

# WHERE IS MY DAD?

MARIA GREYNIS

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# ABOUT AN AUTHOR

Hello, my name is Maria. I am an illustrator based in France. I am a self-taught artist. I started my career in children's illustration 8 years ago in my early 30ies. I draw both with traditional media and digitally and illustrate my own stories as well as stories of other writers.

Drawing is my way of rethinking of the reality and experience, my way to have fun and play. This is why there are often warm and funny moments and scenes in my drawings. The main topics of my art are children, childhood and family. I also keen on drawing animals in human life's situations.

With the birth of my own kids I read for them a lot and consider reading to be amongst one of the most important ways to spent time with children and parenting them. I'm also keen on formulating ideas and writing stories. I find it important what books our children will read in their childhood, what are these books about and what illustrations are they filled with. I believe, children's book is an ideal way to talk to children their language about essential things. This is why I began to create my own stories and illustrate them. This is how my love for drawing, enthusiasm for writing and passion for children and childhood combined.

The presented book is my debut project in writing and illustrating for kids.



# ABOUT A PROJECT

GENRE: picture-book, zoo-sociologic drama with happy end.

FORMAT: 40 pages, 260\*410 mm

Picture book for kids of 4-8 y.o., growing in a single-parent families and difficult family circumstances.

## ANNOTATION:

This is a book about a little polar bear who lives with his Mom and suddenly finds out that in some families not only mothers bring up children but fathers as well. What feelings does the Little Bear have? What words will his mother find for him?

This book-support, intended for children, growing in a single-parent families and difficult life situations, tells us that one can grow up into happy and prosperous adult in a great variety of families.



# THE PLOT

A Little Polar Bear lives in a Zoo with his Mom. They enjoy thier happy lifes that both of them are pleased with.

Once in a while alongside bears the Emperor penguins were settled down. Unexpectedly, the Little Bear discovers that there are families where fathers take care of children. And where there are both of parents. He looks around and finds out there there are plenty of families like this. And he has only his Mom.

The Little Bear is upset. It hurts him to see other families and relations between kids and parents in them. He feels anger, resentment and loneliness.

The Little Bear doesn't understand why he doesn't have something important that others have. He doubts if he can grow up without a father and become strong and brave bear.

His Mom's support helps him to cope with his feelings: to notice continuity between the son and the father, despite his physical absence in Little Bear's life; understand that all families differs and one can successfully grow up in different circumstances, especially if you have your Mom's love and you yourself is such a perfect bear.



# THE RELEVANCE OF THE PROJECT

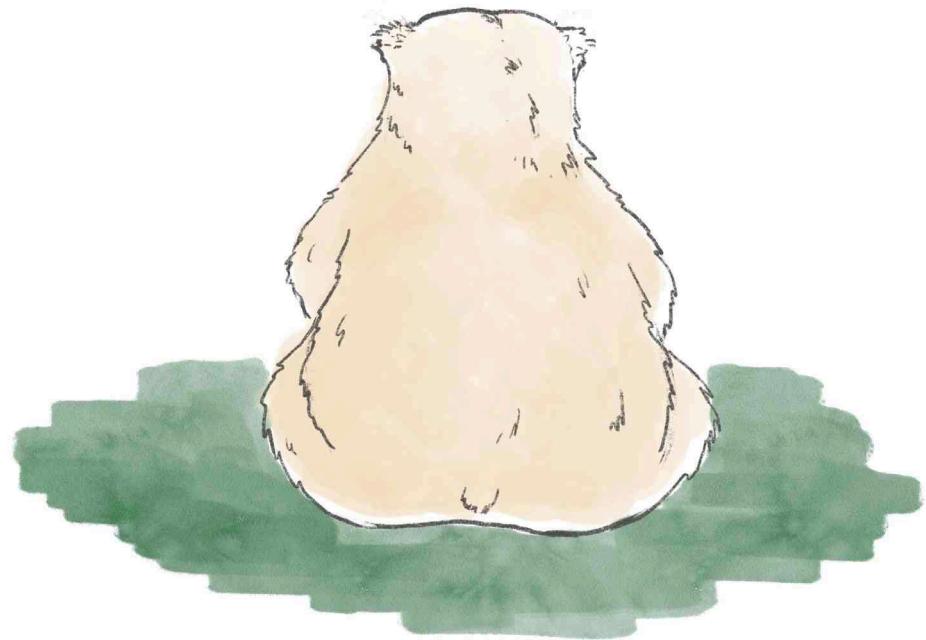
According to statistics, in 2020 14% percent of households in the EU, which have children, are single-parent families, with this share higher than 20% in some countries (e.g. Sweden -34%, Denmark - 29%, France - 21%). In the US 23% of children are raised in single-parent families or with no parents at all.

According to WHO (2019), 36% of children worldwide suffer from emotional abuse and 16% of physical neglect.

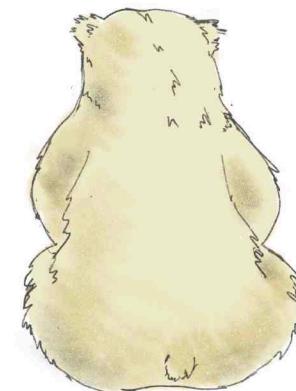
As the everyday life of parents becomes more and more stressful, especially in big cities, kids meet with the detached attitude of one or both parents, parents who might be in depression, have an addiction, take care about a disabled family member and so on.

All these situations evoke variety of feelings and questions in children's mind. One of them: Where is my Dad? Or Mom? Why he (or she) is not with me (physically or emotionally)? Why others have him (or her or them both) and I don't?

The story «Where is my Dad?» is an artistic rethinking of an author's personal story who learned from her own experience that difficulties of the childhood can be overcomed and one can grow into a thriving adult despite of anything. To do it you only need an adult's support and you yourself. Knowing this, the autor considers this to be important to give a helping hand with this book to kids and adults in difficult live circumstances.



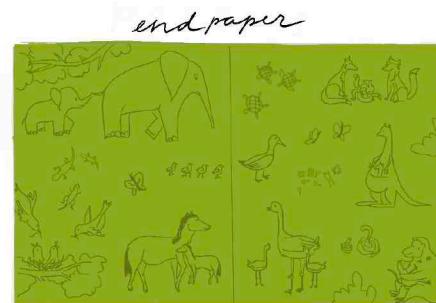
# THE MAIN CHARACTER



# THE STORYBOARD 1

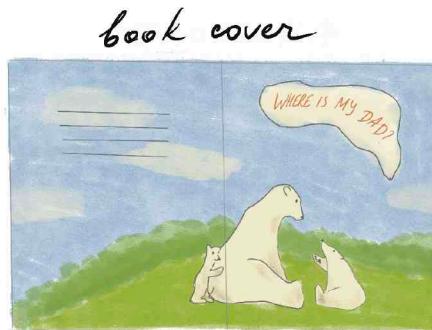


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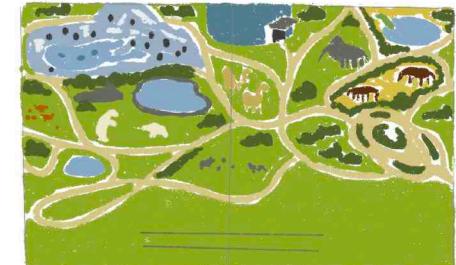
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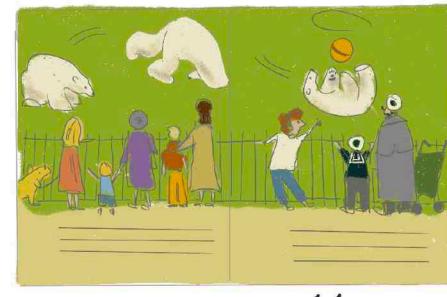
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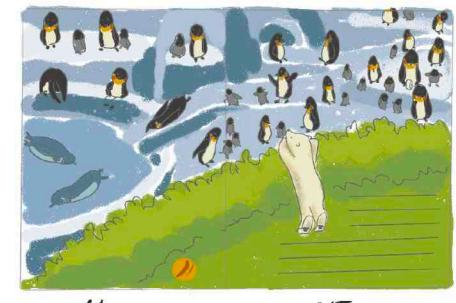
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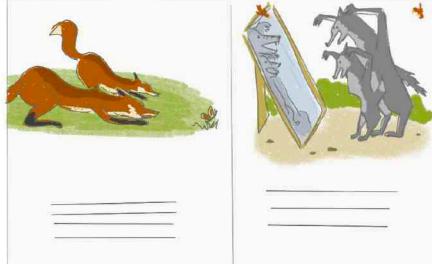
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# THE STORYBOARD 2



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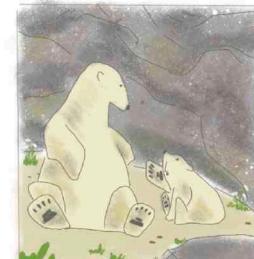
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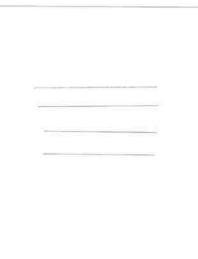
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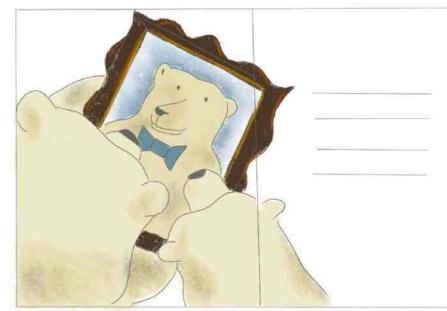
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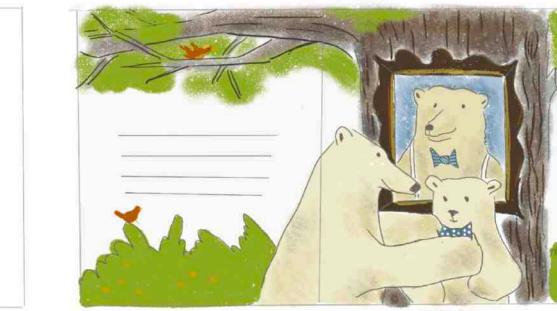
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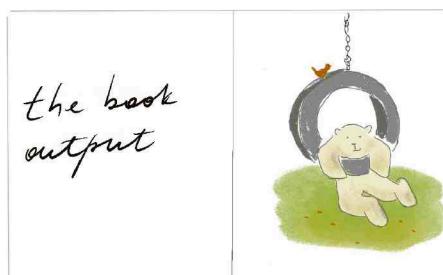
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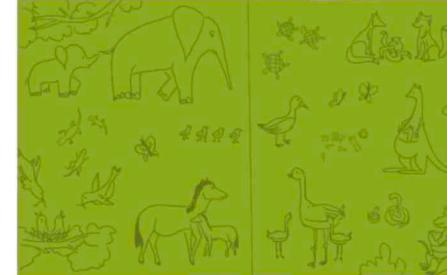


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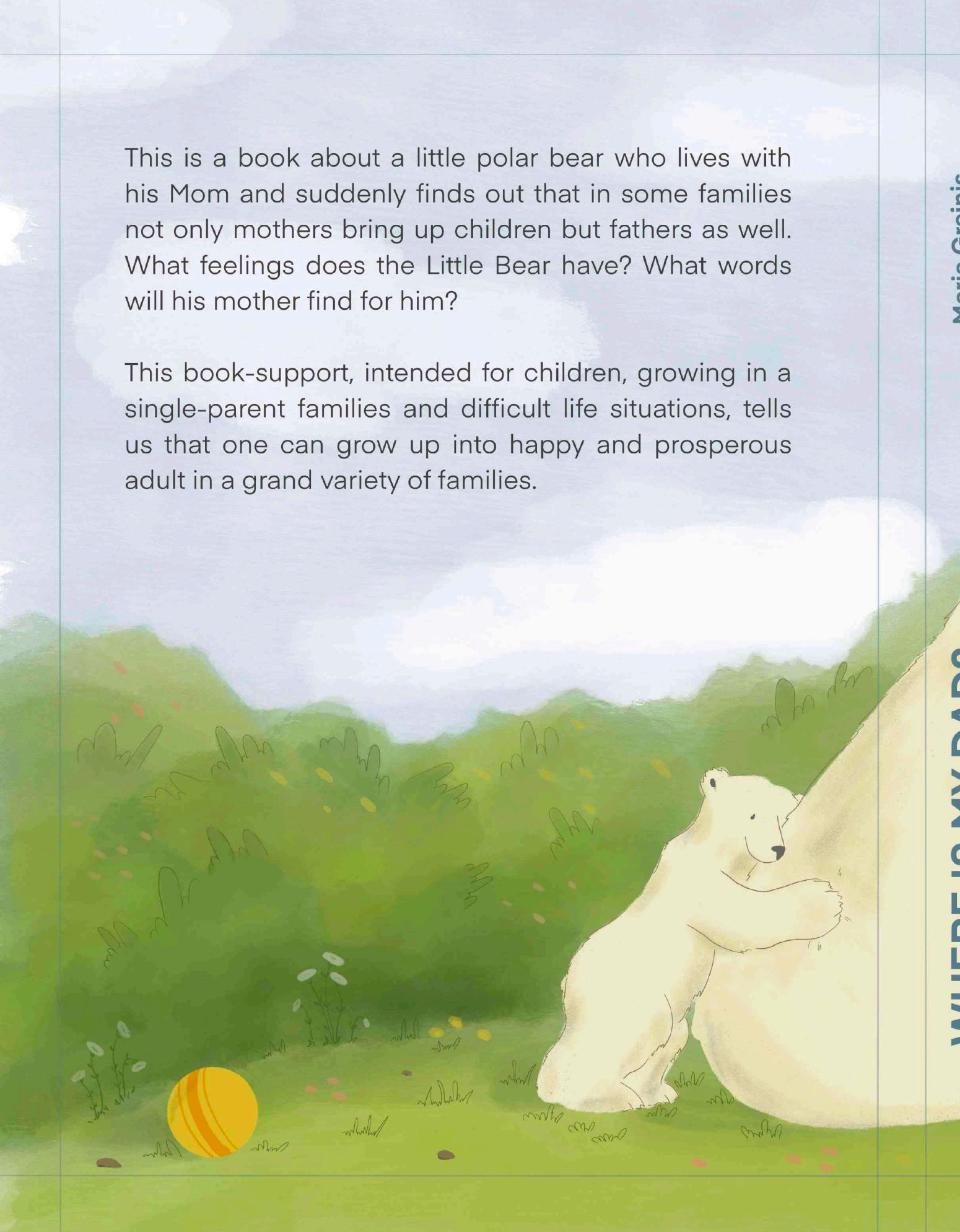
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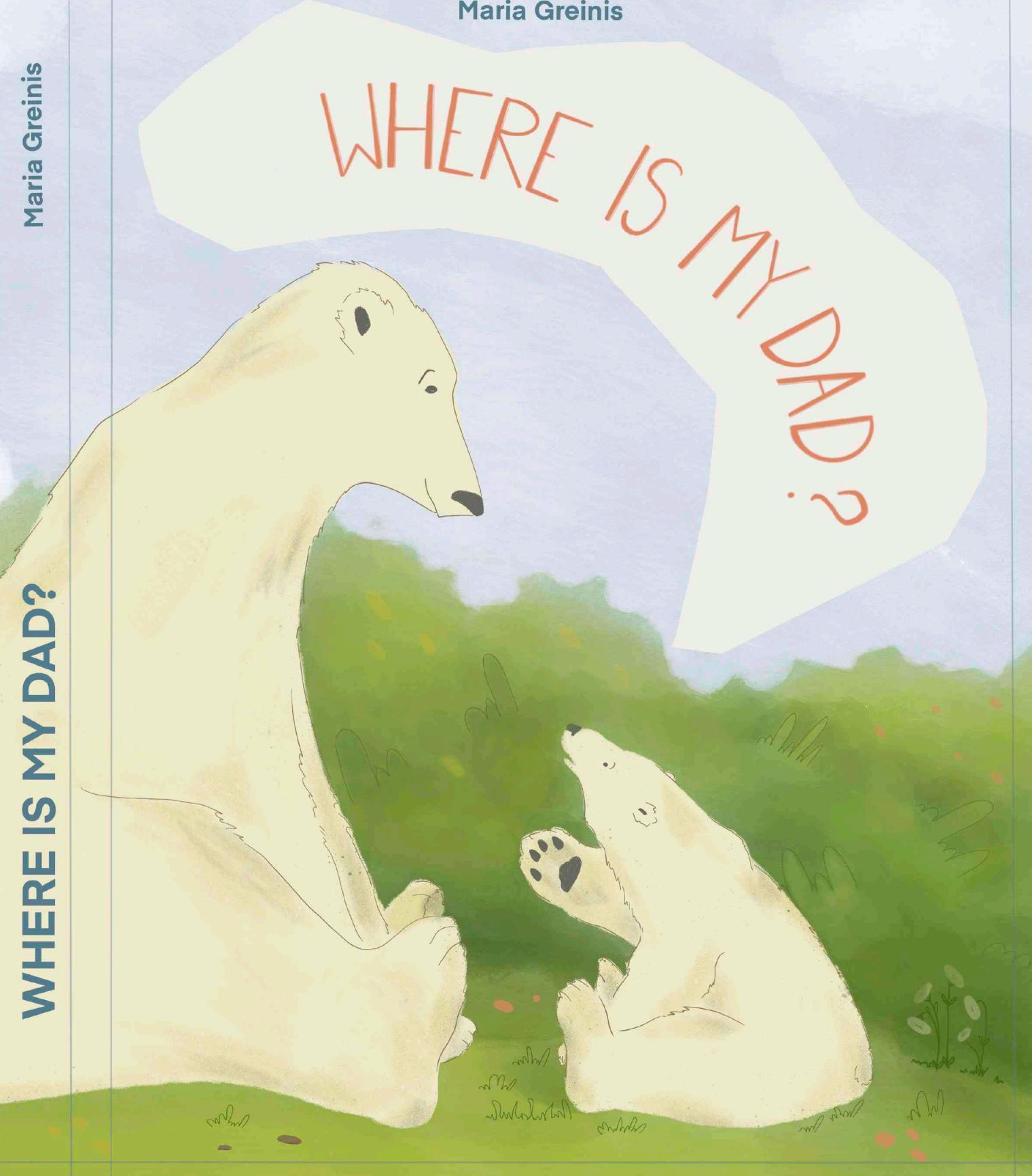
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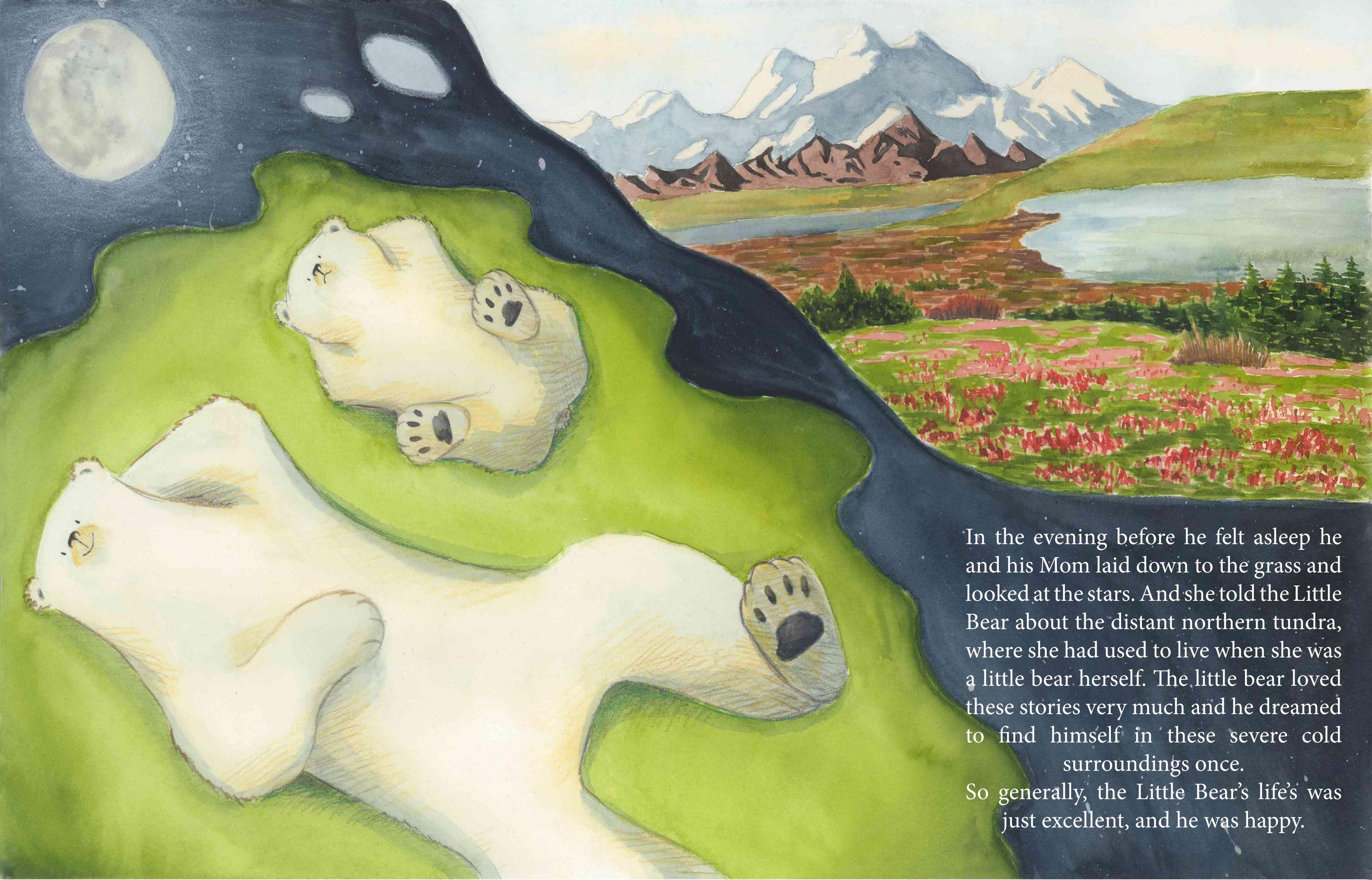


Each day he got a plate of porridge with a little spoon of fish oil for his breakfast, and for lunch his Mom always treated him with a delicious salmon (because fish is so-o-o-o useful for young bears!).



The Little Bear loved small two-legged visitors of the Zoo - the kids. From the early morning and till the late evening the Little Bear played and tumbled, and they laughed loud and reached out to him. But then the big two-legged ones - their parents - took their little ones away.

And the Little Bear got sad as he could never make friends with any of them. However he never stayed sad for a long time - as he had his Mom.



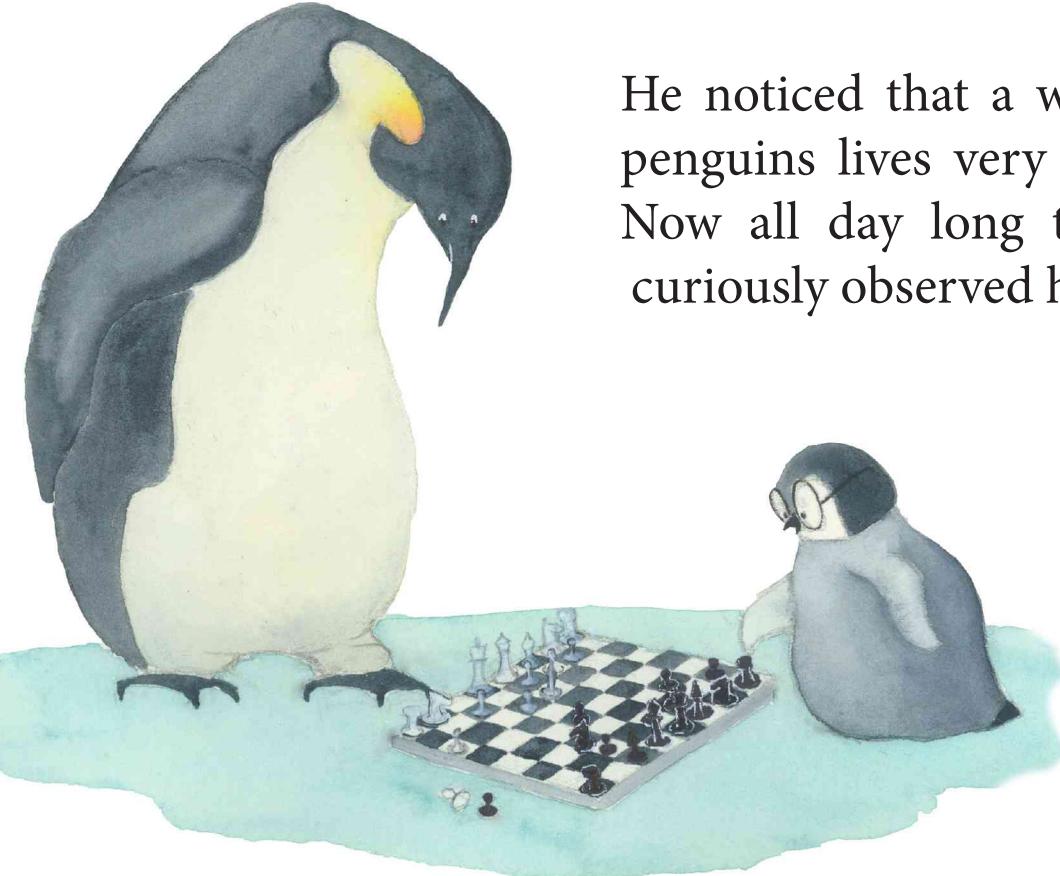
In the evening before he felt asleep he and his Mom laid down to the grass and looked at the stars. And she told the Little Bear about the distant northern tundra, where she had used to live when she was a little bear herself. The little bear loved these stories very much and he dreamed to find himself in these severe cold surroundings once. So generally, the Little Bear's life's was just excellent, and he was happy.



Once in a while alongside bears the Emperor penguins were settled down. The Little Bear has never had a chance to see these big and odd birds in the Zoo. Seeing them, he was absolutely astonished.

Besides, the penguins lived as one huge family - the colony.

"It's not like bears live at all," - the Little Bear discoursed. "But I have my Mom, and this is the most important."

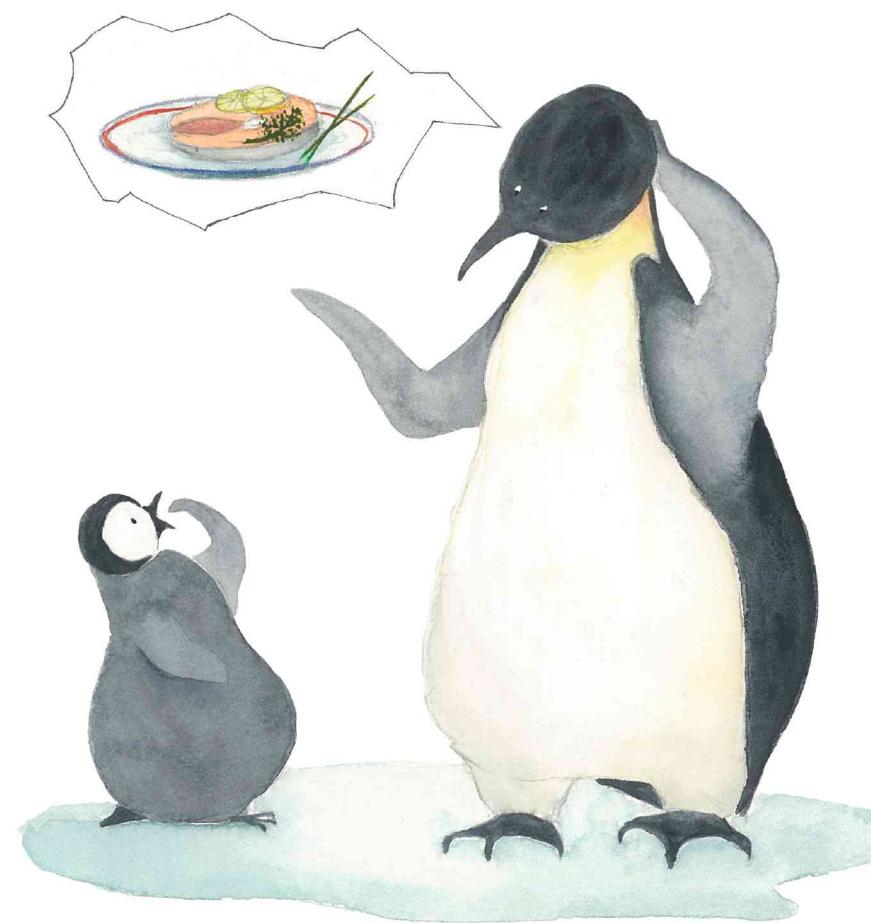


He noticed that a whole family of penguins lives very close to them. Now all day long the Little Bear curiously observed his neighbours.

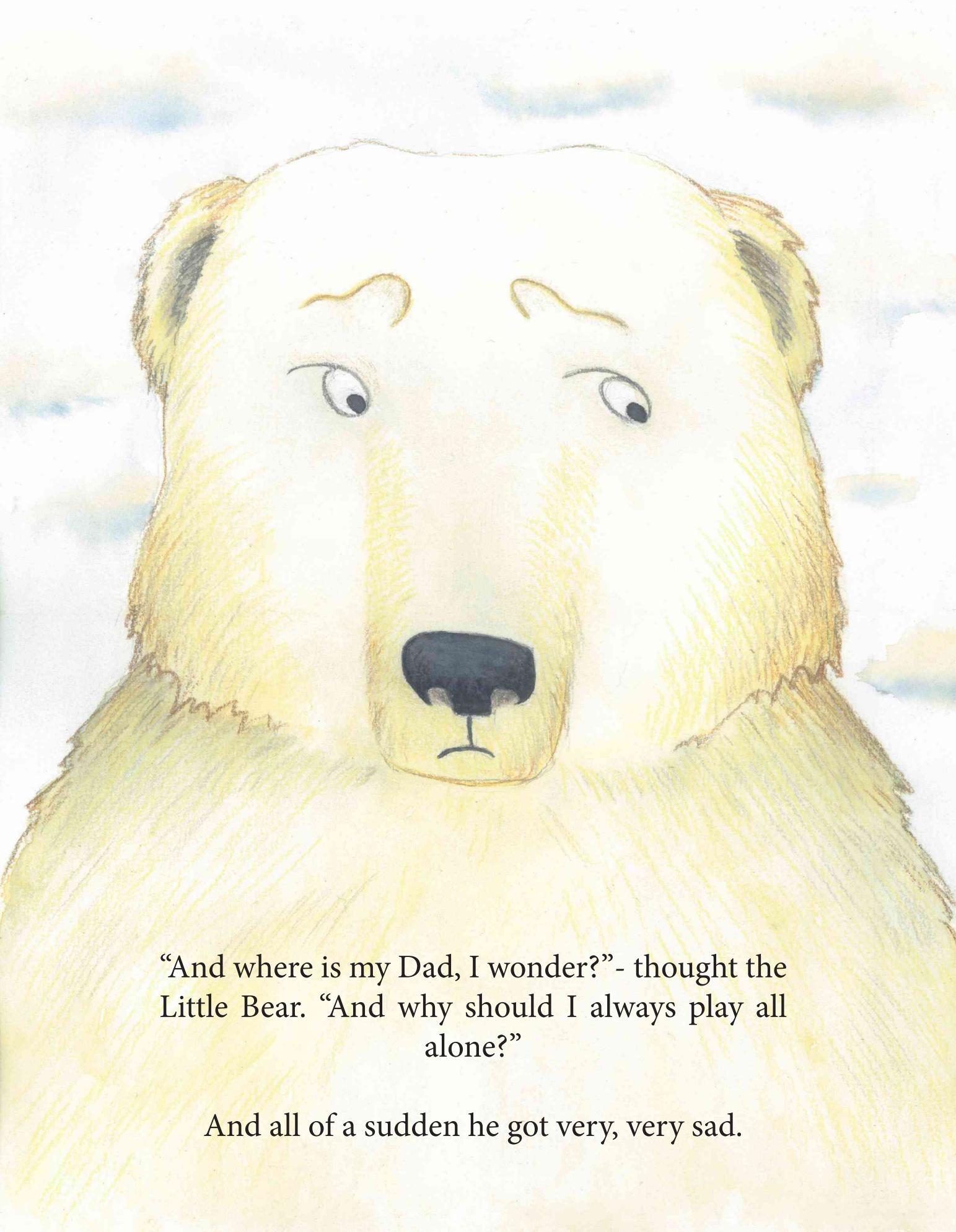
He didn't let the Little Penguin get lost, played with him, fed him and warmed him up with his warm soft belly in the evenings.



He saw that a Little Penguin's Mom has been spending all days long in a big swimming pool while a big Father-Penguin stayed to look after his little one.

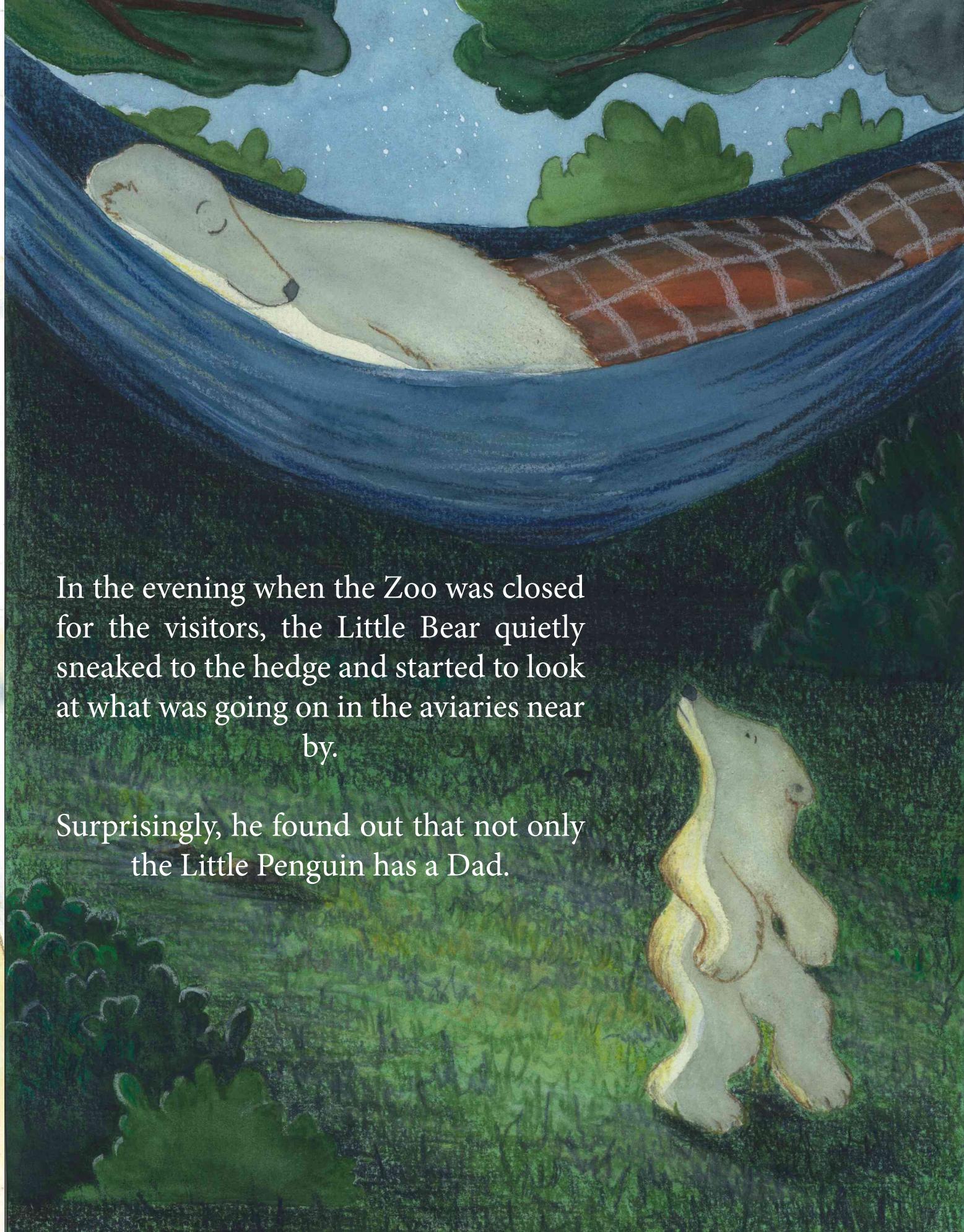


Then he switched with the Little Penguin's Mom but Father-penguin always returned to his baby.



“And where is my Dad, I wonder?” - thought the Little Bear. “And why should I always play all alone?”

And all of a sudden he got very, very sad.



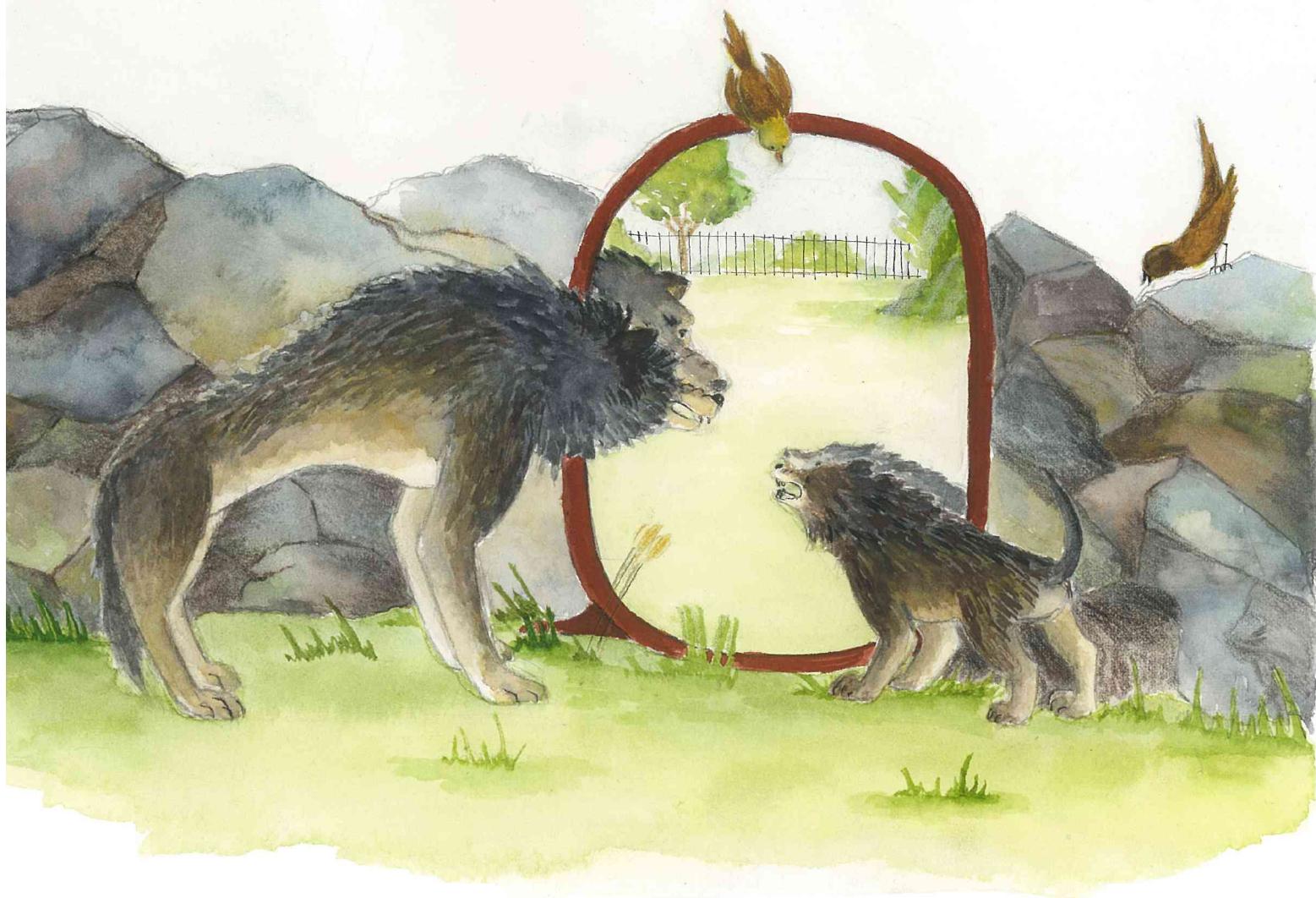
In the evening when the Zoo was closed for the visitors, the Little Bear quietly sneaked to the hedge and started to look at what was going on in the aviaries near by.

Surprisingly, he found out that not only the Little Penguin has a Dad.



First of all, he saw a Little Fox. "Hey, Little Fox, do you have a Dad?" - he asked. "Well, of course, the Little Fox answered. "Here is my Dad! He brings me food, plays with me and teaches me how to become the slyest fox when I grow up."

"And my Dad doesn't teach me anything" - the Little Bear got upset.



Then the Little Bear saw a Little Wolf. "Hey, Little Wolf, and do you have a Dad?" - asked the Little Bear. "Gr-r-r-r-r! Of course!" - the Little Wolf answered. - «Here is my Dad! He protects me, plays with me and teaches me how to become the strongest and the bravest wolf when I grow up.”

"And my Dad will not play with me" - the Little Bear completely fell apart.



Sad, he looked at the Aquarium. There was a Seahorse swimming. He had a special bag full of his kids - the Little Seahorses.

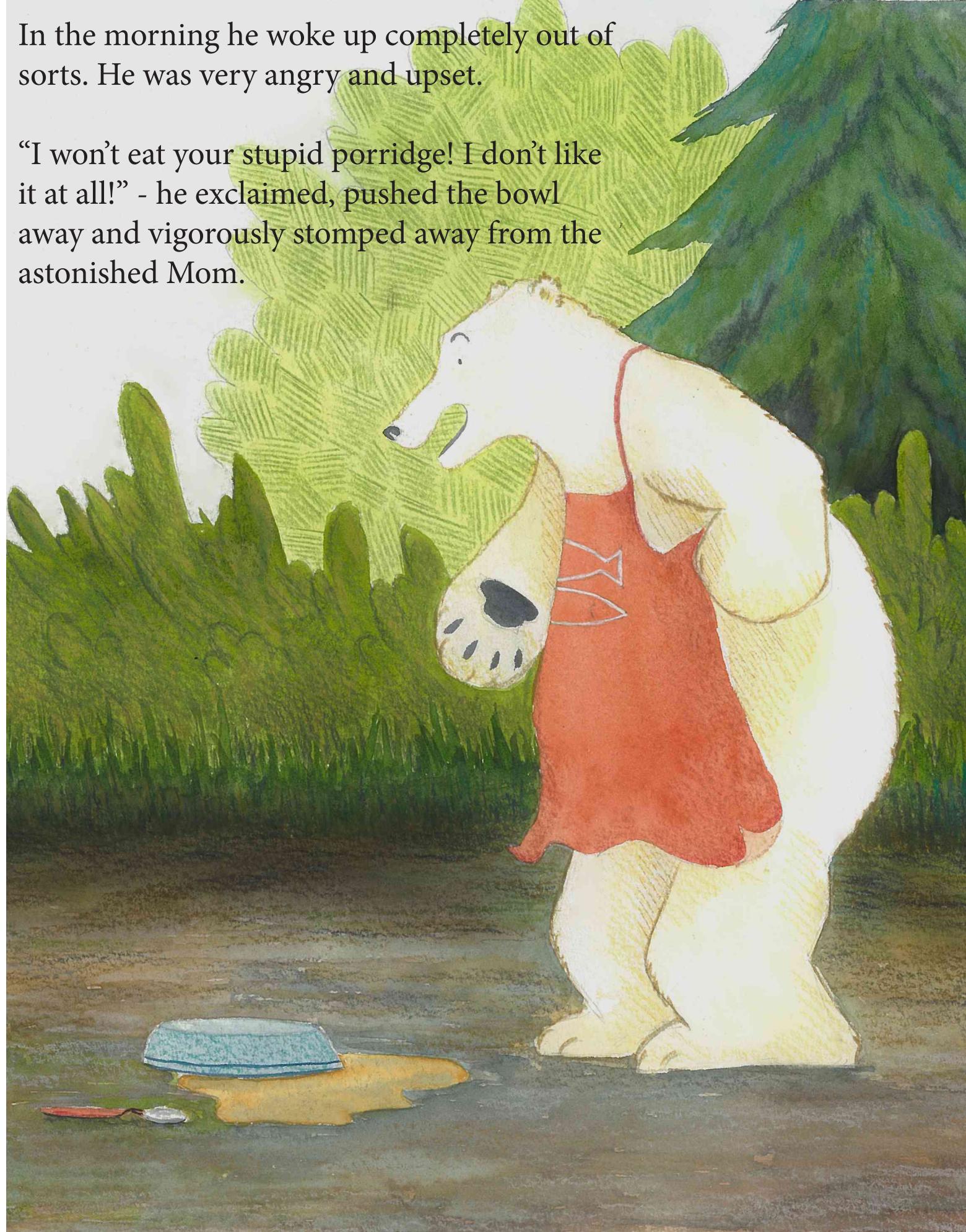
“Oh, this is too much” - the Little Bear was outraged, - «This Dad even carries his kids around with him everywhere! And I even haven’t even seen mine!”



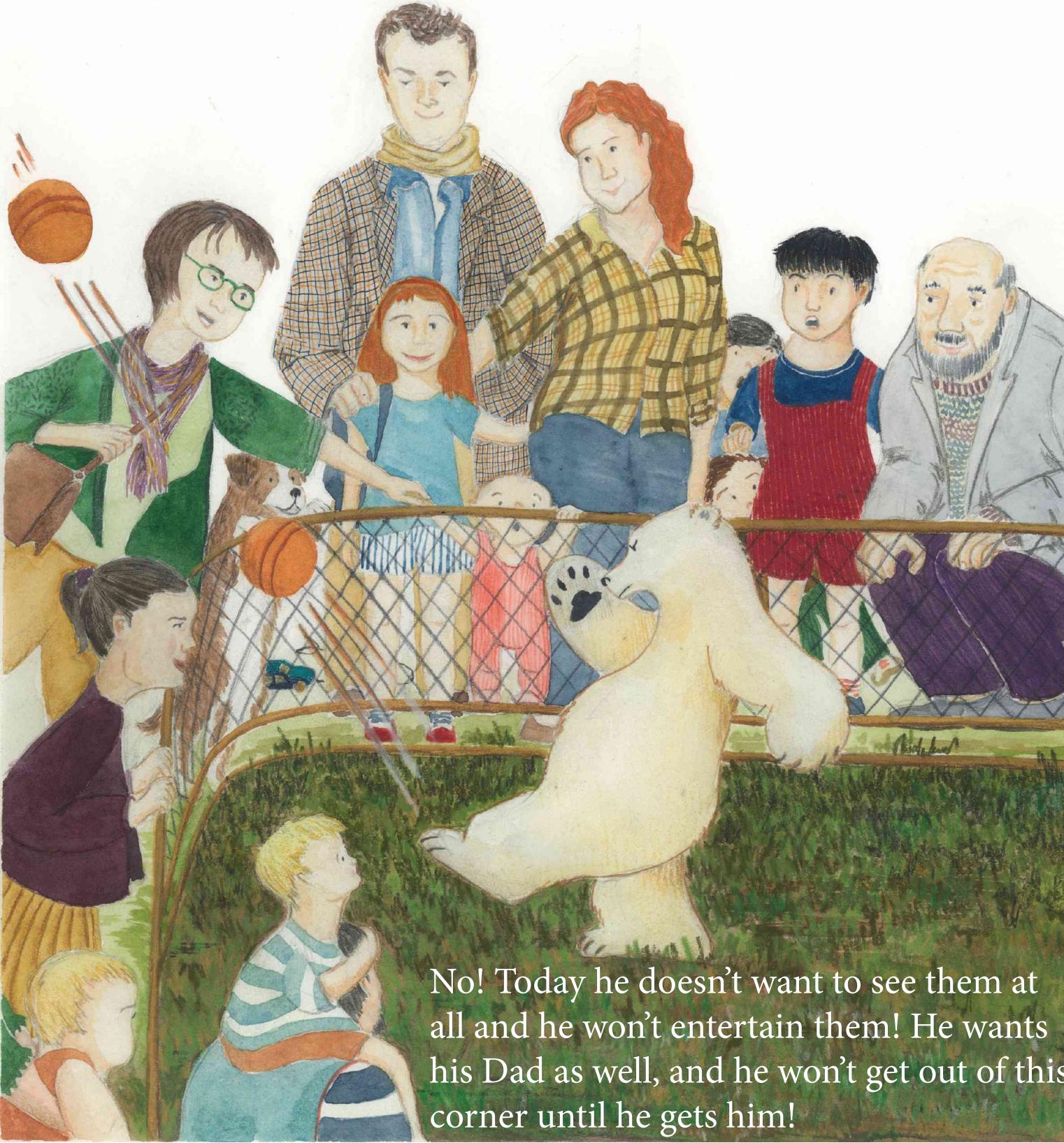
And an angry Little Bear went to bed!

In the morning he woke up completely out of sorts. He was very angry and upset.

"I won't eat your stupid porridge! I don't like it at all!" - he exclaimed, pushed the bowl away and vigorously stomped away from the astonished Mom.



In a while the visitors became to arrive to the Zoo. The Little Bear used to meet his little friends joyfully. But today, just having noticed them pulling their Moms and, definitely, their Dads to look at the bears, he went furious so much that he roared as fiercely as he only could, threw his favourite toy at them and decisively left to the furthest corner.



No! Today he doesn't want to see them at all and he won't entertain them! He wants his Dad as well, and he won't get out of this corner until he gets him!



The Little Bear sat down, his nose to the wall, crossed his paws upon the chest and pouted.

When the Little Bear didn't appear for lunch, his Mom got worried. She didn't want at all the Little Bear to loose weight or be unhappy. And today he obviously was not a happy bear!

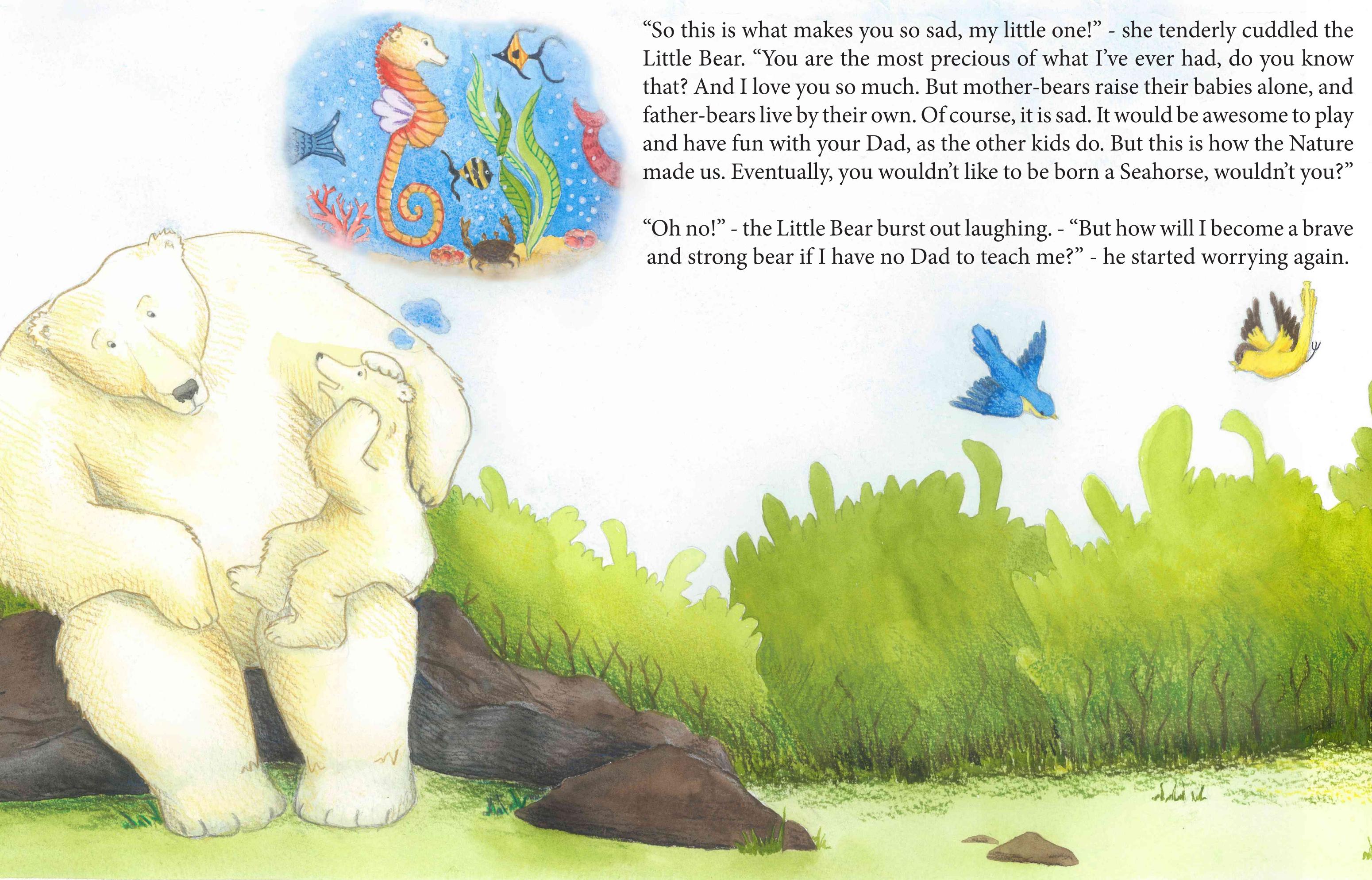


“What is going on, my little one? Are you healthy?” - she anxiously asked.

The hungry Little Bear looked at the Mother Bear impertinently.

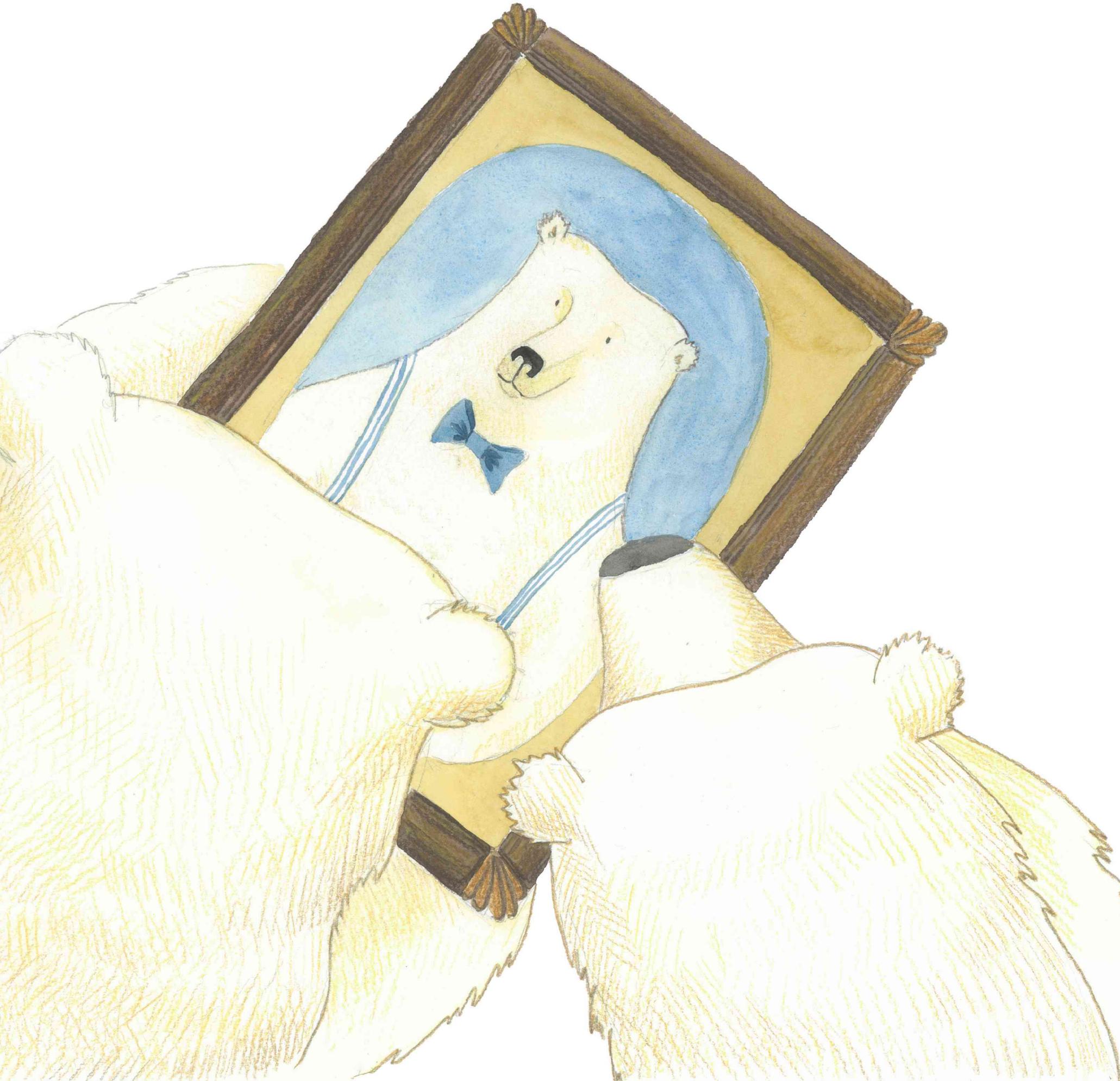
“You know what, Mom, I would like to have a Dad as well! Everyone have their fathers! The Little Fox and the Little Wolf and the Little Penguin! And EVEN...” - the Little Bear indignantly sniffed, - “the Little Seahorses! And I am the only one who has no Dad! Why?”

The Mother Bear gently smiled.



“So this is what makes you so sad, my little one!” - she tenderly cuddled the Little Bear. “You are the most precious of what I’ve ever had, do you know that? And I love you so much. But mother-bears raise their babies alone, and father-bears live by their own. Of course, it is sad. It would be awesome to play and have fun with your Dad, as the other kids do. But this is how the Nature made us. Eventually, you wouldn’t like to be born a Seahorse, wouldn’t you?”

“Oh no!” - the Little Bear burst out laughing. - “But how will I become a brave and strong bear if I have no Dad to teach me?” - he started worrying again.



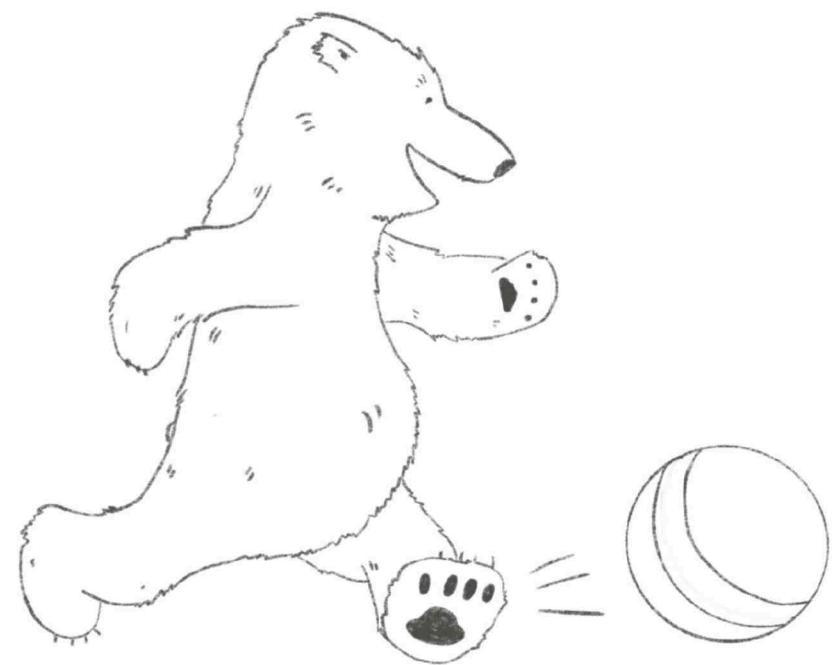
“Well, this is why I am here, my little one. Look how big I am! Specially to love you and take care for two. Besides your Dad still took care of something. Since you have yourself! And you by your own grow up as a beautiful, strong and smart bear as your Dad.”



The Little Bear looked at the picture that Mom showed him, and felt much better. After all it is true - he has his Mom, and this is the most important. And he has himself, the most smart, brave and beautiful Little Bear in the world.



THANK YOU!



# Where is my Dad?

*Written by Maria Greinis.*

A Little Polar Bear lived in a Zoo with his Mom and was quite pleased with his life.

Each day he got a plate of porridge with a little spoon of fish oil for his breakfast, and for lunch his Mom always treated him with a delicious salmon (because fish is so-o-o-o useful for a young bears!).

The Little Bear loved small two-legged visitors of the Zoo - the kids. From the early morning and till the late evening the Little Bear played and tumbled, and they laughed loud and reached out to him. But then the big two-legged ones - their parents - took their little ones away. And the Little Bear got sad as he could never make friends with any of them.

However he never stayed sad for a long time - as he had his Mom. And this was the most important.

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