



The Daisybears

and the Great Door

by J. Thomas

To our daughter:

*“How great is the love the Father has lavished on us,
that we should be called children of God!
And that is what we are!”*

Love,
Daddy & Mommy

Dry and Barren Land

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eBook Edition

A black and white photograph of a white door with a silver handle. The door is slightly ajar, revealing a stack of stuffed animals on the floor. The text "The Daisybears" is overlaid on the door in a large, bold, black serif font. Below it, the text "and the Great Door" is also overlaid in a similar font. In the bottom right corner, the author's name "by J. Thomas" is written in a smaller, italicized serif font.

The Daisybears

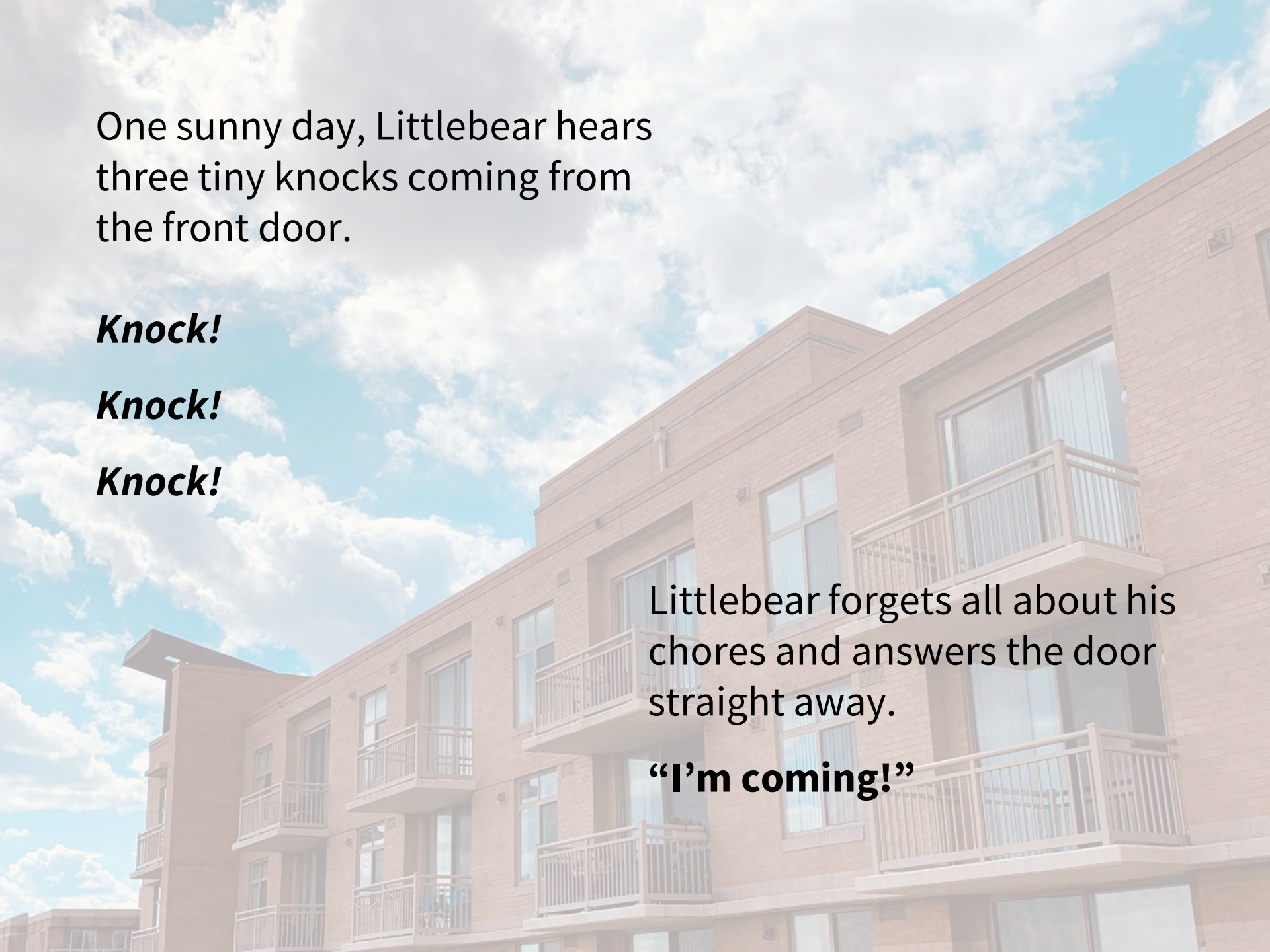
and the Great Door

by J. Thomas

Welcome Home Cupcake!







One sunny day, Littlebear hears three tiny knocks coming from the front door.

Knock!

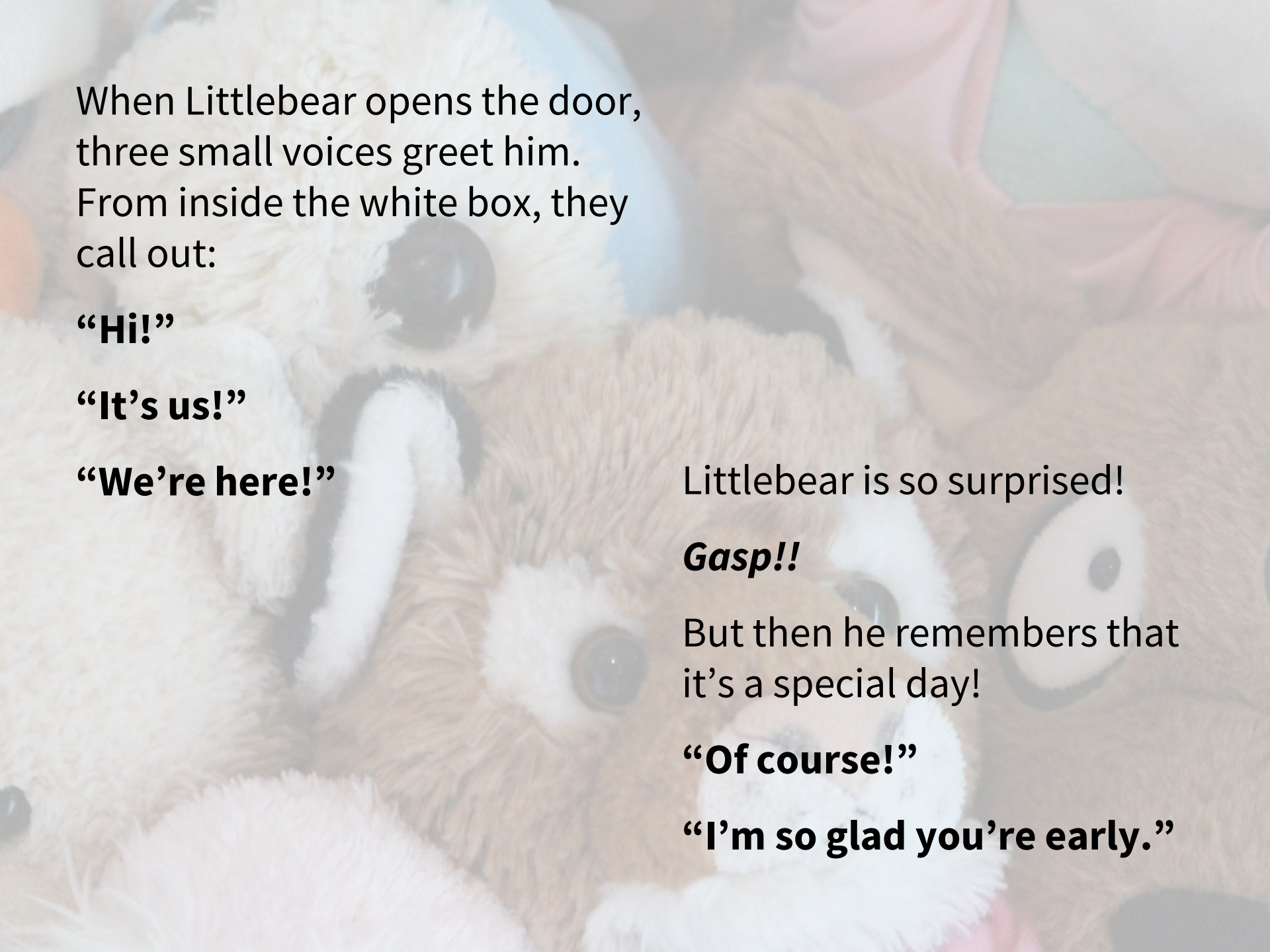
Knock!

Knock!

Littlebear forgets all about his chores and answers the door straight away.

“I’m coming!”





When Littlebear opens the door,
three small voices greet him.
From inside the white box, they
call out:

“Hi!”

“It’s us!”

“We’re here!”

Littlebear is so surprised!

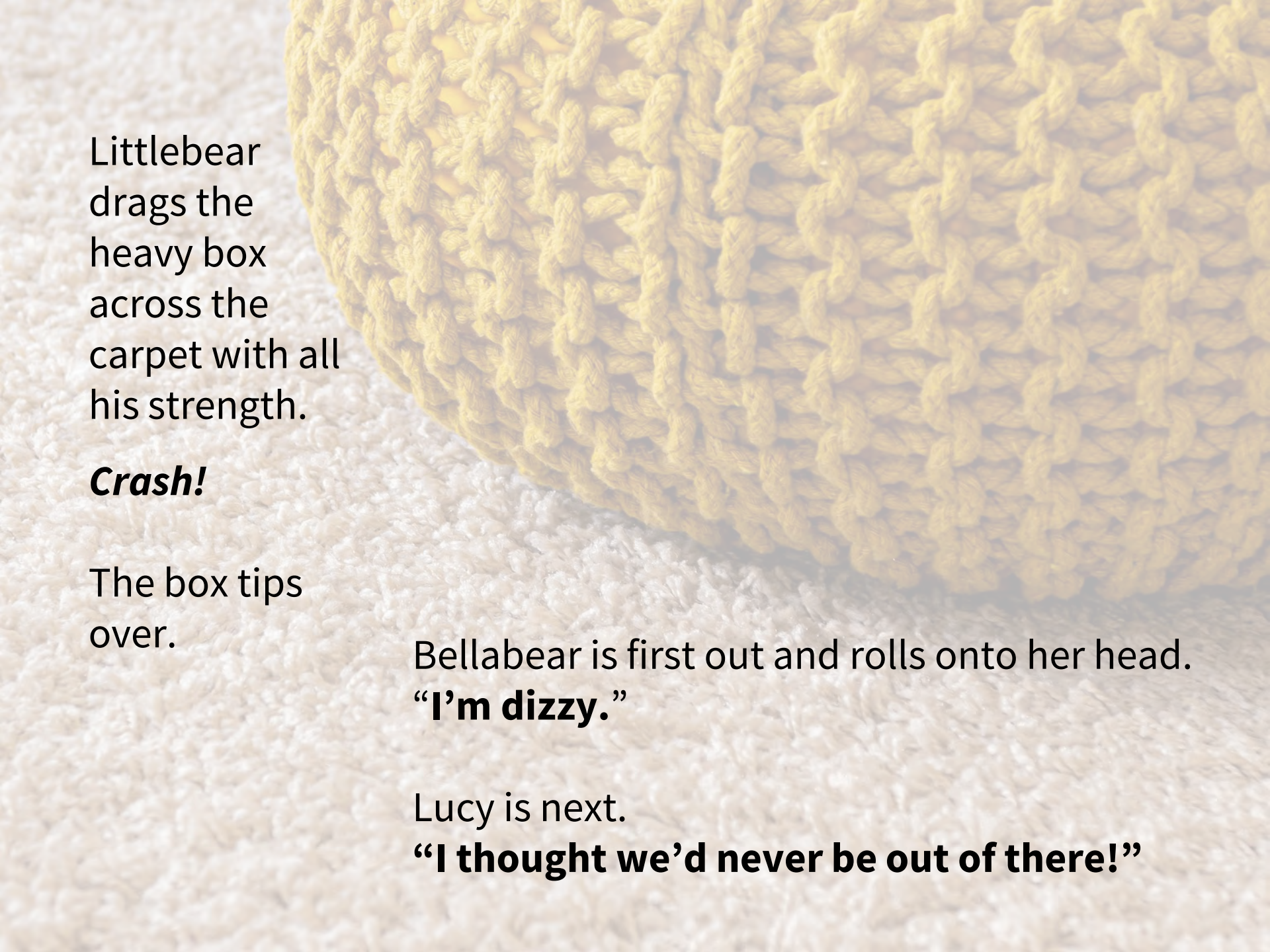
Gasp!!

But then he remembers that
it’s a special day!

“Of course!”

“I’m so glad you’re early.”





Littlebear
drags the
heavy box
across the
carpet with all
his strength.

Crash!


The box tips
over.

Bellabear is first out and rolls onto her head.
“I’m dizzy.”

Lucy is next.
“I thought we’d never be out of there!”




33
Date From To
The Location



Daisy is the last one out. He brings everyone to the kids' room and puts on his favorite blue hat!

“Home sweet home!”

 Littlebear is so happy to have two new sisters to love and play with. He jumps on Daisy's head!

 **“And now it will be home for all of us!”**



Lucy asks how long it will be until dinner. Littlebear replies:

“Just two more hours.”

“The perfect amount of time for a tour!”




Lucy can't believe how long it will be until dinner.

“Two whole hours until dinner!”

“How can I ever wait that long?!?!?!”



A close-up photograph of a hand holding a cupcake. The cupcake is in a black paper liner and is topped with a thick layer of white frosting, which is covered in a generous amount of multi-colored sprinkles (red, blue, yellow, green, and white). The hand is light-skinned and is wearing a gold watch and a ring. The background is a soft, out-of-focus pinkish-red color.

Bellabear runs to tell Littlebear something.

“She needs a sweet treat, fast!”

He hurries to the fridge and returns in a flash.

“Don’t worry, Lucy! We can all eat this cupcake!”

They all huddle around the cupcake and eat tasty bite after tasty bite.

Then, our four explorers begin their adventure.

Lucy's Inside Out Beauty



*We stand upon the shoulders
of those who came before us.*

*We ask for help and they are there
to lovingly restore us.*

*The blessings we enjoy today
cost someone else a price.*

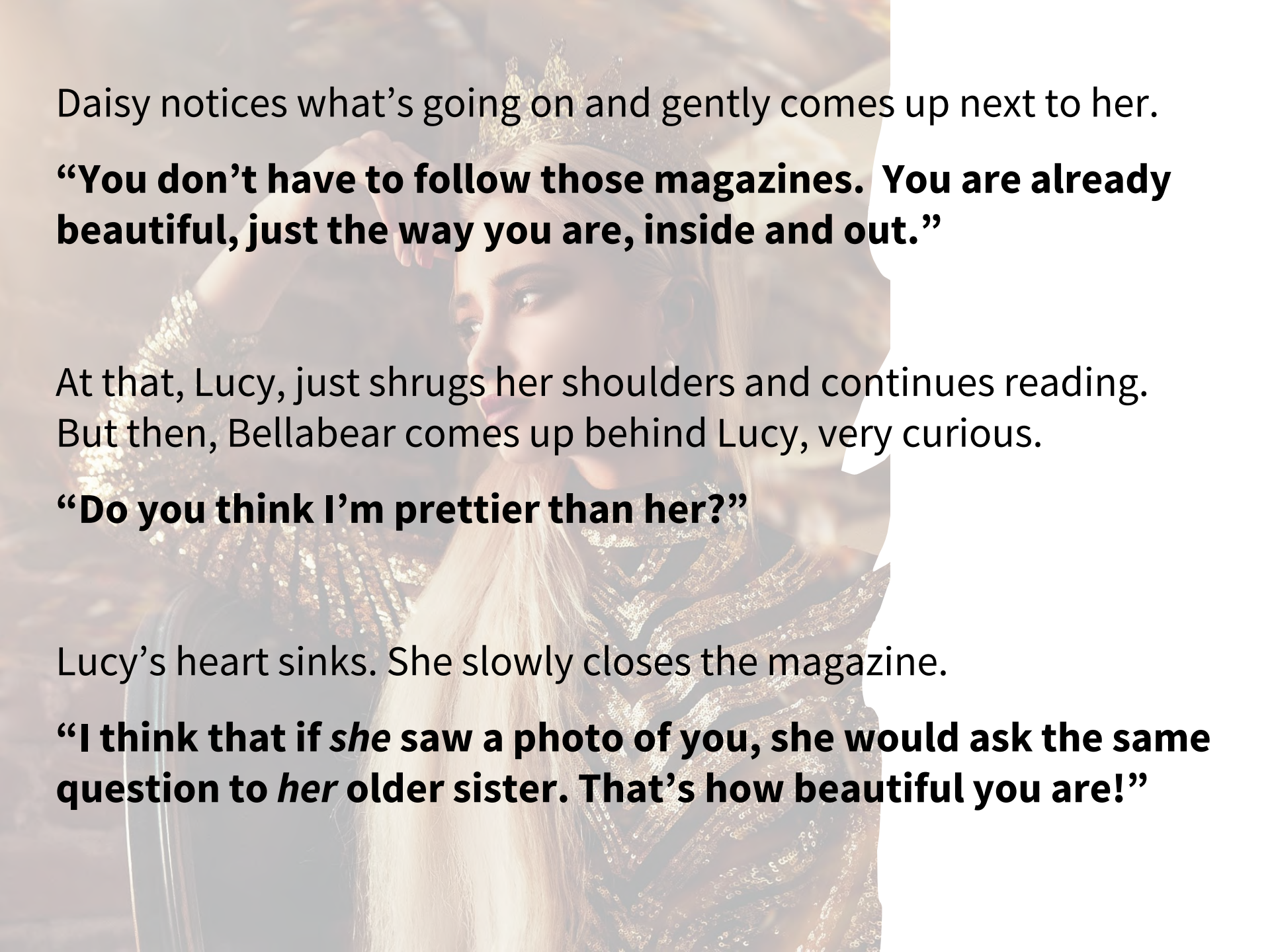
*Not all may go, but one must stay
and be a living sacrifice.*



On the way to the first stop, Mount Ottobear, Lucy is distracted when she sees her favorite fashion magazine.



“Let’s stop here for a million minutes, so I can read this!”



Daisy notices what's going on and gently comes up next to her.

“You don’t have to follow those magazines. You are already beautiful, just the way you are, inside and out.”

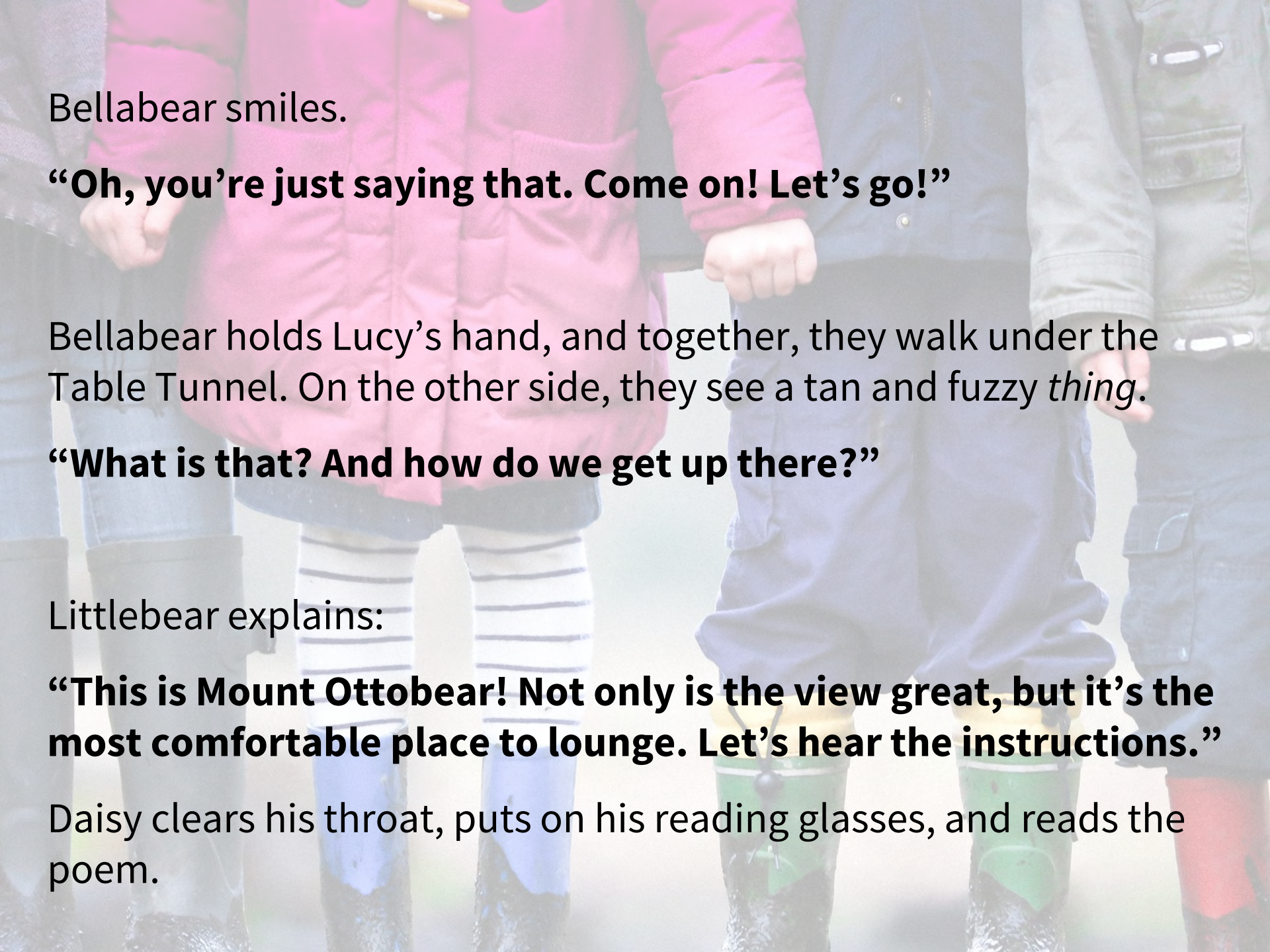
At that, Lucy, just shrugs her shoulders and continues reading. But then, Bellabear comes up behind Lucy, very curious.

“Do you think I’m prettier than her?”

Lucy’s heart sinks. She slowly closes the magazine.

“I think that if *she* saw a photo of you, she would ask the same question to *her* older sister. That’s how beautiful you are!”



A group of children in winter clothing walking together. The image is slightly faded and serves as a background for the text. The children are wearing jackets, pants, and boots. One child in the center is wearing a pink jacket and striped socks. Another child to the right is wearing a blue jacket and blue pants. A third child on the far right is wearing a grey jacket and dark pants. They appear to be walking in a line, possibly under a tunnel as mentioned in the text.

Bellabear smiles.

“Oh, you’re just saying that. Come on! Let’s go!”

Bellabear holds Lucy’s hand, and together, they walk under the Table Tunnel. On the other side, they see a tan and fuzzy *thing*.

“What is that? And how do we get up there?”

Littlebear explains:

“This is Mount Ottobear! Not only is the view great, but it’s the most comfortable place to lounge. Let’s hear the instructions.”

Daisy clears his throat, puts on his reading glasses, and reads the poem.

*We stand upon the shoulders
of those who came before us.*

*We ask for help and they are there
to lovingly restore us.*

*The blessings we enjoy today
cost someone else a price.*

*Not all may go, but one must stay
and be a living sacrifice.*



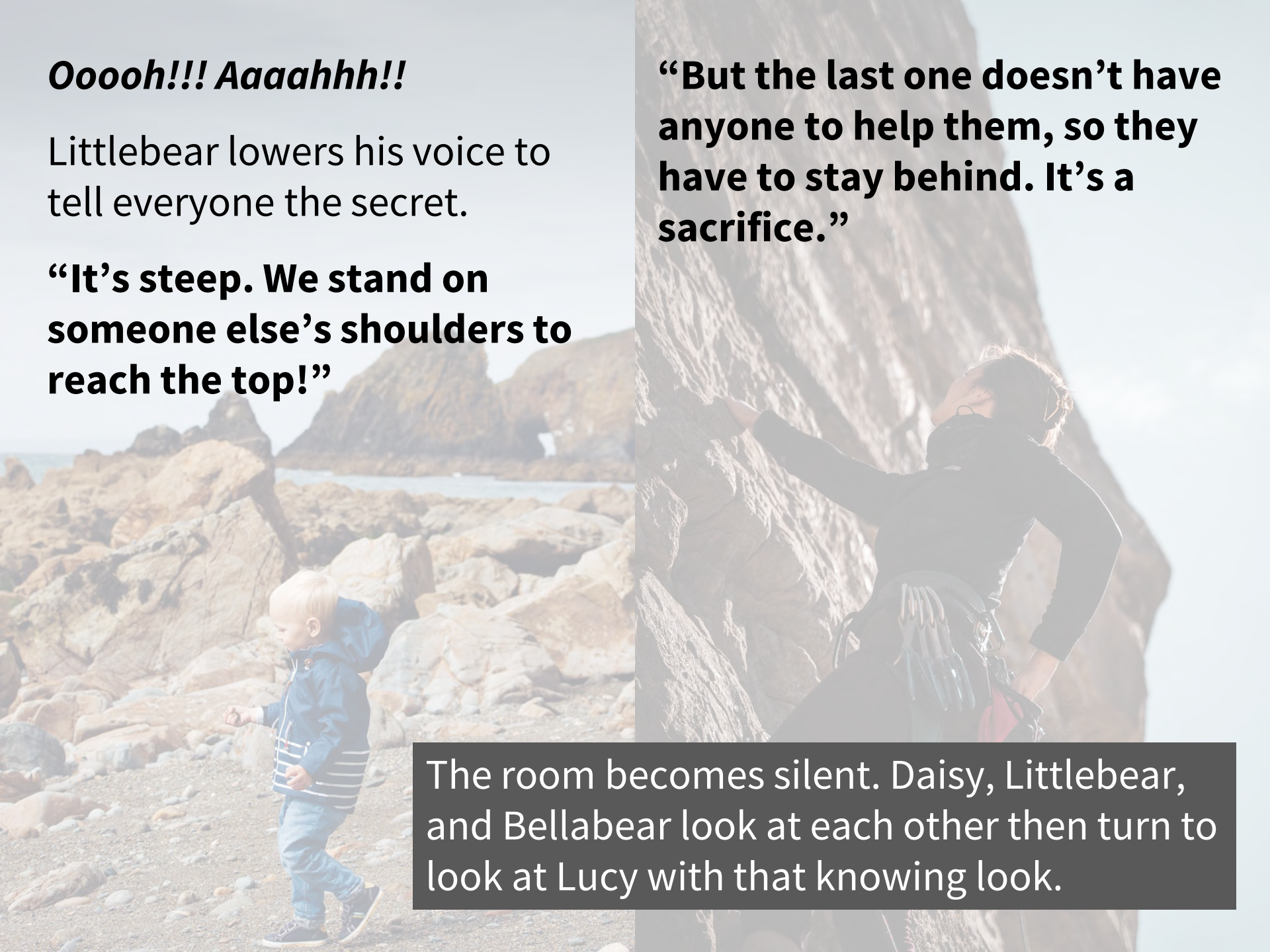
Ooooh!!! Aaaahhh!!

Littlebear lowers his voice to tell everyone the secret.

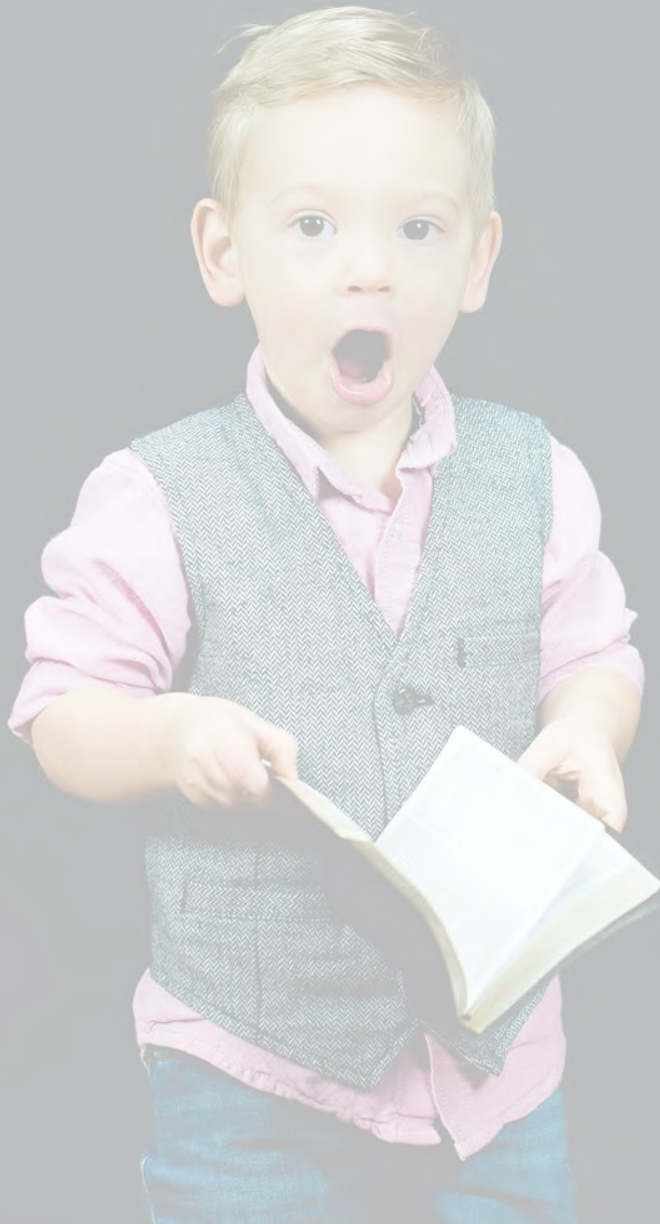
“It’s steep. We stand on someone else’s shoulders to reach the top!”

“But the last one doesn’t have anyone to help them, so they have to stay behind. It’s a sacrifice.”

The room becomes silent. Daisy, Littlebear, and Bellabear look at each other then turn to look at Lucy with that knowing look.







Lucy feels everyone's eyes on her. She thinks about staying behind and feels upset.


“Why do I always have to be the sacrificial lamb?”

Feelings of disappointment turn into courage. Something bubbles up from inside her heart.

“I will do it! I'll help everyone up! Even it means missing out.”

Round of applause!





Lucy makes her way to the bottom of Mount Ottobear.

“Alright! I’m ready.”

“Step this way, and I’ll help you up!”

It’s hard work to allow everyone to climb on her shoulders.

When the job is done, Lucy sits back to relax.

“How’s the view up there?”

And looking straight down, Daisy answers:

“Beautiful!”

Bellabear Just Wants to Lounge





Daisy and Littlebear come down after five minutes. Bellabear is still relaxing and lounging.

Littlebear calls:

“Hey Bellabear! Don’t you think it’s time to get going?”

Bellabear replies: **“Never!!”**

She lifts one paw into the air in defiance.

Lucy puts her head in her hands.

“Oh no! I was afraid of this!”







Lucy continues:

“Once she gets comfortable, it’s *impossible* to get her to move!”

Daisy thinks about what to do.

“I know! We can show her something even more fun!”

Littlebear helps Daisy and Lucy reach the top of the mountain.

“Hey, look over here! It’s a fun slide to the Pool of Laundry.”

Bellabear sulks:

“But I’m so comfy where I am now.”

Daisy and Lucy shimmy to the edge of the mountain.

“Okay, see you later!”

Whee!!



In less than a minute, Bellabear is up and walking toward the slide.
Yippeeeee!! ***“Oooh!, it is really nice. It’s even warm and toasty!”***

After a few minutes of swimming, Bellabear wonders:

“How did all this clean laundry get here?”

Littlebear explains:

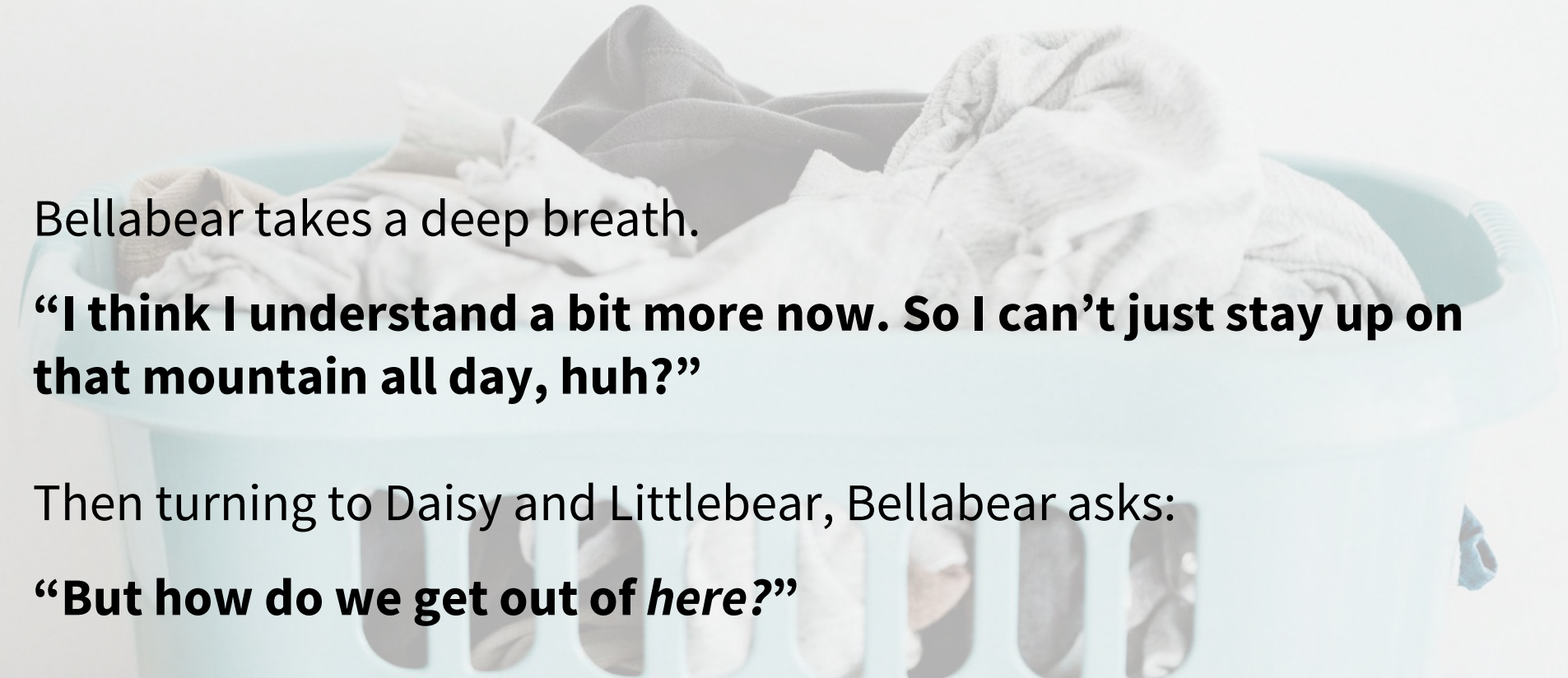
“Hunniebear and Janiebear do the laundry and all sorts of other chores. Being part of a family means helping each other out.”

Bellabear takes a deep breath.

“I think I understand a bit more now. So I can’t just stay up on that mountain all day, huh?”

Then turning to Daisy and Littlebear, Bellabear asks:

“But how do we get out of *here*?”





Littlebear hears them talking from below and responds.

“I know! I’ll throw you a line”

He throws the sleeve of a black sweater over to the edge of the laundry basket.

Daisy makes a diving catch for it and anchors it down.

“Okay, I’ve got this end. You guys can climb down now.”

Bellabear happily slides down.

“Thanks!”





Lucy carefully makes her way down.

“That’s strange.”

Immediately, Lucy takes a closer look at the sweater.

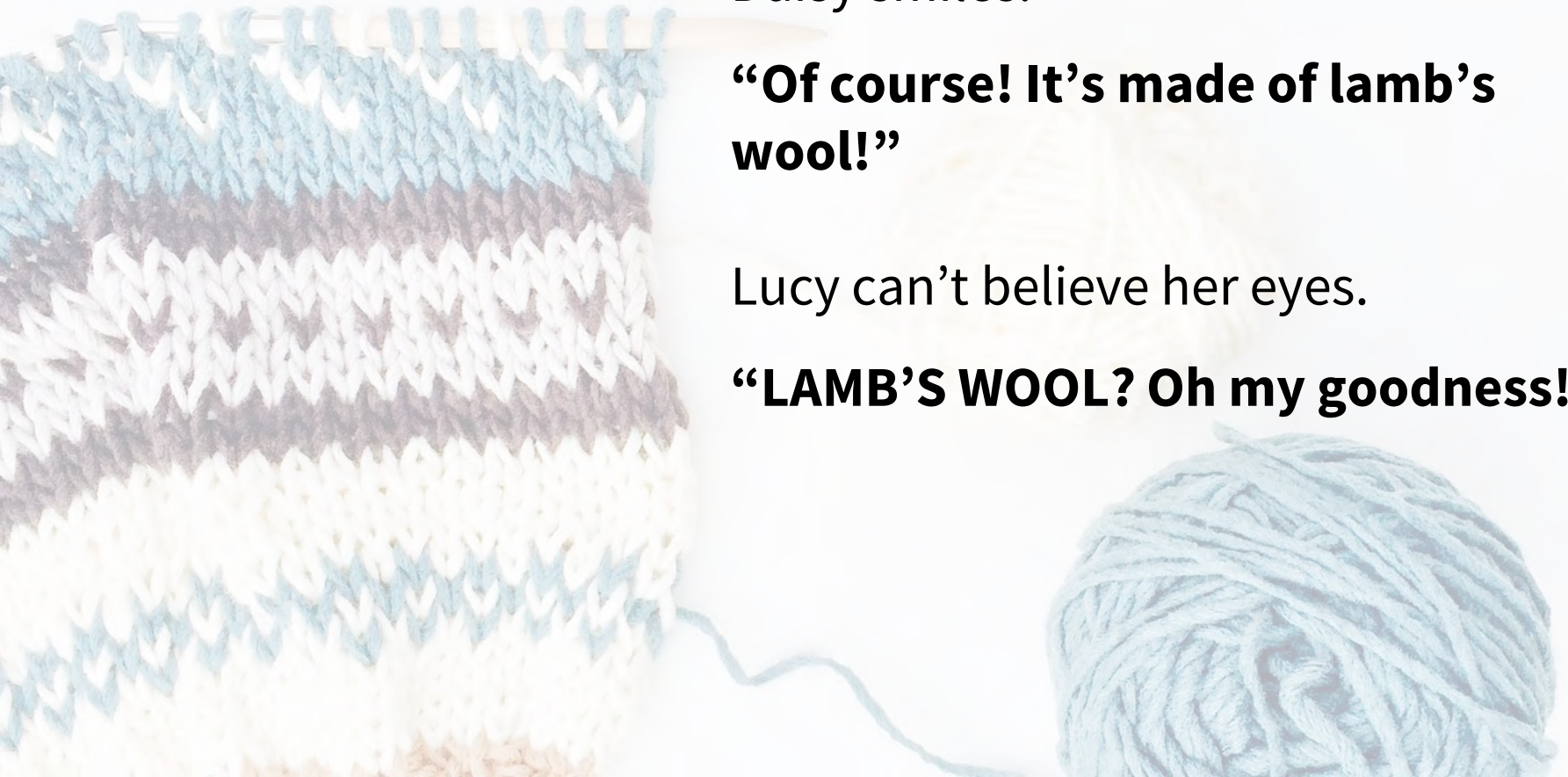
“There’s something familiar about the way this sweater feels.”

Daisy smiles.

“Of course! It’s made of lamb’s wool!”

Lucy can’t believe her eyes.

“LAMB’S WOOL? Oh my goodness!”





In all the excitement, Lucy faints. Daisy catches her from behind.

“It’s okay. No lambs were hurt in the making of this sweater. It’s like a haircut!”

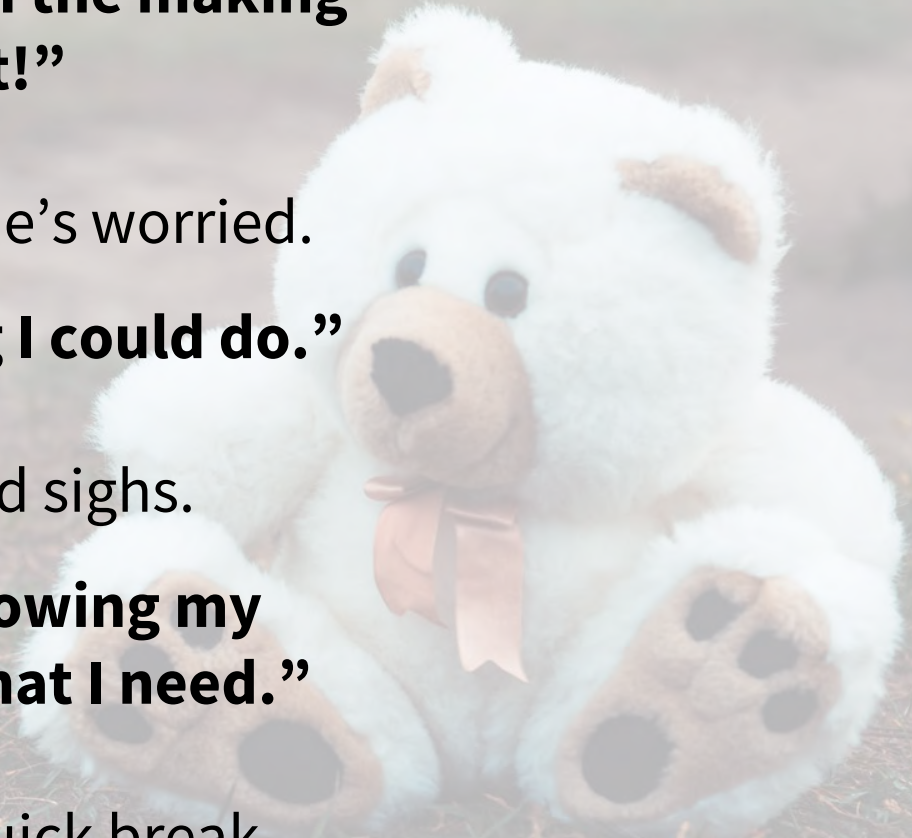
Bellabear rushes to Lucy’s side. She’s worried.

“Oh, I wish there was something I could do.”

Lucy puts her hand to her head and sighs.

“I’m feeling better now. Just knowing my family is here for support is all that I need.”


Relieved, our four friends take a quick break before heading to the Wall of Water.



Silent Desert to Wall of Water







On the way to the Wall of Water, there is a long, wide, open stretch of carpet.

Bellabear is beginning to feel very hot and extremely dry.

“So where are we now?”

Littlebear spins around and motions with his paws in the air.

“We’re entering the Desert of Silence. Sometimes, a person might lose his or her ability to talk while crossing it.”

Bellabear gasps: **“How exciting!”**

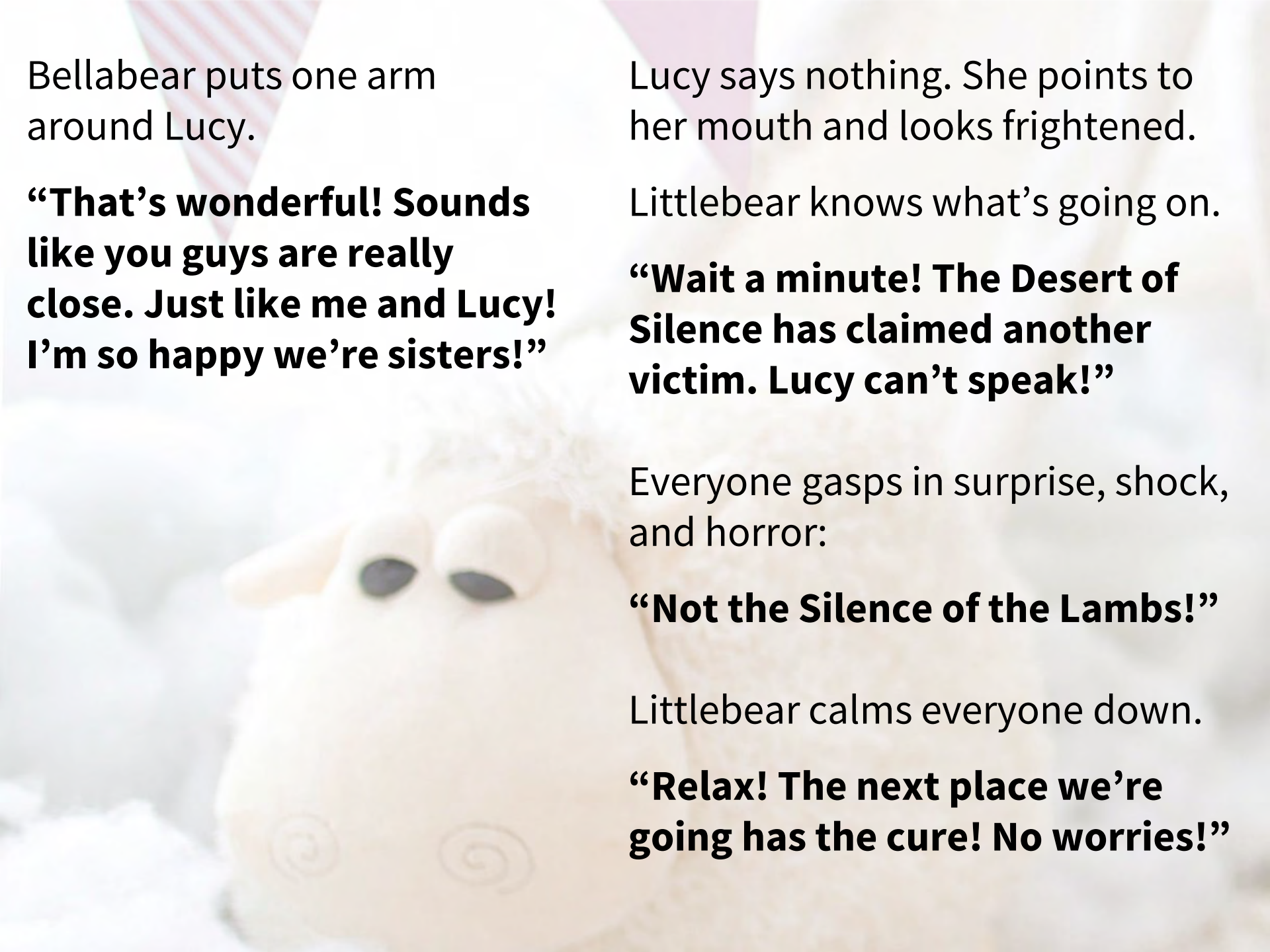
Daisy enjoys walking through the desert and thinks aloud.

“Desert times are yucky – not fun at all. We might get lost and ask for help, but all we hear is silence. But even in those silences, I know that I’m loved very much. It’s a *mystery!*”

Littlebear listens closely as Daisy continues.

“It’s like me and Littlebear. I know that he cares for me without any words spoken between us.”





Bellabear puts one arm around Lucy.

“That’s wonderful! Sounds like you guys are really close. Just like me and Lucy! I’m so happy we’re sisters!”

Lucy says nothing. She points to her mouth and looks frightened.

Littlebear knows what’s going on.

“Wait a minute! The Desert of Silence has claimed another victim. Lucy can’t speak!”

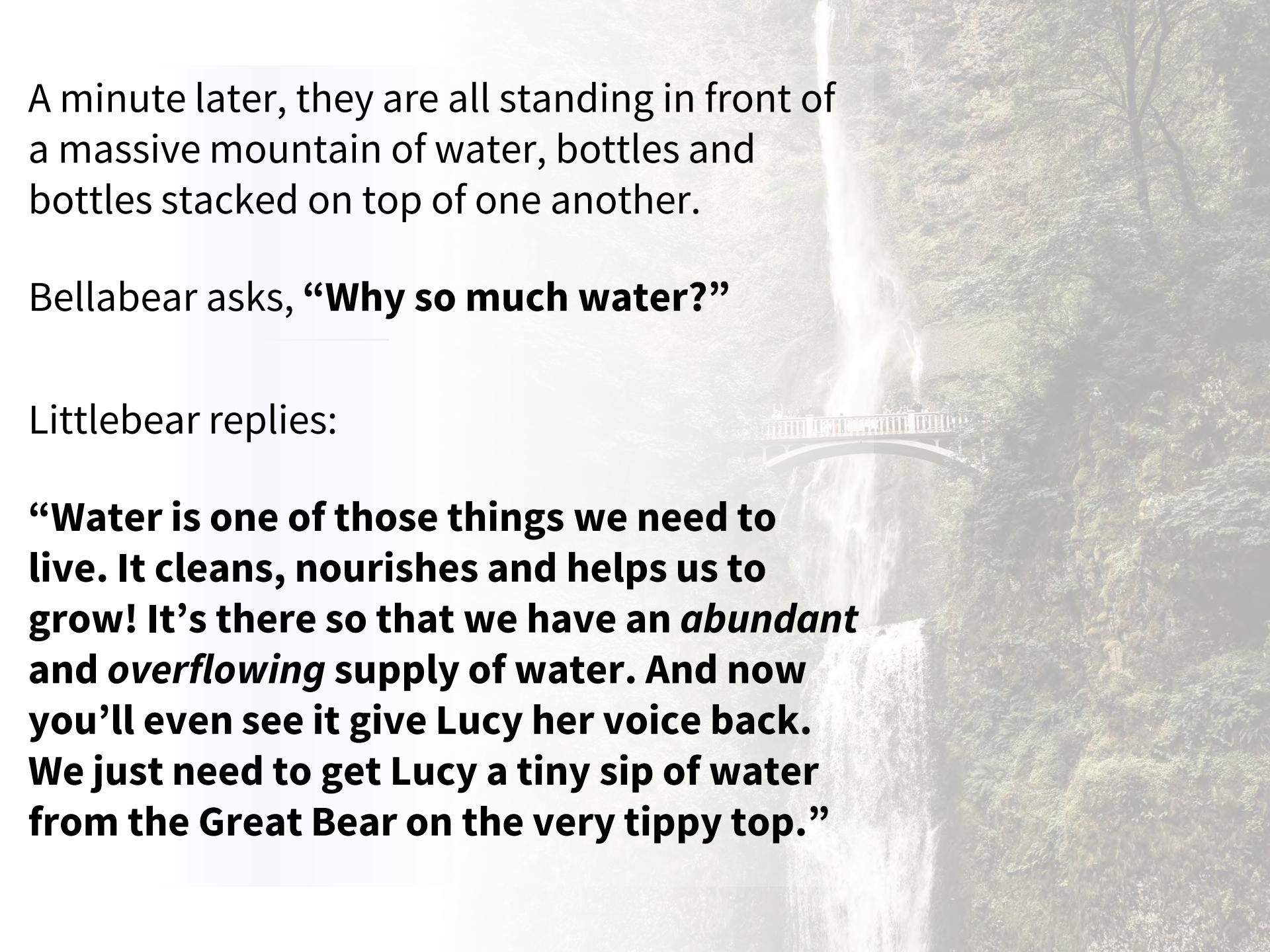
Everyone gasps in surprise, shock, and horror:

“Not the Silence of the Lambs!”

Littlebear calms everyone down.

“Relax! The next place we’re going has the cure! No worries!”





A minute later, they are all standing in front of a massive mountain of water, bottles and bottles stacked on top of one another.

Bellabear asks, **“Why so much water?”**

Littlebear replies:

“Water is one of those things we need to live. It cleans, nourishes and helps us to grow! It’s there so that we have an *abundant* and *overflowing* supply of water. And now you’ll even see it give Lucy her voice back. We just need to get Lucy a tiny sip of water from the Great Bear on the very tippy top.”



A photograph of two young girls with long blonde hair, one in a pink top and one in a striped top, whispering to each other outdoors. The background is filled with green leaves and pink flowers. The image is semi-transparent, allowing text to be overlaid.

Bellabear interrupts before Littlebear can finish.

“I’ll go! I want to climb up the Wall of Water. I want to help her any way I can.”

Littlebear whispers into Bellabear’s ear.

“Okay! Here’s what you do.”

Littlebear wants to surprise the others. He gives Bellabear a little cup for the water and a coffee filter to help her get down.

BEAR



Bellabear climbs up the Wall of Water.
It's not long before she reaches the
very top where the Great Bear resides.

She opens the lid and looks down the
bottle opening.

“Helloooooo!”

The bottle echoes back:

“Helloooooo!”

Bellabear takes out her little cup and
fills it with water.

“I've got it!”





Bellabear thinks about Lucy without her voice and gathers up all her courage.

“Gosh! I’m not sure about this!”

She leaps off the Wall of Water while holding the coffee filter with both paws. It fills up with air like a parachute.

Littlebear exclaims with joy.

“We’ve found yet another use for the coffee filters!”

Daisy enthusiastically gives Littlebear a high five.

“That’s sooooo cool!!”







Bellabear runs to meet the others.

“Yay! I made it! Hooray!”

She gives the cup to Lucy.

“Take a sip.”

Lucy takes a gulp of water as the others wait to see what happens.

“Baahhhh!! Mmm... May I have another?”

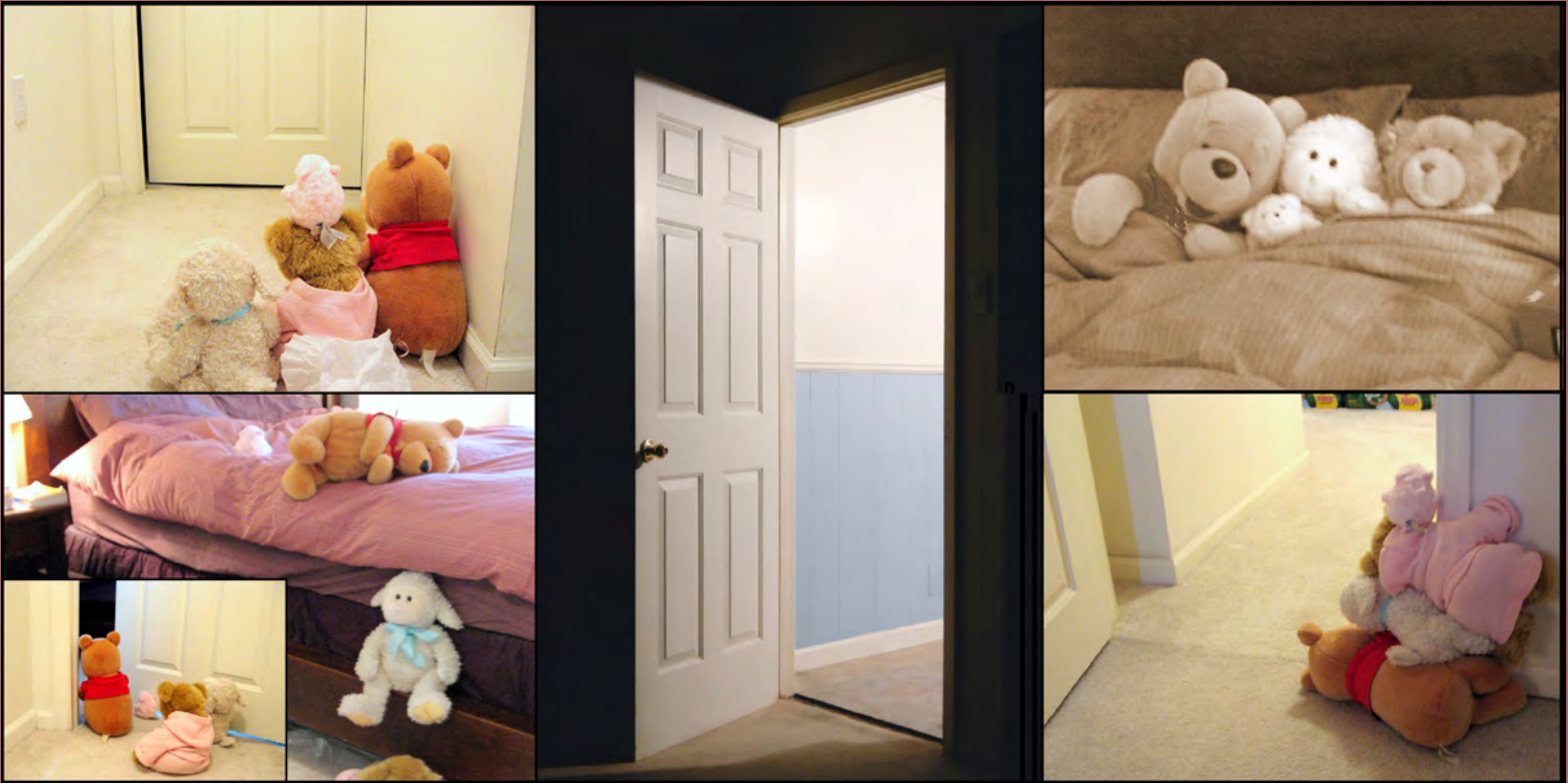
Everyone jumps up and cheers.

“It worked!”

Littlebear answers.

“I never doubted it.”

The Great Door







Lucy is filled with joy.

“What a maaahhh-gical place this is!”

Pointing to a large white door down a brightly lit hallway,
Daisy exclaims:

“Oh, you haven’t seen the best part. Look over there.”

Everyone stands still in awe.

“That is the Great Door.”



“Behind that Door is the dwelling of the Great Love that is shared by Hunniebear and Janiebear. It is this Great Love that created our home.”



“It’s what keeps it all together. It’s the reason why we are all here. It’s what allows us to be a family together.”



Daisy continues:

“Yeah, and they think we are so very very beautiful and cute, inside and out. They don’t compare us to anyone else like the people in those fashion magazines Lucy likes.”



“And the Great Love always sacrifices by supporting us when we need help! Just like how Lucy sacrificed her fun so that we could climb Mount Ottobear!”

Littlebear chimes in:

“But there’s more to life than being comfy, remember? We are here to grow up together and serve one another. We help with the chores and bake cupcakes too!”



Lucy, feeling a little bored with the conversation, asks:

“Can we go inside?”

Littlebear opens the Door:

“Oh yes! It’s a Love that is personal and close.”



Littlebear couldn't help but gush about all he knew about the Great Love:

“This Love is so grand, that you can even hear it in the silences. It’s the kind of love that can make it through any season or situation, joyful, dry, painful, or growing. It always endures.”

Bellarbear adds:

“Oh, and I bet it’s life-giving! Kind of like the Wall of Water, but it touches our souls and hearts, as well as our bodies.”

Daisy responds:

“That’s right! And the best thing about it, is that we don’t have to be timid. We can just hop into bed and bury our heads under the covers.”



And that's just what they did. Daisy, Lucy, Littlebear, and Bellabear hop onto the bed and underneath the covers.



They all snuggle closely together and play games like *Boppin' Each Other on the Nose* as they wait for the next adventure to begin.

The End

Acknowledgments

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Very Much

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About the Author

J. Thomas lives in New Jersey with his 5-year-old daughter who loves being read *The Daisybears and the Great Door*.

As a religion major at Dartmouth College, he studied philosophy, biblical studies, and the sociology of income inequality. He has worked as a youth pastor, a corporate paralegal, and has been working in the affordable housing industry for the past 15 years.

When he's not writing, J. Thomas plays guitar to express his love and worship for Jesus. During the pandemic, he also picked up a new hobby, tweeting under [@dryandbarren](https://twitter.com/dryandbarren) where he enjoys translating mainstream Christian truths for our generation.

He writes about his journey as a newly divorced father in his blog Best For Katie: A Blog For Fathers Who Do It All at bestforkatie.com.

Last year, J. Thomas published his writings in a Christian blog *Dry and Barren Land: Walking Through Seasons of Spiritual Drought*. To find out about his upcoming book and the City Walls Lease, an innovative program that creates affordable housing and improves education outcomes for moderate-income families, visit dryandbarren.com.



