



The Magic Volume Knob

By Shilpashree C M



Pip felt like a giant drum was beating inside him. Boom, boom, boom! His feelings were so big and so red that they wanted to burst right out of his toes and his nose. He felt like he might explode into a million pieces.



His big brother, Bodhi, saw Pip's wiggly hands and huffy breath. Bodhi didn't get scared of the big storm. He knelt down so he could see Pip's eyes. "Do you have a Big Noise trapped inside?" Bodhi asked gently.



Bodhi led Pip by the hand to the very back of the garden. There, under the big oak tree, stood the Shouting Stone.

"This is the place for the loudest sounds in the world," Bodhi explained. "The stone loves to listen."



"Stand tall," Bodhi said, stepping back to give Pip room. Pip climbed onto the Shouting Stone. He took a giant breath, filled his chest like a balloon, and let out a LOUD, "RAAAARRRR!"



Pip roared again, even louder this time!
The sound bounced off the trees and
flew up to the clouds. He let all the "big
and red" feelings fly out of his mouth
until his throat felt tingly and his
tummy felt lighter.



THE SHOUTING STONE

Bodhi clapped his hands softly. "That was a very big sound! Now, let's see if we can turn the volume knob down just a little bit." Bodhi put a finger to his lips and made a gentle "shhh" sound.



Pip sat down on the cool stone. He tried to use his "inside voice," the one he used to tell a story or ask for a snack. "I am standing on a rock," he said in a steady, medium voice. He noticed his hands weren't wiggling anymore.



Bodhi leaned in close to the stone.
"Now for the magic," he whispered.
"Can you make a sound so quiet that
only the ladybugs can hear it? Can you
make a sound as soft as a falling
feather?"



Pip hopped off the Shouting Stone and gave Bodhi a big hug. His big feelings were still there, but they weren't shouting anymore. Pip knew that even when he felt like a storm, he could choose to be the quiet after the rain.