

AMPUTEDDY HELPS A FRIEND



By Jean Boelter and Kate Polican

Illustrated by Marta Creswell

Copyright © 2005, Jean Boelter

Copyright © 2012, Kate Policani

Reprint only with permission katepolicani@gmail.com

Reprint only with permission katepolicani@gmail.com

Thank you for downloading this free ebook. You are welcome to share it. This book may be reproduced, copied and distributed for non-commercial purposes, provided the book remains in its complete original form. You may reprint for commercial purposes only with permission katepolicani@gmail.com



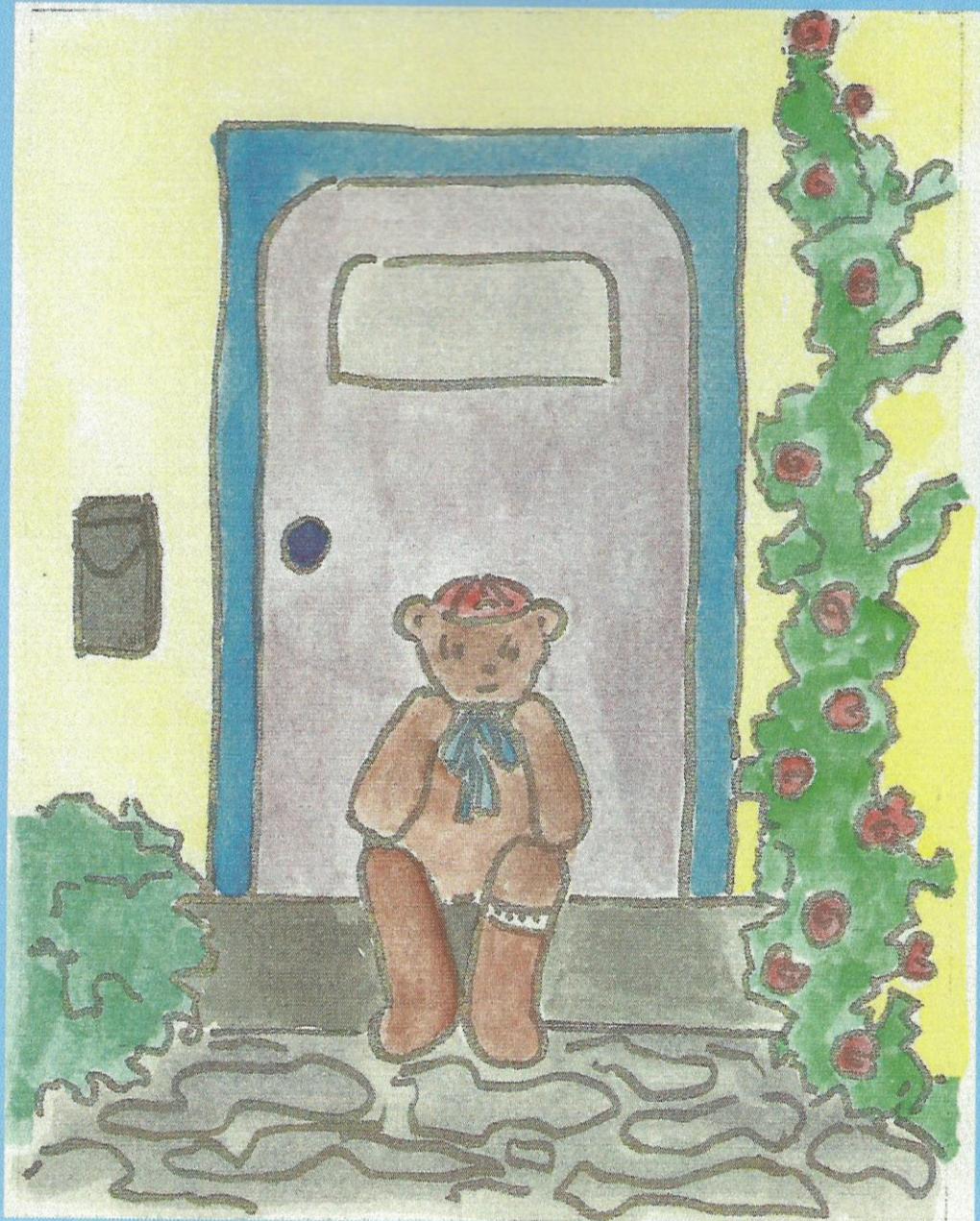
Jean Boelter

1941-2010

The president of Amputeddly, Inc. until her battle with cancer was lost in 2010, Jean was a counselor and advocate for amputees of all ages for many years. Her left leg was amputated at the age of five. She dedicates these stories to the many courageous people she met in her work.

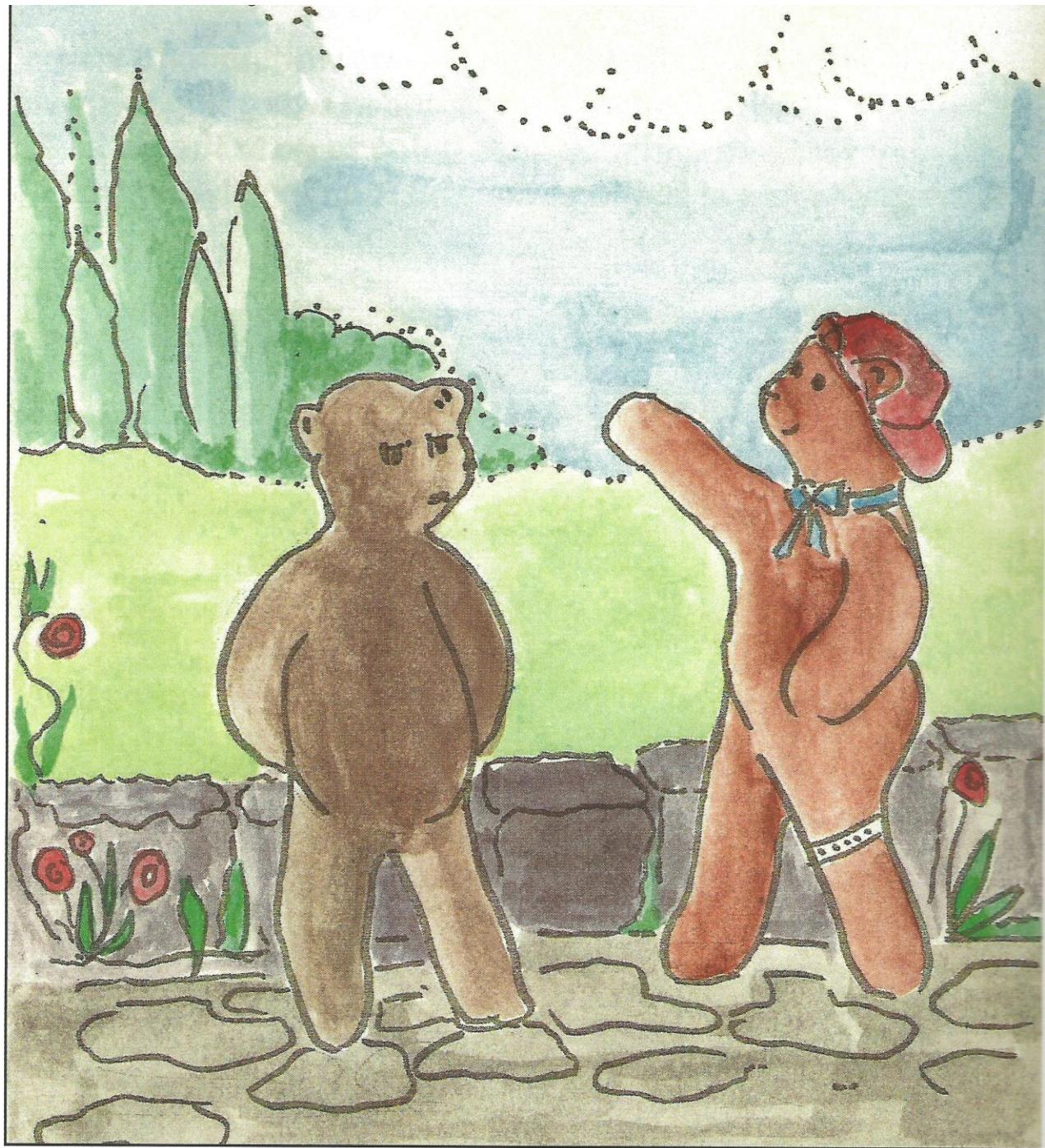
On Saturday, Todd the Amputeddy was waiting for a visit from his friend, Brandon Bear. Brandon was going to spend the day with him and they were going to the park. They always had lots of fun together and Brandon always made up the best games.

Amputeddy Helps a Friend



Jean Boelter, Kate Polican

When Brandon arrived he wasn't excited and happy like Todd thought he would be. Todd tried to tell him jokes and do their secret handshake, but Brandon acted strange and didn't seem to like him.



Amputeddy Helps a Friend



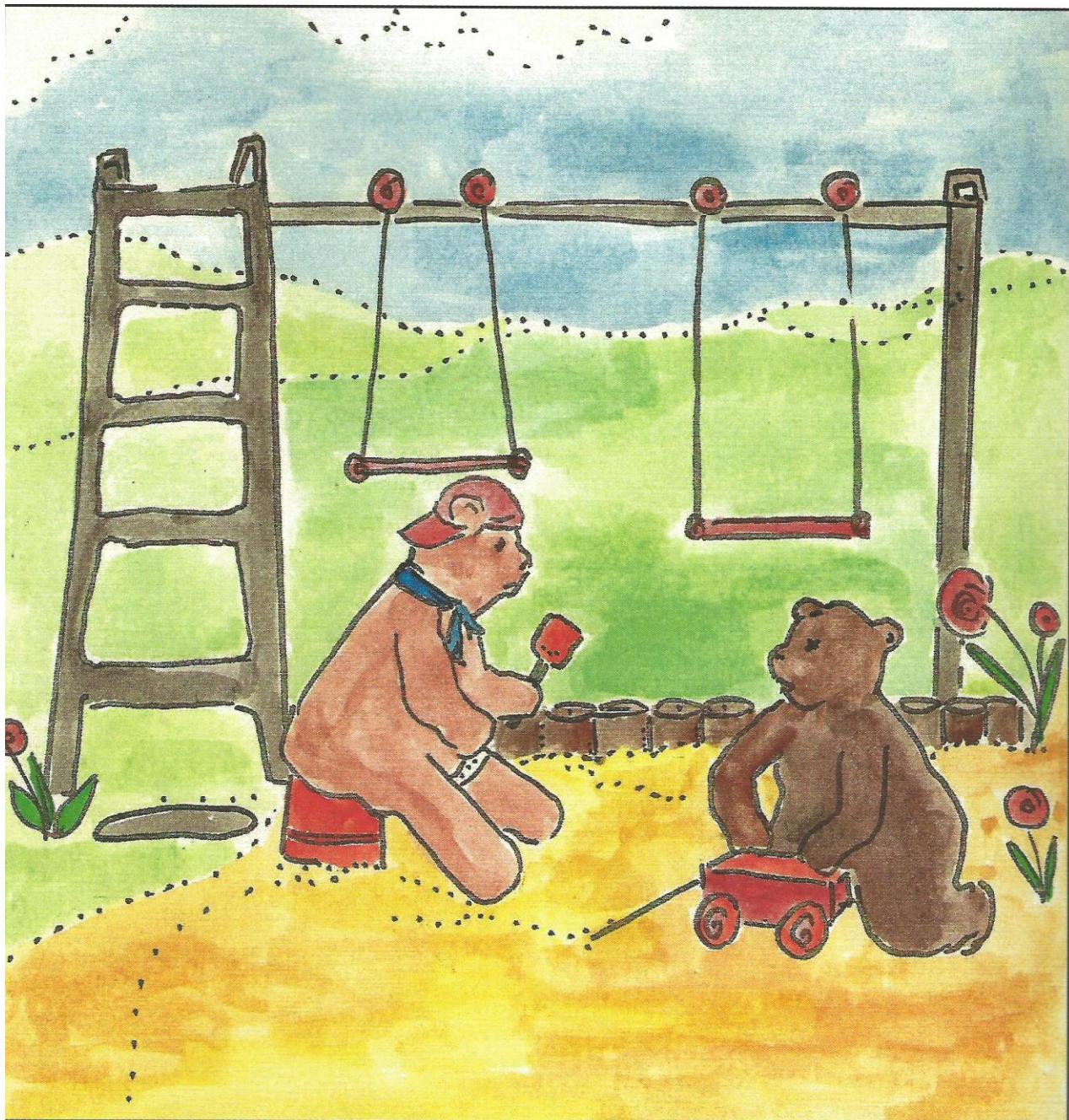
In the car on the way to the park, Brandon wouldn't sing their favorite songs about the yuckiest things in the world. He wouldn't play the license plate game either.

He looked sad.

"What's wrong, Brandon?" Todd asked. But Brandon just shrugged.

Later at the park while they were playing in the sandbox, Todd asked Brandon again, “What’s wrong with you?”

“Nothing,” Brandon said, “Well almost nothing. My Dad got hurt overseas in the military. Mom says he got hurt—that he had what you had, only his arm is gone. He’s coming home soon and I’m kind of scared now that he’ll be, well...weird.”



Amputeddy Helps a Friend



“Well,” Todd said, “he’ll be different...kind of. He’ll still be your dad, though.”

“Yeah,” said Brandon, but he still wasn’t happy.

While they were on the big toy Brandon asked, “How will he be different?”

Todd thought a minute. “Well, he’ll have a new arm – a helper arm like my leg. It’ll feel different and work differently, but you’ll get used to it. You got used to my new leg.”

“Yeah,” Brandon said as they went down the slide, “I guess you’re right. But will he be able to wrestle with me and use his tools and build models with me still?”

“Sure he will! He might have to learn how to do those things in a different way, but that is what his helper arm is for—so he can still do all those things.”

Jean Boelter, Kate Policani



Amputeddy Helps a Friend



“Sometimes he won’t wear his helper arm. It’s just the same as not wearing shoes. You don’t wear your shoes all the time, and your dad will be more comfortable with his helper arm off sometimes.”

Tod yelled as he ran across the grassy park, “Soon it won’t feel weird at all!”

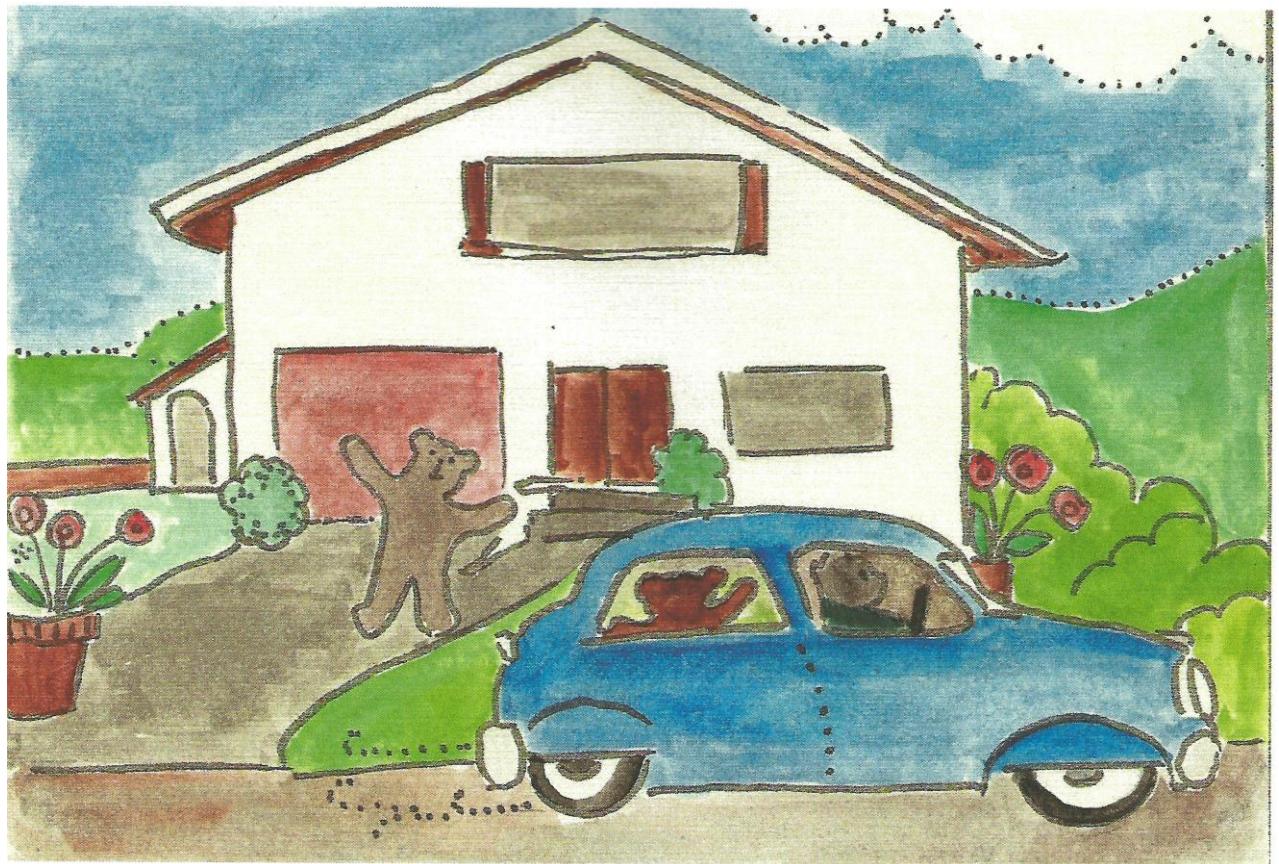
Amputeddy Helps a Friend



“I think I’m not so worried anymore about my dad. Thanks Todd,” Brandon said as they rode home in the car.

“No problem, Brandon,” Todd said, smiling. “I’m glad I could help you and answer your questions. I know you and your dad will be fine!”

Amputeddy Helps a Friend



When they dropped Brandon off at his house and waved goodbye, instead of looking sad and worried Brandon looked very happy.

Amputeddy Helps a Friend





The End

Dear Reader,

Amputeddy, Inc. was donated by Jean Boelter to Harborview Medical Center's Limb Viability department upon her death. She left the books to me, Kate Policani, as co-author.

I am returning all proceeds from the purchase of this book back to support Amputeddy, inc. and the limb loss support group at Harborview.

To learn more about other Amputeddy books and any news regarding the bears, please visit <http://katepolicani.com/amputeddy-books/> .

I hope these books fulfill their purpose to comfort and encourage you or your loved one struggling with limb loss. Jean would have wanted to hear your story and share hers with you. These stories were her story too.

Warmest wishes,

Kate Policani