

Love to the Rescue

Words by M.P.H. Stanley

&

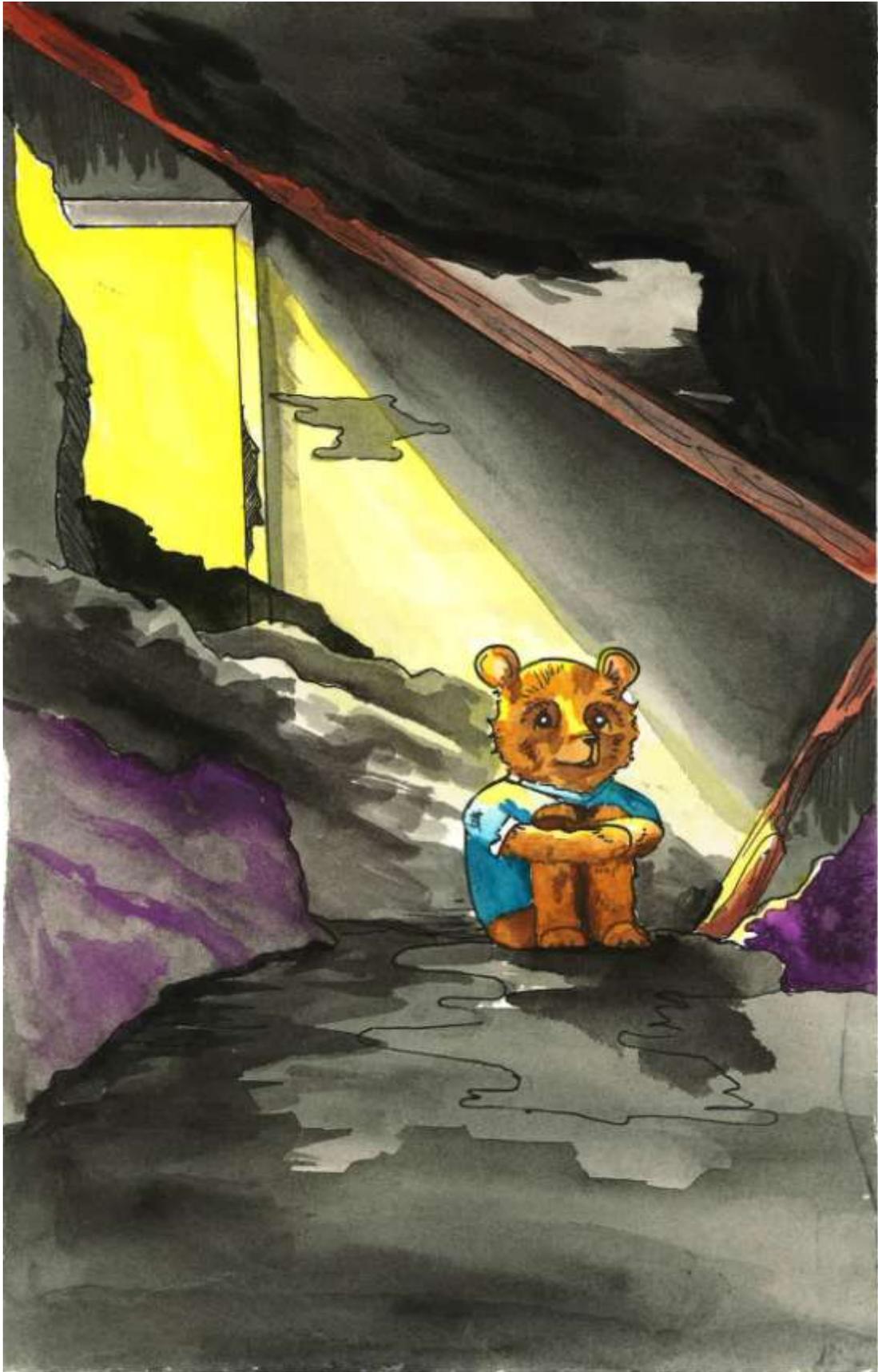
Illustrations by Samantha Silva

Dedicated to Boomer

About Shriners Hospital for Children—



Shriners Hospitals for Children is changing lives every day through innovative pediatric specialty care, world-class research and outstanding medical education. Our 22 facilities, located in the United States, Canada and Mexico, provide advanced care for children with orthopaedic conditions, burns, spinal cord injuries, and cleft lip and palate.



Poor little Teddy was roughed up and scared,
All alone in a great heap of trouble.
It was dark where he was, and he feared no one cared
He was stuck awfully deep in the rubble.

The rubble was left where a building had been
For a family he deeply adored.
But a candle forgotten had burned up unseen,
And the building had blazed to the floor.

“Where is my Cindy, my Timmy?” he thought,
“And where is my dearest friend John?”
But they weren’t there, the family he sought,
And he wondered where they had all gone.



Then through the dark came a snuffle and snuffle,

And a pinpoint of light could he see.

Then a great crack of light and dust ruffled.

“What,” cried Teddy, “could this be?”

Through the great light came a wet, wet nose,

A pair of eyes, ears, and feet covered with fur,

A rescue dog’s paw and a rescue dog’s toes,

And a yelp that helped reassure.

“You’re not our Toby but I’m glad to see you!”

Said a sooty and matted old bear.

Then the rescue dog did what good rescue dogs do,

And he salvaged our Teddy from the rubble down there.



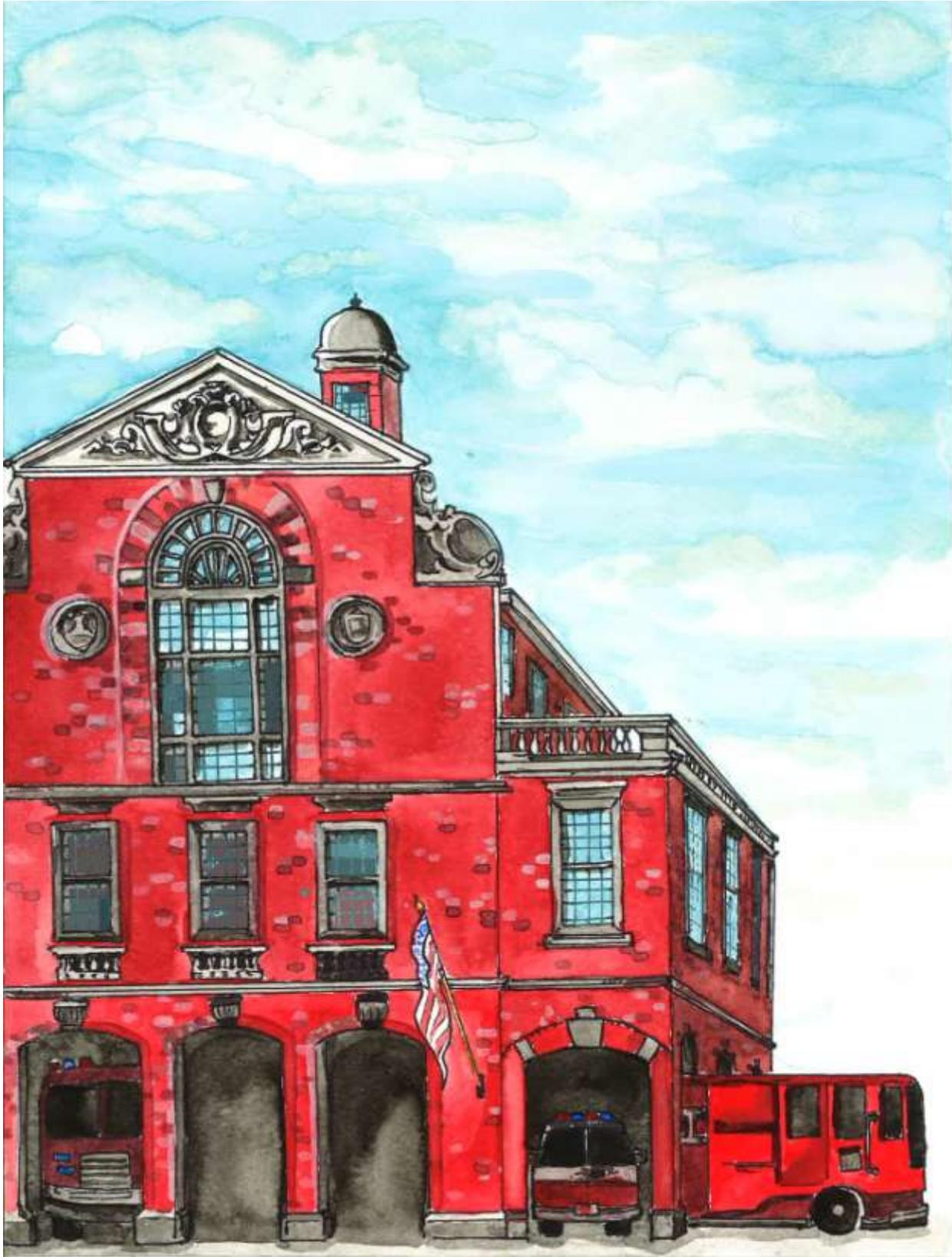


From the dark the dog took Teddy up to the light

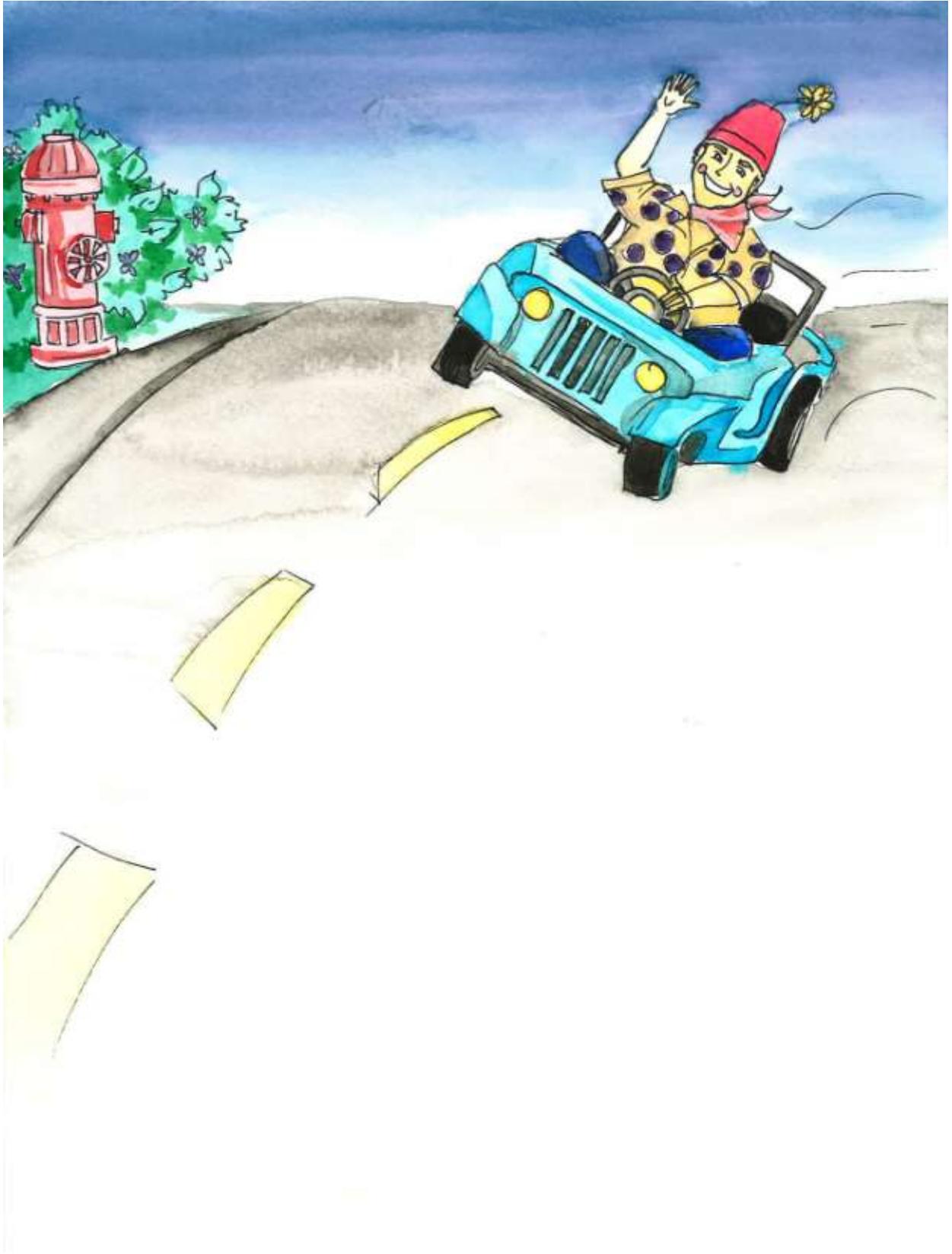
So his master could see what he'd found.

"You're in pretty rough shape, but you'll soon be all right,"

Said Chief to the Teddy lost under the ground.



Buckled up in the truck did the Teddy bear drive
To the firehouse away down the street.
Teddy was happy to be safe and alive
But still wondered when he and his family would meet.



Then a caravan of cars came zipping down the street
Each one of them steered by a clown.
They wore flower-pot hats and huge shoes on their feet.
Teddy wondered just what bid them down.

The Renegades parked in a tight figure 8
And hopped out of their miniature Jeeps.
They marched merrily through the great firemen's gate,
But not one of them dared make a peep.

Then they burst into laughter and music and song,
Shaking hands with the chief and the fire-dog, too.
And though they were carefree Teddy felt all along
They'd something extremely important to do.



Teddy was sitting all alone in a chair
Watching this wondrous show.
One clown came over, "Teddy would you care
To come along with us when we go?"

Teddy had never been talked to before
Except by little Suzie and Ben.
"I shall go with you," then they made way for the door---
Teddy safe in the arms of a friend.

The clowns raced as fast as Arabian knights,
But the bear was too tired and sore.

Off in the distance he spied a great light
Shining over a welcoming door.



Teddy just slumbered for he'd had a long day
And awoke to a big bowl of honey!
But Teddy was worried that he couldn't pay.
Bears have no pockets, so bears have no money.

But to his surprise he had pockets and trousers
And a button up coat to boot!
His fur was unmated, and he sure had a shower,
For there was not even a trace of the soot!

His fur that was blackened just on the fringe
From the previous night's terrible fire
Was now beautiful brown; gone was the singe.
What stranger had been so inspired?

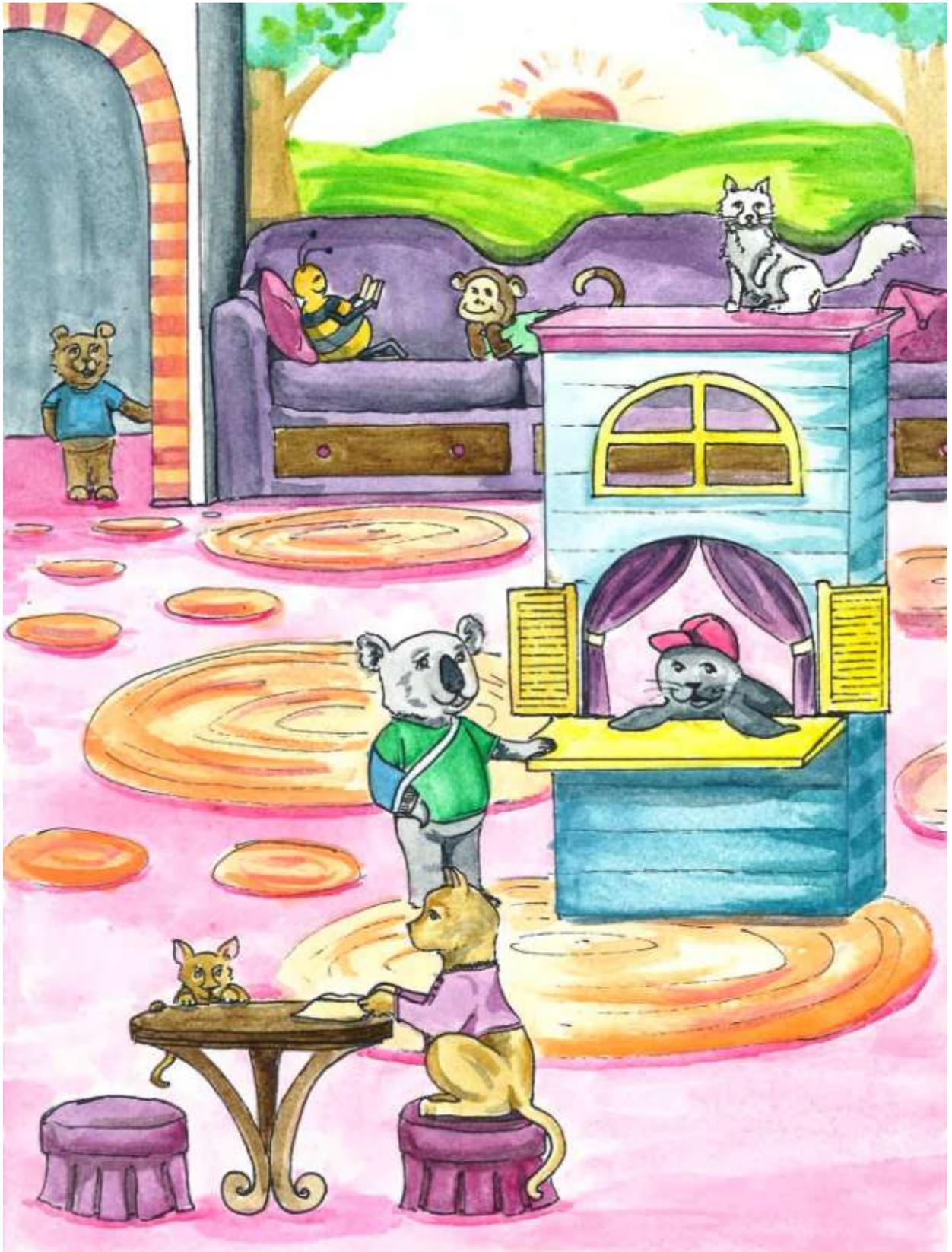


Inspired to care when no one was there
And do all these good things unpaid.
To grant a poor bear a big lion's share---
What friends our Teddy had made!

When he looked around it was clear to see
Ted wasn't the only lost toy.
There were leopards, and monkeys, and plush bumblebees
Who belonged to a girl or a boy.

Now they all were in need of some mending,
And a little laugh or smile.
So the clowns did their best of attending
Each and every toy for a while.

So our Teddy and his newfound friends
Played games and had their fun,
But the story right here of course does not end
For there was still some good to be done.

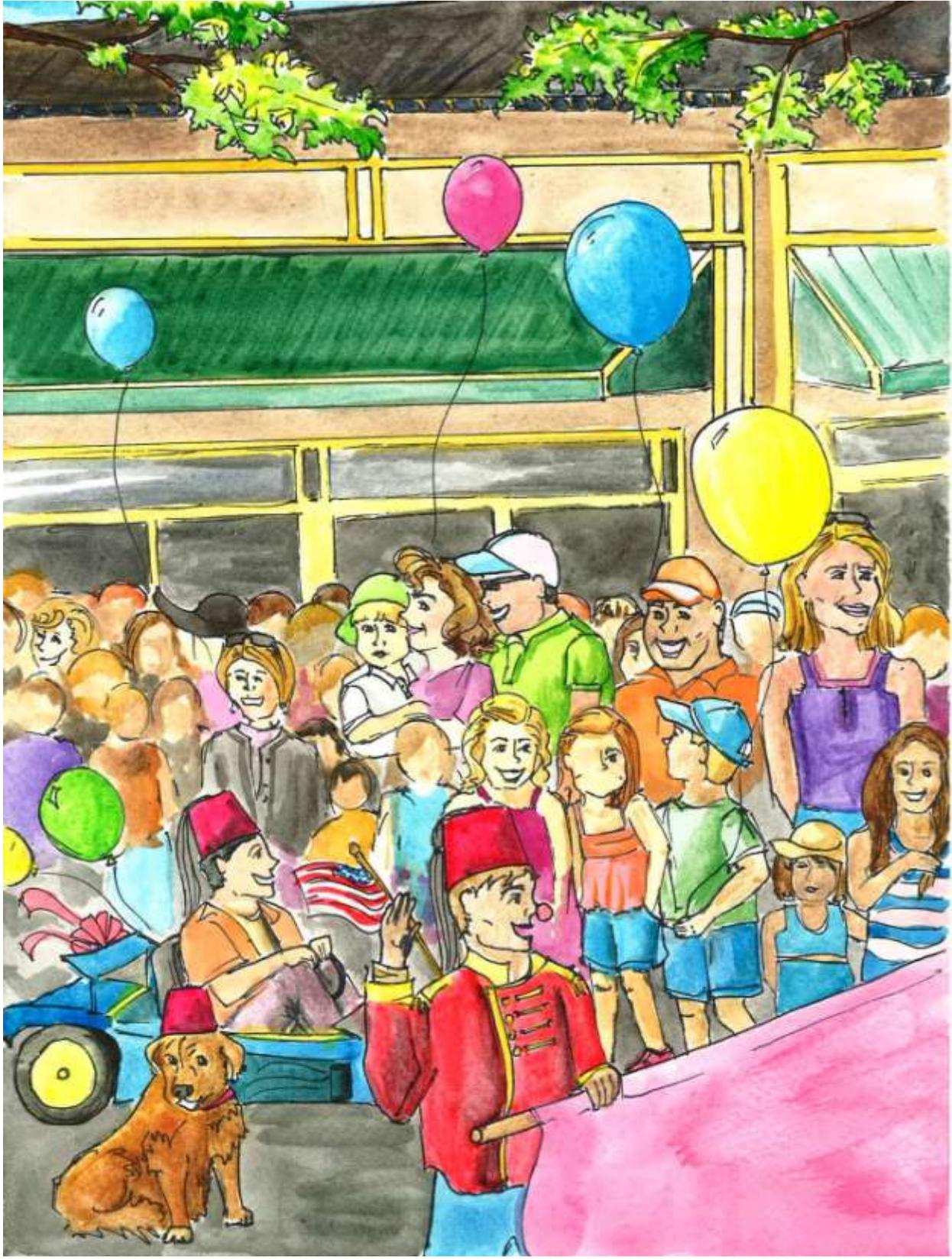


One day a clown sat next to Teddy
And said in a voice so mild,
“My furry friend, do you think that you’re ready
To bring joy to a little child?”

Teddy had missed his children so
As all loving, lost toys surely do.
“Yes,” he replied, “I’m ready to go,
But can the other toys come, too?”

“Of course they can,” the clown replied,
“For there’s many a child in need.”
“Oh good,” said Teddy in a relieved, little sigh.
“Then to your request I’ll concede.”

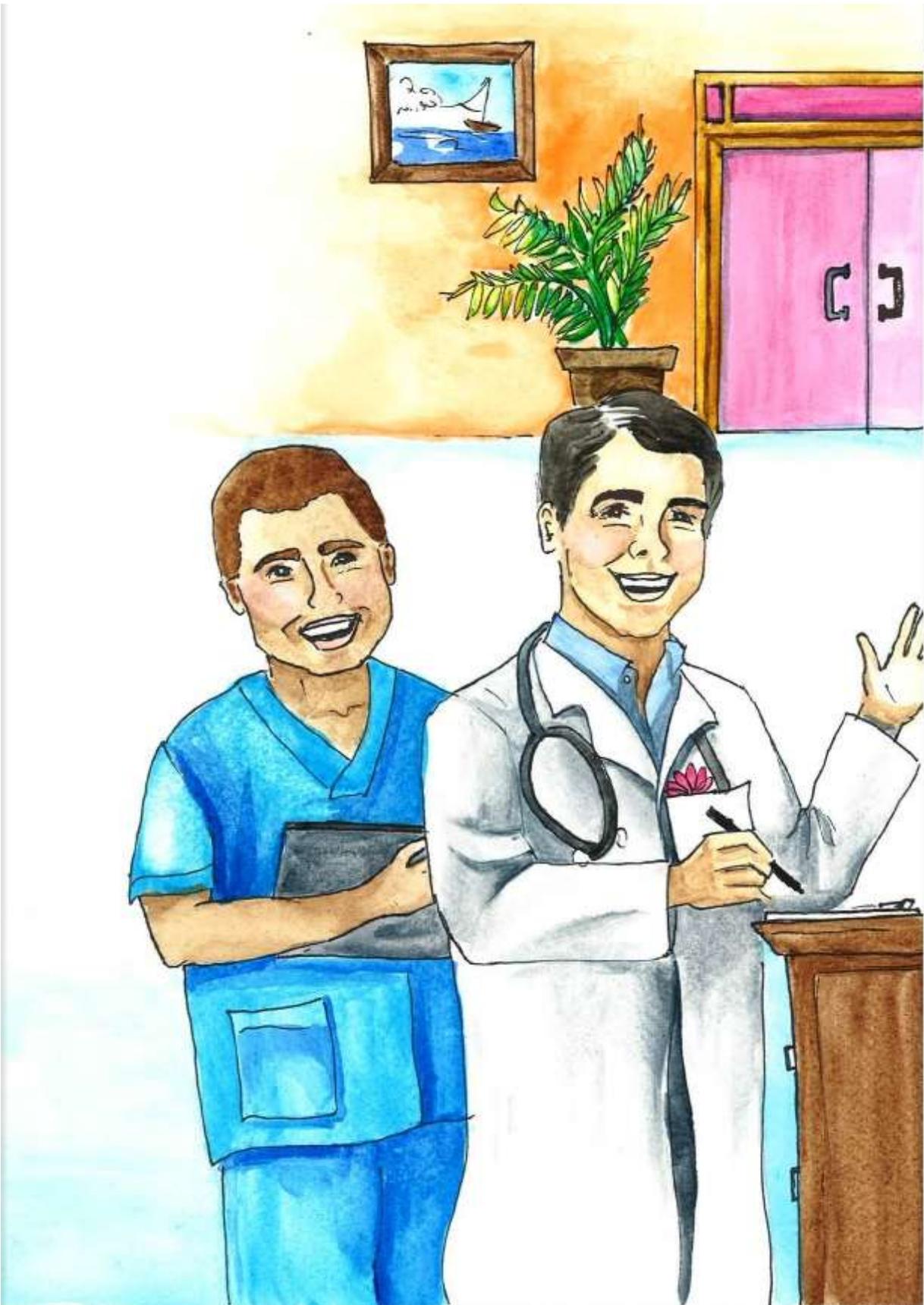
The next day was filled with banners and cheer
And a ticker-tape parade for the town.
And in tiny cars the toys drove near
To a hospital kept by the clowns.



He and the toys were brought through the lobby
Past the crutches, the walkers, and chairs
And met other toys---like a horse that could hobby---
And then waited patiently there.

The face-paint was gone, but the smiles were still there
On the men he knew only as clowns.
They wore lab coats and scrubs and nicely combed hair
To bring a healthy cheer to the grounds.

Teddy was led to a pastel-painted place
Where girls and boys came to recover,
And you wouldn't believe the smile on his face!
Can you guess what our friend had discovered?





“My Timmy! My Ben! My Cindy! My Art!”
He shouted, his button eyes twinkling with light,
The stuffing warmed in his patchwork heart.
“Never again to be far from my sight!”

Sometimes children get hurt and need mending
And while waiting, a laugh or a smile.
So the clowns do their best in attending
Each and every child for a while.

They're inspired to care when no one is there
And do all these good things unpaid.
To give all that they can and more than their share.
What friends our children have made!

"This story is over, but it's certainly not all,"
Says the clown with a voice so mild.
"For no man has ever stood so tall
As when he stoops to help a child."



