

ALL ABOUT A BOY
WHO WAS
AFRAID OF THE DARK



(And HOW HE GOT OVER IT)

By

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All About a Boy Who Was Afraid of the Dark by Ann Marie Hannon

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Helping Children to learn with this book

This book is an interactive learning tool that may be used in a variety of ways.

You can:

- Read this book aloud to your child or children.
- Discuss what Patrick did that was useful or a good idea.
- Have your child re-tell the story in his or her own words.
- Have your child pick his or her favorite part of the story and tell you why it's a favorite part.
- You'll be surprised at the fun everyone can have in this way of story-telling.

Patrick was almost two years old, when just before his second birthday party, something amazing happened!

Patrick discovered he was afraid of the dark, and this happened at 12 a.m. midnight on the 12th day of the 12th month.

It occurred when everyone else in the house was asleep, and Patrick woke up, in the dark, all alone!

This was a very odd situation, and unlike anything that had happened to Patrick before. Patrick's feelings and "worries" were also unlike any that had ever happened before.



This new feeling of being afraid of the dark was more troublesome than the time he said his first words, which were “Mama”, “Dadda” and A - a - A g g i e which is the way that Patrick said, “Margy”, his big sister’s name.

That time, when Patrick said his first words, his Grandma Landry and Uncle Joel were there listening to him, too, which added to Patrick’s being worried.

To his surprise though, everyone clapped, and said, “Hooray!”

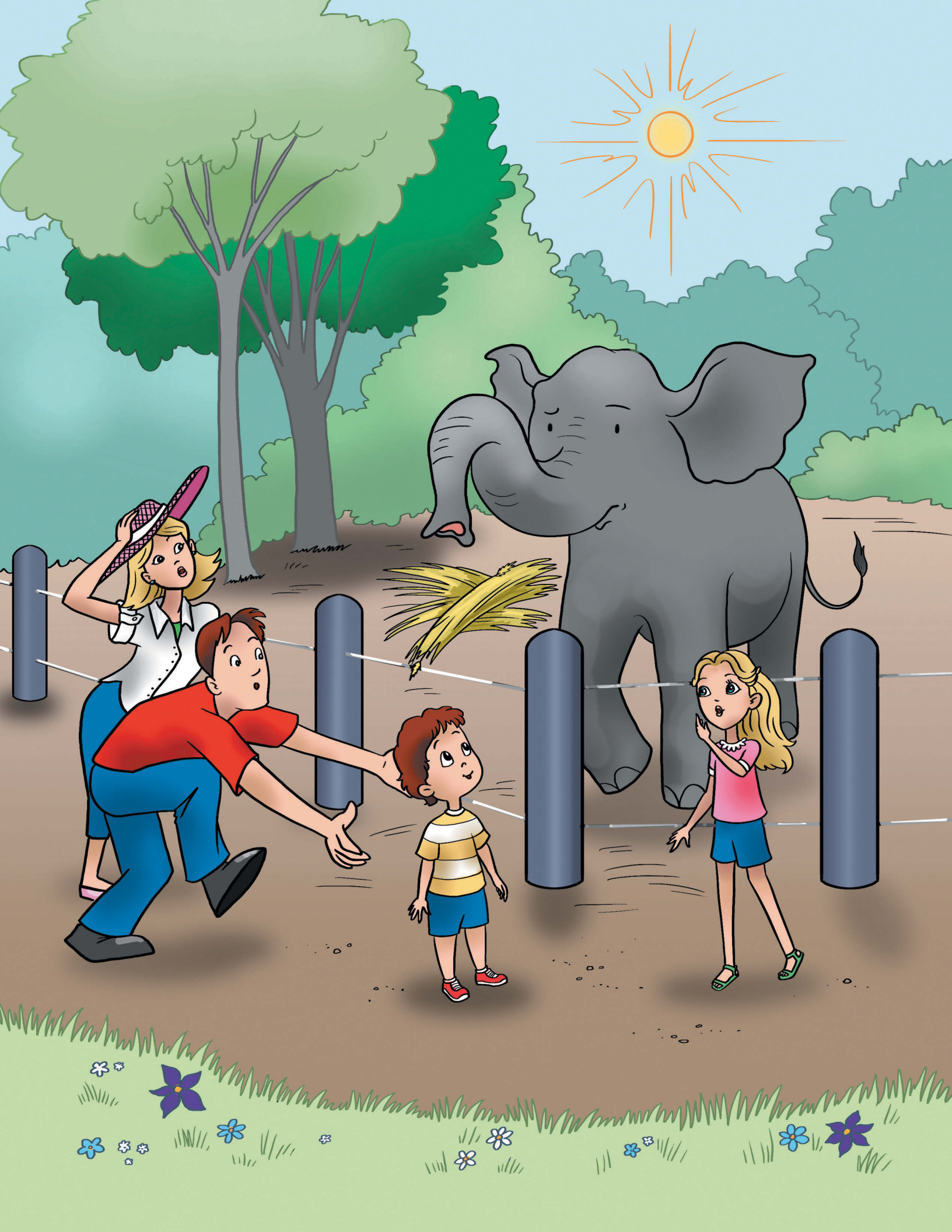
Of course, that also made Patrick so happy, he completely forgot about being worried and afraid.



Another time, Patrick's Mom and Dad took him and his sister Margy to the city zoo.

They went in to see the elephants, and Patrick was surprised and afraid when a huge elephant took a scoop of straw in its trunk, and dropped it over the top of the fence.

The huge clump of straw would have dropped right on top of Patrick's head, but Dad jumped in and lifted Patrick away, just in time. Dad had helped to make Patrick's worries go away, and Patrick felt totally safe and secure.



Even the time when a big dog at the park tried to lick Patrick's face, Patrick was afraid and had some big worries and afraid feelings.

But, those feelings and worries were not as bad as being afraid of the dark. When the big dog licked Patrick's face all over and made Patrick afraid, his Mom and Dad were there to save him.

Dad quickly led the dog away and Mom used a wipette to make Patrick feel better, and excited to be at the park.



So, as long as Mom and Dad were always there to help, Patrick felt safe and secure, in no time at all.

That's why, this time, at 12 a.m. midnight on the 12th day of the 12th month, with out Mom or Dad there, Patrick's discovery about the dark was so worrisome.

The dark was everywhere; and everything was completely quiet, unlike other times when he woke up in the morning.

Even worse, Patrick's night-light wasn't shining like it usually did.

But, worst of all, Patrick couldn't think of any reason why he was awake when it was still dark, and that was very confusing.



When Patrick woke up at 12 a.m. midnight of that 12th day of the 12th month which was also officially morning, all he could see in his room was the dark.

There was no sun shining through his window like it usually did to wake him up each day.

There were no happy smells that normally drifted up to his room as his Mom was cooking breakfast, and that would wake him up, and make him feel happy and special.

He hadn't even heard his big sister, Margy, calling to him and saying she would eat all his cereal if he didn't wake up, and to come downstairs right away for breakfast.



This time, with nothing happening to wake Patrick up, and because the only thing Patrick could see in his room was the dark, it made Patrick feel so worried and afraid, that all he could do was cry.

At first, his bottom lip poked way out, then his two small eyebrows started to meet. Then, his whole face turned into one terrible frown, and finally, Patrick cried out in a long, strong, “Boo-hoo-hoo.”

Of course, this terrible crying woke up Patrick’s big sister Margy whose bedroom was right next to Patrick’s.

Margy put on her robe, walked out into the darkened hallway, and opened Patrick’s door. Still yawning, she said, “Patrick, you woke me up.” But, all Patrick could do was sit up in his bed, point toward his window, and say, “Dark! Dark! Dark”!

Then, he began to cry all over again.

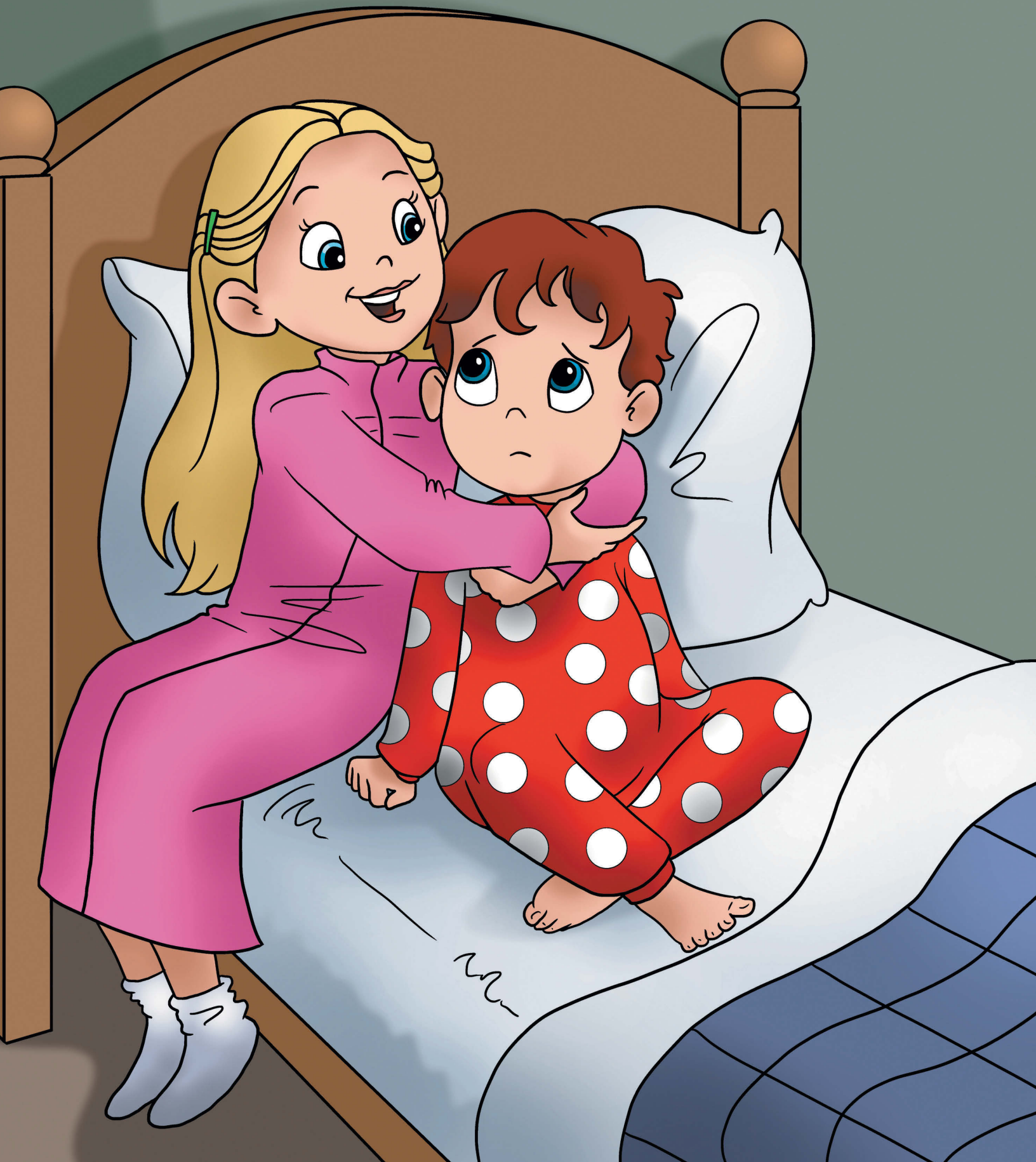


Margy stood there for a moment, trying to think of something to say.

She had learned from Mom and Dad that it was important to talk things out, and communicate, in order to solve problems, and get along with others.

Since it was so dark, she slowly and carefully walked to Patrick's bed, and sat down next to him. She put her arm around Patrick to comfort him.

Then, in a very grown up five-and-a-half-year-old voice, she said, "Patrick, don't be afraid of the dark. The dark is something you sleep in -- like a nice warm blanket, or a soft, fluffy sleeping bag. If we didn't have the dark, it sure would be hard to sleep."



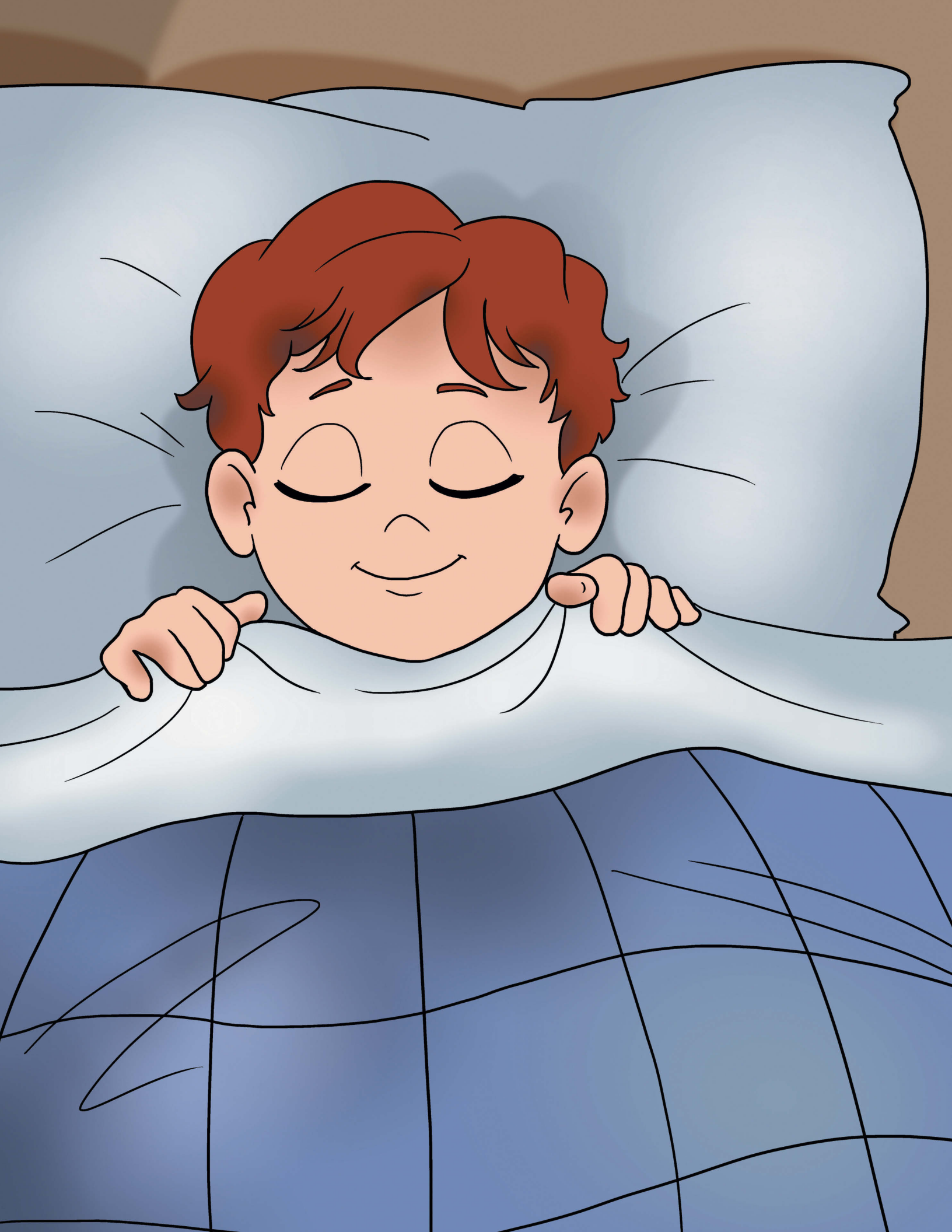
Hearing what Margy said, Patrick finally stopped crying. He had listened to Margy and was now thinking about what she had said. It took a little while, but Patrick decided that it did make sense.

He said to himself, "In the dark, it sure is a lot easier to sleep, " and then absolutely decided the dark was okay.

Patrick, gave Margy a great big smile, even though she couldn't quite see his smile in the dark.

He wiped away his tears, pulled his covers up close, just under his chin, and in no time at all, went happily back to sleep.

The best estimate i s that happened at 12: 12 a.m. on the 12th day of the 12th month just before Patrick's second birthday.

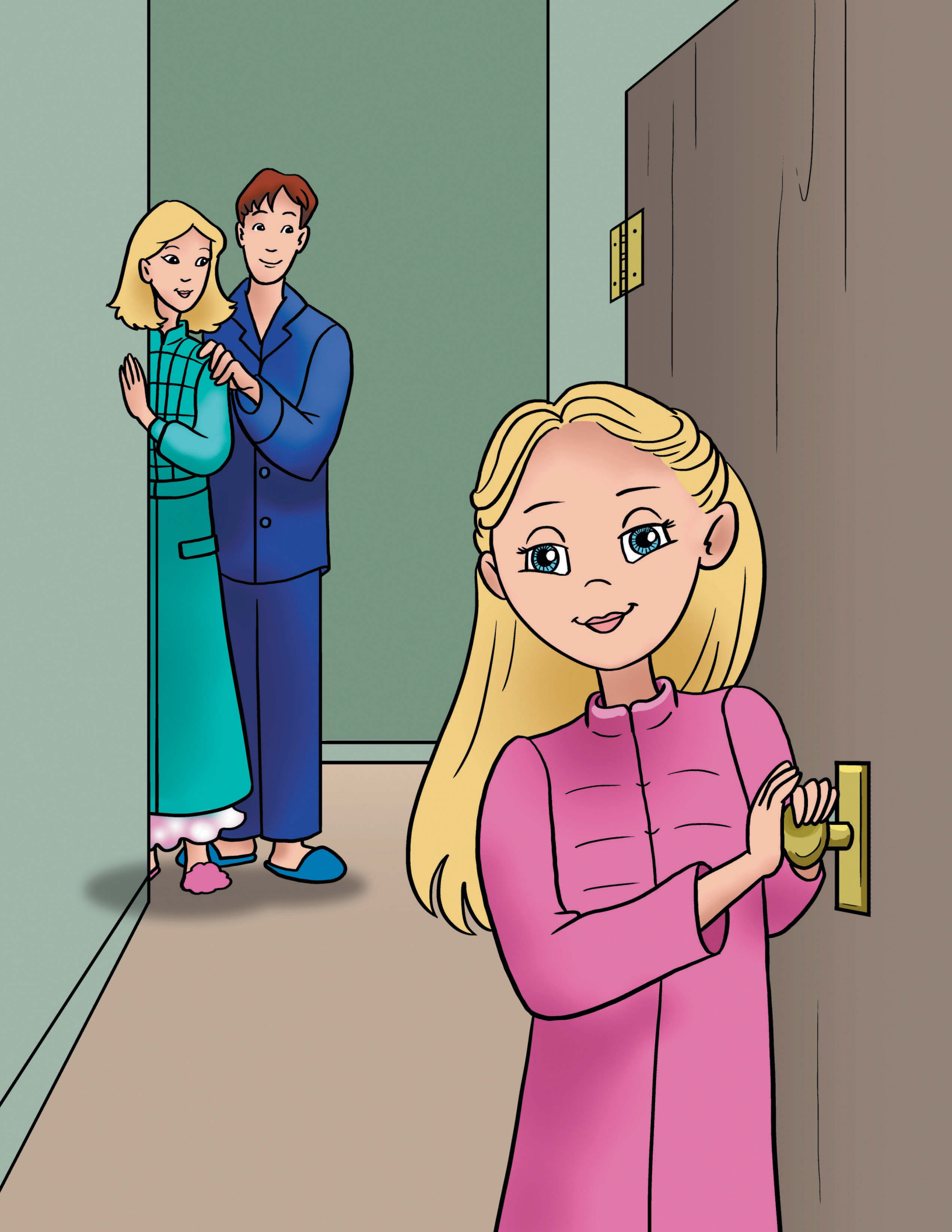


Margy walked back to her bedroom with good feelings, and was glad Patrick had thought about what she said and agreed.

Margy pulled her covers up just under her chin, and thought, “After all, isn’t that what big sisters are for? Why, if Patrick didn’t have a big sister, he would have to figure it out all by himself. Or, cry a lot longer, and wake up Mom and Dad.”

Margy went quickly and happily back to sleep, but what she hadn’t noticed when returning to her room, was Mom and Dad also returning to their room.

Patrick’s crying had made Mom and Dad wake up after all, but they were not upset with Patrick’s crying. Even though they had not been able to hear all that had happened, they were feeling very happy and proud because they figured that Margy and Patrick had worked together to **SOLVE A PROBLEM!**



So, after Mom and Dad went back to bed, they pulled the covers up close, kissed each other good night again, for the second time, and said, “Isn’t that what brothers and sisters are for?”

Soon they were peacefully back to sleep.

After that time, Mom and Dad were so happy and proud of the way their children had worked together, and solved a problem, that they made sure everyone in the family knew about it, too.

And, as you might expect, Patrick had an especially wonderful and marvelous two-year-old birthday party, with lots of yummy cake, and at least 12 gifts.

Happy Birthday!!!



EPILOGUE

Now, whenever anyone, including Grandma Landry or Uncle Joel, asks Patrick, “Are you afraid of the dark?”; do you know what Patrick says?

Of course, you know!

He says he isn’t afraid at all.

He just points to a window, takes a deep breath, and in a very grown up two-year-old voice, says, “Dark— there—night—good.”



Also, if Margy is there, she smiles and says, “The dark is something you sleep in—like a nice warm blanket.”

And, if Mom and Dad are there, they smile very proudly, and give each of their children a very big hug, with lots of kisses.

Best of all, and forever and ever, they all agree, “Yes, the dark is something you sleep in, and you have nothing to fear about that at all.”

The End