

Johnny the Walrus

By MATT
Walsh



ILLUSTRATIONS BY
K. Reece





Johnny's
a boy with



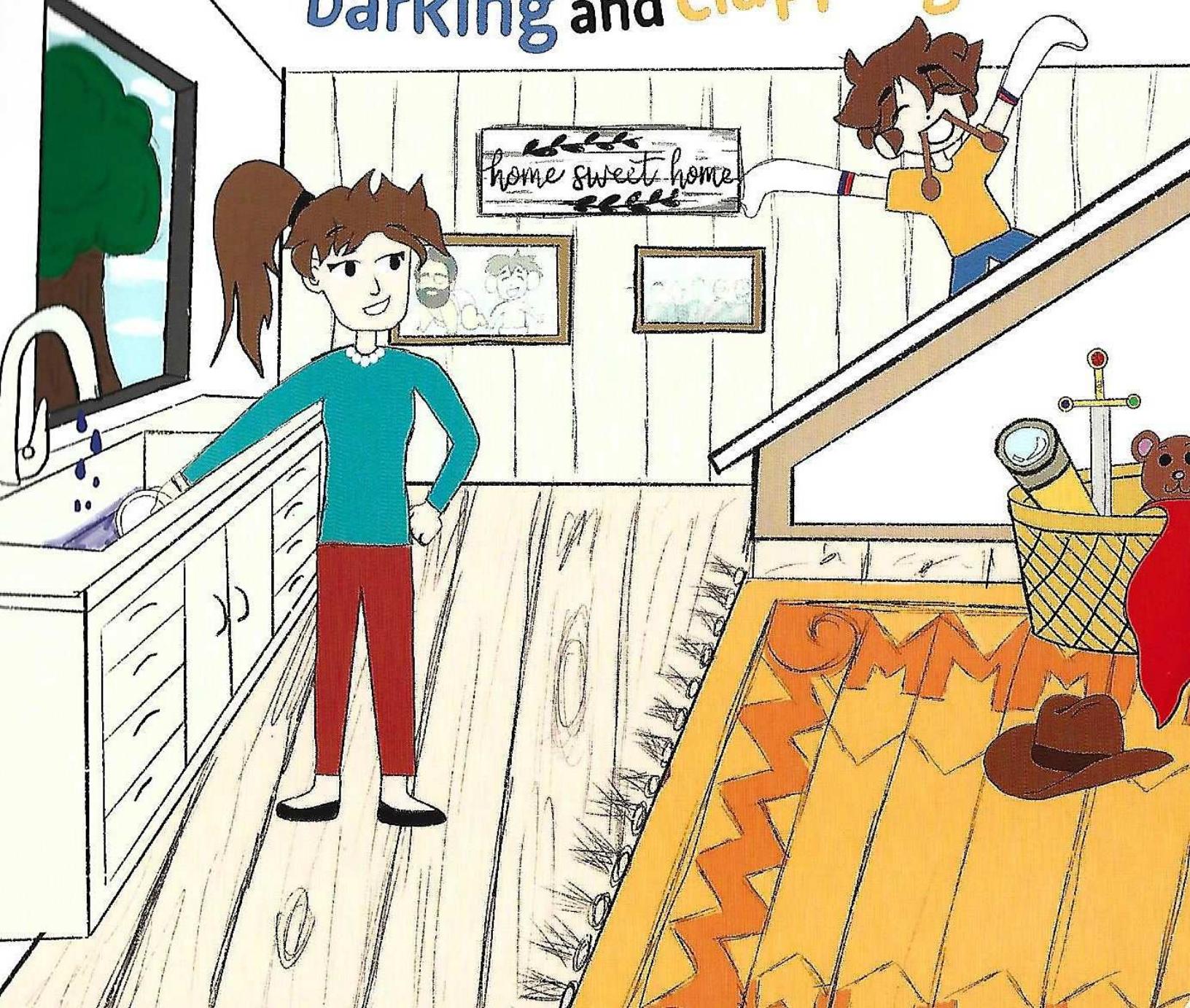
a **big**
imagination

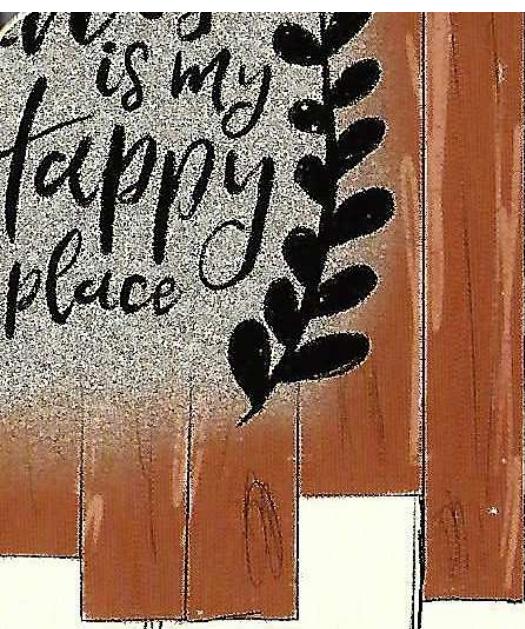


One day he's
a dog

the next day a
crustacean

One morning he came downstairs
barking and clapping





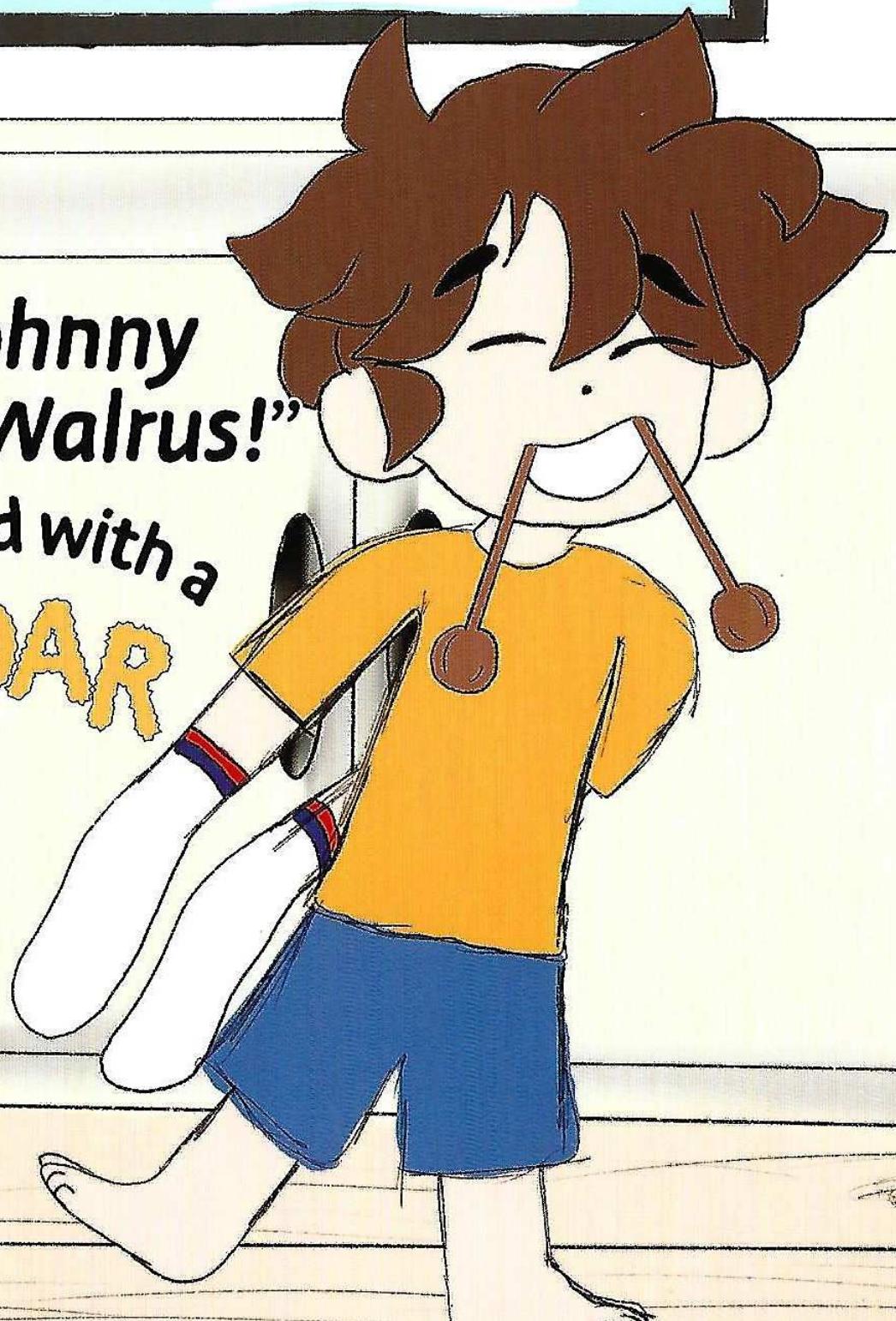
is my
happy
place

Wood spoons
for tusks
and sock fins
a-flapping



**"I'm Johnny
the Walrus!"**

he said with a
ROAR



“The wood floor’s my ocean

the carpet’s my shore!”



Johnny's mom
loves her son's
make-
believe
time

“You’re
Johnny
the Walrus,
‘til you
change
your
mind!”



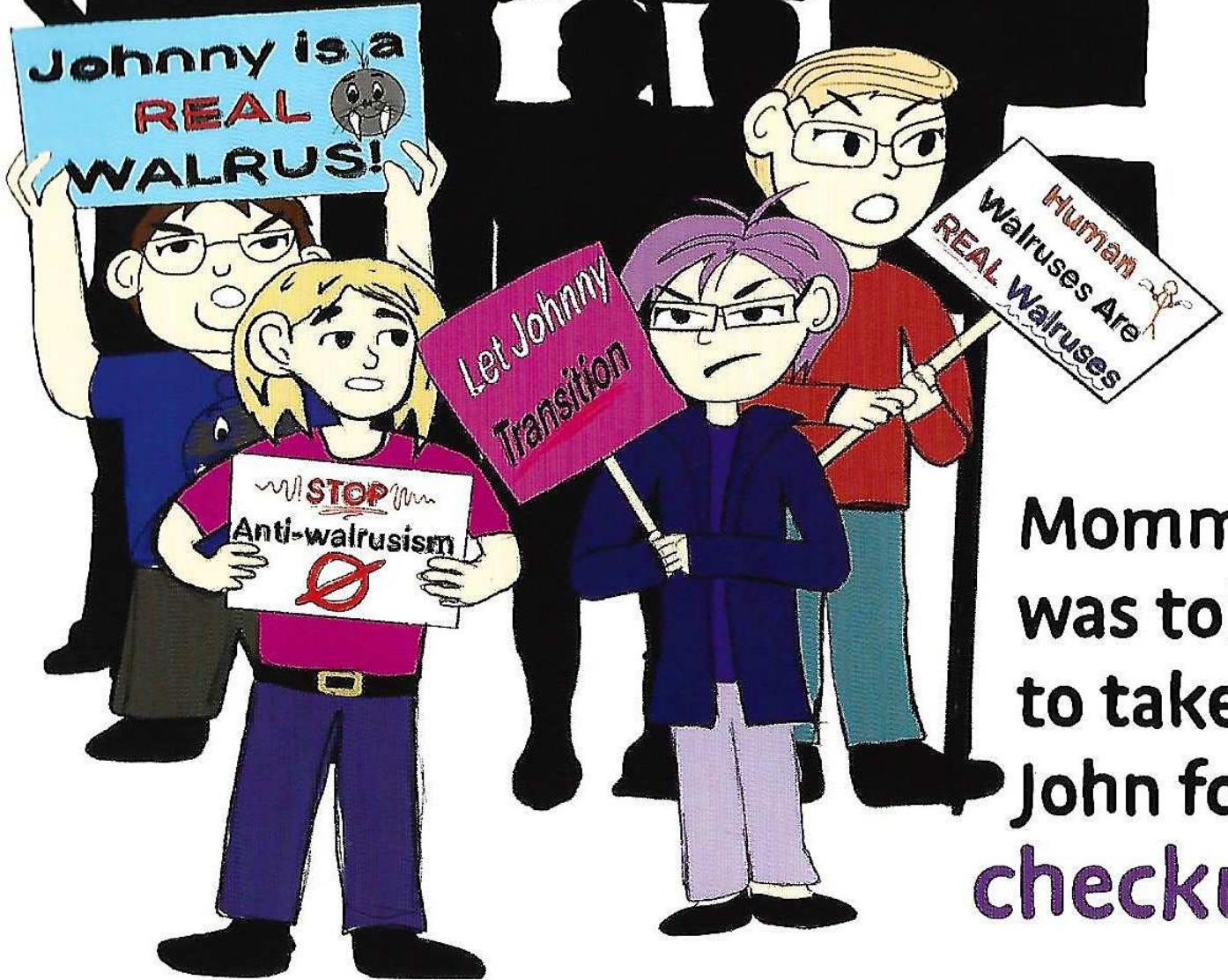
live laugh love



But
Johnny's
mom's
phone said
it's not just
pretend

“Only a
bigot
would say
that! How
dare you
offend!”

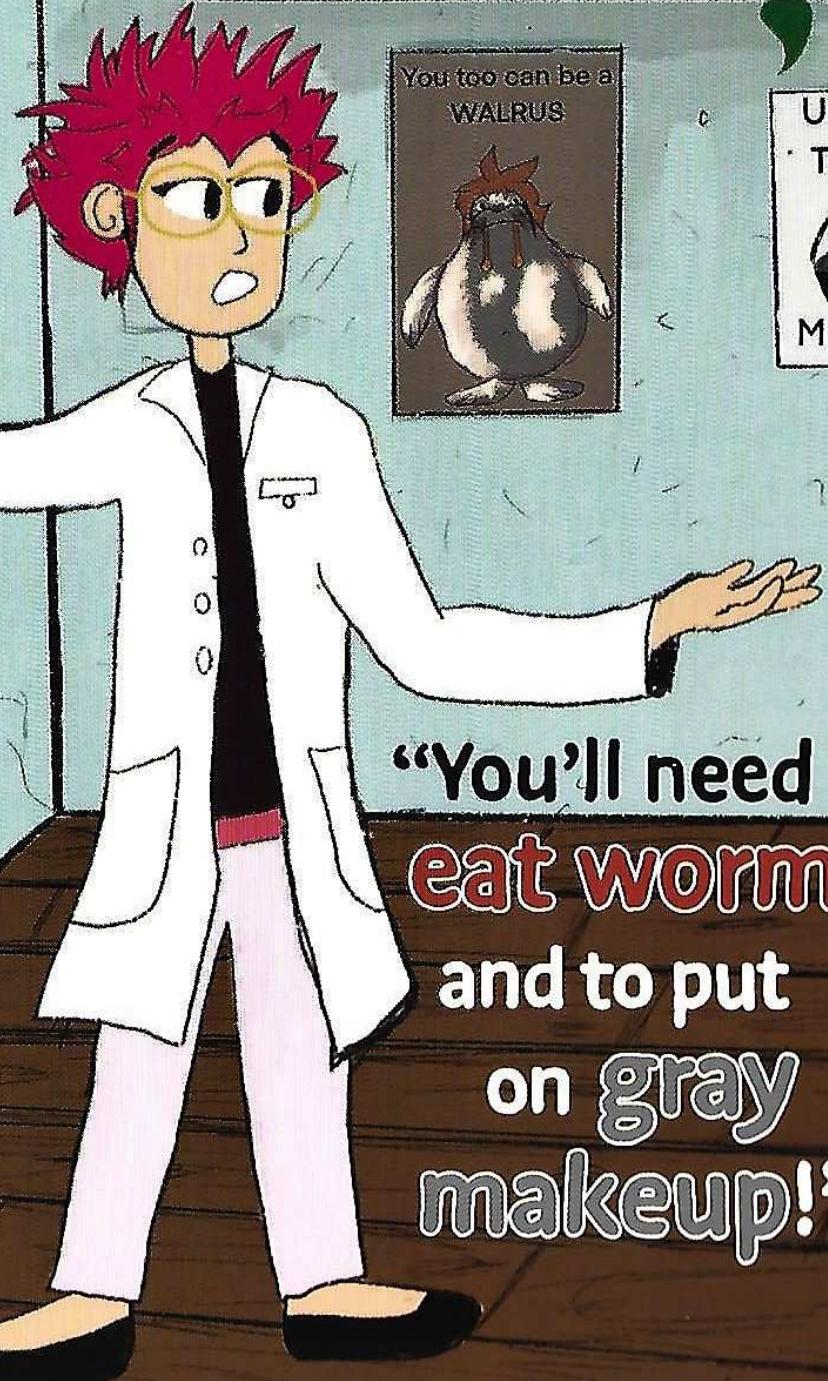




Mommy
was told
to take
John for a
checkup



worms



You too can be a
WALRUS



Use this
TODAY

Gray

Makeup

**"You'll need to
eat worms
and to put
on gray
makeup!"**

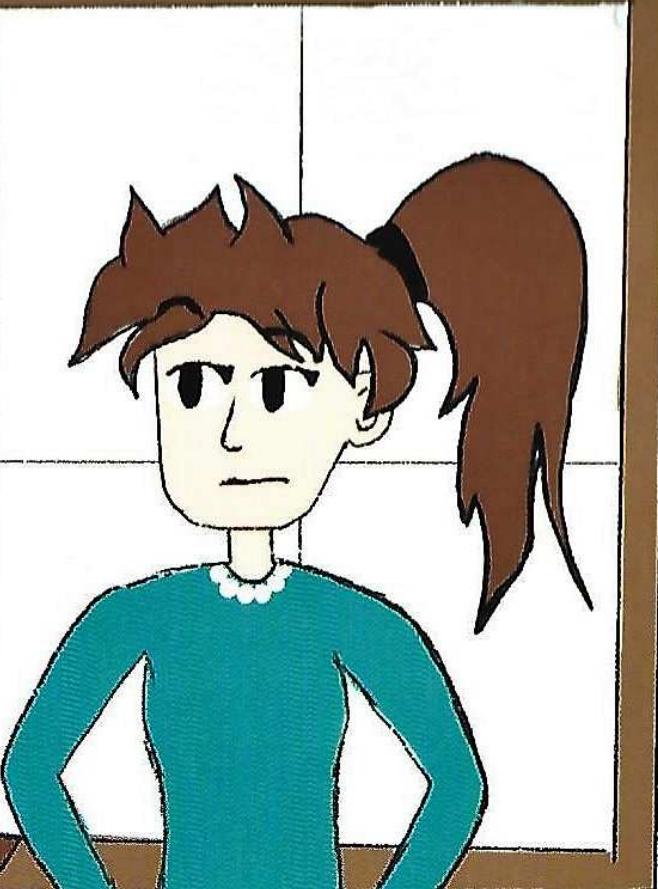
University of Doctoring

Woke Doctor

Book 1 page B

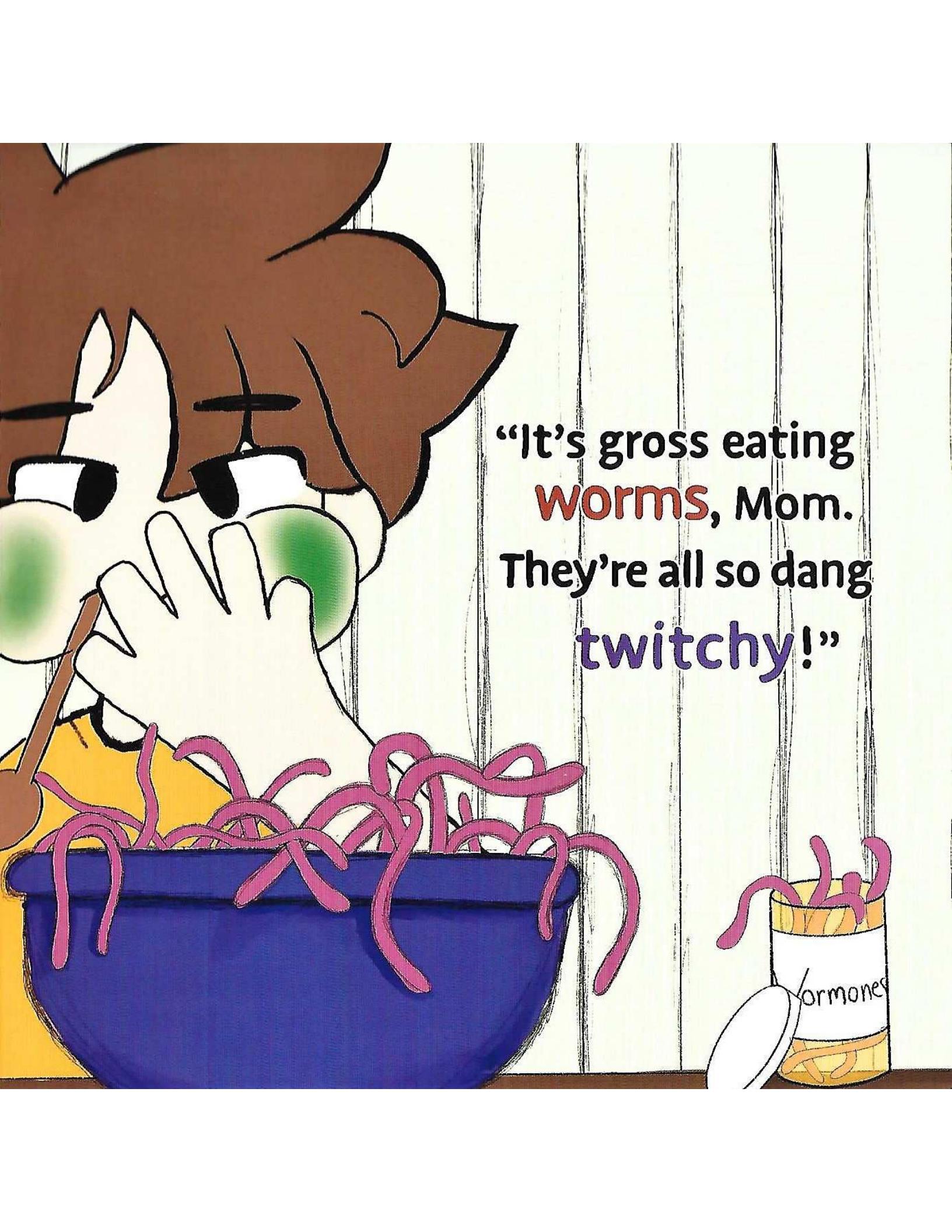
**"The worms
give you
whiskers.**

**The gray
blends
you in."**



*“And a
simple
procedure
cuts feet
into fins!”*





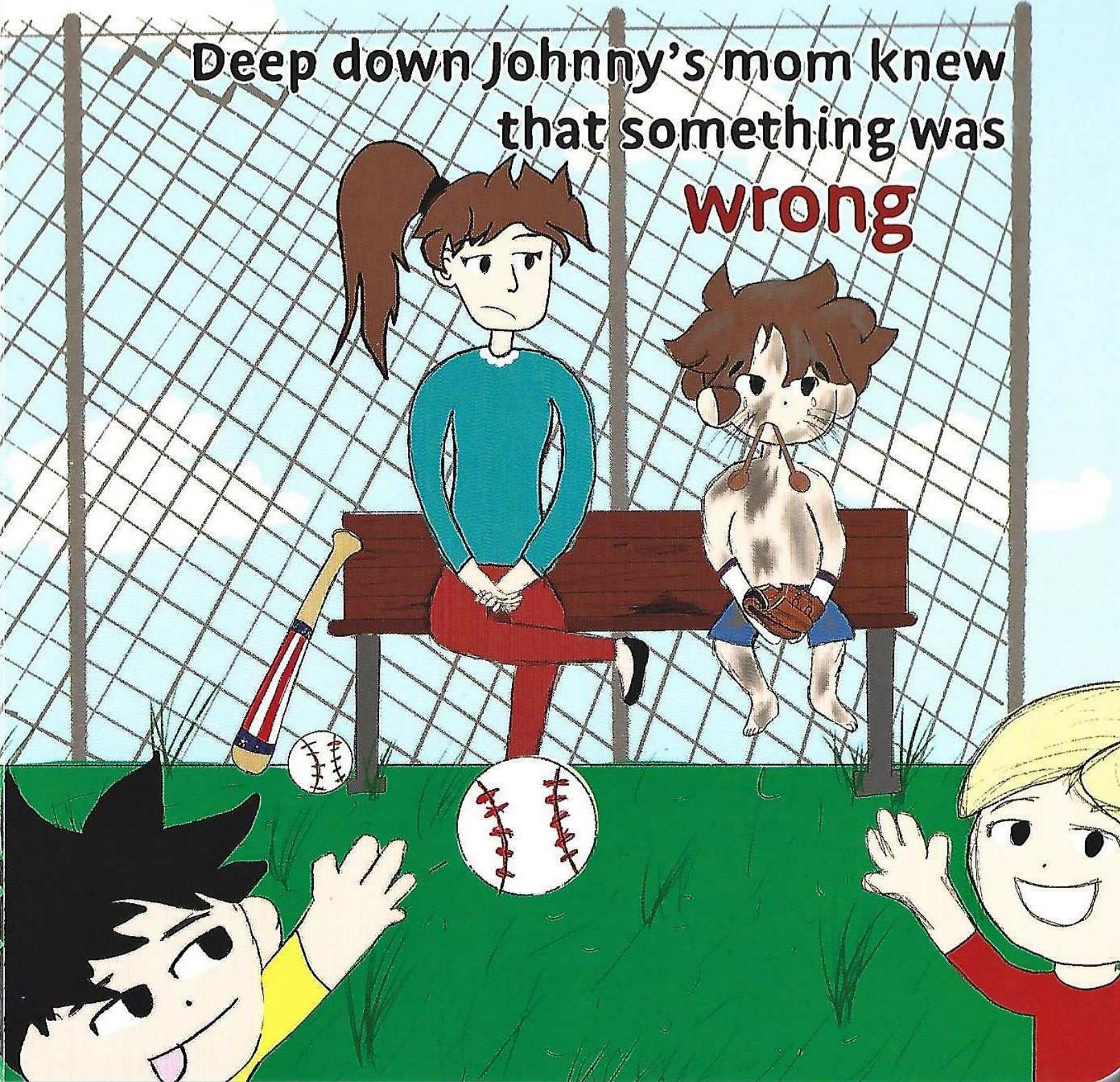
**“It’s gross eating
worms, Mom.
They’re all so dang
twitchy!”**

“Wood
spoons
kinda
hurt,

*and the
makeup
is
itchy.*



Deep down Johnny's mom knew
that something was
wrong



But she felt so much
pressure she just
went along



The
internet
people
knew just
what to do

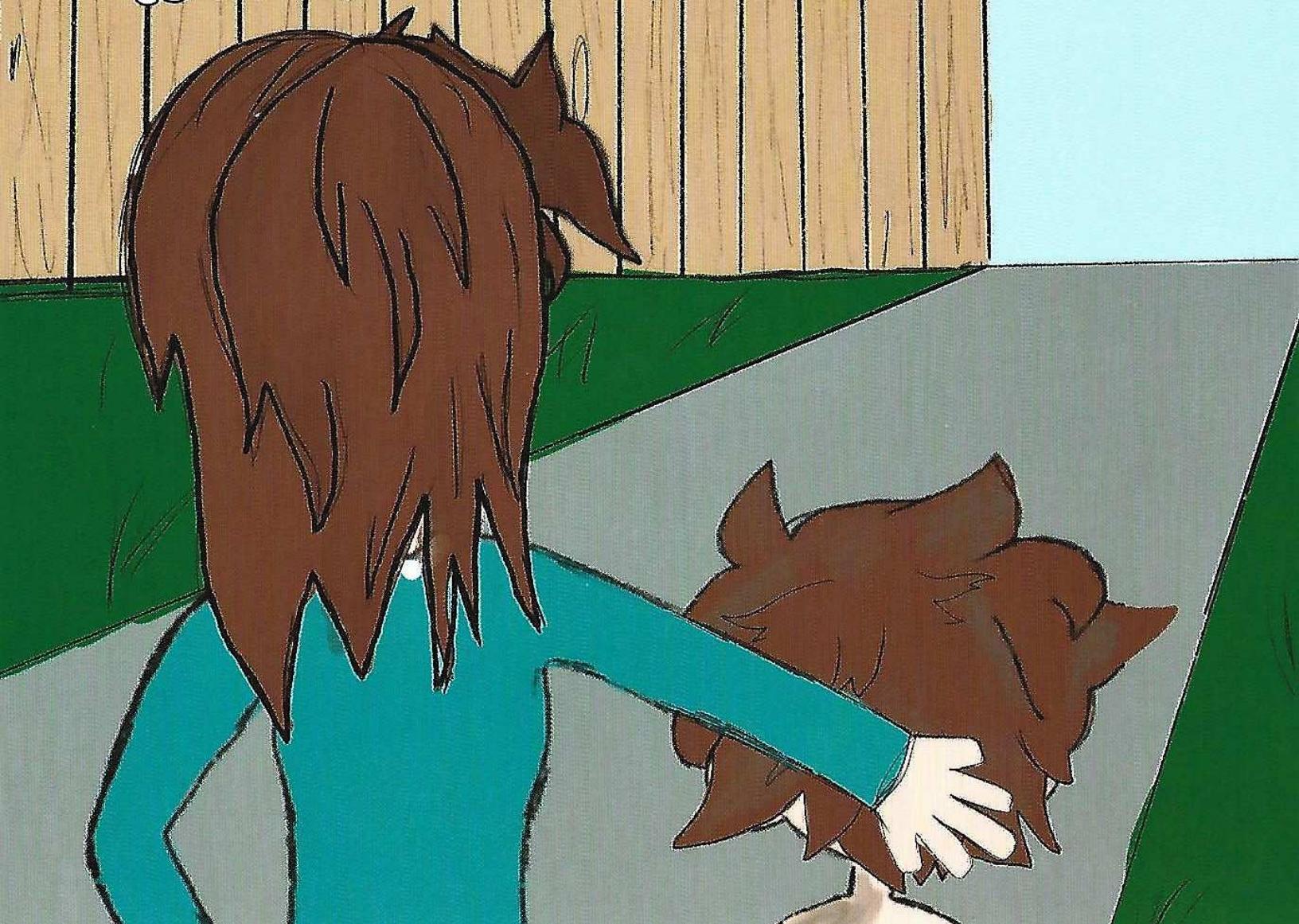


He/Him/Walrus

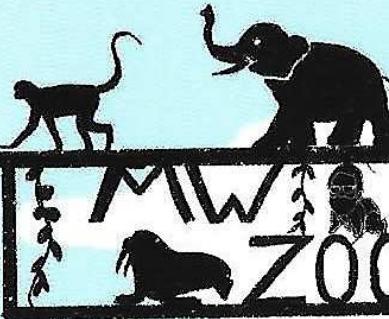


Literally
Walrusphobic

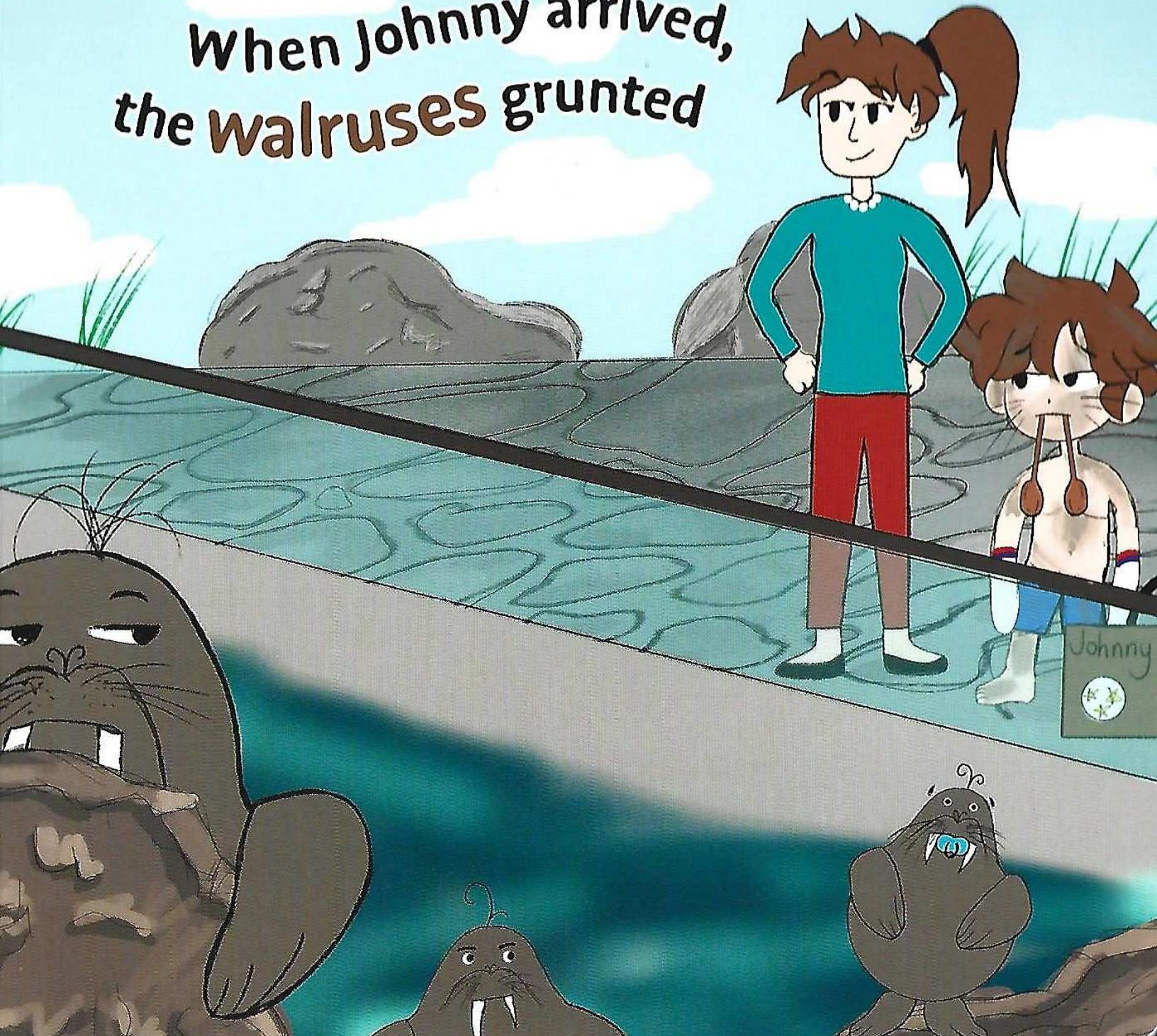


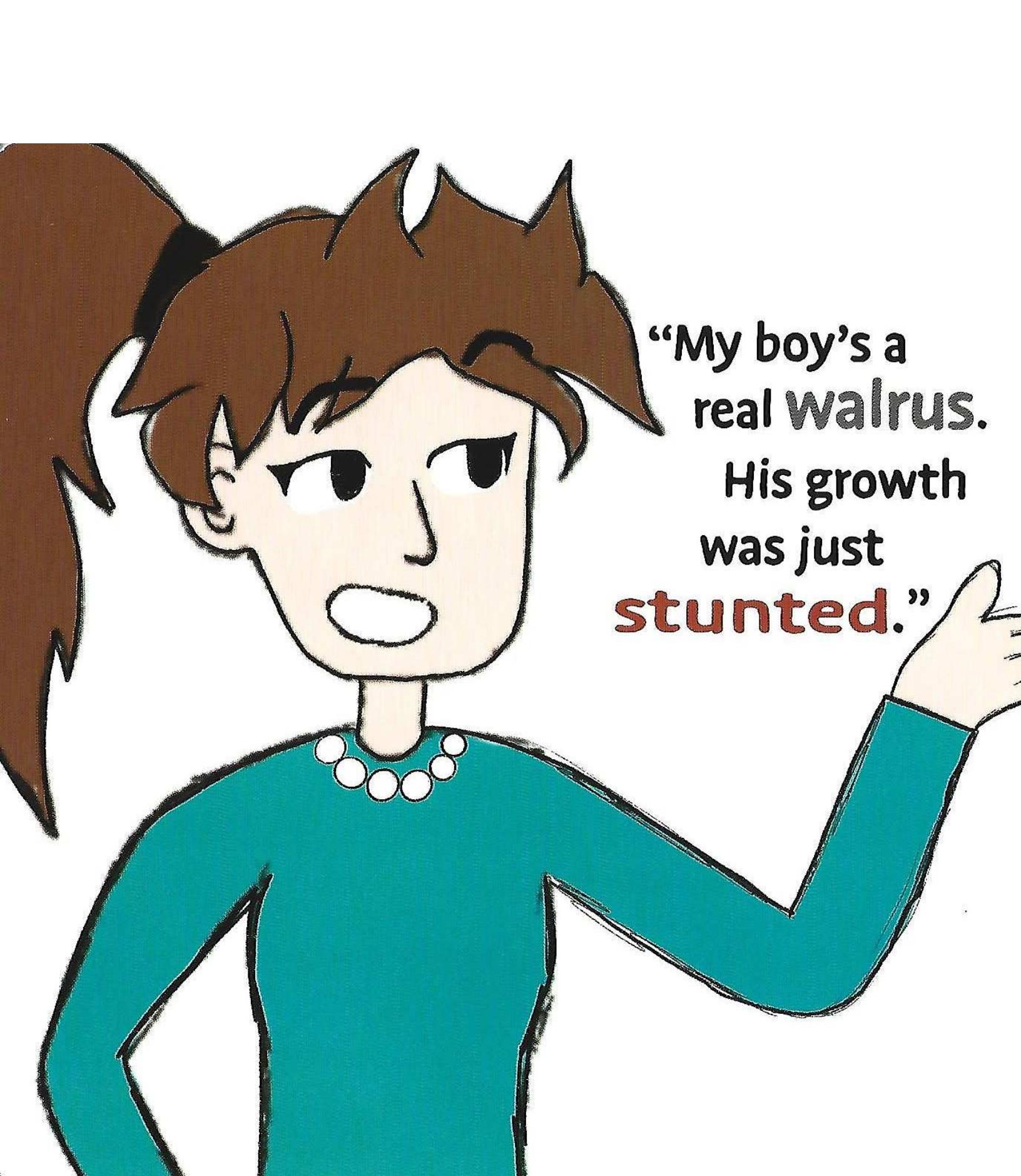


And mommy was told
to take John to the zoo



When Johnny arrived,
the walruses grunted

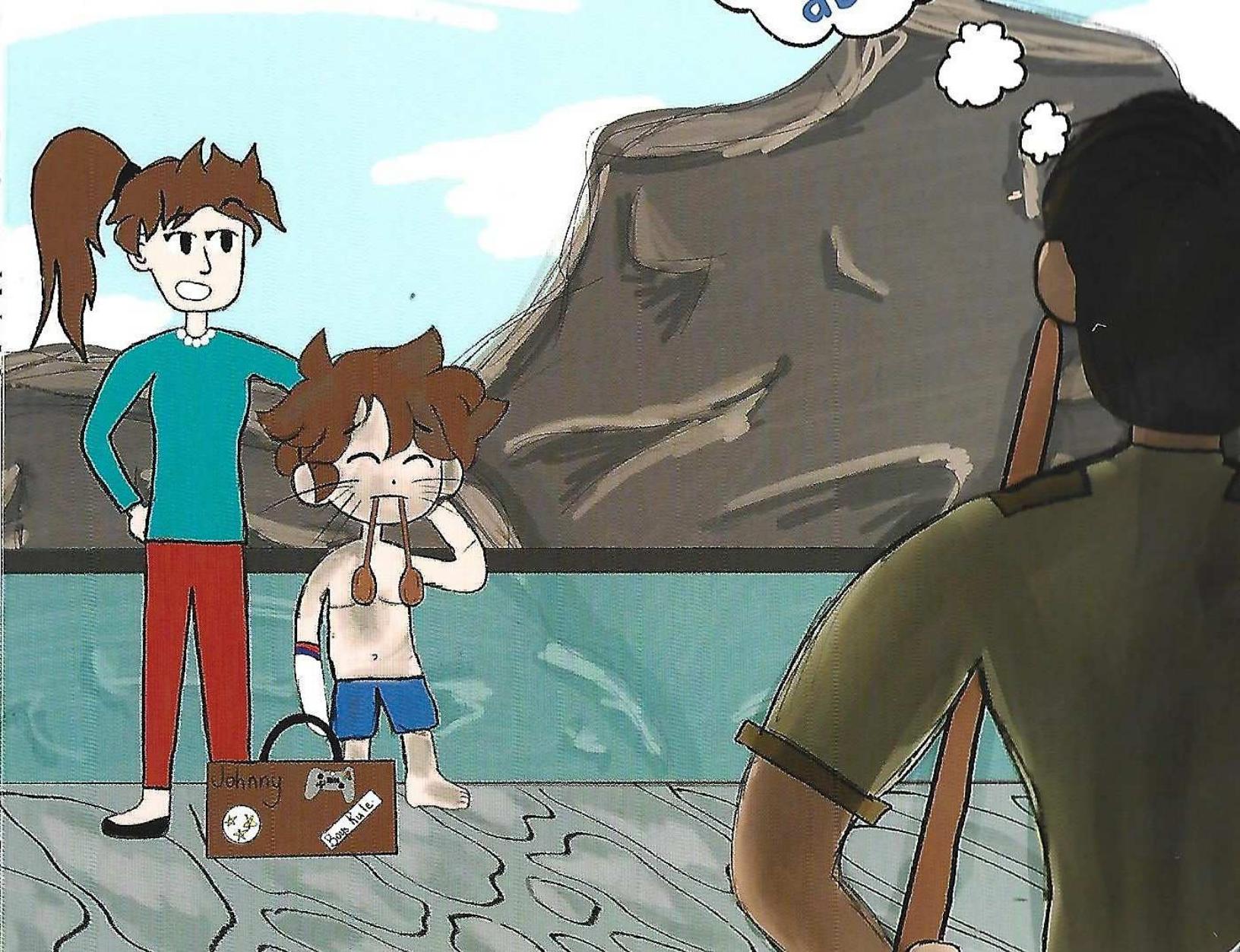




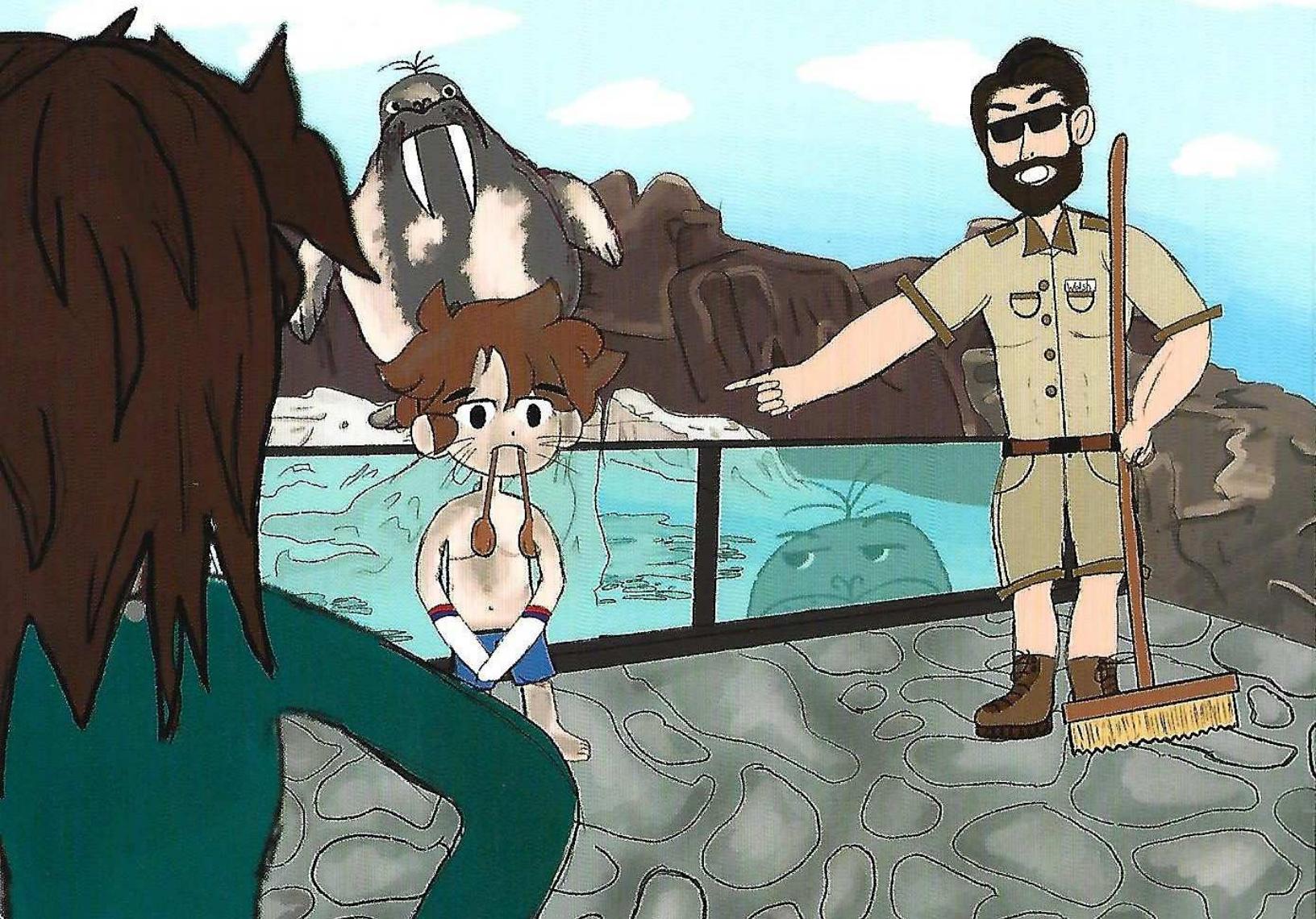
“My boy’s a
real walrus.
His growth
was just
stunted.”

The Zookeeper
thought,

“What’s
she talking
about?”



**“Ma’am, that’s just a boy with
wood spoons in his mouth!”**



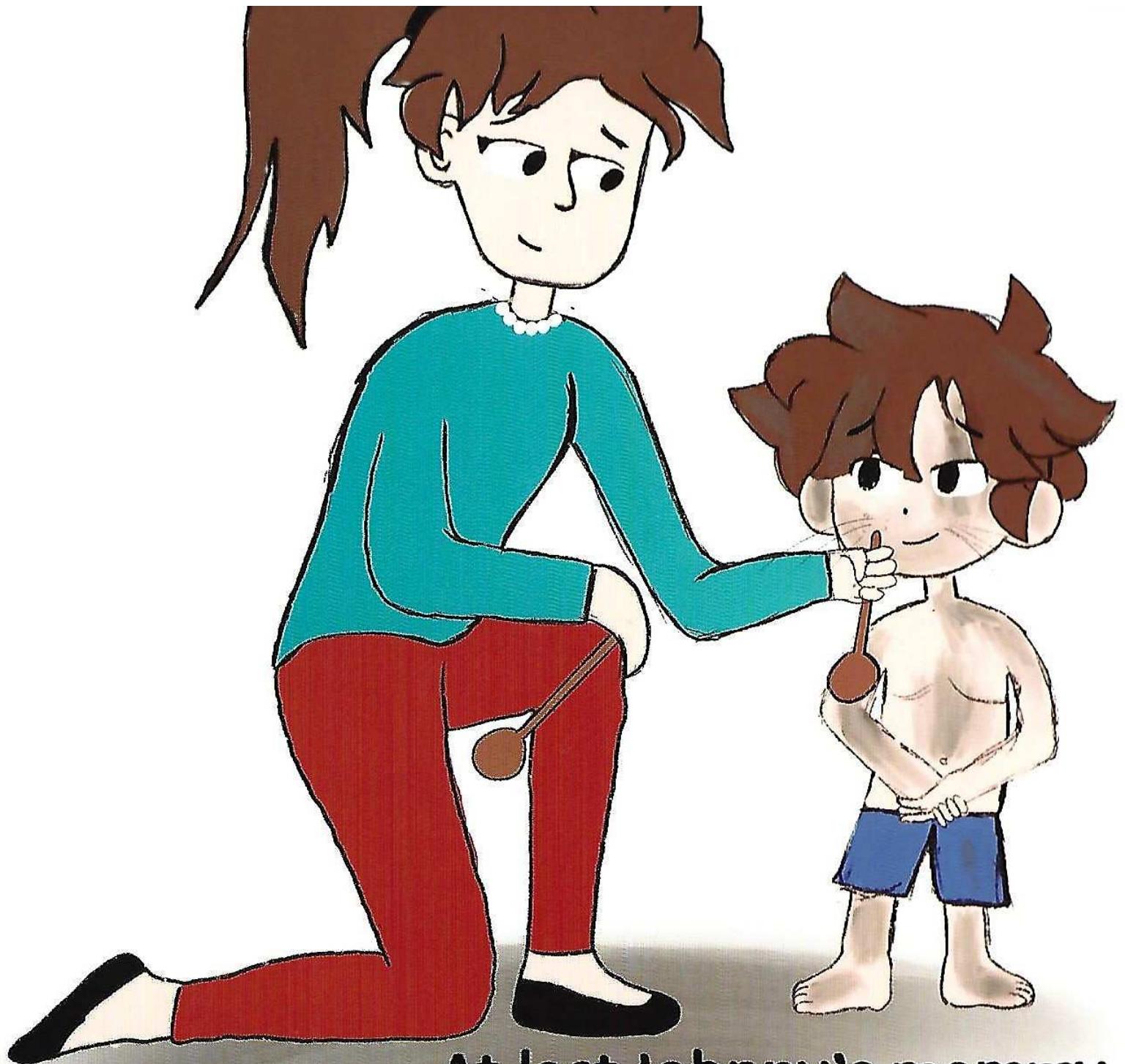


“But if I
believe that,
they’ll say
that I’m
phobic!”



“Protecting
your son,

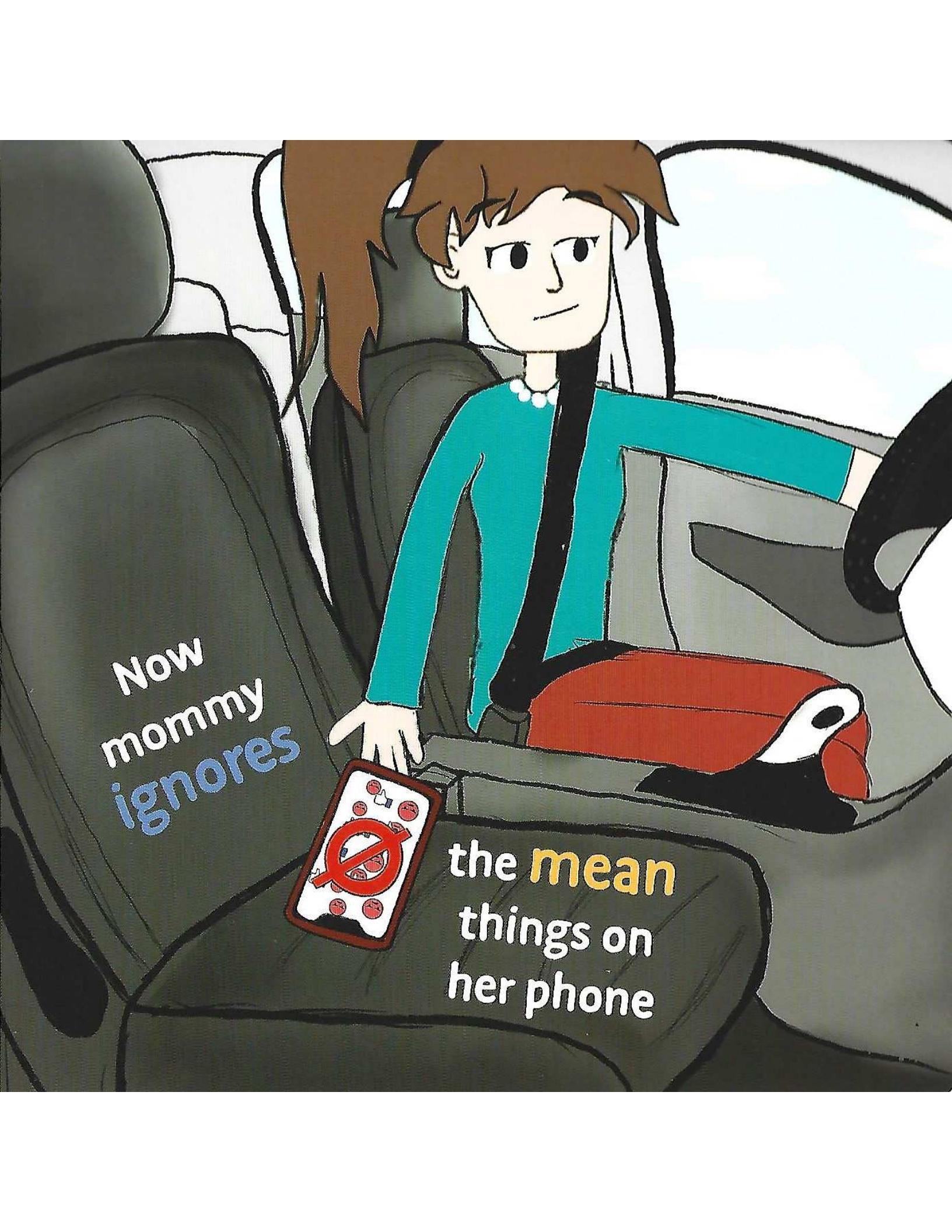
ma’am,
is what’s
most
heroic.”



At last Johnny's mommy
was able to **see**

That Johnny's
not what he's
pretending
to be





Now
mommy
ignores

the mean
things on
her phone

A colorful illustration of a young boy with brown hair and freckles, wearing a yellow t-shirt, flying a kite. The kite is shaped like a large bird with a long, dark blue tail. The boy is smiling and looking up at his kite against a light blue sky with white clouds. The kite's string is visible.

while Johnny
pretends

he's a bird flying home

The End

A Tale of Identity and Imagination



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