

A Friend in Hope

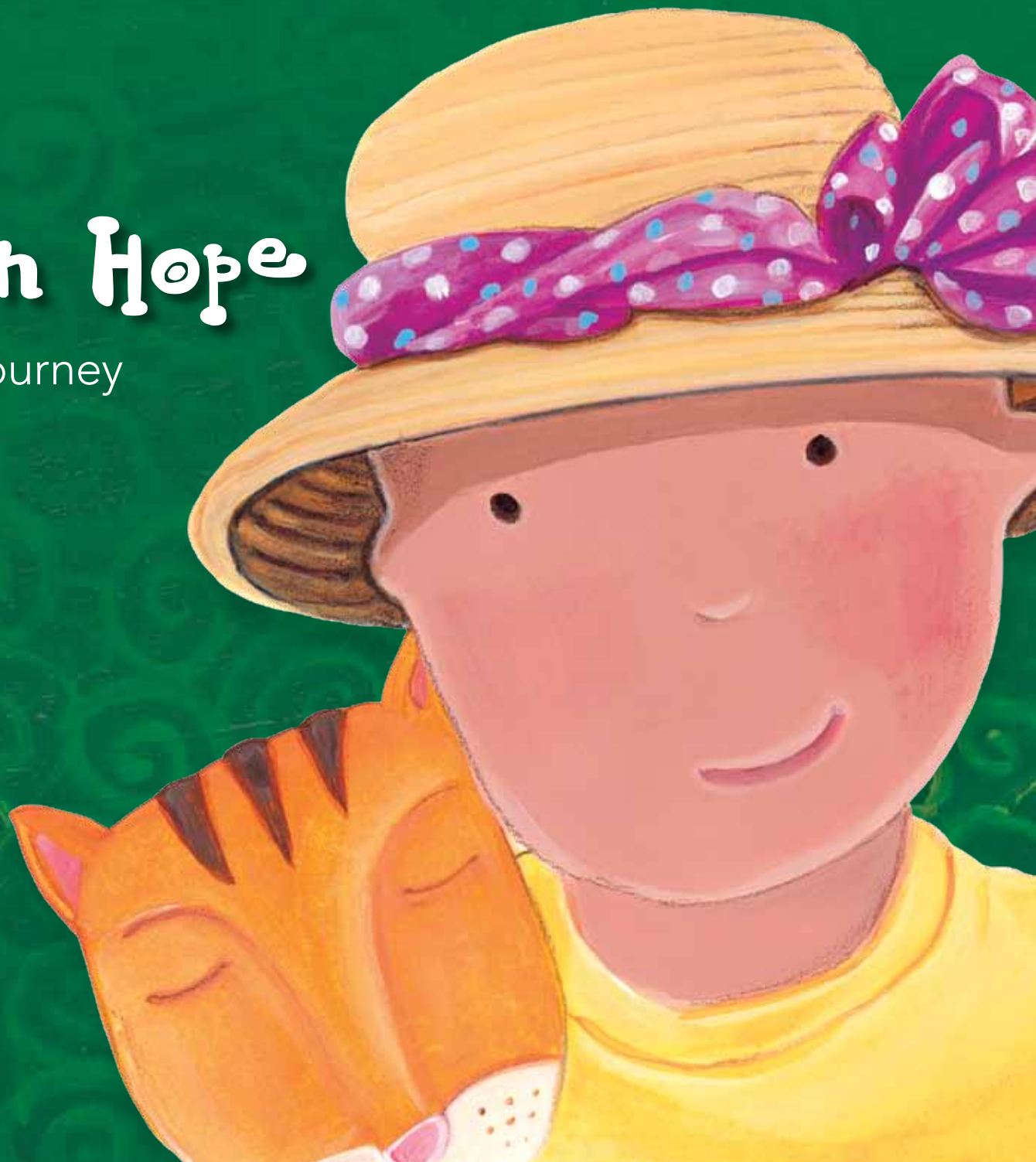
A story about Hope's journey
with a brain tumour



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Created by Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada



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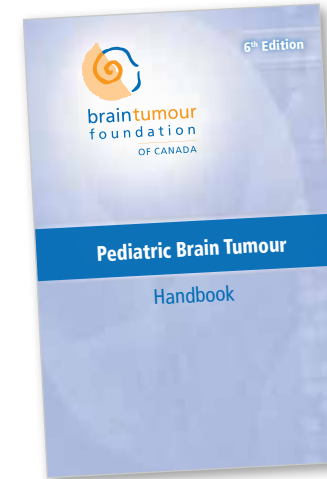
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This book belongs to



When a child is diagnosed with a brain tumour, life changes in an instant. The sixth edition of the Pediatric Brain Tumour Handbook aims to provide comprehensive and easy-to-read information about the disease, including brain tumour types, treatment options and what to expect after a diagnosis. This resource also addresses some of the questions and concerns you may have about a child being diagnosed with a brain tumour, and helps raise awareness about the disease, providing education for family members, friends and health care professionals.

To order your copy of the 6th Edition Pediatric Brain Tumour Handbook, please visit www.BrainTumour.ca/requestinfo or call 1-800-265-5106.

Hi! I'm Panny.

Today is a special day for everyone in Mrs. Ryder's class. Our friend is coming for a visit after a long time away from school.

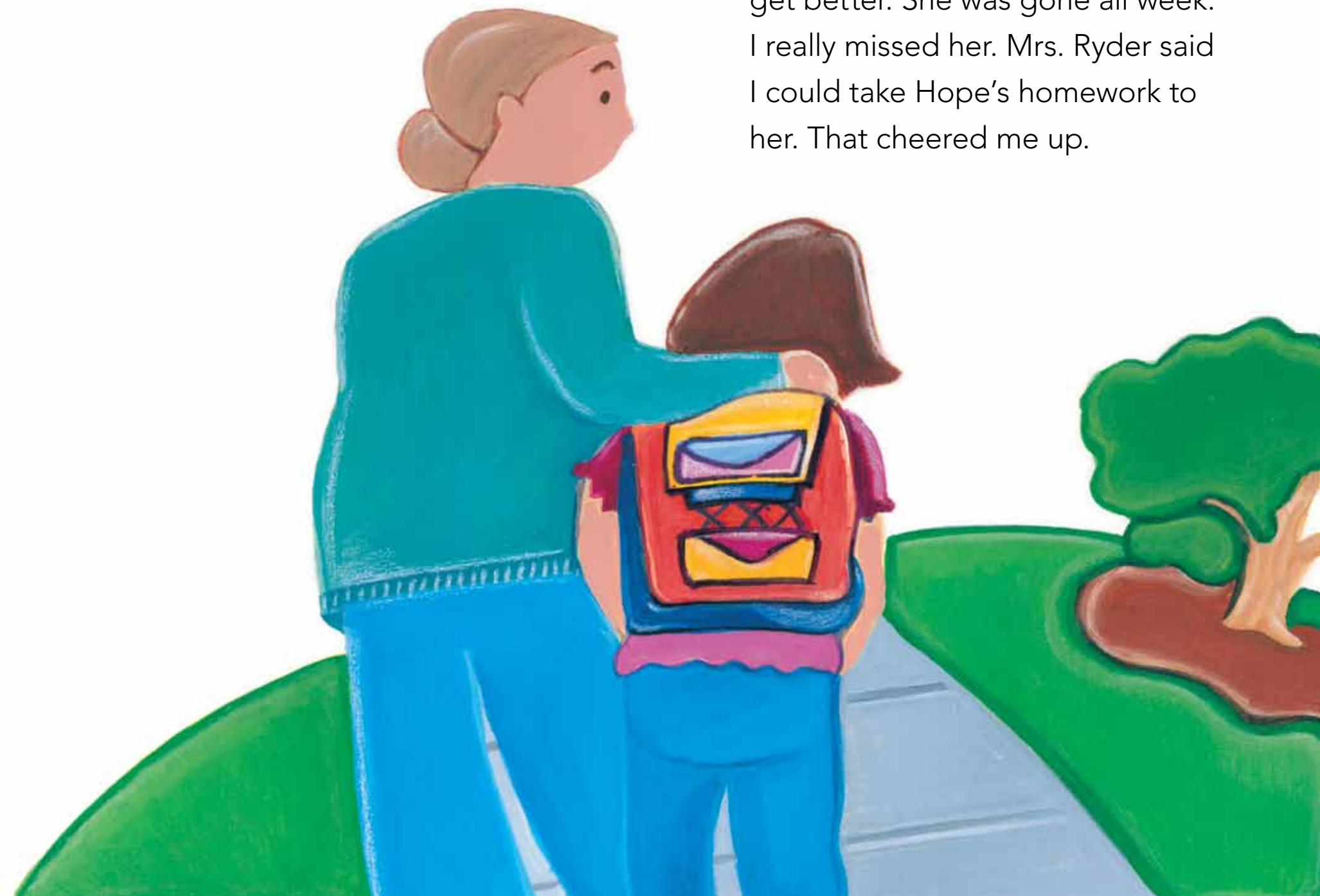


Her name is Hope. She is my best buddy. Her desk is right next to mine. At school we play together and share our snacks at recess. We tell secrets to each other. I know a secret about her... but I'm not telling!

One day last year, Hope didn't feel like playing at recess. She felt dizzy and her head hurt. I knew something was really wrong when she didn't want any of my oatmeal raisin cookies. Those are her favourite!



Hope's mommy took her home to get better. She was gone all week. I really missed her. Mrs. Ryder said I could take Hope's homework to her. That cheered me up.



When I went to visit her,
Hope looked really tired.
But she smiled when she
saw me. Hope's mommy
gave me a hug and said
I was the best medicine.



Hope told me she had a seizure.
She said at first she felt all strange
inside and then she couldn't
remember anything after that.
The seizure made her forget.

Hope looked at me with sad eyes.

"I have to go to the hospital for an MRI," she said.

"Daddy says it's a big tube that will take pictures of my insides. I must lie very still on a moving table that will put me in the MRI tube. I know Daddy and Mommy will be right there, but they can't come inside it with me. I'm scared."

I remembered how we always liked to play pretend.

"You could use your imagination!" I said. "Pretend that the tube is your very own submarine. Close your eyes, and then you can explore the bottom of the sea!"

Hope's eyes twinkled. "I see an octopus..."





Hope was still too sick to come to school, so I would visit her at home. Sometimes she would even come outside to play.

One day, as we were building a snowman, Hope started to cry.

“Danny, I have a tumour,” she said. “Doctor Carrie said it’s like having a bump on the inside of your head that gets bigger and bigger. I have to go to the hospital for a special treatment to stop it from growing – and make it go away. I want it to disappear RIGHT NOW!” Hope yelled. I wished I could make it go away. I didn’t know what to say, so I gave Hope a big hug instead. She liked that.



Back inside, Hope had to take her medicine.
“Will that make your tumour go away?” I asked.
“No,” she said. “I have to go to the hospital for a while to get really better. But Doctor Carrie said this medicine will make me feel well enough to play with you. It’s the same medicine mountain climbers use. Sometimes they get sick up high where there isn’t enough air to breathe.”

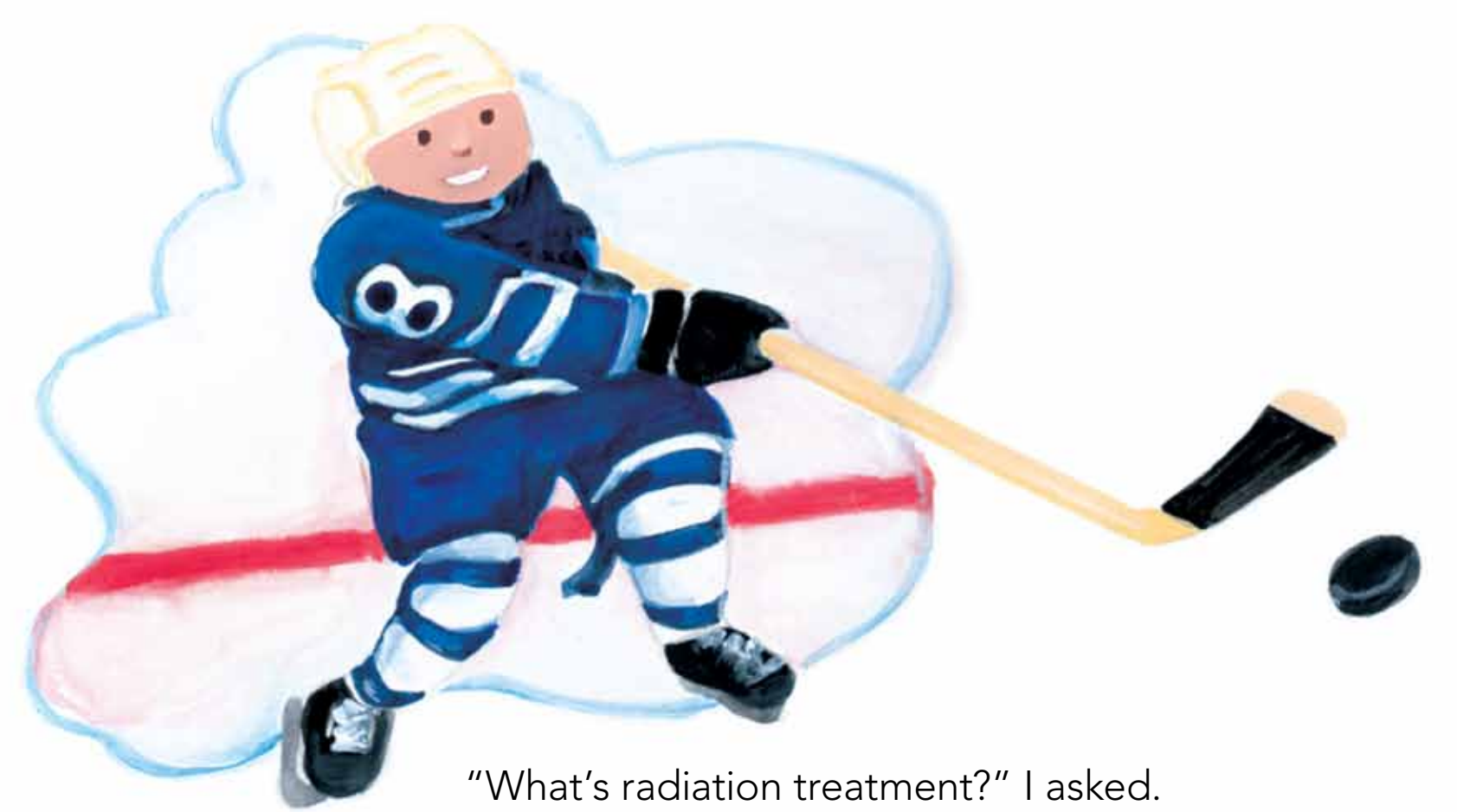
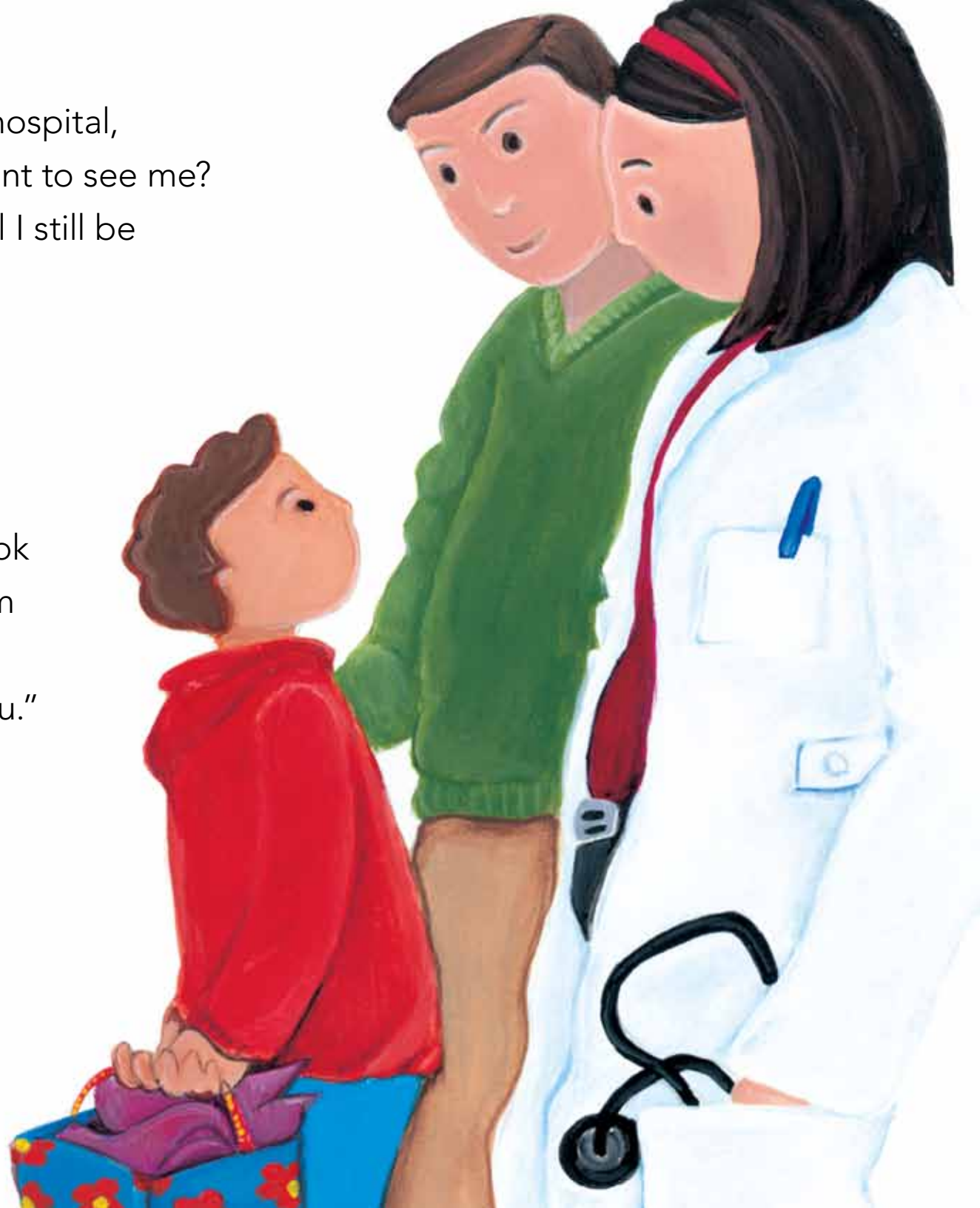
I promised to visit her in the hospital. Hope gave me a big, chocolate moustache smile. Then we built a mountain of pillows and cushions.





When I visited Hope at the hospital,
I was worried. Would she want to see me?
Will she be able to play? Will I still be
able to make her laugh?

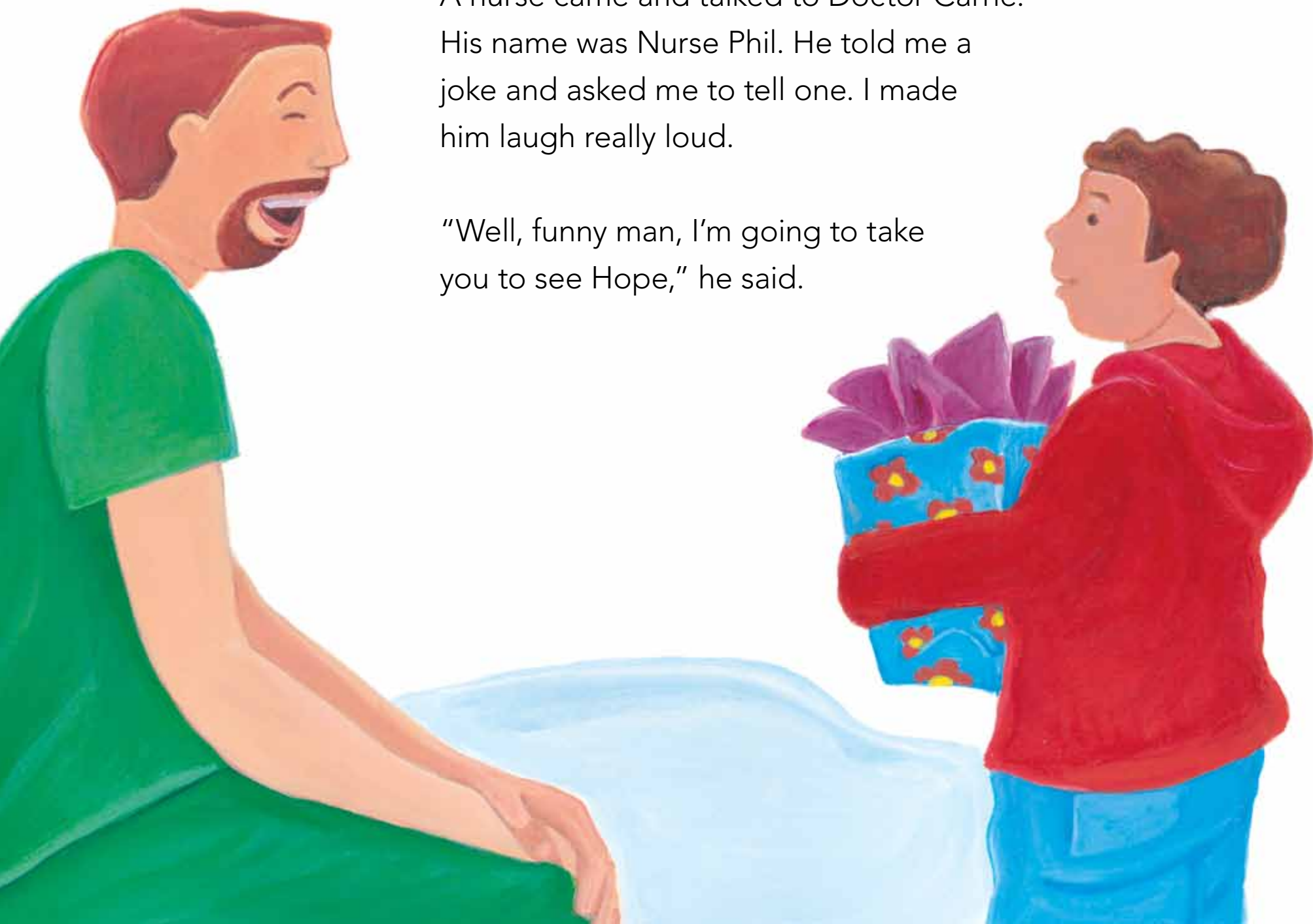
Hope's dad came over with
the doctor to say hi.
"Hello, Danny. I'm Doctor
Carrie." She smiled and shook
my hand. "Hope is back from
her radiation treatment.
She'll be so happy to see you."



"What's radiation treatment?" I asked.
"It's how we shrink the tumour," said Doctor Carrie.
"Hope wears a special helmet and mouthguard, and lies
very still under a big machine that will make her better."

I'll bet Hope pretended she scored the winning goal for her
favourite hockey team.

After talking to Doctor Carrie, I didn't feel as worried anymore.

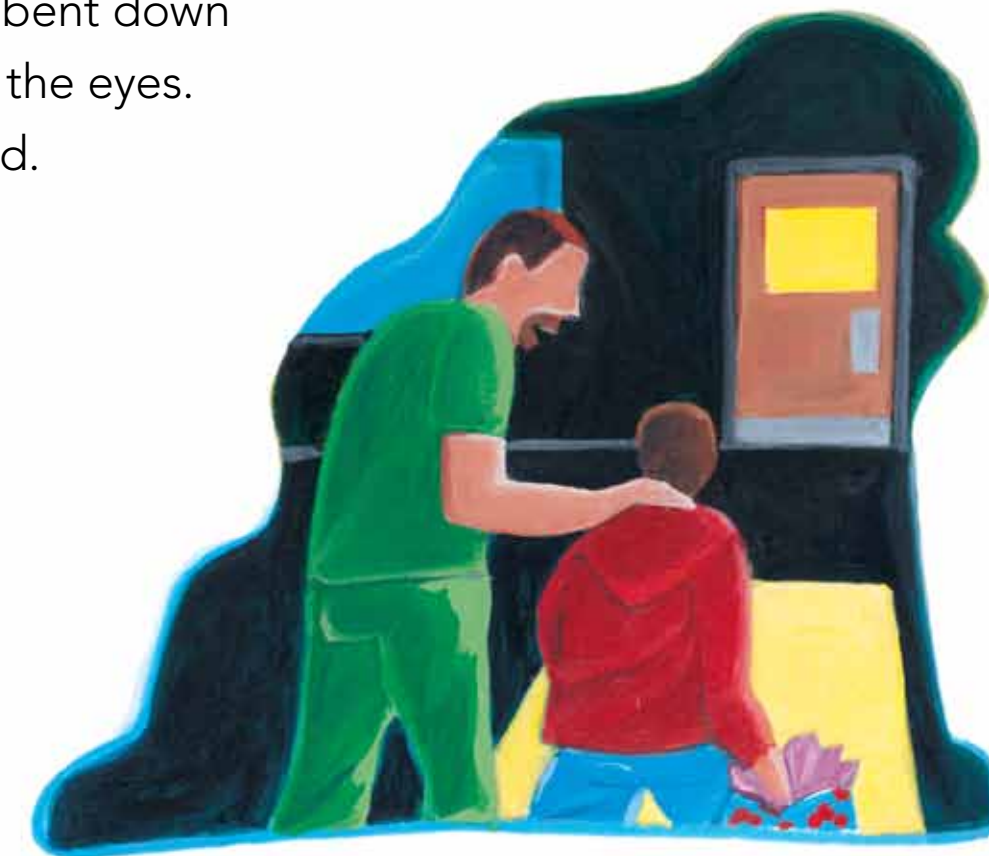


A nurse came and talked to Doctor Carrie. His name was Nurse Phil. He told me a joke and asked me to tell one. I made him laugh really loud.

"Well, funny man, I'm going to take you to see Hope," he said.

I squeezed Phil's hand tight as we walked down the hallway. I guess I was still a little bit nervous. We stopped at the doorway. "Here we are at the Child Life Centre," said Phil.

I couldn't let go of his hand. He bent down in front of me and looked me in the eyes. "Just be yourself, Danny," he said. "Hope will love that joke." He gave me a high five and I walked through the door.



Hope gave me a big hug. It felt nice, like she was squeezing my worries away. I gave her a toy that looked just like her kitty.

She gave the kitty a big hug too. Then she grabbed my hand. "Come and meet some of my new friends!"

There were kids playing video games. One had no hair at all.

"Danny, this is Jane and Peter," said Hope. "Jane plays on a hockey team just like you, and Peter is a champ at video games."

Then I met Tessa. She had bandages around her head. "Tessa had surgery a few days ago," said Hope. "And so did her dolly."





We all made paper airplanes at the craft table.
Then I went with Hope to her room.

There were lots of cards and pictures on the wall in Hope's room. She pointed to the biggest one. "Look at what Mrs. Ryder brought me yesterday," she said. I already knew about it. We made a giant card for Hope. Everyone in our class signed it. Hope's eyes were shining, and her smile was so big you could fit a banana in sideways.



By summer, Hope was back at home. She felt a lot better, but sometimes she was still very tired. When she felt crummy, she wore crazy hats. But most of the time, Hope was the same old Hope. She's still my best buddy. I played with Hope almost every single day. We especially liked to run through the sprinkler. She calls it her Magic Waterfall of Hope. When Hope runs through it, she always finds something good on the other side...





... Like all her friends who missed her and can't wait to hear the big secret that only Hope and I know about.

Suddenly, Hope is here, smiling her big banana smile. And now her secret is out: "I'm feeling a lot better now, and soon I'll be back here with you. Friends are the best medicine!"

Three cheers for our friend, Hope!
HIP, HIP, HOORAY!
HIP, HIP, HOORAY!
HIP, HIP, HOORAY!
This is the best news we've heard all year!



Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada

An estimated 55,000 Canadians currently live with a brain tumour and an additional 10,000 are diagnosed each year, many of whom are children. That's 27 new diagnoses per day: more than one person every hour.

Thousands of people affected by brain tumours find emotional support and comfort through Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada while gaining a better understanding and knowledge of the disease. Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada is the only national, non-profit organization committed to reaching every Canadian affected by any type of brain tumour through support, education, information and research. We are led by a dedicated team of volunteers, staff, patients, survivors, family members and health care professionals, determined to make the journey with a brain tumour one full of hope and support.

Our History

Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada was established in London in 1982 by Steve Northey, who lost his eight-year-old daughter to a brain tumour, Dr. Rolando Del Maestro, a retired neurosurgeon, and Pamela Del Maestro, a retired neuroscience nurse, to help improve the quality of life for those affected by the disease.

Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada is funded entirely through contributions from individuals, corporations and foundations. Without the help of this community of supporters, dedicated assistance for Canadians affected by any type of brain tumour would not be possible.

Through Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada, you can access a variety of programs and services to help you navigate the journey with a pediatric brain tumour.

These include:

- BrainWAVE – the support program for children and teens with a pediatric brain tumour
- Adult brain tumour support groups – a place for caregivers and loved ones of a child affected by a brain tumour to share experiences and feelings in a confidential, supportive environment
- Online peer support centre and social media communities
- Toll-free 1-800 information and support line
- Information Days conferences and webinars
- BrainStorm and Supporting You print and electronic newsletters
- Courage and Hope blog

You can find details about any of the programs and services offered by Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada at www.BrainTumour.ca or by calling 1-800-265-5106.

Thank you to the education committee who made the first edition of *"A Friend in Hope"* (2005) possible. Our deepest appreciation is extended to volunteers Carol Van Evera and Lesley-Ann Senior for their time and commitment given to this special project.

"A Friend in Hope" is dedicated to the memory of Peter Dowling. Peter was a caring man who volunteered his time with Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada and other charitable organizations. Peter worked with the education committee, and helped create awareness about the importance of information resources in health care facilities across Canada.



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"A Friend in Hope" is available in French (in print and electronically) and Italian (electronic only). The English edition is also available electronically.