Goodbye Grandad



Written and Illustrated By Annie Beadle

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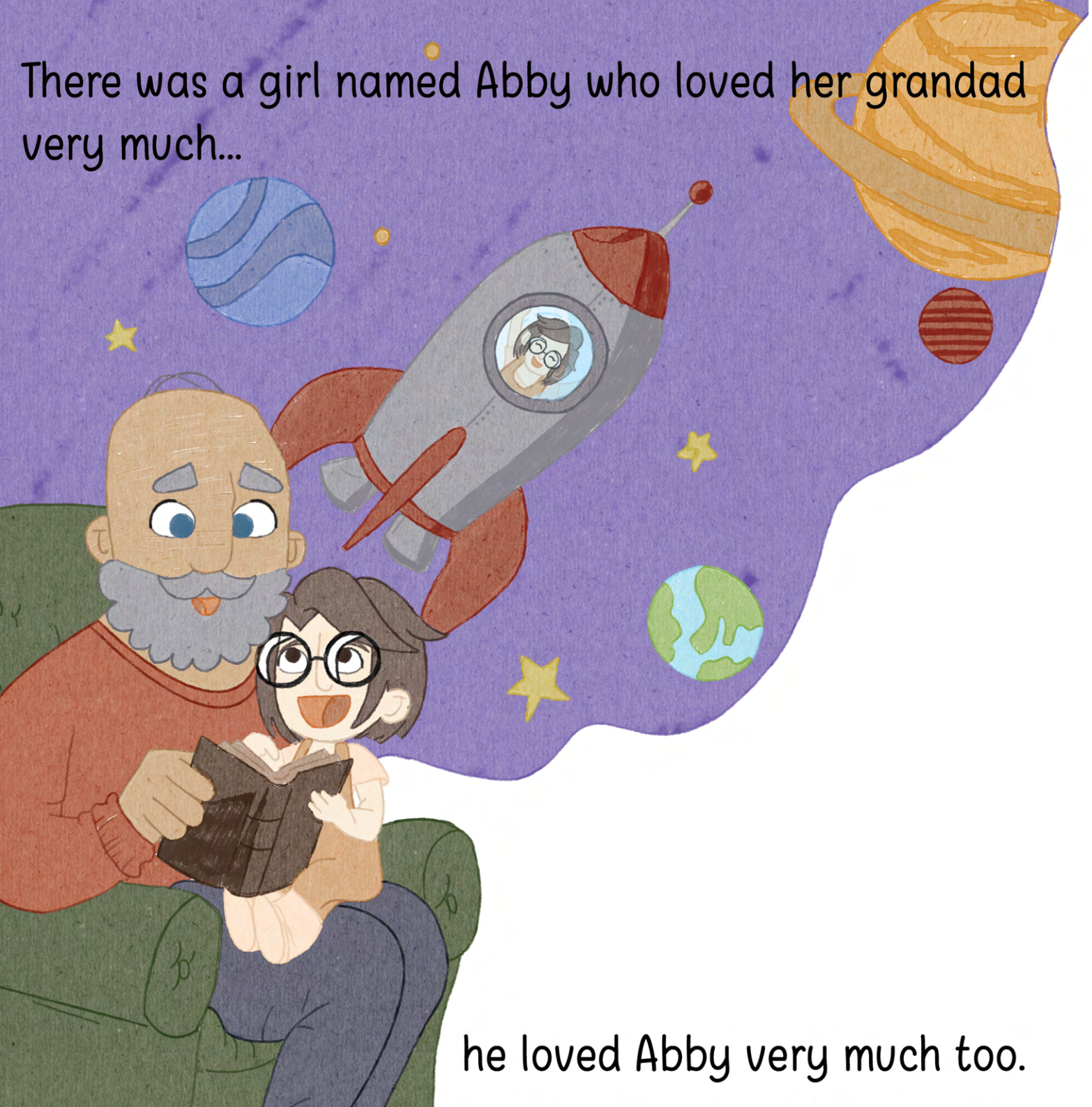
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In Loving Memory of an Amazing Grandad

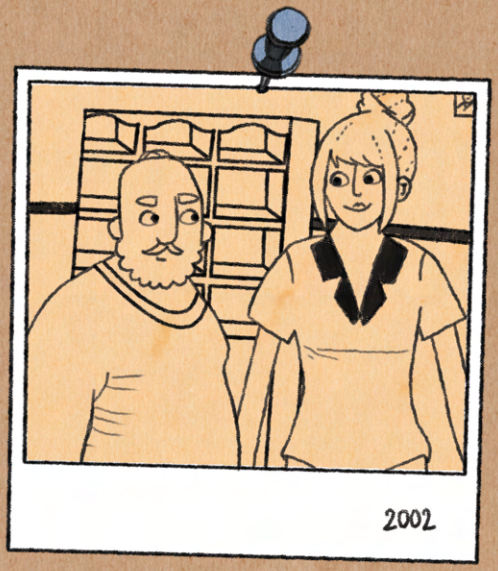
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There was a girl named Abby who loved her grandad very much...



he loved Abby very much too.

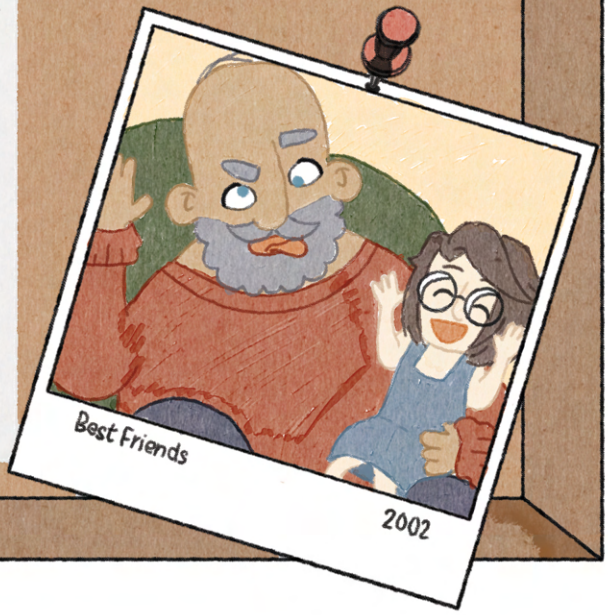




Grandad was Abby's best friend...

Abby was his too.





Abby and Grandad did lots of fun things together...

They sailed the seas as...

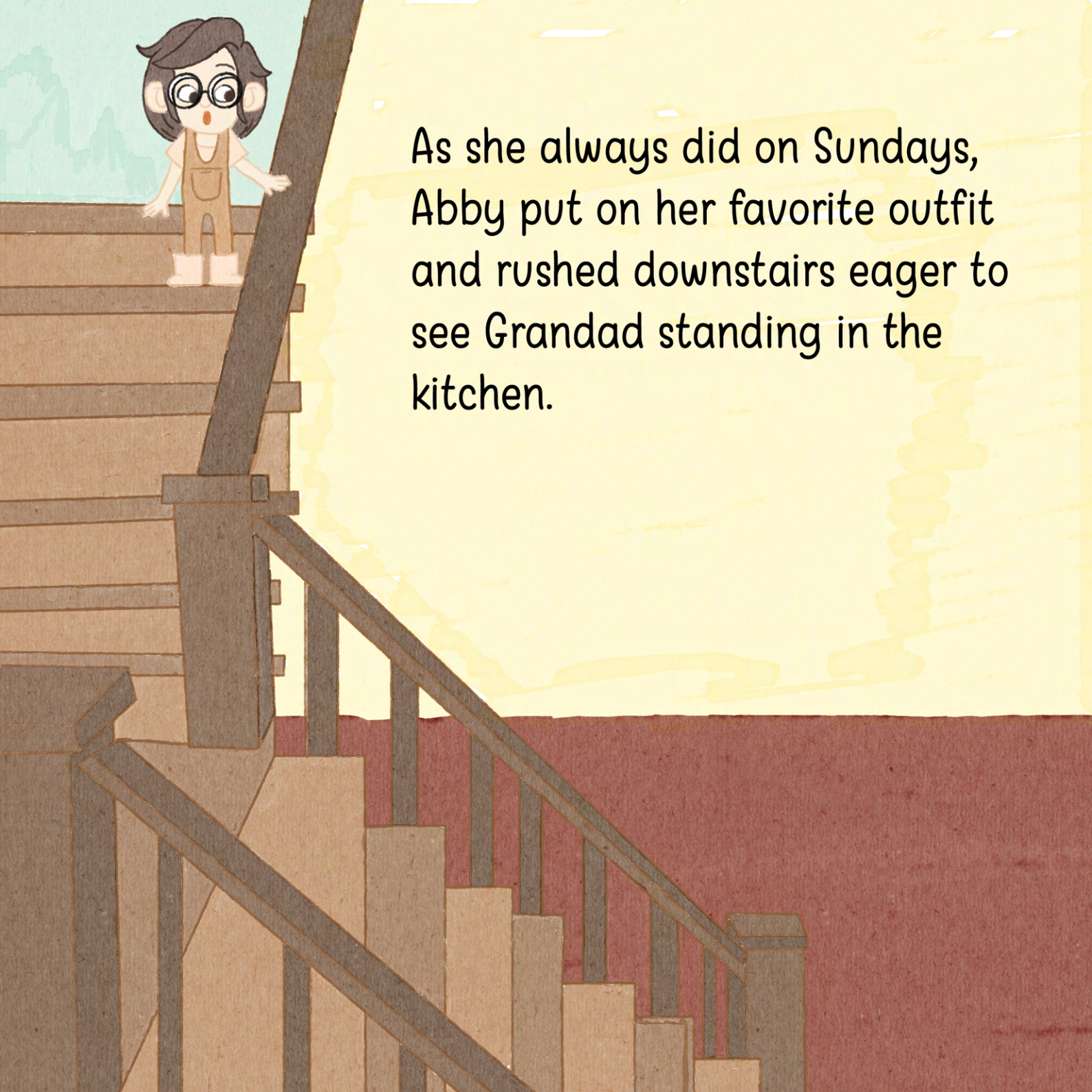




Searched for
SCARY MONSTERS...

And even had Tea with a...



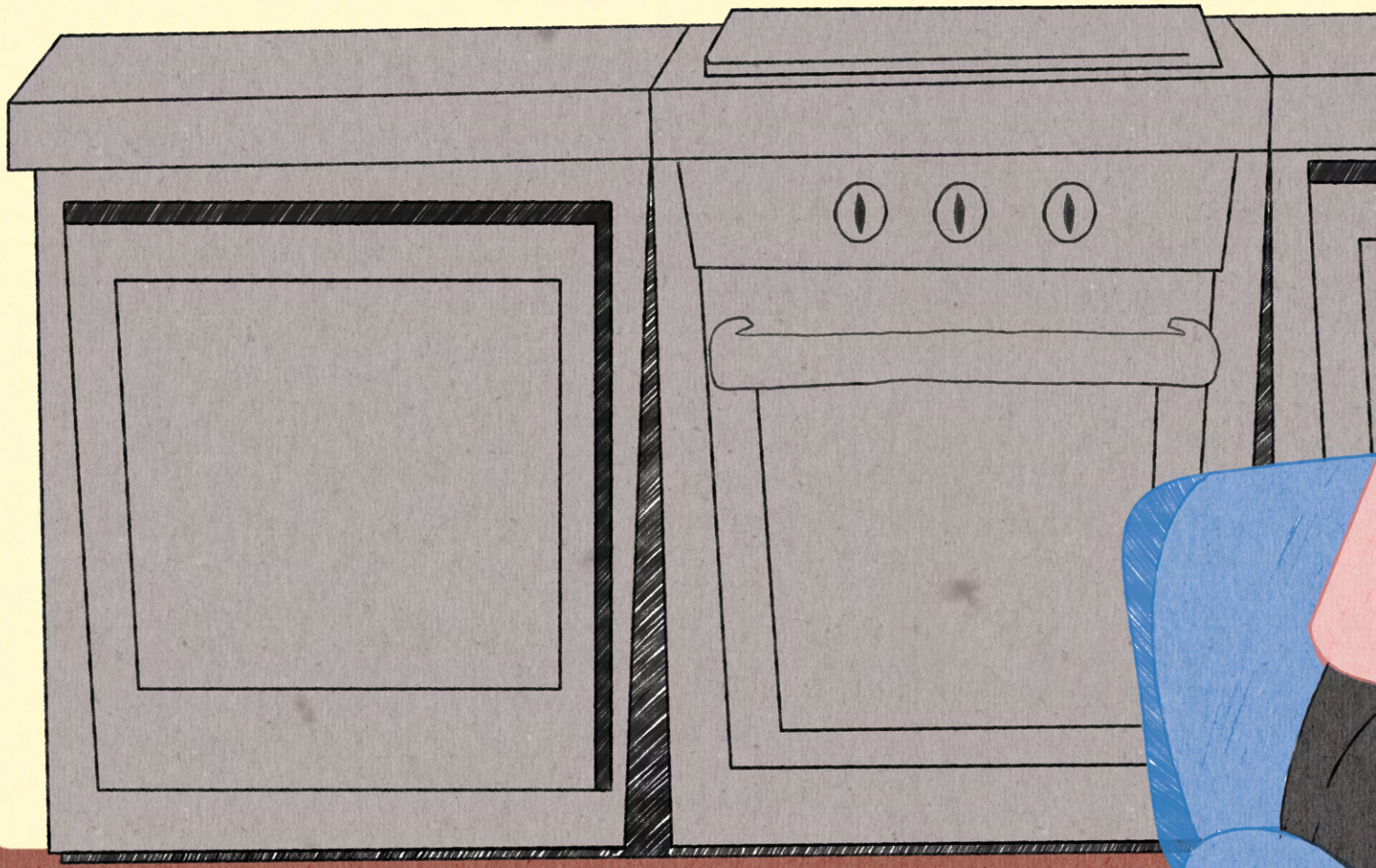


As she always did on Sundays, Abby put on her favorite outfit and rushed downstairs eager to see Grandad standing in the kitchen.

Instead of Grandad, Abby was greeted by Mummy sitting at the kitchen table with TEARS in her eyes.



Abby didn't understand why Mummy was upset.



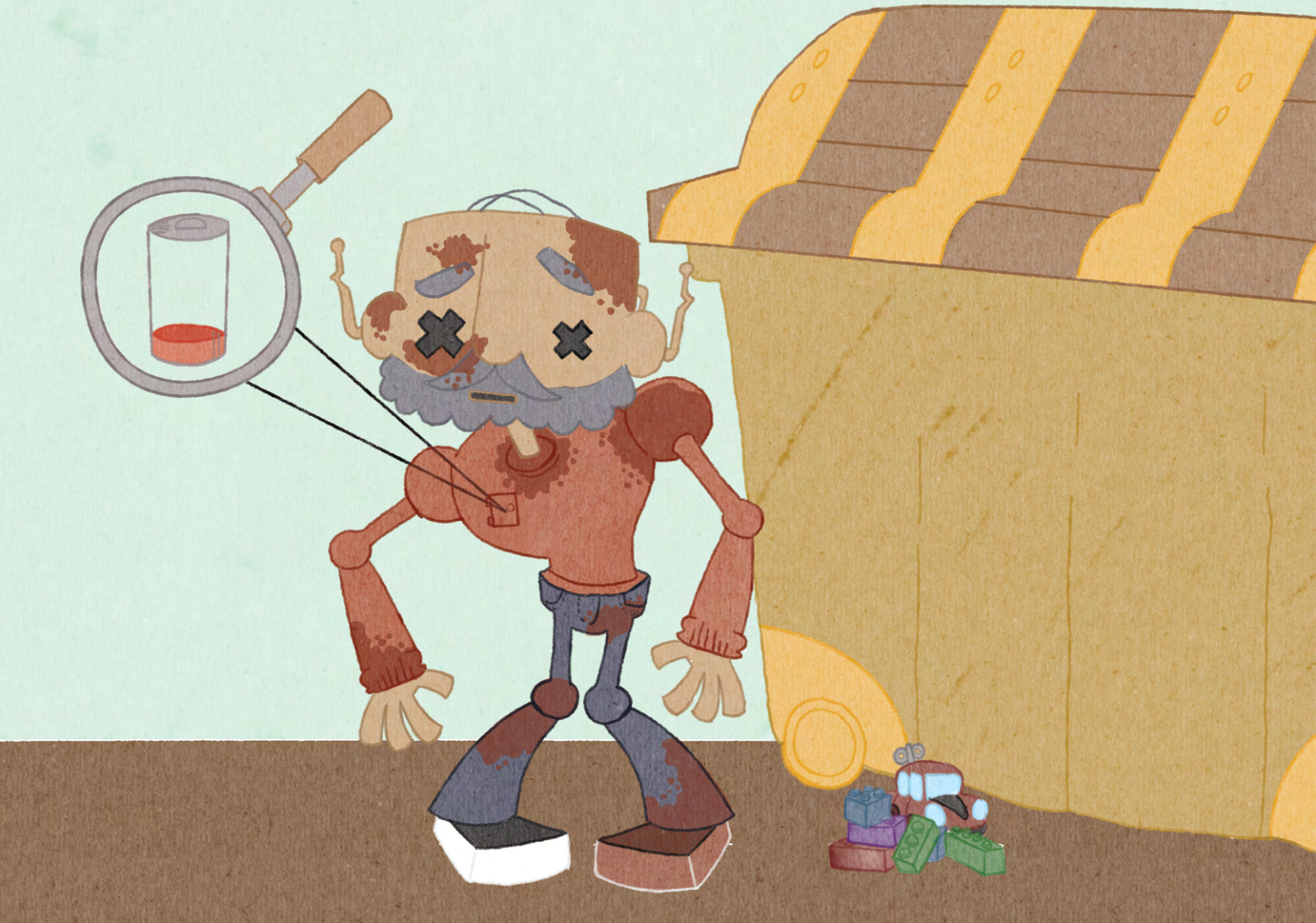
It was the first time she had seen Mummy CRY...


Grandad had UNEXPECTEDLY died...

Mummy had said something about Grandad that Abby didn't understand. “What does it mean when you say 'died'?” she questioned.



Mummy explained that when a person dies, their body stops working and their heart stops beating.





For a moment, Abby stood, feeling sick to her stomach...

Did Mummy jokingly say that? Grandad had just spoken to her yesterday... HOW was he dead?


"THAT'S NOT FUNNY MUMMY!"

As she sat on her bed, Abby felt a funny feeling in her tummy...



She was so sad, she cried and cried until she felt her heart break in to two.

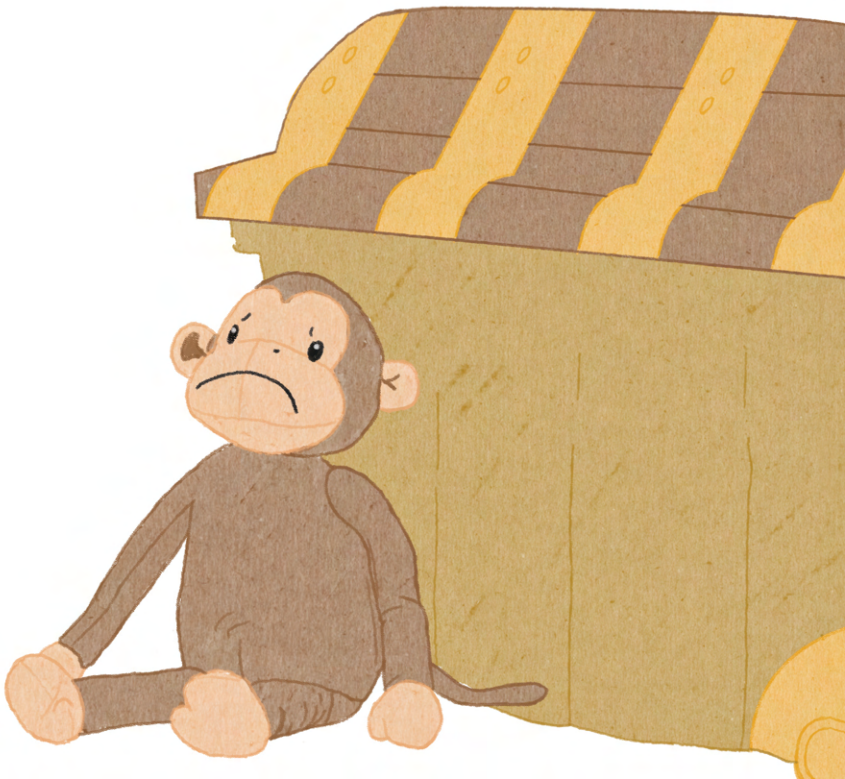


As the days went on, Abby became more withdrawn



Eating and drinking became more difficult for her...

and she no longer wanted to play... not even with her friends.



Mummy grew distant as well. All she did was cry; her eyes were puffy and her voice was quieter.



Abby really needed mummy... and she really needed Abby too.





When Abby grew tired of feeling lonely, she approached Mummy who was lying on the sofa, a spot she had frequented since the news of Grandads death.

She whispered, "Mummy?"

With puffy eyes, Mummy looked up at Abby. "What is the matter darling?" she asked, looking worried.

Abby cried, "I feel sad and lonely lately. I need you to fix it for me, Mummy." Abby said as she asked her mother for help.

It was then that Mummy realized just how cold and distant she had become. Only her own feelings occupied her mind, she had never considered the impact Grandad's death might have on Abby.

“I can understand how you might feel sad and angry when you think about grandad.” Mummy said



“It is natural to feel those things. If you ever want to talk about how you are feeling I am always here for you.”

“Mummy...” Abby said “I am always here for you too.”

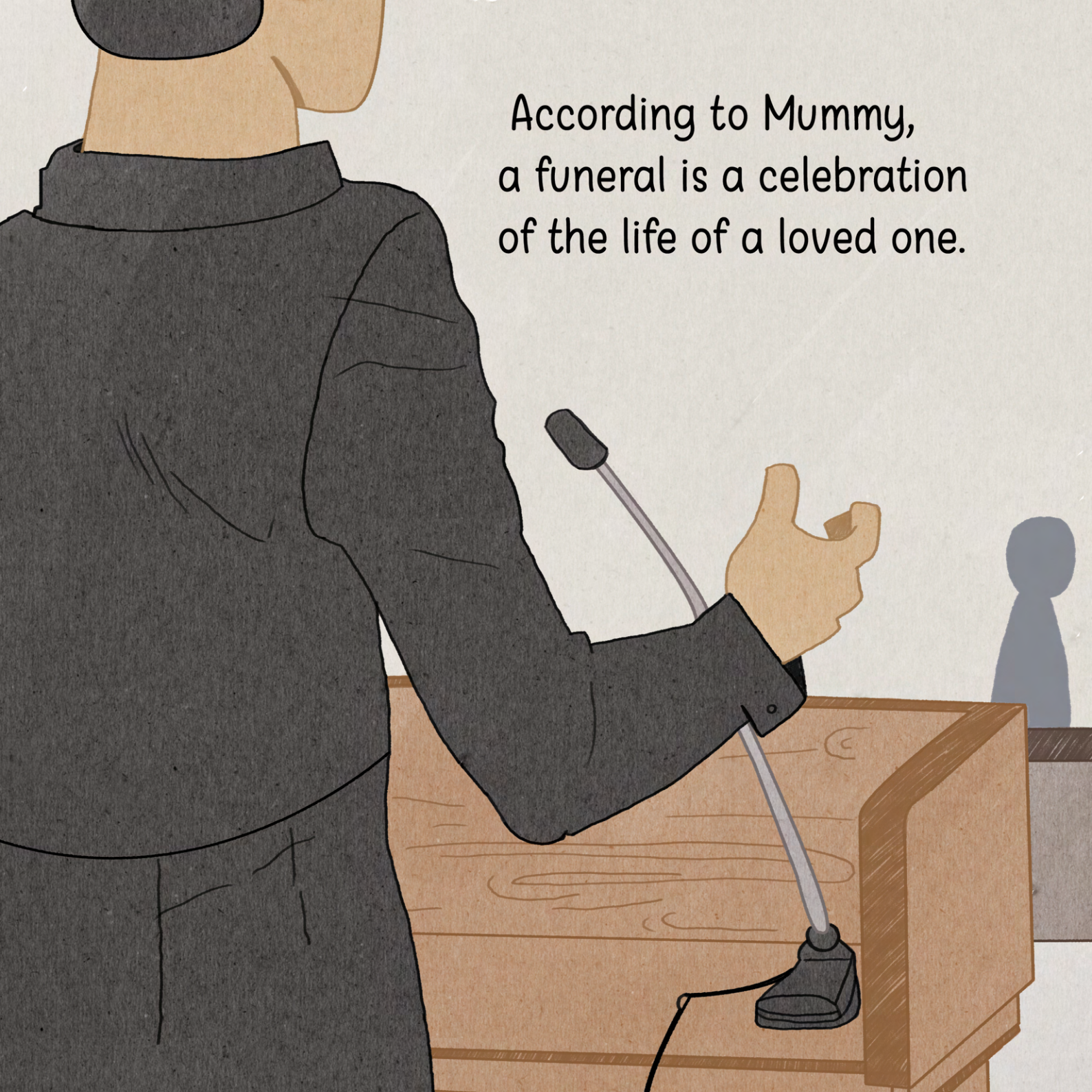




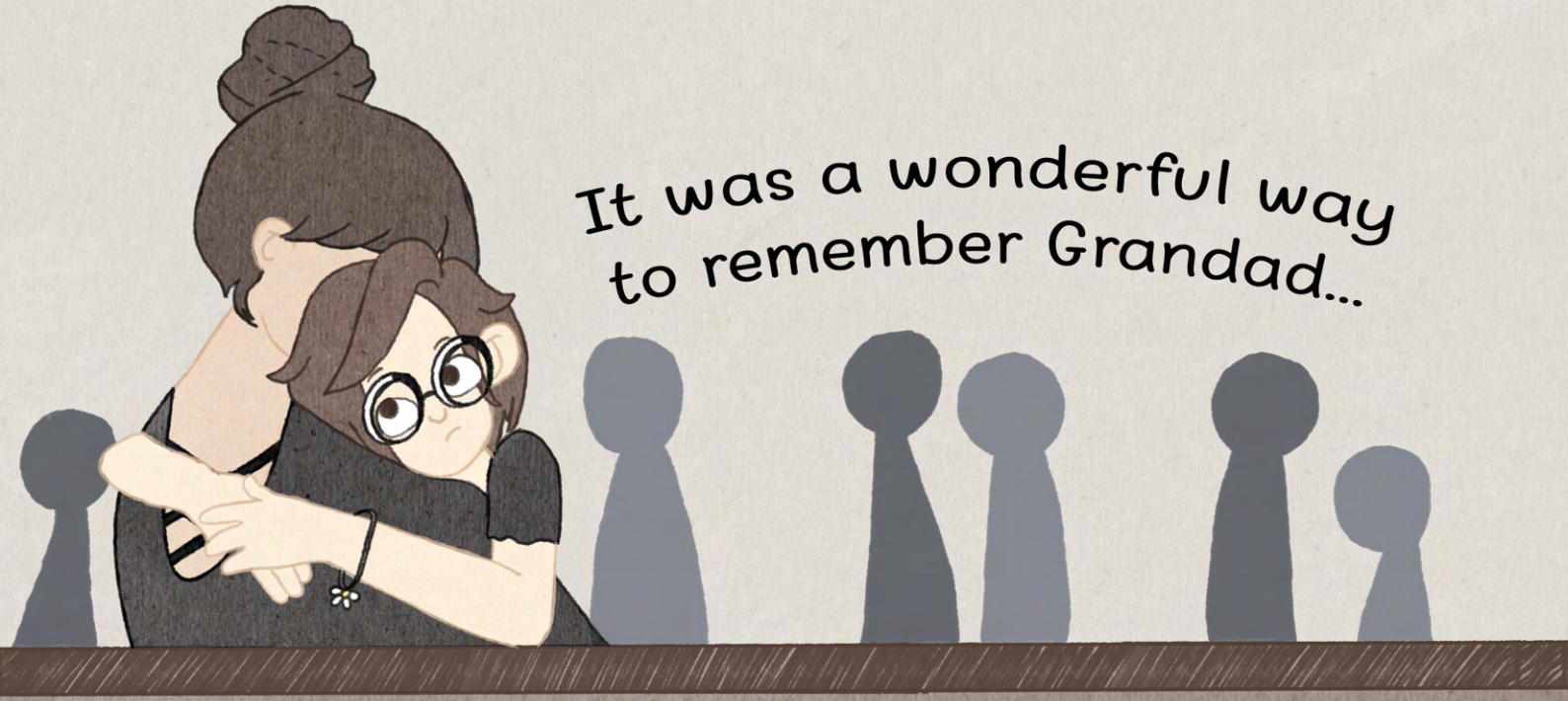
It wasn't long before Grandad's funeral came around. Dressed in her finest dress, Abby admired herself in the mirror.

“Don’t you look beautiful,” chimed Mummy, “Grandad always loved you in that dress.”




According to Mummy,
a funeral is a celebration
of the life of a loved one.

It was a time for remembering the happy memories and forgetting the sad.



A celebration filled with happy memories, funny stories, and the sounds of joyful music.



as she left the cemetery, Abby looked back...


"Goodbye Grandad"
she smiled.

How to Explain Death to Children: A guide for Parents / Carers / Guardians

You must be clear, concise, and to the point when talking about death to children between the ages of two and five. You should discuss death in a way that is understandable to the child's age demographic. If the child is told that the loved one has 'gone to sleep', many questions would arise. Consider presenting the situation as follows: “Remember Grandad was sick? Well, he died today”, explaining that when someone/something dies, their organs cease to function, and they cannot wake up. Ensure that you communicate honestly with your child. Provide comfort to them and explain the importance of not living in fear of death. Provide them with reassurance that their feelings are normal and part of the grieving process. It is important for you to validate their own feelings and experiences by sharing your own.

How Do Children React To Death

Children can develop empathy for others by understanding their different emotions. It opens up the opportunity for parents and children to discuss the five stages of grief; denial that someone has died, anger at the person not being around, bargaining with them to return/spend one last day with them, depression once it appears apparent you cannot do anything, and finally acceptance of their passing. The child may become distant, lose appetite, have disturbed sleep, and/or become distant upon learning this.

There is no need to be alarmed about this, as it is completely normal. Your role will be to support. You may want to try talking to the child. Let them know that it is okay to feel these emotions and that screaming, crying, etc. are perfectly normal.

Further support for your child

There are plenty of bereavement charities that offer helplines, email support, and online communities and message boards for children these include:

Child Bereavement UK – call 0800 028 8840 Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm, or email helpline@childbereavementuk.org

Cruse Bereavement Care – call 0808 808 1677 Monday and Friday, 9.30am to 5pm; Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9.30am to 8pm; Saturday and Sunday 10am to 2pm

Grief Encounter – call 0808 802 0111 Monday to Friday, 9am to 9pm, or email contact@griefencounter.org.uk

Hope Again – call 0808 808 1677 Monday to Friday, 9.30am to 5pm, or email hopeagain@cruse.org.uk

Winston's Wish – call 0808 802 0021 Monday to Friday, 8am to 8pm, or email ask@winstonswish.org

Young Minds - Information available on their website: https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/parents-a-z-mental-health-guide/counselling-and-therapy/

In this story, you'll be able to experience and share the journey of six-year-old Abby as she struggles to cope with death.

The days are filled with adventure and fun for Abby and her Grandad. One day, everything changed due to an unexpected phone call. During the course of the book, Abby must learn about death and how to cope with the feelings and emotions surrounding it.



Located in Kent, England, Annie Beadle is a freelance photographer and illustrator. In their spare time, they like to draw, play video games, and listen to podcasts, especially horror podcasts. Their inspiration comes from the world around them and the desire to educate children. But they find most of their inspiration comes from their two cats: Mischief and Magika.

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