



# NO FIREWORKS, PLEASE!

Written by  
Aanya Arora





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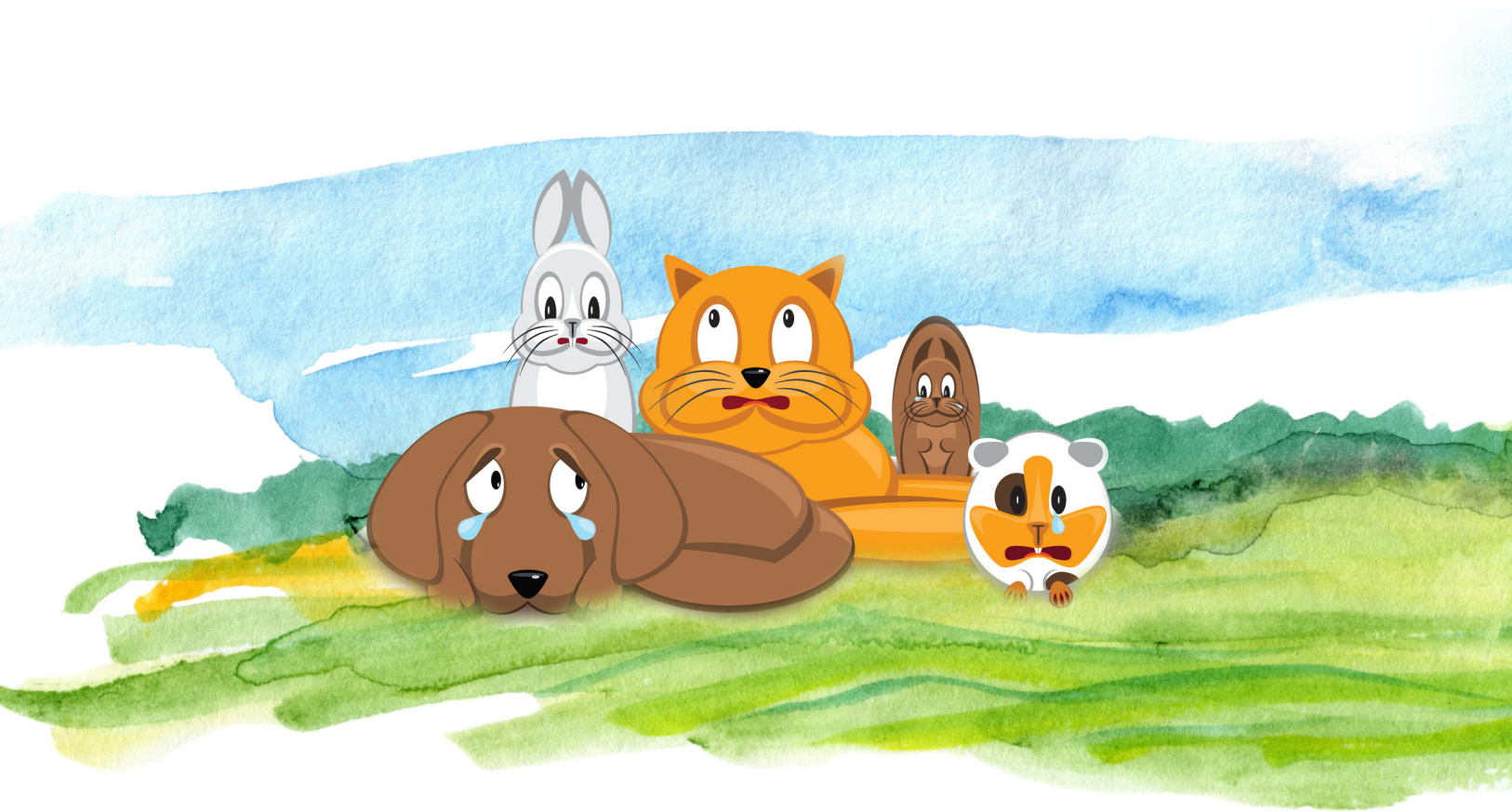
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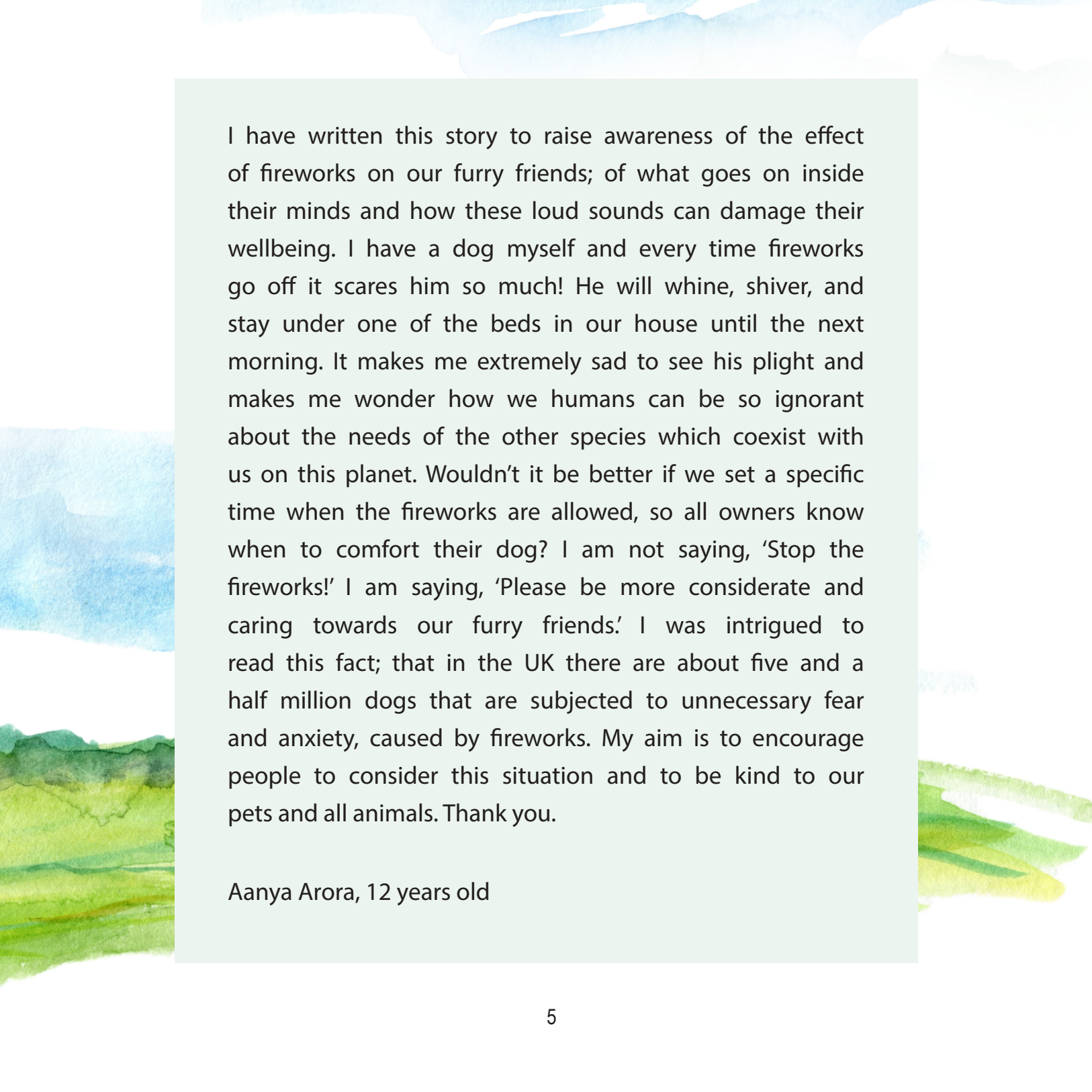
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Aanya and Barney





I have written this story to raise awareness of the effect of fireworks on our furry friends; of what goes on inside their minds and how these loud sounds can damage their wellbeing. I have a dog myself and every time fireworks go off it scares him so much! He will whine, shiver, and stay under one of the beds in our house until the next morning. It makes me extremely sad to see his plight and makes me wonder how we humans can be so ignorant about the needs of the other species which coexist with us on this planet. Wouldn't it be better if we set a specific time when the fireworks are allowed, so all owners know when to comfort their dog? I am not saying, 'Stop the fireworks!' I am saying, 'Please be more considerate and caring towards our furry friends.' I was intrigued to read this fact; that in the UK there are about five and a half million dogs that are subjected to unnecessary fear and anxiety, caused by fireworks. My aim is to encourage people to consider this situation and to be kind to our pets and all animals. Thank you.

Aanya Arora, 12 years old




'Yay, it's my birthday today!'

Maisie screamed from her room.



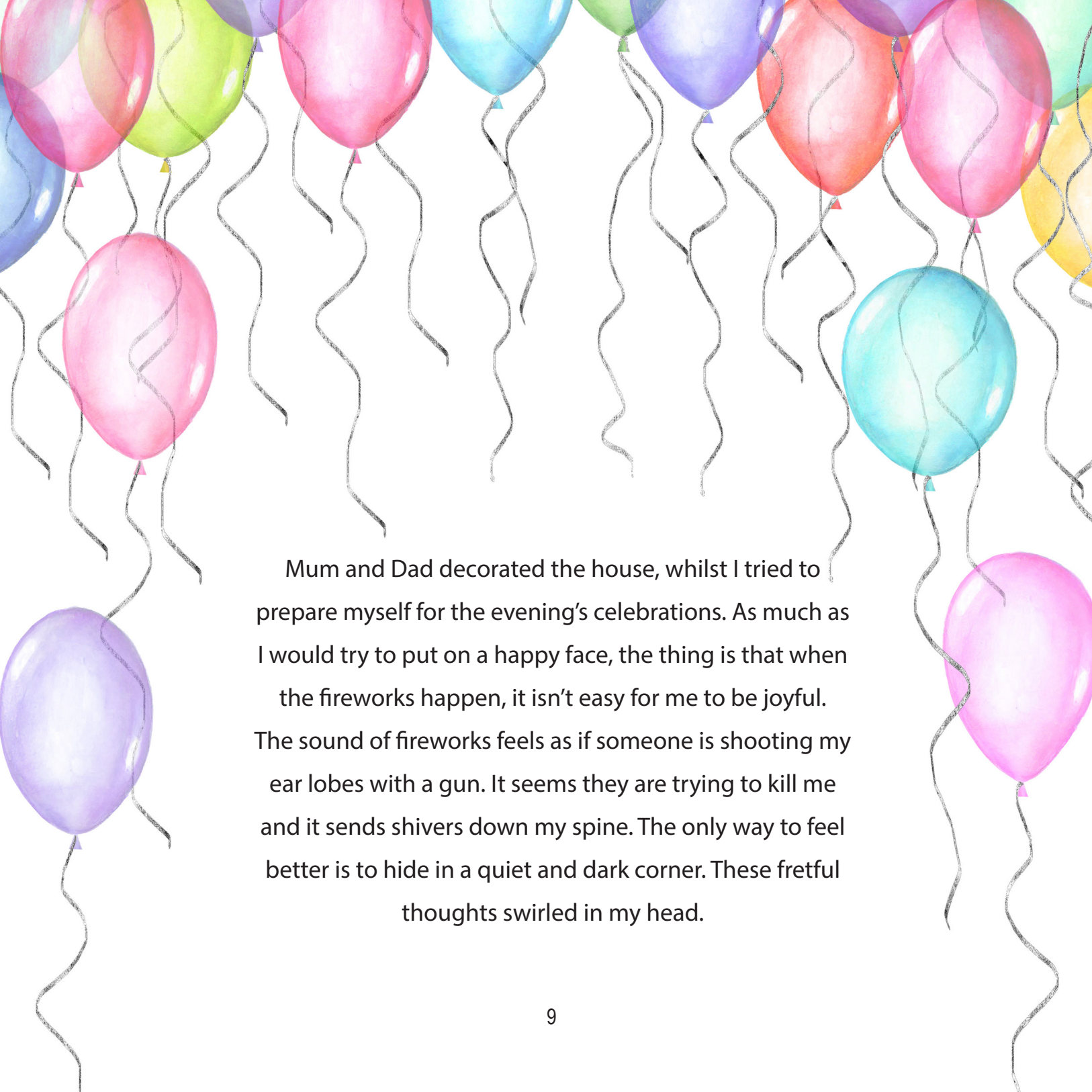
Maisie is my owner. She's like a sister to me and her birthday is on the 5th of November. As much as I love Maisie, I dread this day – Bonfire Night – when I hear nonstop loud bangs. With hope in my mind, I muttered, 'No fireworks, please!' and trusted that this wish would come true. I wanted to enjoy my sis's birthday and didn't want to ruin her big day. As she called me lovingly, I leapt out of my bed and jumped onto hers to cuddle her and wish her a happy-happy birthday with a doggie kiss.





It was a Wednesday, so Maisie still had to go to school. Excitedly, Mum, Dad and I went to drop her off. It was a frosty and bitter morning, with the grass underneath my paws crunching as I darted off in the park. I sniffed among the sleet-covered ivy and shrieked when the freezing cold pinched my nose. I enjoyed my morning walk under the crisp and cold sun.





Mum and Dad decorated the house, whilst I tried to prepare myself for the evening's celebrations. As much as I would try to put on a happy face, the thing is that when the fireworks happen, it isn't easy for me to be joyful. The sound of fireworks feels as if someone is shooting my ear lobes with a gun. It seems they are trying to kill me and it sends shivers down my spine. The only way to feel better is to hide in a quiet and dark corner. These fretful thoughts swirled in my head.



As the day went on, I stayed on my grey,  
fleecy bed, lost in my thoughts.



## Ding dong!

Finally, I heard the doorbell ring and there she was! Maisie entered, with her hands full of presents from her friends. She sat down on the sofa, and I jumped into her lap straight away, licked her face and waited for her to give me just as much excitement as I was giving her.

'Yes, yes, calm down, Barney! I'm here!' she chuckled.



As we opened her presents, I heard a loud bang outside. It was a firework. I started to pant and shiver like the cowardly creature that I was. I tried to regain control; it was worrying me. 'Breathe!' I said to myself. Maisie calmed me down by stroking me, but I was shaking like a leaf in a storm. I was stressed. I knew I wouldn't be able to cope. So, as soon as Maisie finished opening her presents, I rushed upstairs and hid under her bed, trying to soothe myself. I wanted to be prepared for tonight and be brave. Despite the crescendo of sound from the continuous fireworks, I was still determined to make it the best day for Maisie, as she was the best sister I could ever ask for.






I was getting ready to  
come out when I saw  
Mum walk into Maisie's  
room.

'Mum, this really isn't good. I understand that it's a Bonfire Night, but why can't everyone set off their fireworks at the same time? It would be such a relief for Barney, and other dogs like him!' Maisie's voice reflected her irritation and frustration.

'I know, sweetheart, it's so annoying. You know, we have started a petition to have fireworks set off at a fixed time. Hopefully, we should receive the response in the mail before 5pm today.'

I was so touched, to know how much they cared about me and that they wanted this trauma to stop just as much as I did. I knew that my family was trying their hardest, so today I was going to be brave and make sure Maisie had the most wonderful birthday! I got out of the bed, and Maisie greeted me with a big warm hug and a kiss on my fluffy head. I was happy.





Everyone was getting ready to go out to the pub for dinner when another firework went off. As much as I wanted to run and go somewhere where the sounds that were tormenting me would stop, I managed to stand calmly pretending it had not affected me at all.

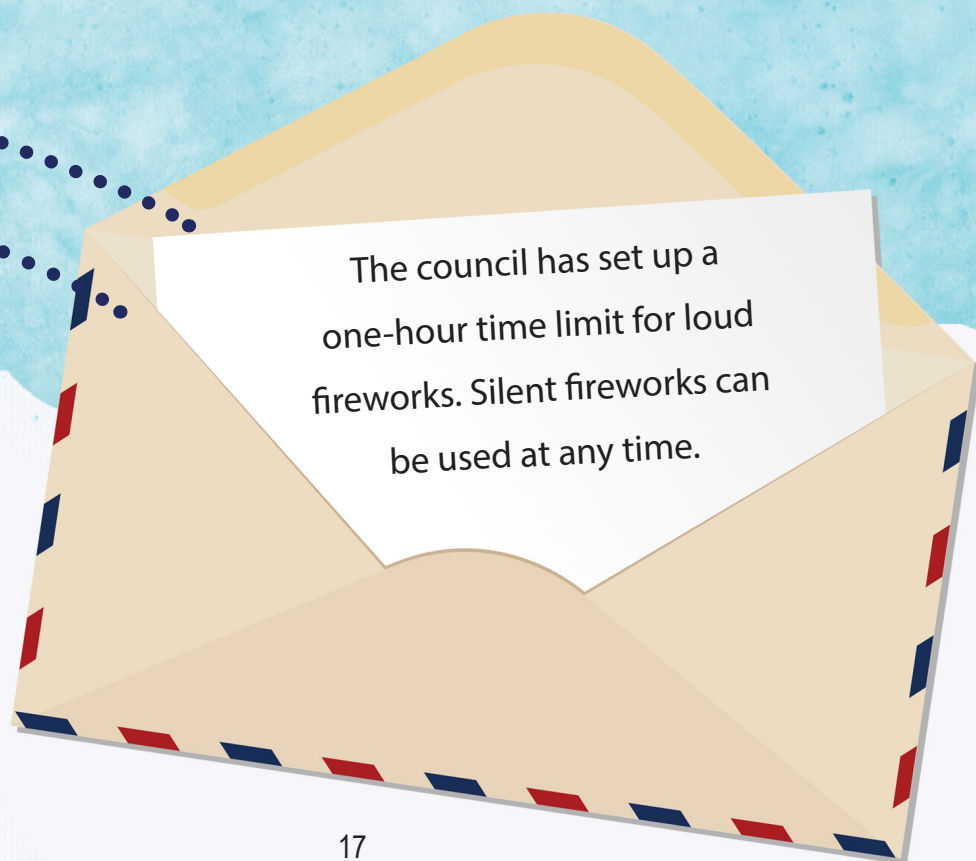


We got in the car, and I sat in the back with Maisie, looking out of the window at the jet-black sky with its stars that were like tiny specks of white diamonds. Just as we were about to drive away, the postman handed a brown envelope to Mum. I heard Mum say, 'Congratulations darling!'

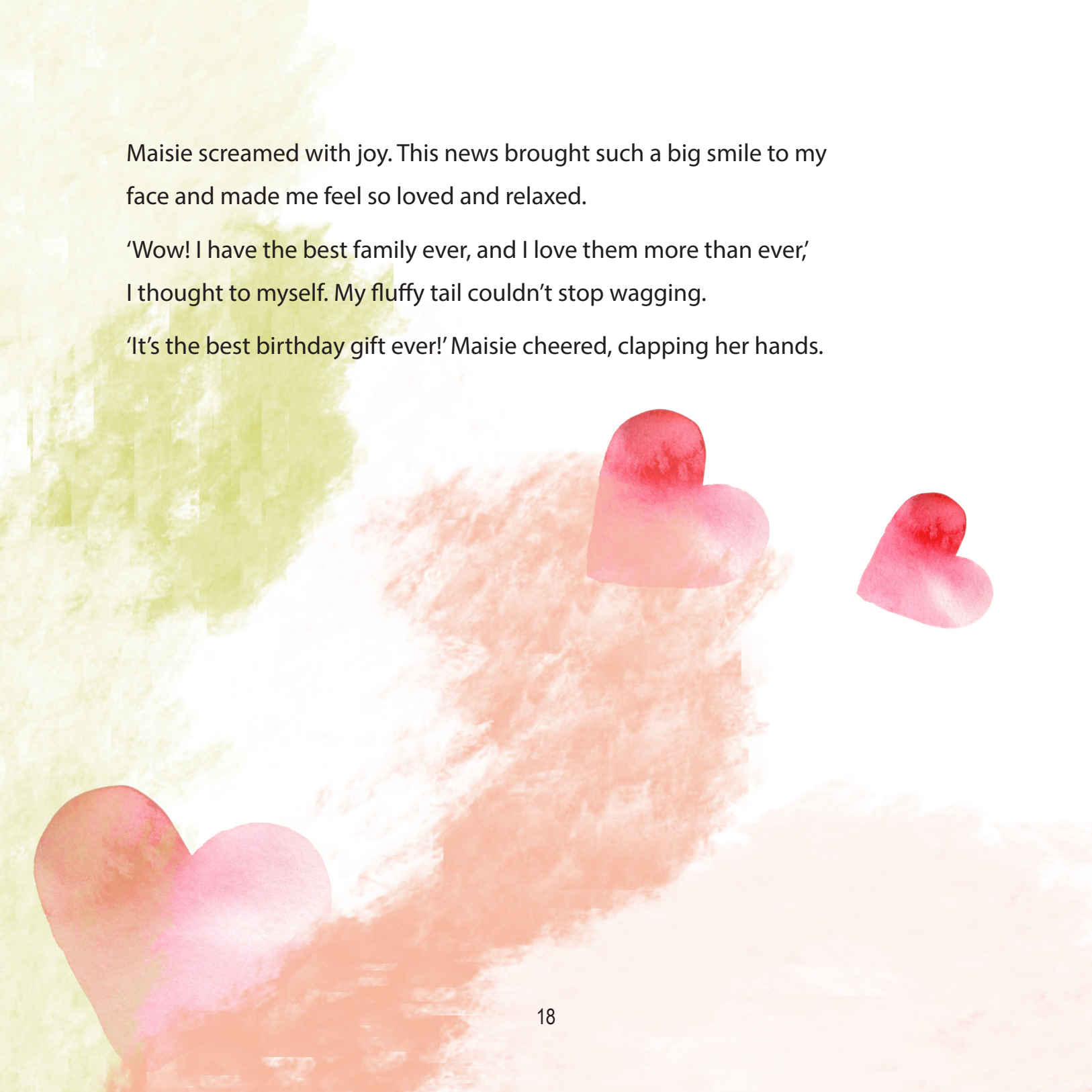




# Congratulations



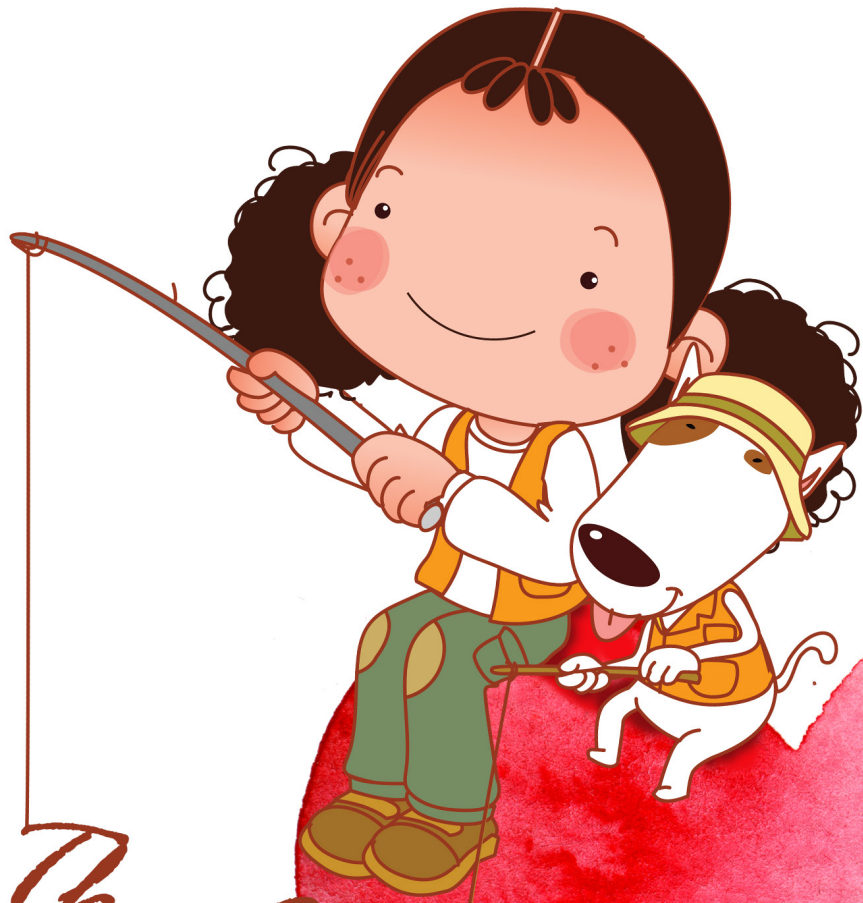
The council has set up a one-hour time limit for loud fireworks. Silent fireworks can be used at any time.



Maisie screamed with joy. This news brought such a big smile to my face and made me feel so loved and relaxed.

'Wow! I have the best family ever, and I love them more than ever,' I thought to myself. My fluffy tail couldn't stop wagging.

'It's the best birthday gift ever!' Maisie cheered, clapping her hands.



*The End*



## BRIGHT YOUNG MINDS SQUAD AUTHOR IN ME

The changemakers, the empowered young generation who are aware of the issues surrounding them and are determined to voice their opinions, we turn their stories into books and help them share their voices globally. These are young authors with diverse voices, fresh perspectives and resolute beliefs. They are using their writing talent to raise funds for a cause and support charitable organisations. These future leaders, healers, innovators, and policymakers have chosen storytelling, a powerful medium, to express their thoughts and create a brighter future for themselves and humanity.

### 12 YEAR OLD AANYA ARORA IS RAISING FUNDS FOR STOKENCHURCH DOG RESCUE.

Aanya is a member of our BRIGHT YOUNG MINDS SQUAD, and we are super proud of her. Bright Young Minds is dedicated to all those children who did not let their age deter them from their commitment to help make a difference. All proceeds from the sale of this book will pass to the Stokenchurch dog rescue. By purchasing this book, you have helped Aanya come one step closer to her dream of helping her furry friends.

We wish to thank you for your generous help in making the world a better place.

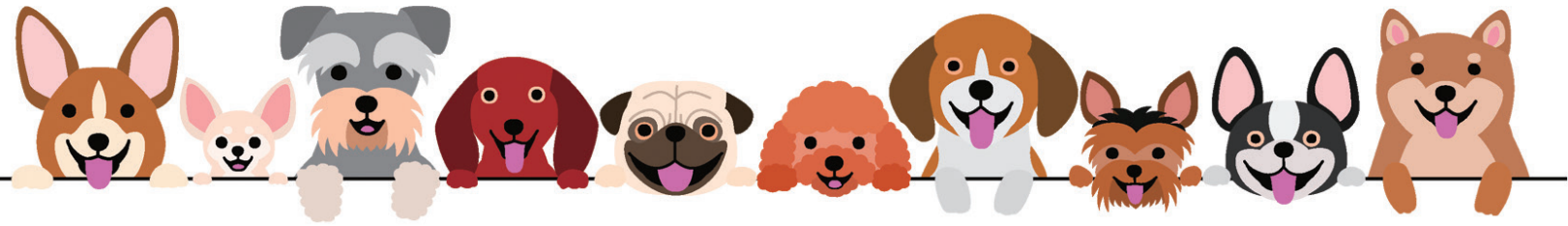


Aanya says...

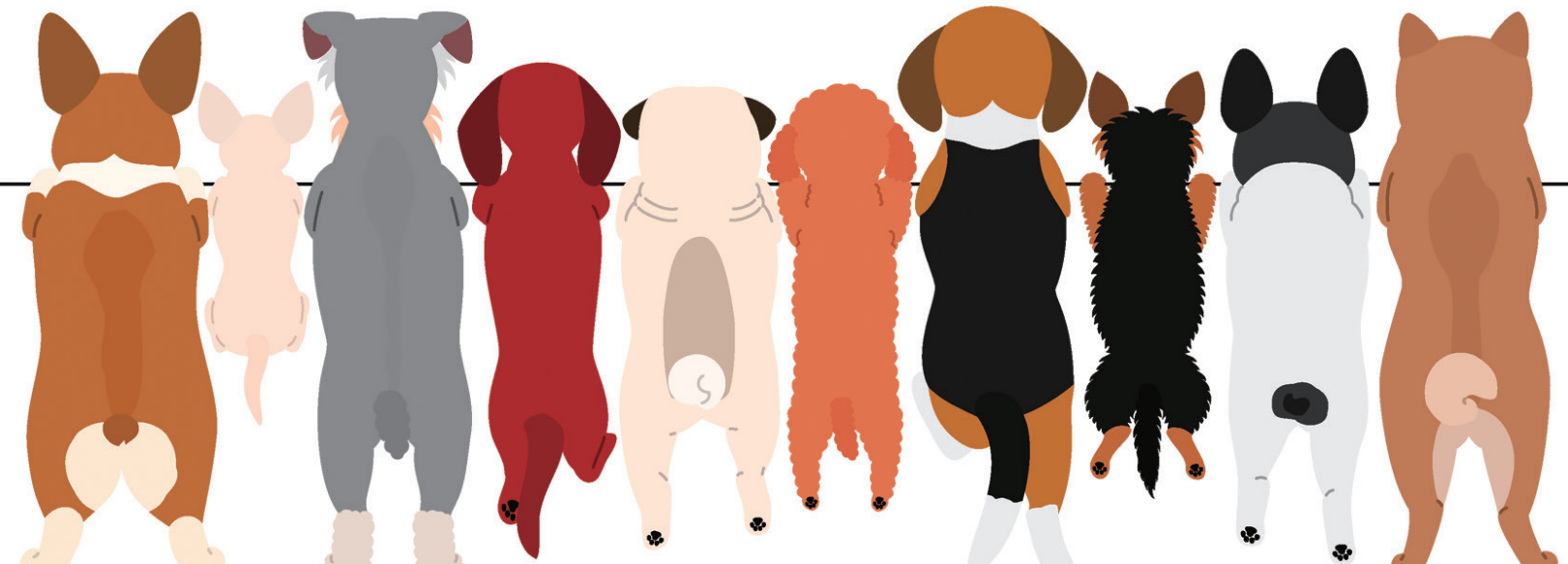
Hello, I have written this book to spread awareness on how fireworks can affect dogs and their well-being. I am supporting RSPCA's mission to restrict unplanned fireworks. This is just one of the changes I am calling for.

This story has emerged from my personal experience. I have a dog called Barney, who is terribly scared of fireworks. He will not go on walks if he hears fireworks. It is difficult to see him struggle as he would not eat or drink properly and sit in a corner for hours. From the sale of my book, I want to raise a minimum of £500 to support my local dog charity. Every penny can make a massive difference in these poor animals' lives. I aim to contribute positively to give our furry friends a happy, healthy life.

Aanya's page <https://aimstorylab.com/aanya-arora-1>



“Happiness is a warm puppy.” – Charles Shultz (cartoonist, Peanuts)





"Maisie's pup loves her so much that he wants her to have the best birthday celebrations ever. But the Bonfire Night fireworks threaten to spoil everything. What can they do?"

Author of 'No Fireworks, Please!', Aanya Arora, has a strong message: animals and noisy fireworks don't mix."

