

Fat Bear
and
FRIENDS
BOOK ONE

Stories designed for children to inspire emotional growth

HOW FAT BEAR GOT HIS NAME

By Deborah Kerridge



MAKE IT STORY TIME

BOOK STUDIO

Illustrated by: Joseph Milczarski

Deborah Kerridge,

January 30, 1953 - October 10, 2019

Her Life...

Debbie was an amazing woman. Born in England, she immigrated to Canada with her parents at 16. They left, she stayed to graduate with a Business degree from Western University and a CA. These she levered to have a varied and distinguished career as an accountant, auditor, project manager and Comptroller. Although never calling herself a feminist, she fought for and gained the admiration and respect of the male hierarchy in every one of her workplaces, sometimes against daunting odds. She was diagnosed with terminal lung cancer three and a half years ago and was told she had a year to live.

This was a cruel joke that the universe played on a healthy, fit non-smoker. She taught herself everything there was to know about cancer without having a medical degree and proceeded to use that knowledge to win the battle with her disease until it called in reinforcements.

She never let her condition interfere with living a full and joyful life. She continued to travel the world, cycle and race her sailboat until the day she could no longer stand up. She was a Renaissance woman, a consummate professional, world traveler, sailor, cyclist, quilter, skier, golfer, kayaker, author, step-mother, surrogate parent, friend and soul mate. She leaves behind a legion of friends who are deeply saddened by her loss. And the bears, who have gone quiet.

The world is a lesser place without her in it.



Deborah and the "Real" bears.
(Fat Bear, Friendly Bear and Paddy Paws)

MAKE IT STORY TIME

BOOK STUDIO

Make it Story Time Book Studio is all about helping kids learn and grow through stories. We design interactive children's books that inspire emotional growth, encourage innovative thinking, and stimulate creative storytelling. Stories are powerful tools for development, and all of our authors and educators are committed to creating books that help kids reach their full potential with your influence.

Make StoryTime Anytime.

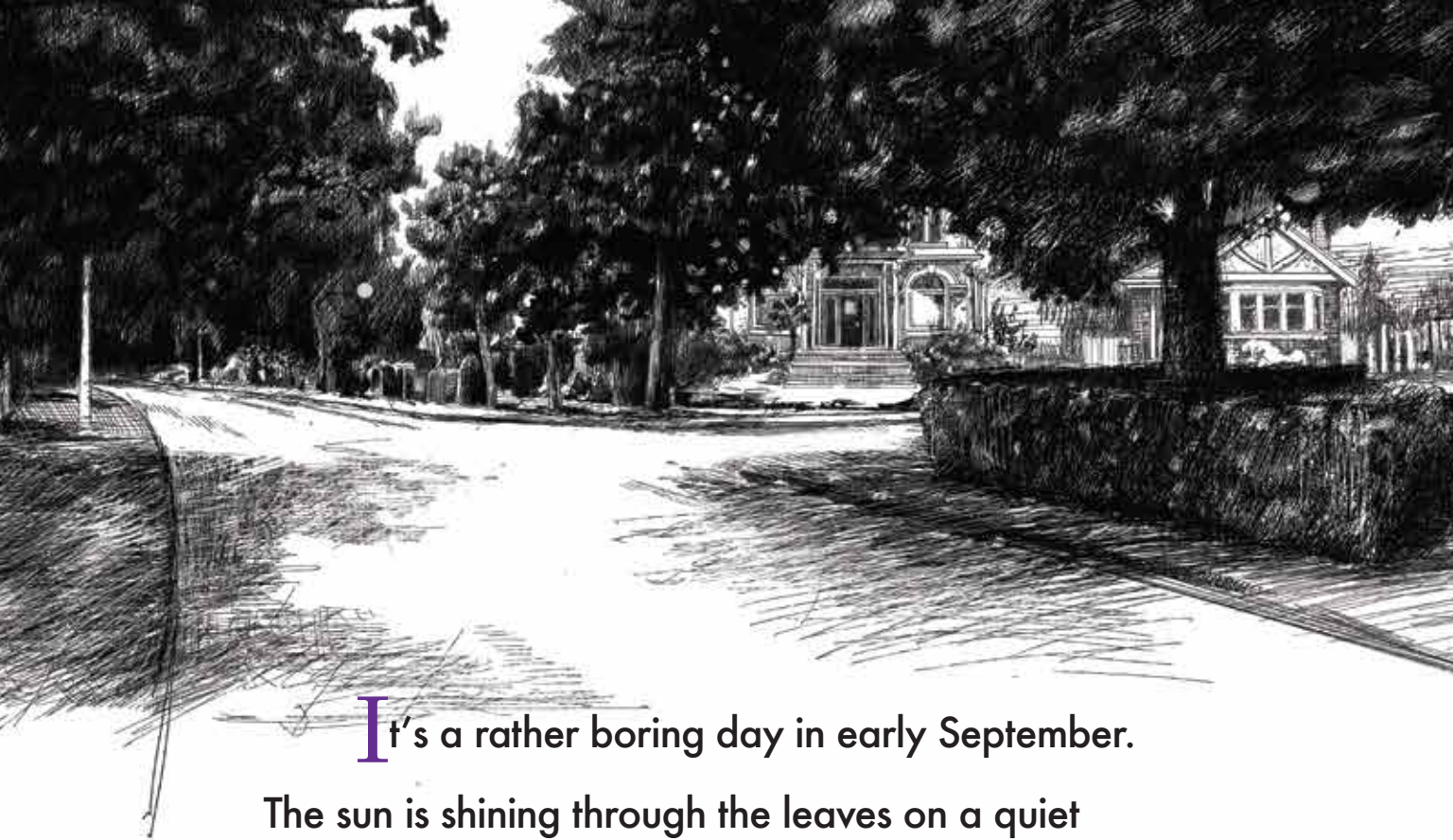


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It's a rather boring day in early September. The sun is shining through the leaves on a quiet street making shadow patterns dance on the pavement.

You can almost hear the old houses on either side of the street snoring as they sleep, waiting for the students return to school to wake them up.



It seems that not a thing is going on ...but ...wait, what is that noise I hear? There it is again, very faint but definitely a cry coming from the red brick house across the street. It does not sound like a child who has scraped their knee or a cat who has burnt its tail.



Should we walk on or shall we find out?
Yes let's go and investigate. It is a tumbled down
house with a rickety fence surrounding it.



We don't own this house or even know who lives there, but because this is a story we can go in. Up a broken flagstone path, through weeds and dandelions to an old brown front door.



It is clear that nobody is home. Downstairs the rooms are filled with dust and garbage left by students in their rush to go home again when school ended last May. For these are university students so there were no adults to tell them to “tidy up” or to “put their things away”.



Standing in the hallway the cry is coming from upstairs. Opening the door to the bedroom at the top of the stairs we find nothing except for lots of dustballs and a closet door. The muffled, snuffly, sobbing sound is coming from inside the closet.



Peeking around the door there is a very large teddy bear sitting on top of a pile of old magazines at the back of the closet. The teddy bear is crying. Now you may not know that teddy bears can cry. They don't have tears like children but they do have hearts and this teddy bear is very sad indeed.

He is a rather a
funny looking bear.
He has a big round fat
orange tummy with a button
for a belly button, an
orange muzzle, short stubby
chocolate brown legs and
arms that stick straight out on
either side, a black pompom
nose, black and white eyes
and a large red mouth.

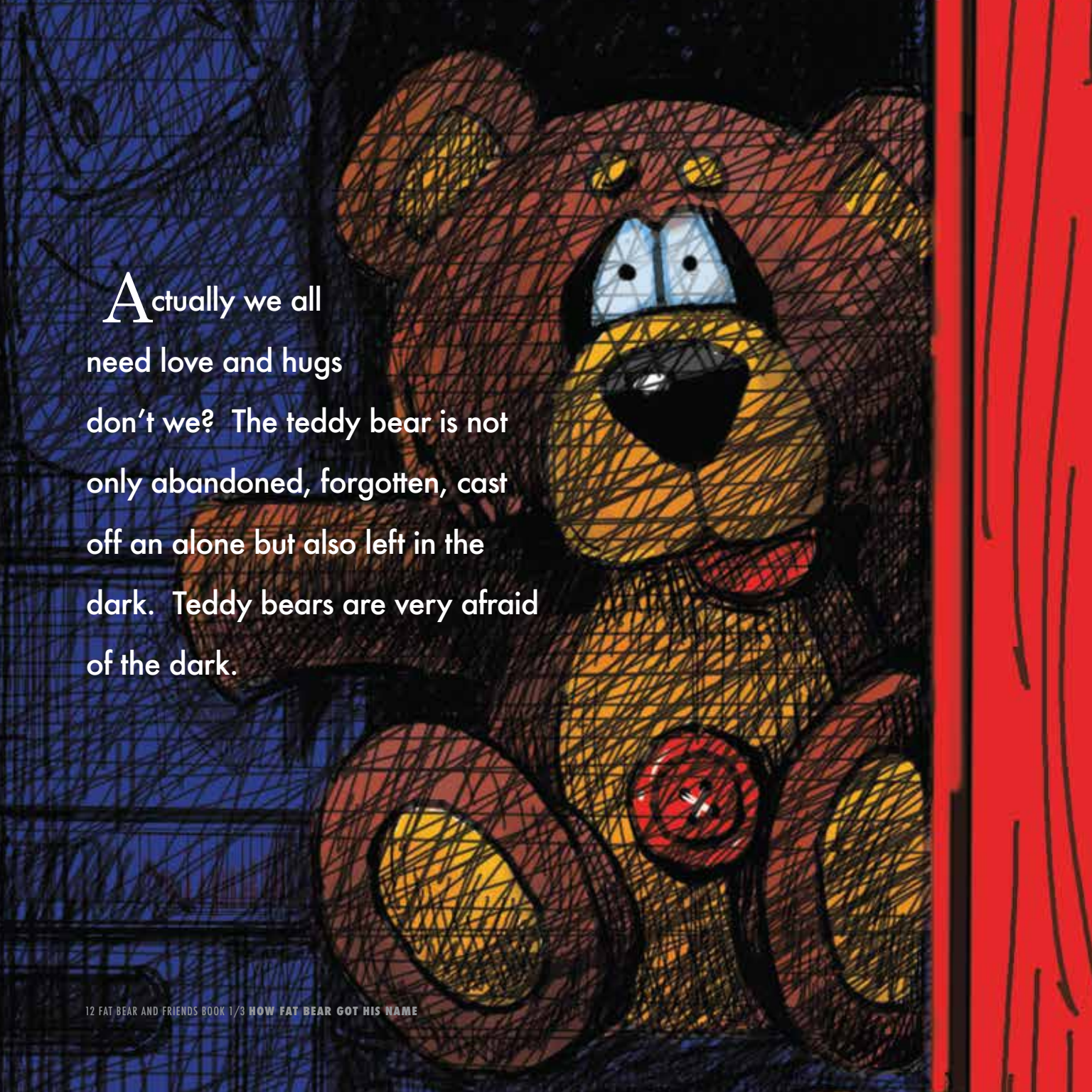


But his little heart is broken because he has been abandoned. He was left behind when school ended and everyone went home and he has been all alone in the closet for four whole months – May, June, July and August.



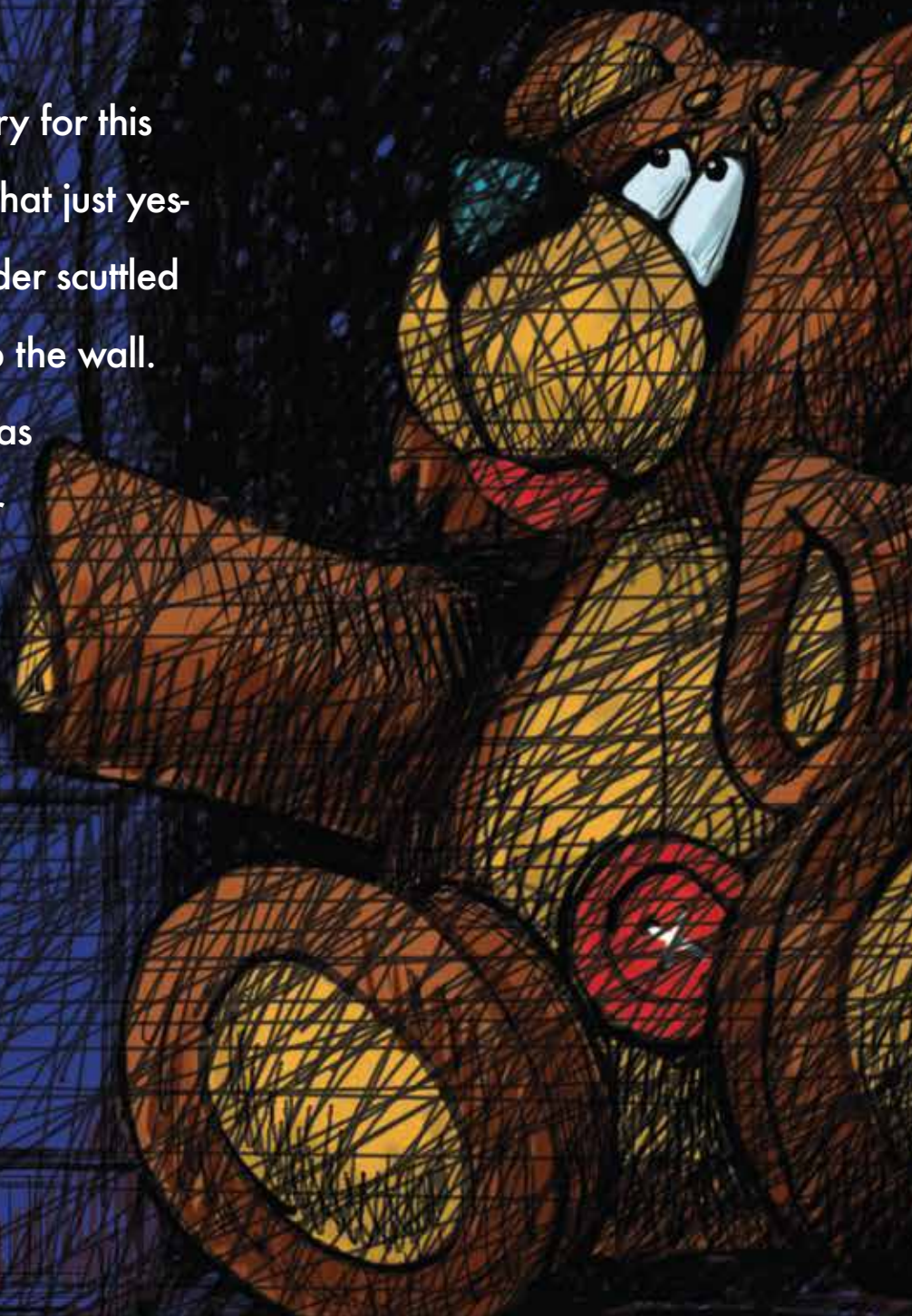
Not a cuddle, not a hug, not a word for all that time...all by himself. All teddy bears need love. They are made to give and receive love and hugs and cuddles and most of all to be needed.



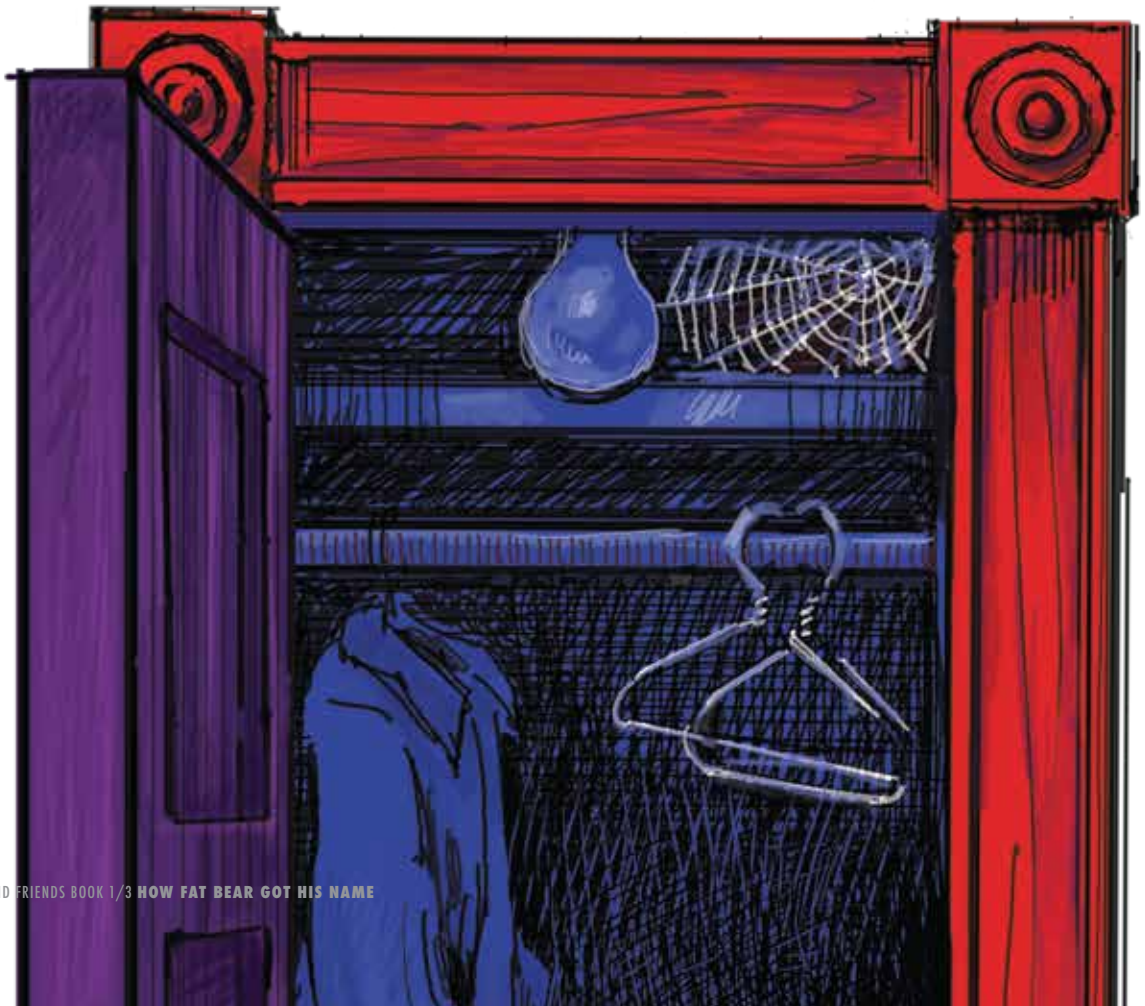


Actually we all
need love and hugs
don't we? The teddy bear is not
only abandoned, forgotten, cast
off an alone but also left in the
dark. Teddy bears are very afraid
of the dark.

Even more scary for this teddy bear is the fact that just yesterday a big black spider scuttled under the door and up the wall. For a day the spider has been so busy up in her corner spinning a web that she has not noticed that there is already a bear in the cupboard.

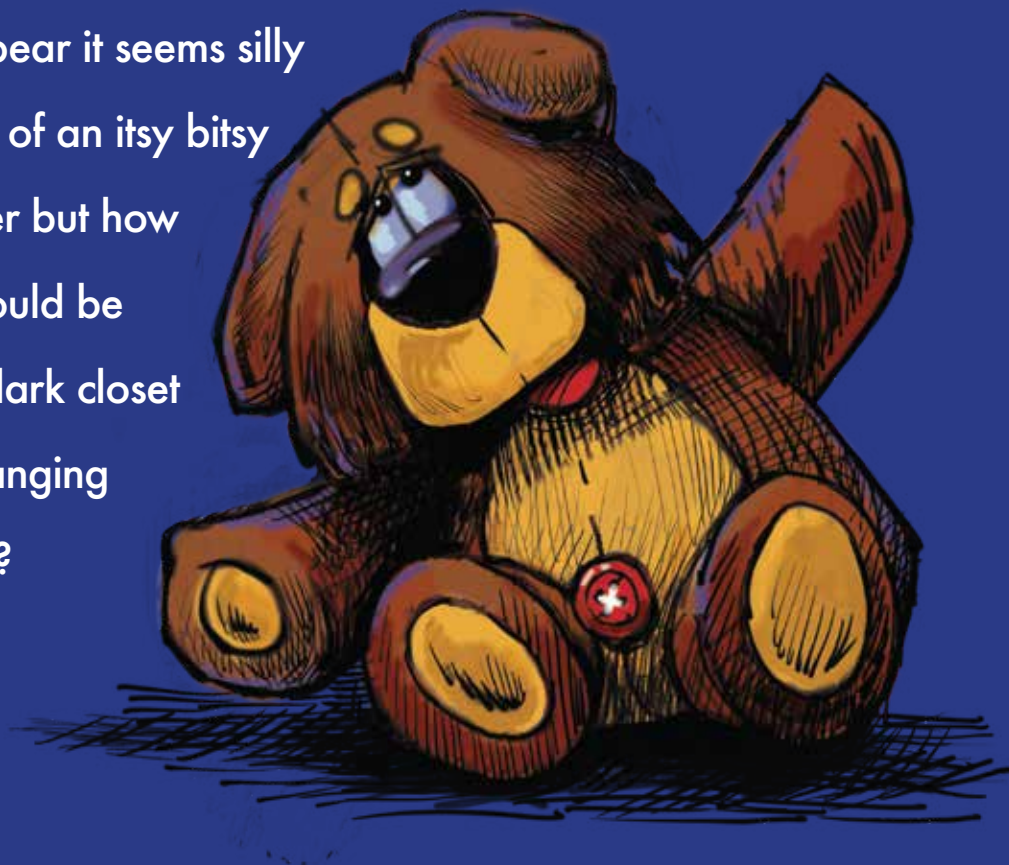


But now she has finished spinning and she is sitting in the middle of her web looking around.



Did you know that teddy bears
are terrified of spiders?

Spiders have eight legs and they
scuttle about. Looking at the large
size of this big bear it seems silly
that he is afraid of an itsy bitsy
teeny little spider but how
many of you would be
willing to sit in dark closet
with a spider hanging
over your head?





I hope you are feeling very sorry for this bear and hoping that things get better for him. A few days later and back inside the closet the teddy bear is still sitting sadly in the dark. He has stopped crying because you can't cry forever however sad you are. But his head has drooped down onto his tummy.

Did I mention that he also had two very large perky ears? Today he hears the opening and closing of doors and voices downstairs. The students have returned.

His hopes start to rise, maybe he won't be alone forever after all. To his joy the closet door opens.





Standing in the light, hanging up jeans and shirts is a young man – a student. He has long curly brown hair and two piercing bright blue eyes. But it seems he has not noticed or is not interested in teddy bears and sadly, the door is closed again.

He feels even sadder. His big brown and orange head drops further onto his tummy. What dejection! It is so hard to hope for something and have it not happen after all.



Since boy students are not very tidy the blue-eyed boy just throws his clothes in a heap when he comes home from classes without looking in the closet at all. This is very hard on the bear. To be so close to someone and still be alone. Have you ever felt like that? Hoping a friend will notice you or when you are left out of a game.



A whole month passes. The blue-eyed boy goes to classes every day where, unknown to the bear, he sits opposite a small blond haired girl. One day they both walk home in the same direction and start to talk.

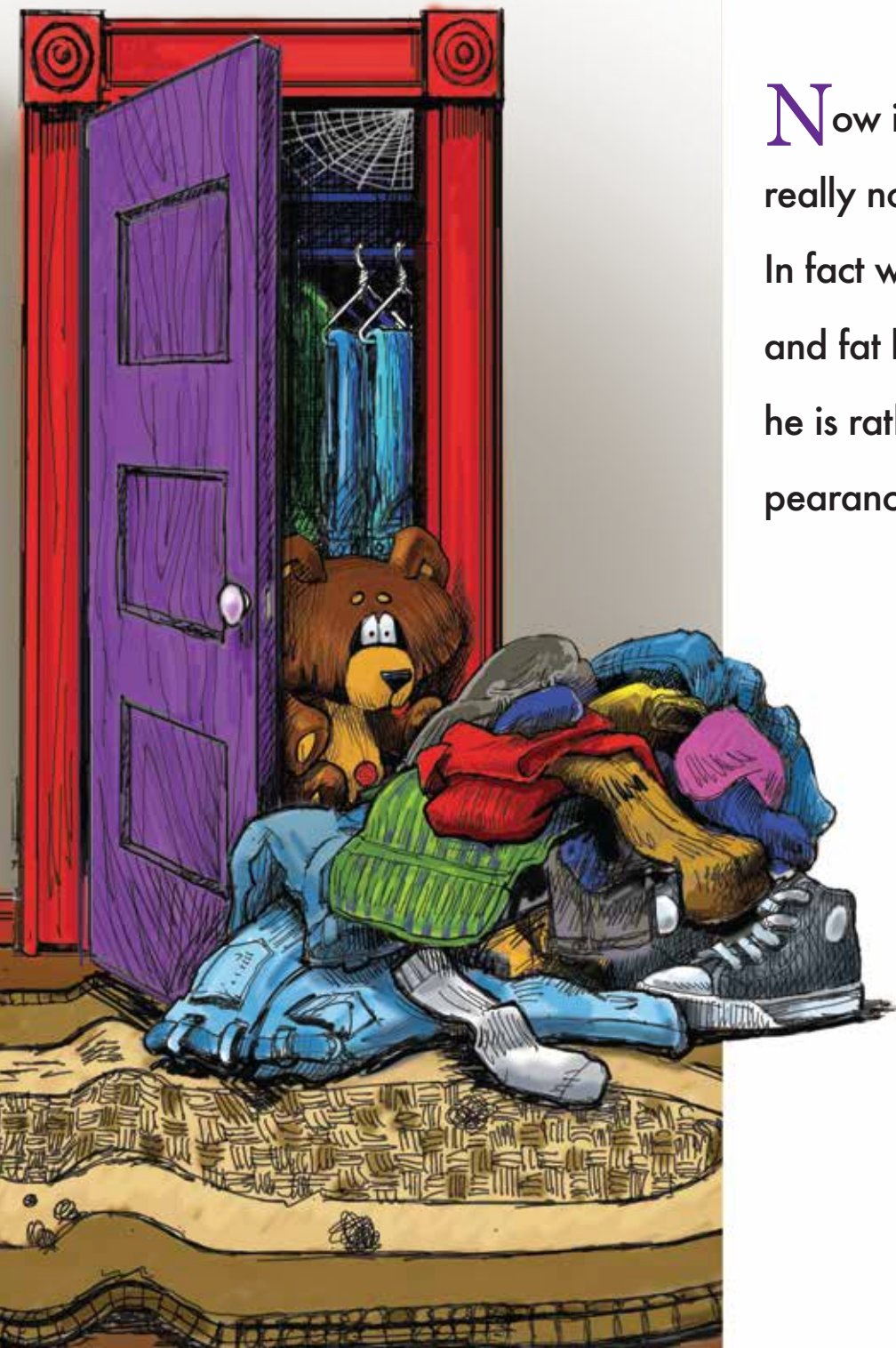


Another day they go to a football game together, another evening to a lecture. Eventually the blue-eyed boy asks the blond haired girl to his house.



Because boys often don't know what to say to girls he tells her that he has a teddy bear in his closet. So you see that he did notice the teddy bear after all.

It turns out this girl is very fond of teddy bears and so she goes straight up to the bedroom to see for herself.



Now in truth this bear is really not at all handsome. In fact with his snub nose and fat legs and staring eyes he is rather alarming in appearance.

But we know that love is never about how beautiful you are,
what you are wearing or what you own.

Love is how you feel when you are with somebody.

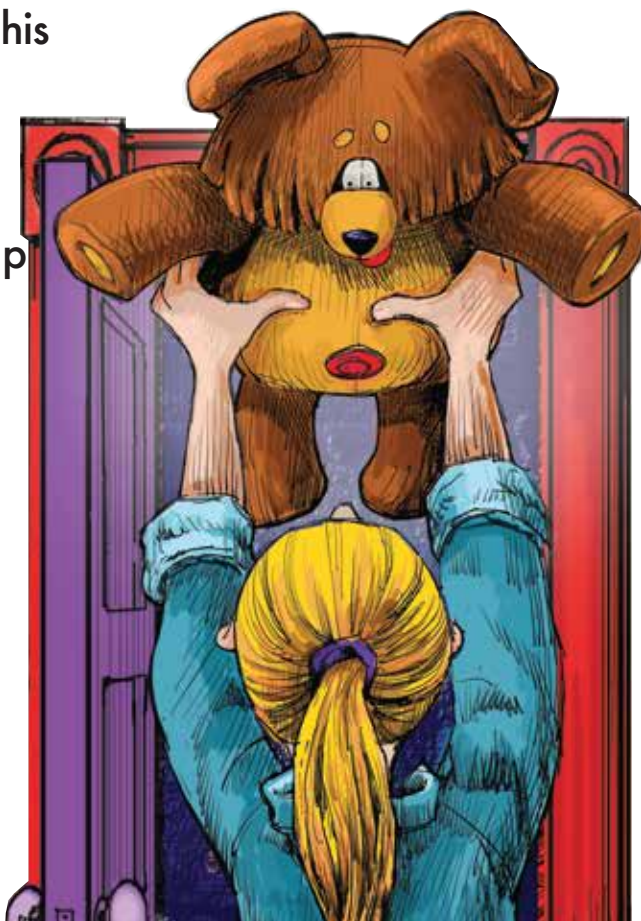
It is about kindness and sharing, caring and gentleness, trusting
and honesty.



This teddy bear has a loving heart that is just as big as his tummy.

The blond haired girl has a huge heart too so as soon as she sees the bear she knows what kind of bear he is as her heart can feel his special heart.

She stoops down, scoops him up into her arms and says
"Hello Fat Bear"



You might think that he would be upset to be called “Fat Bear” as that is not generally a nice thing to say. But as this bear is very soft and cuddly he knows it is a compliment. The best thing is that she doesn’t let him go.



She keeps him with her all evening and later she takes him home with her. Not only home, but that night he is cuddled tightly in bed.

It just shows that you never know what is just around the corner and how just when you think times are bad they so often turn into something good overnight.

Last month Fat Bear was a sad and lonely bear stuck in a dark cupboard no name and now he has a new life.

He snuggles under the covers and falls happily asleep.



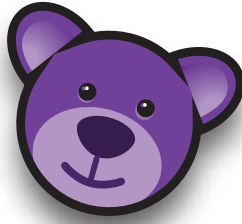
You see what you don't know is that the blond haired girl and the blue eyed boy started their own little family with Fat Bear.

And that's how the Adventures of Fat Bear and Friends begins...

THE END

NO, WAIT, **FAT BEAR FINDS A FRIEND** IN BOOK TWO





PROMPT

**WHAT WILL YOUR
CHILD SHARE?**

EMOTIONAL SHARING PROMPT'S TO ENGAGE DIALOGUE WITH YOUR CHILD

*Take an interactive journey with your child to
explore Fat Bear's emotions together.
You can talk about what Fat Bear was feeling in Book
One.*



Stories designed for children to inspire emotional growth.

Thank You, for taking part in this first preview of
“How Fat Bear Got His Name”

Book One in the of Fat Bear and Friends Series

Your in-put is valuable to us, please share your experience and thoughts with us so we can make this series a real tool for parents to start a dialog about what Fat Bear is feeling.

SO MAKE IT STORY TIME Anytime and please share this.

