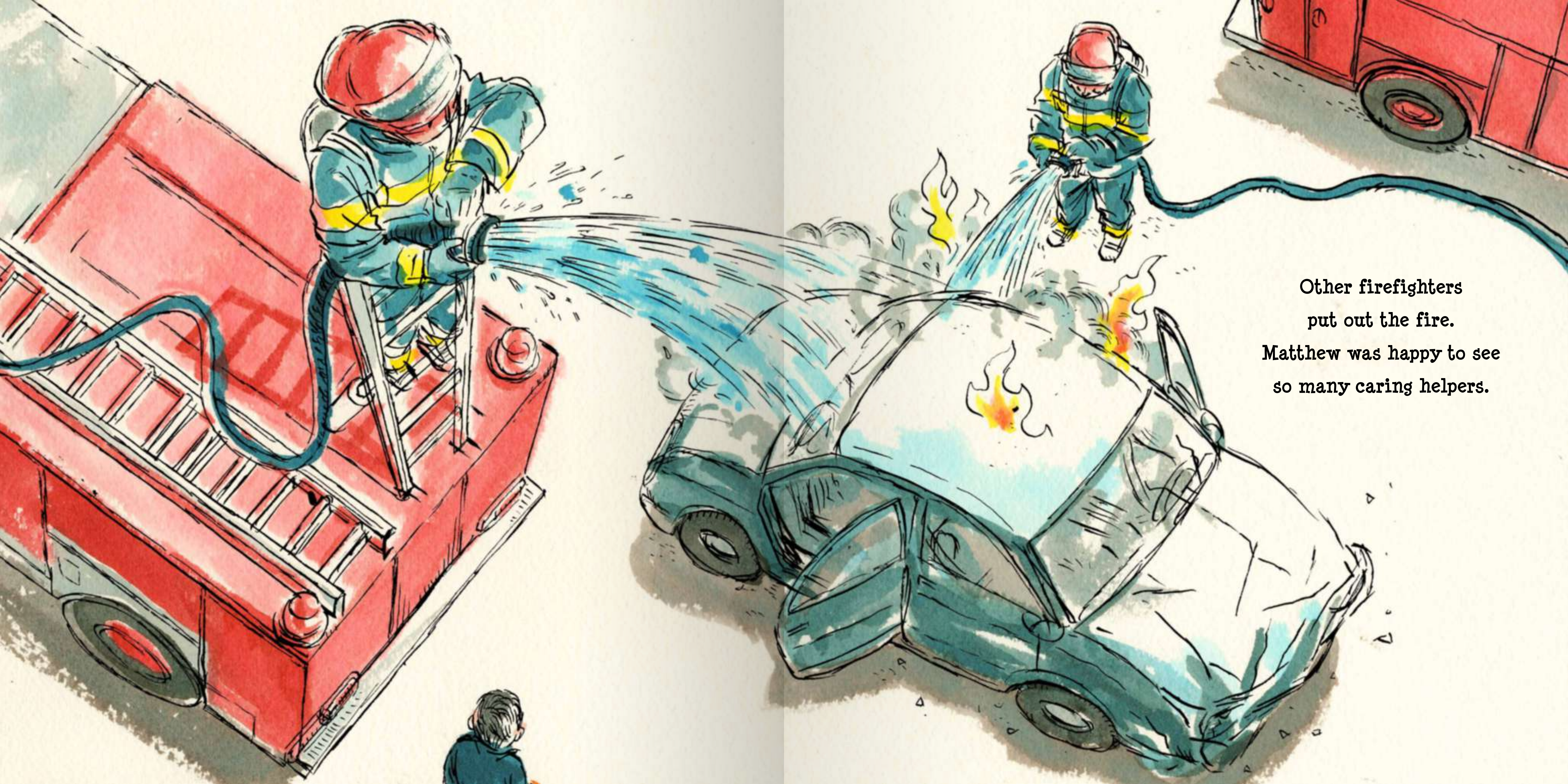


The man from the car had injured his leg.

Matthew knew that must hurt a lot!

He wanted to help.
But he could only watch.
The firefighters helped
the man. They put him
in an ambulance.





Other firefighters
put out the fire.
Matthew was happy to see
so many caring helpers.

He wrote a story about what he saw.
He shared his story with his Grandma.
Then he shared something much bigger.





“Grandma, here’s my wish.
When I grow up,
I want to be a fireman!
So I could care for people.”



“And being a fireman
means that I get to help
people from a ladder and
then bring them down. I could
put them in an ambulance!”

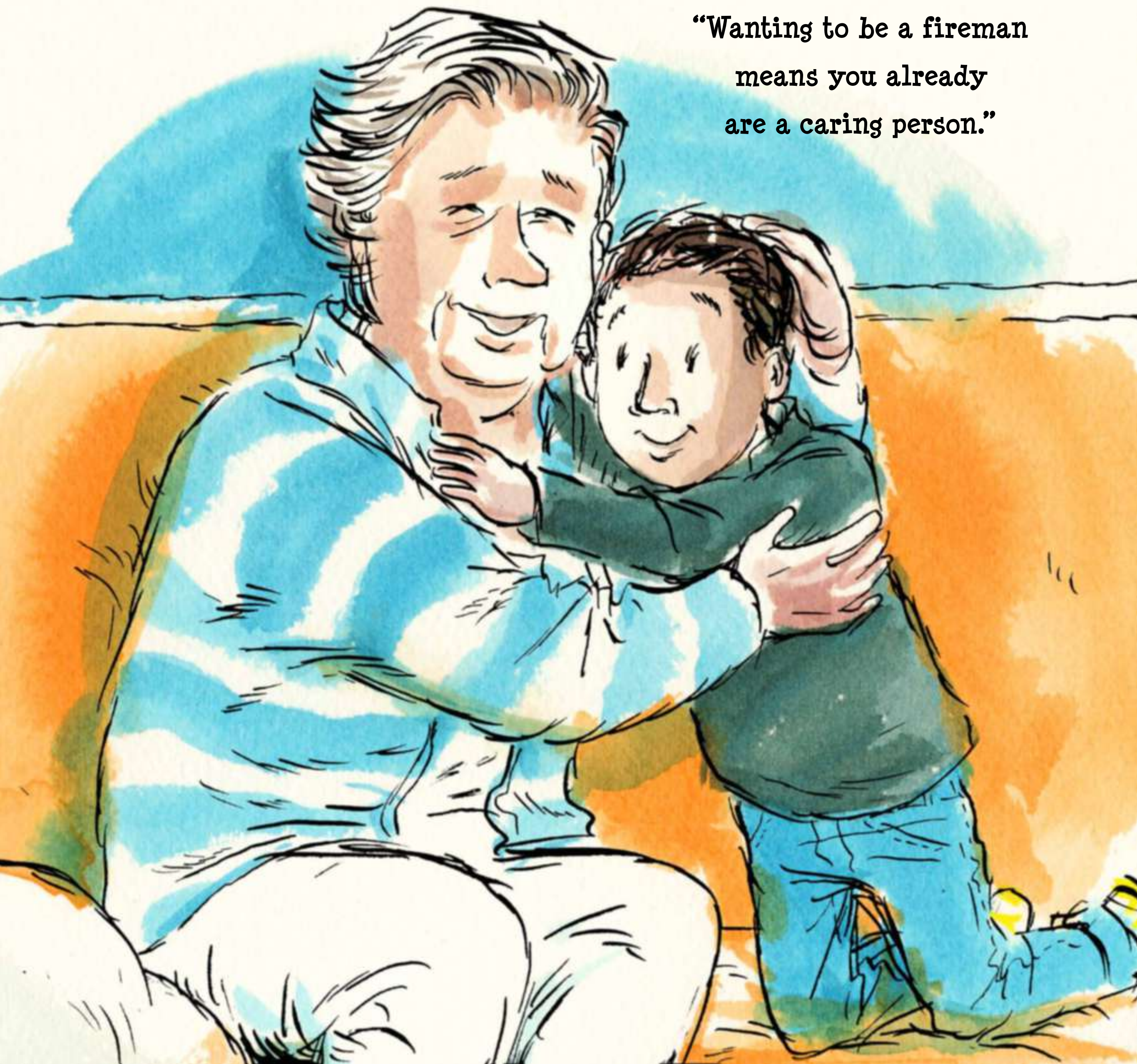
“I’ll be able
to care
for lots
of people.”



"One of your wishes has come true," said Grandma.



**“Wanting to be a fireman
means you already
are a caring person.”**



Good as New

Written by Patricia Lakin and Brianna

Illustrated by Violet Lemay

One night, Brianna woke up.

It was the middle of the night.
The house was very dark.
But it wasn't quiet.

Brianna heard a funny sound.



The sound came from
her baby brother's room!

He was up! He was crying!
Was something wrong?

Did he need
her help?



Brianna rushed into his room.

“Tummy!” he moaned.

Brianna knew just what to do.



She picked him up.

“Mommy!”

she called and raced down the hall.



Oooooops!

Brianna's brother
threw up.

There was throw-up
on his clothes...

throw-up
between his toes...

There was throw-up in his hair...

He had throw-up everywhere!
Throw-up even landed on the living room rug.

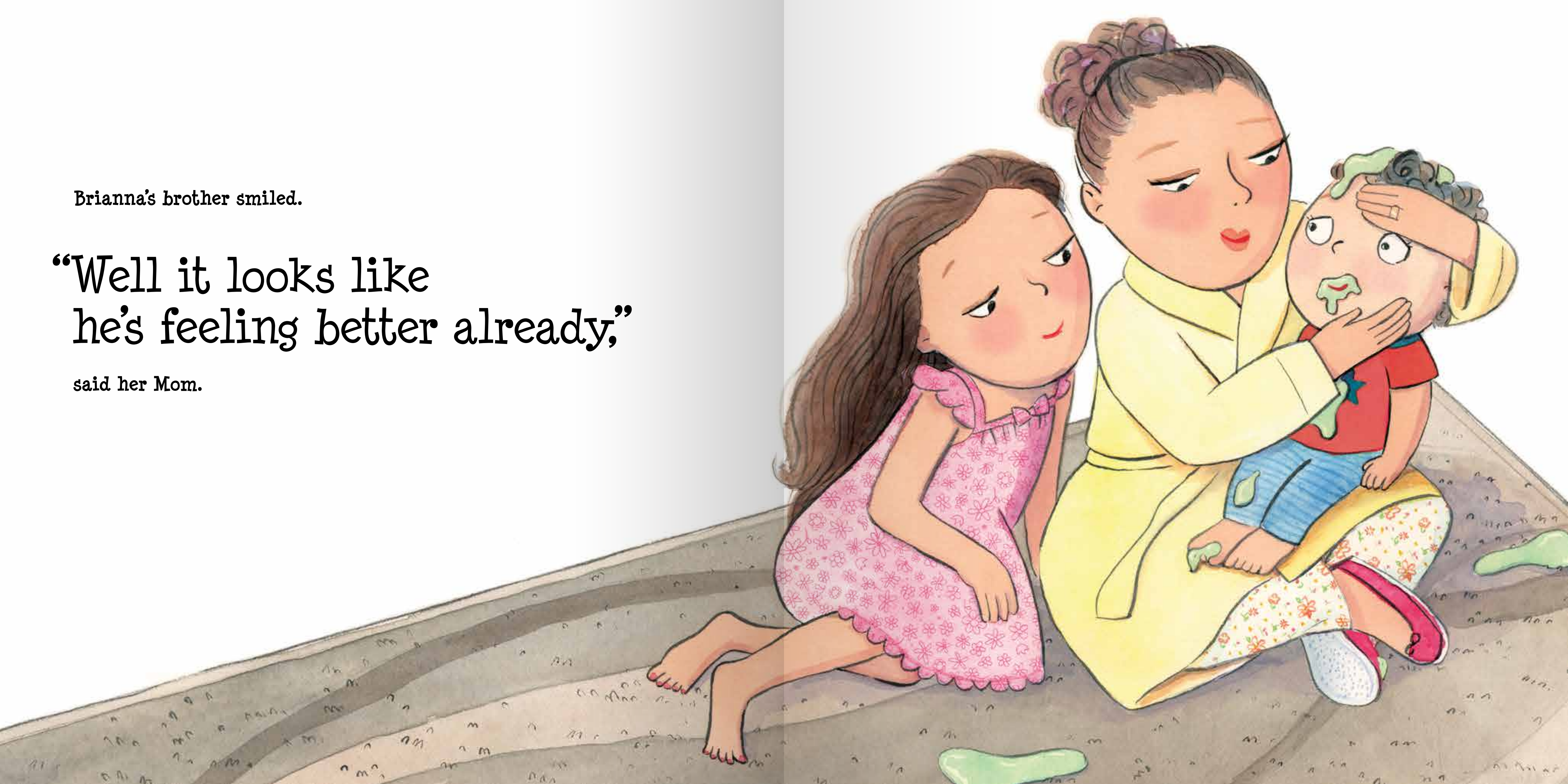
“Oh, no!” said Brianna to her brother.
“It's Mom's favorite rug
that she got for her birthday!”



Brianna's brother smiled.

“Well it looks like
he's feeling better already,”

said her Mom.



"Time to clean this all up."

But Brianna's brother
wanted her to clean
him up.



"Me?"

she asked Mom.



"Why not," said Mom.
"It's a lot like caring
for the doll that
Grandpa gave you."

Brianna remembered how she cared for the doll.

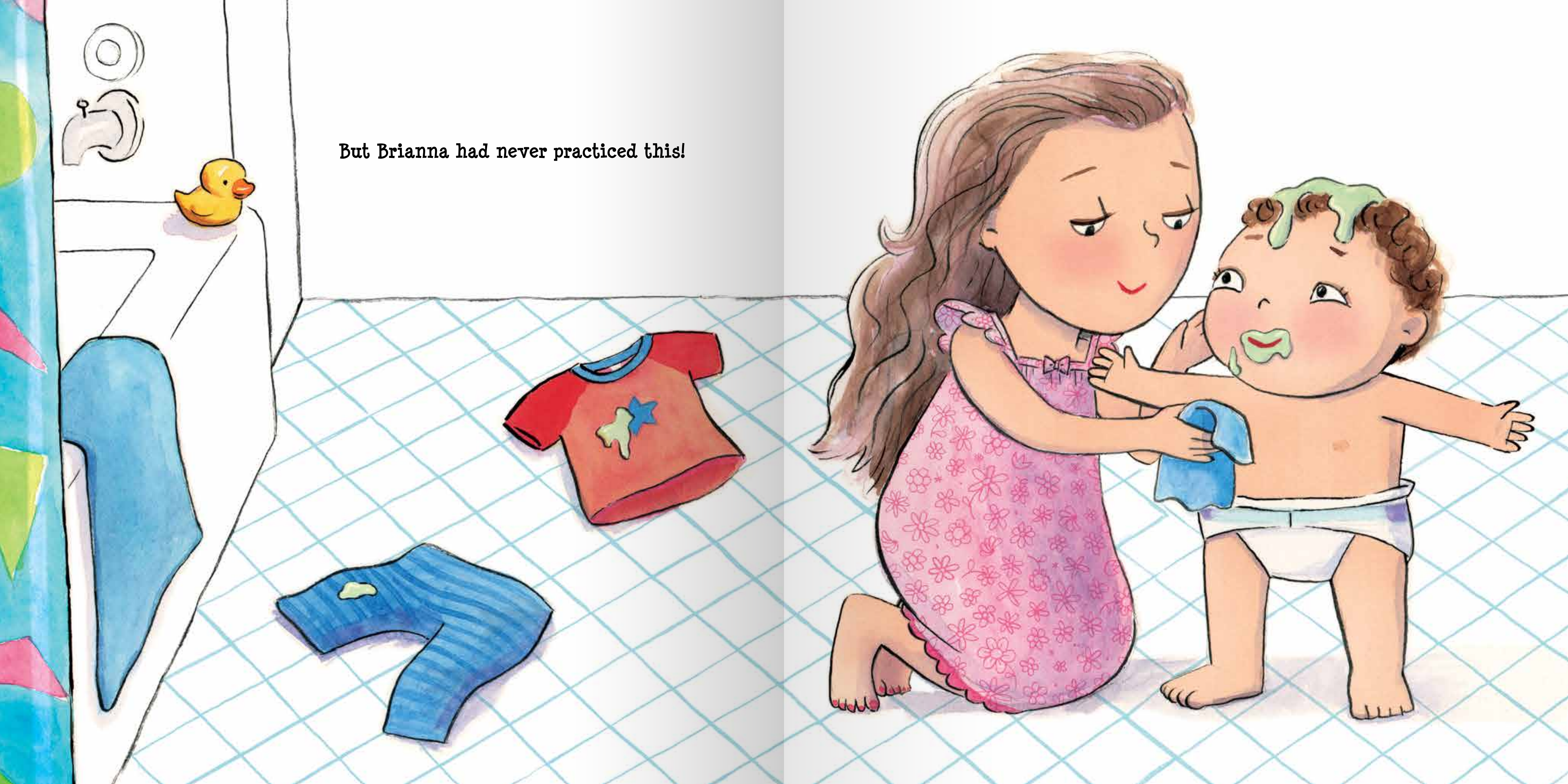
It did help her care for her baby brother.

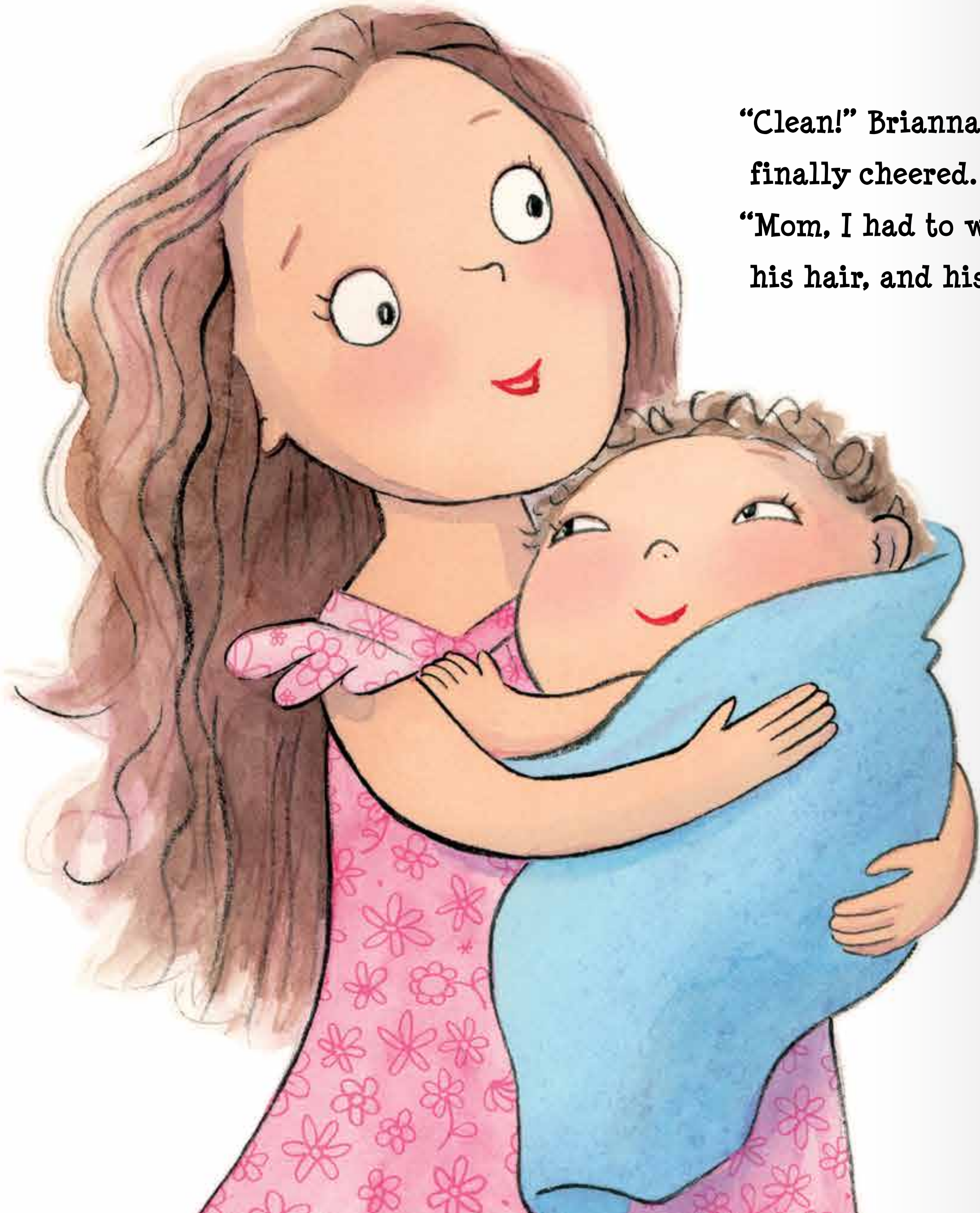
She'd burped him when he was little.

Lately, she'd fed him and helped put him to sleep.

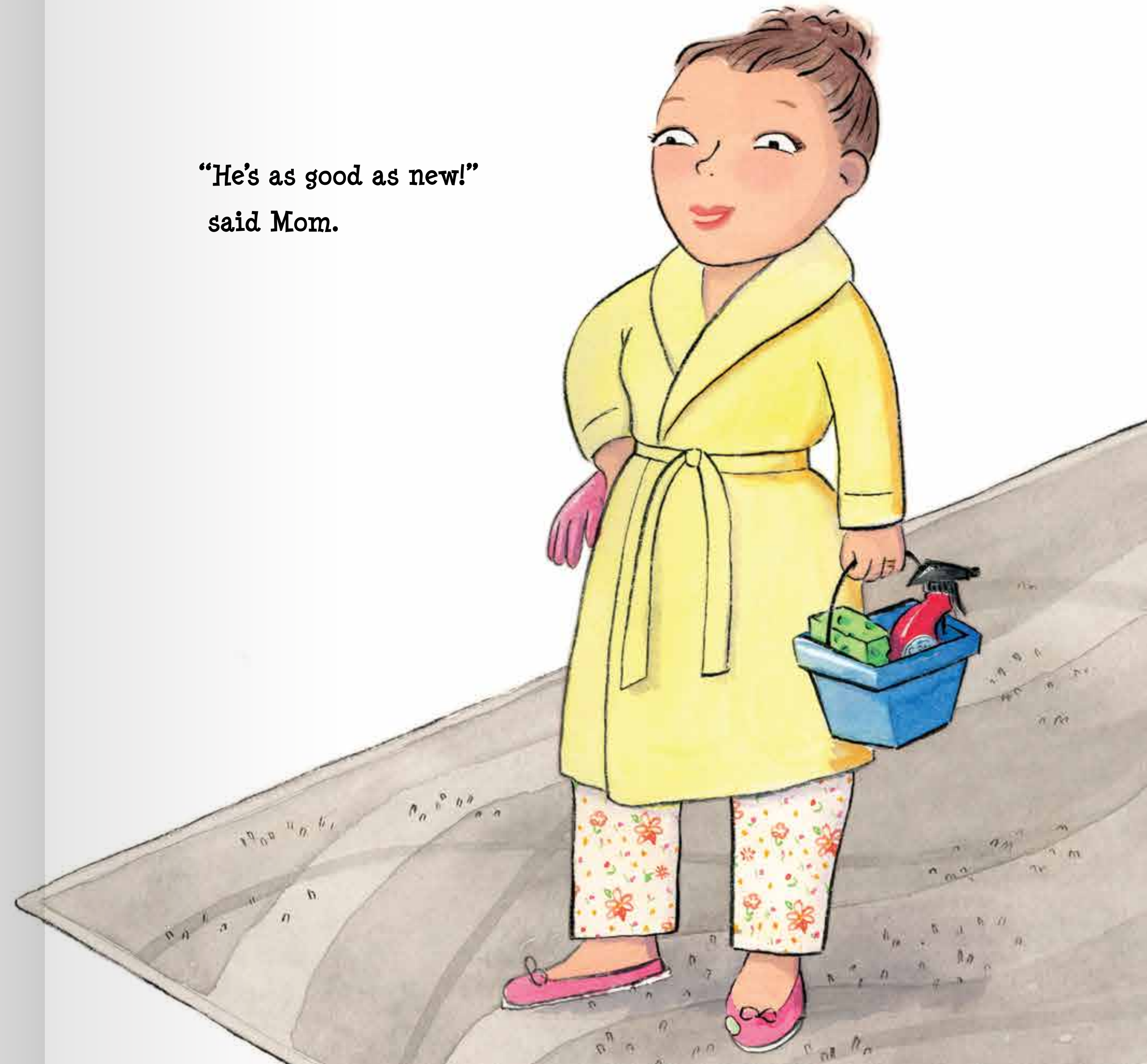


But Brianna had never practiced this!





“Clean!” Brianna
finally cheered.
“Mom, I had to wash
his hair, and his body.”



“He’s as good as new!”
said Mom.



“Too bad Grandpa
didn’t give me
a throw-up doll,”

laughed Brianna.

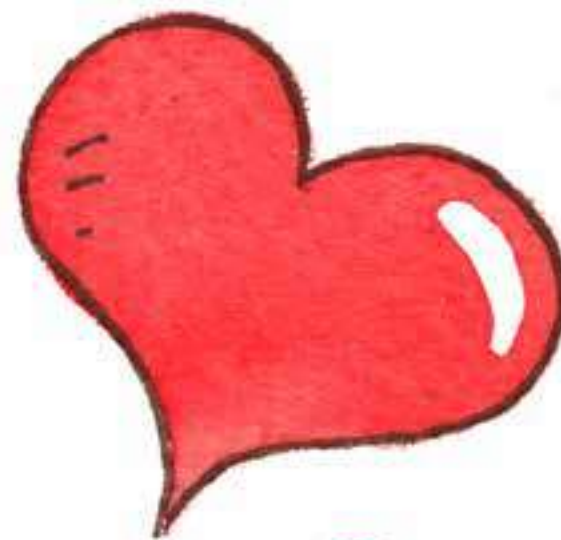


“You didn’t need it,” said Mom.

“And I’m so proud of you. You are such a caring big sister!”



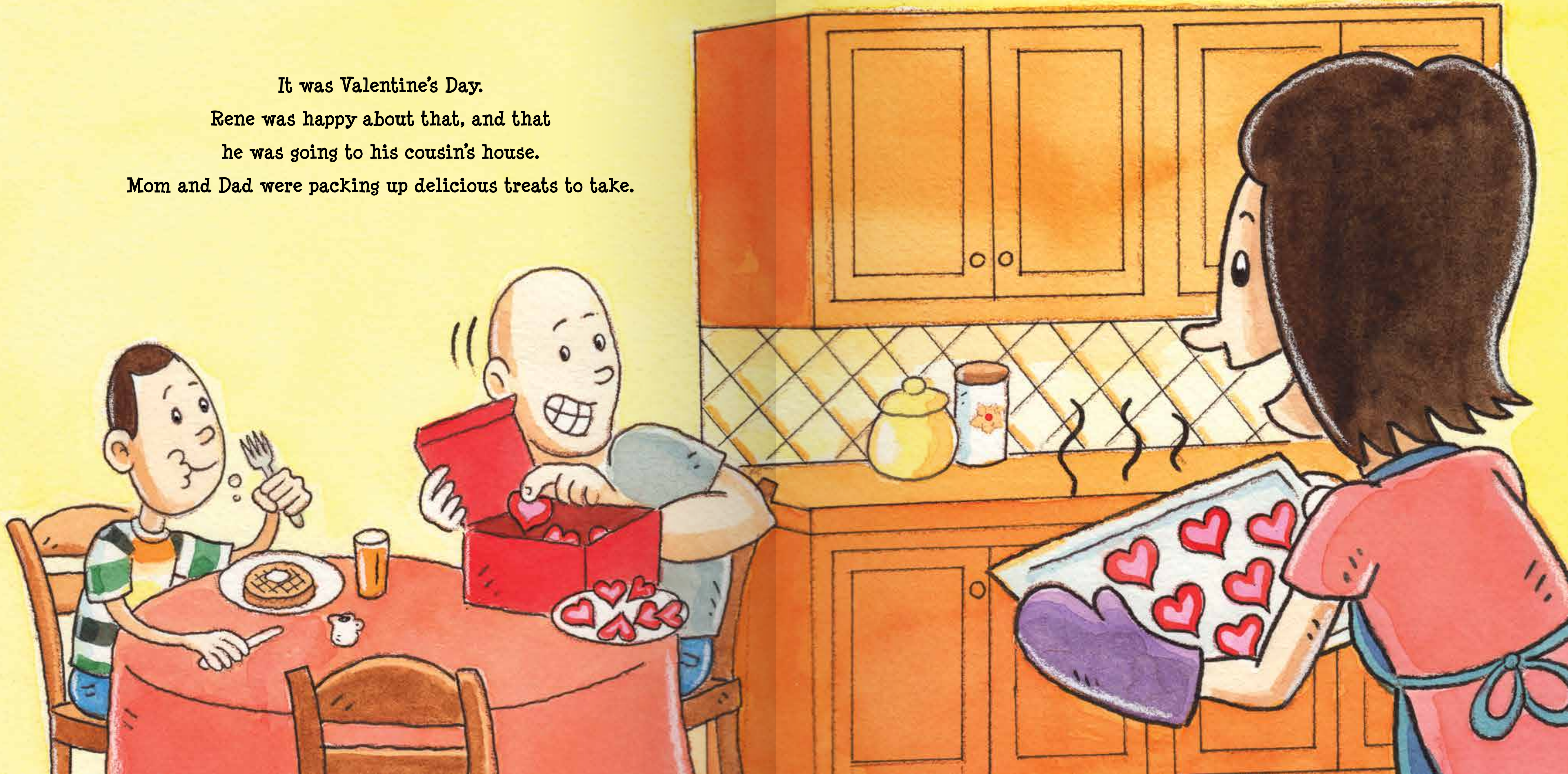
A Valentine's Surprise



Written by **Patricia Lakin** and **Rene**

Illustrated by **Neil Numberman**

It was Valentine's Day.
Rene was happy about that, and that
he was going to his cousin's house.
Mom and Dad were packing up delicious treats to take.



Suddenly the phone rang. It was Rene's little cousin.

“Happy Valentine’s Day,” Rene said.



“It’s not happy for me. I didn’t get one Valentine,” she said.



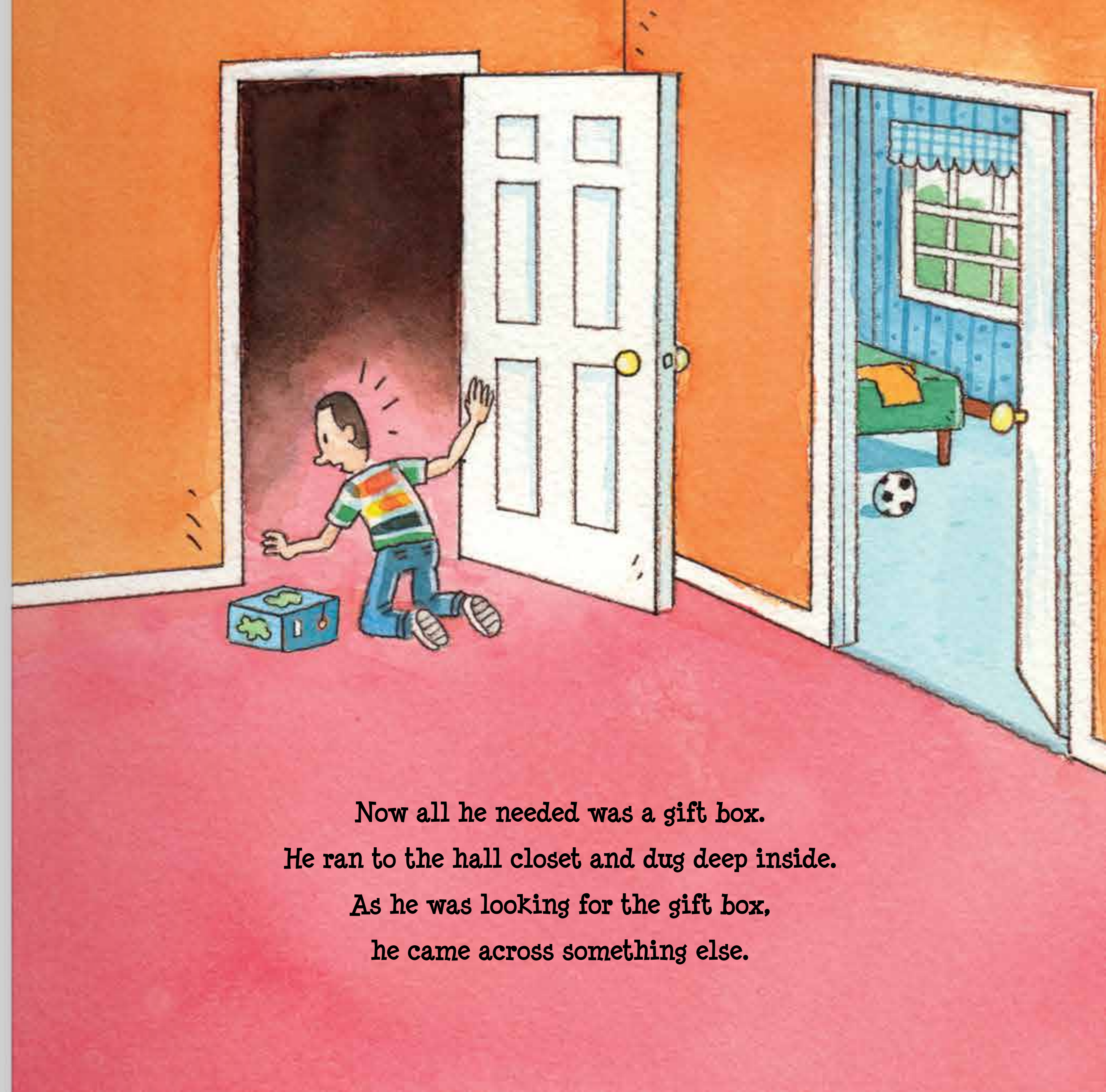
Rene felt bad. He remembered what his parents taught him.

They said to always be a good person...
and always, always be nice to other people.

At that moment, Rene knew exactly
what would make his cousin happy again.



Her favorite game.



Now all he needed was a gift box.
He ran to the hall closet and dug deep inside.
As he was looking for the gift box,
he came across something else.

“Dad’s old shoes!”

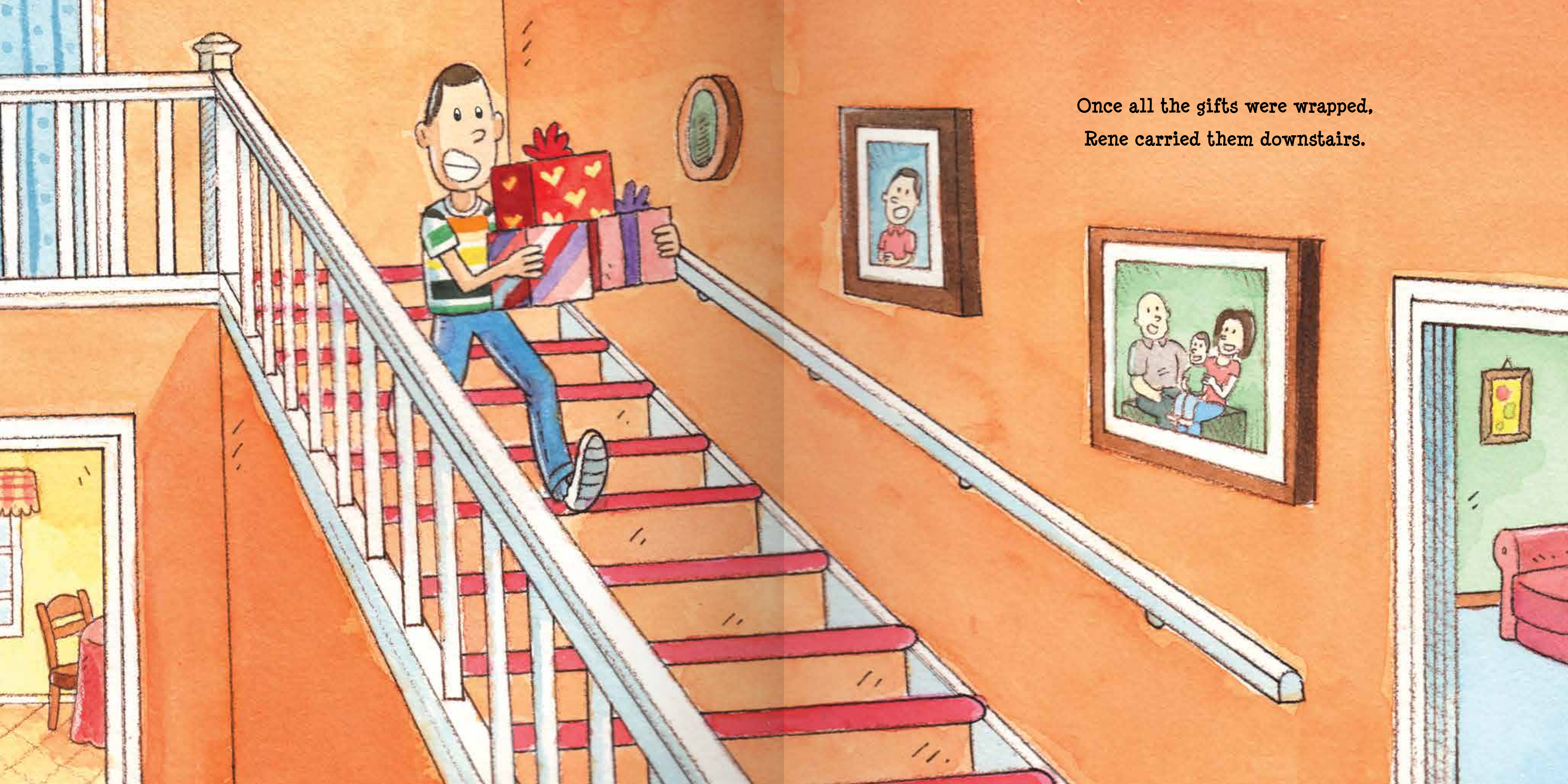
“And Mom’s old purse.”

Rene remembered when his parents
were looking for these things.





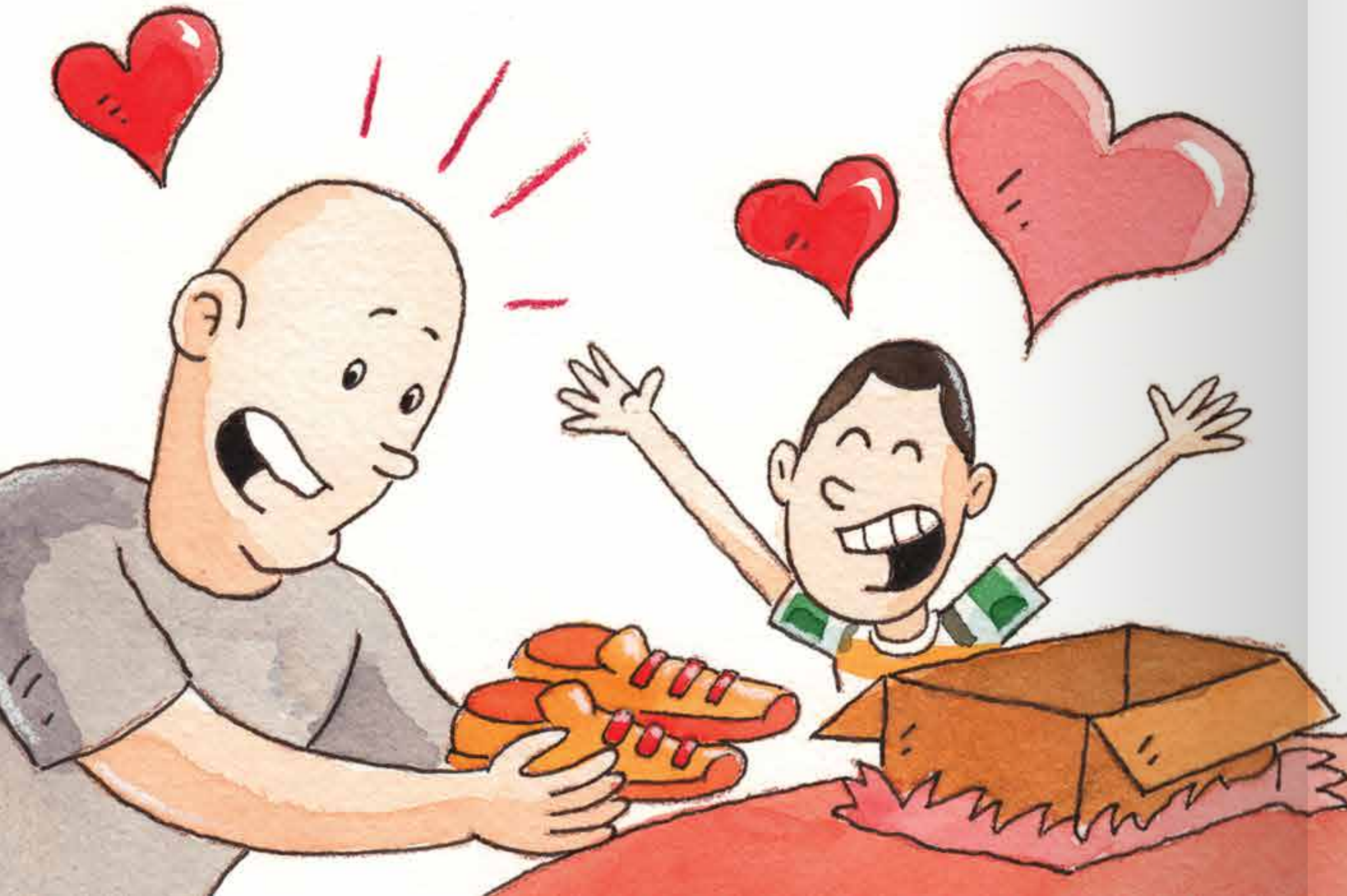
He grabbed three boxes,
went to his room and put each present in a box.
As he wrapped Mom and Dad's presents,
he thought they'd feel so surprised, because they
thought they would never see these things again.



Once all the gifts were wrapped,
Rene carried them downstairs.

“Happy Valentine’s Day!” Rene shouted as he gave
Mom and Dad their gifts.

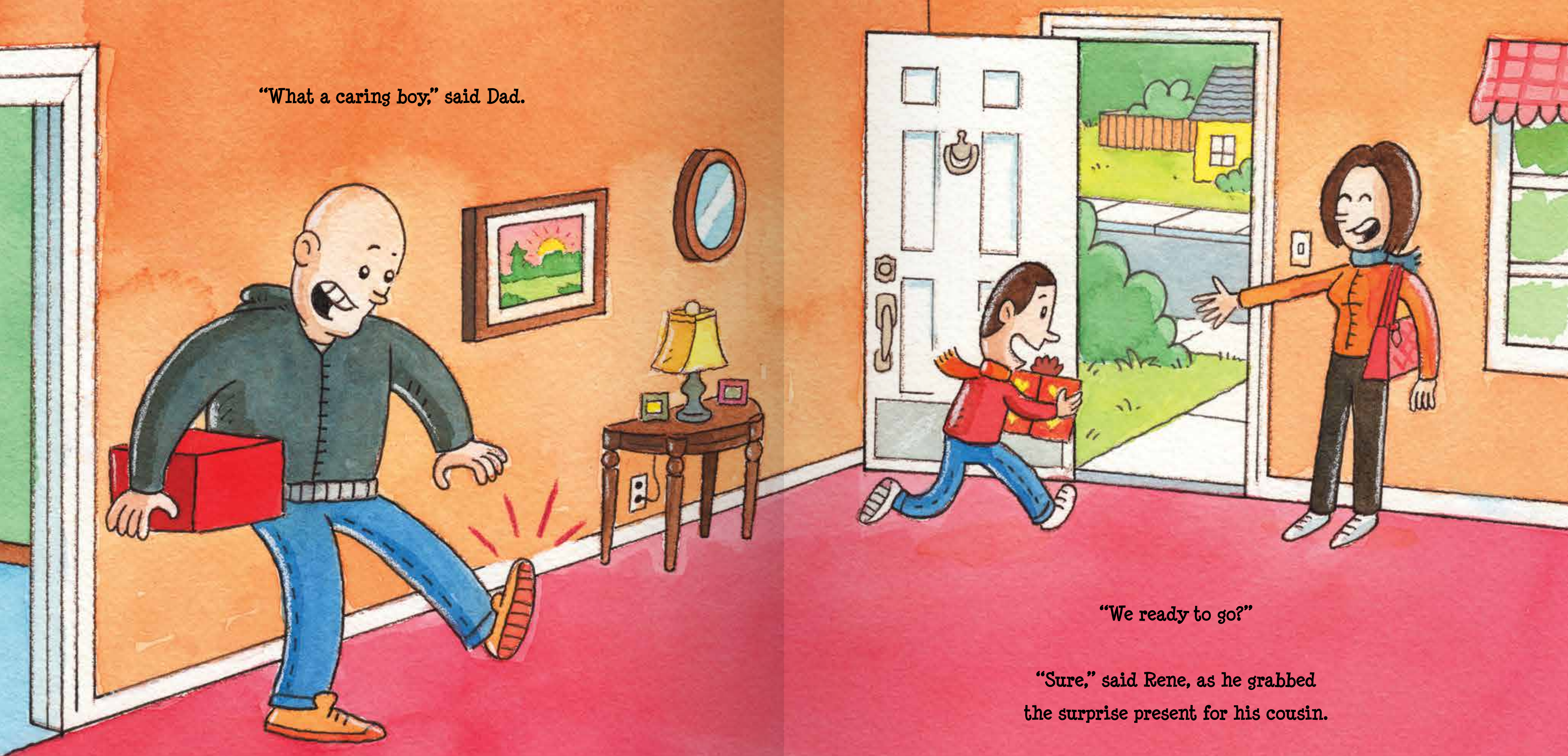
“My old shoes!” said Dad. “I looked everywhere for these.”



“You found my purse!” said Mom.



"What a caring boy," said Dad.

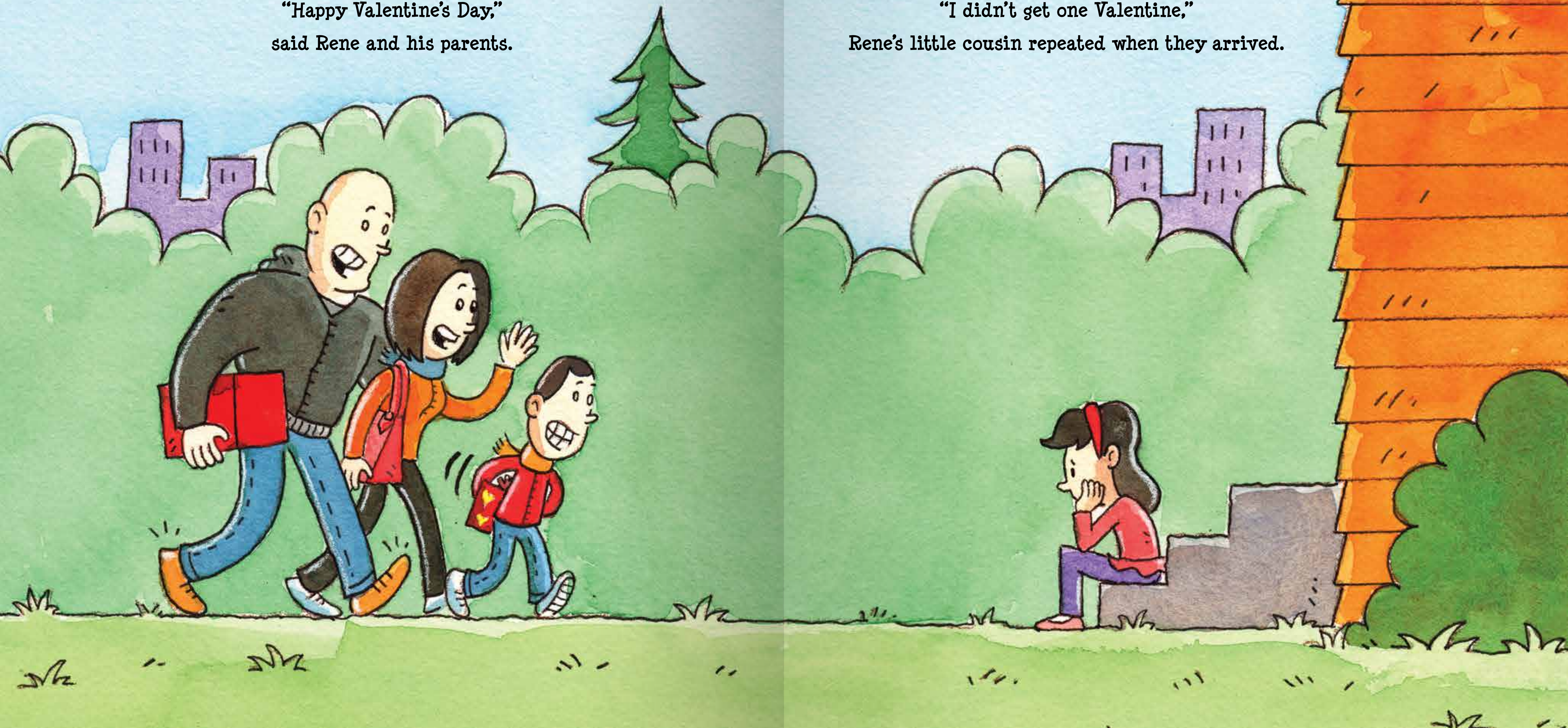


"We ready to go?"

"Sure," said Rene, as he grabbed
the surprise present for his cousin.

"Happy Valentine's Day,"
said Rene and his parents.

"I didn't get one Valentine,"
Rene's little cousin repeated when they arrived.



“Until now!” Rene pulled out a bright blue box
from behind his back.

She opened it. “You gave me my favorite game!”



Meet the Storytellers



Jazlene



Annie



Matthew



Brianna



Rene

Are You a Caring Storyteller?

If these stories have inspired you to become a caring storyteller, follow these tips and visit our Facebook page to share your story.



- Step 1. **Brainstorm for an idea.** You can brainstorm with a friend, your parents, your teacher, or yourself. Whatever you like!
- Step 2. **Once you have an idea for a story, write it down.**
- Step 3. **Read your story out loud.**
- Step 4. **Make more and more changes until you think your story is the best it can be.**
- Step 5. **Keep believing in your story and yourself!**

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