

BEHIND THE DOOR

Story by Jin Nua. Illustrated by Vorapnot Korcharoenwat.

Behind The Door

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Voraprot Korcharoenwat*

I'd been riding my bike on training wheels for a long time. One day my mom said I was ready to ride on two wheels. She said my balance had gotten better in the last few weeks. Plus, riding on two wheels would be so much more fun.





Riding on two wheels sounded fun, but I was scared. I'd never done it before and I worried what might happen. Would I look silly? What if I fell and hurt my leg? What if I couldn't do it?



Reassurance

My mom said I shouldn't worry so much. Life is full of new experiences and challenges to overcome. She said all we need to do is try our best and get help when we need it. "Trust me," she said. "I've done it before and will help you get through it!"



Fear of Monsters!

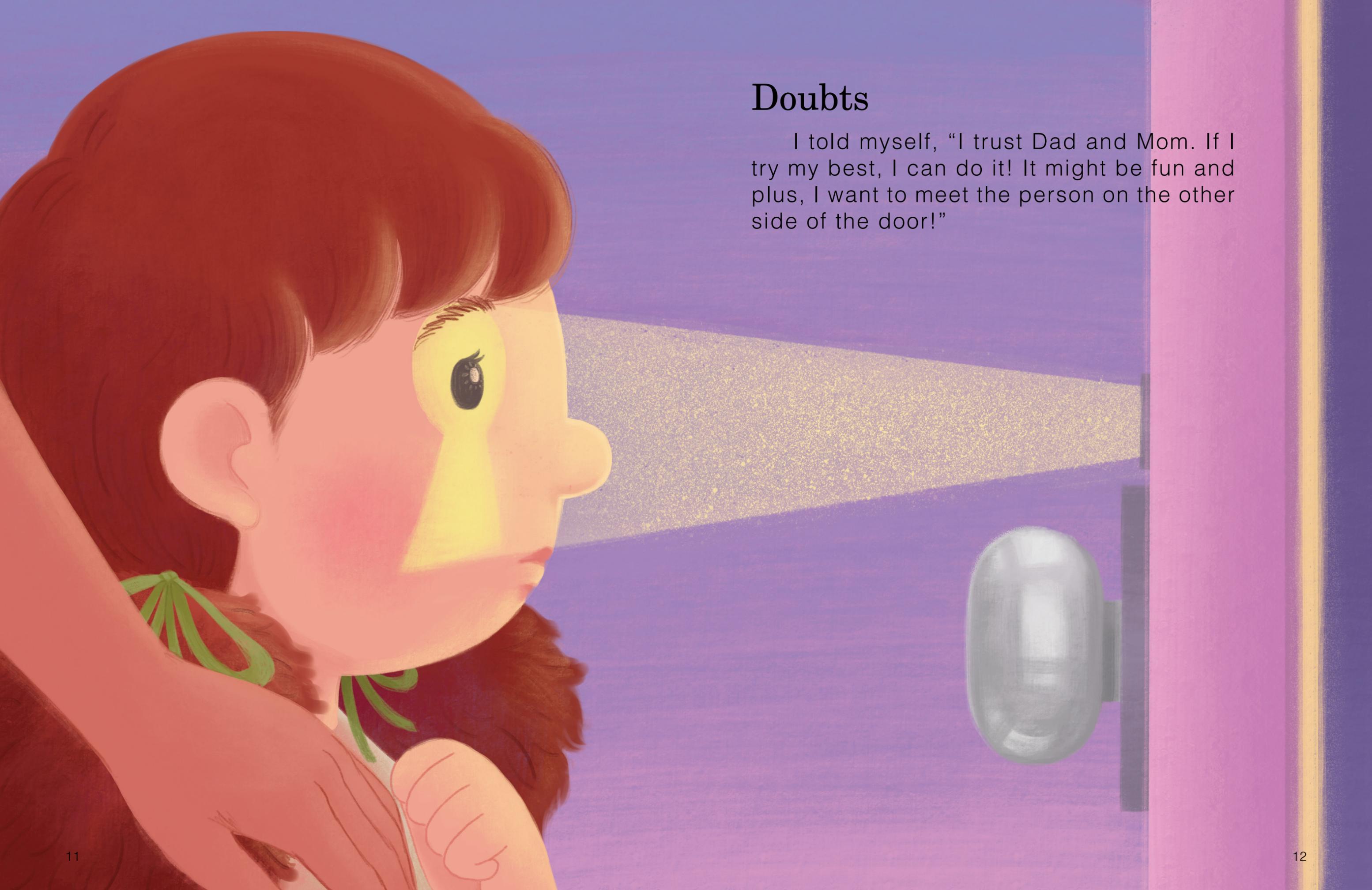
I started to feel better. But she could tell I was still a little worried. “Even though it feels like a scary monster is waiting behind the door,” she said...



The Universe Smiles

“...behind the door was just more of the abundant universe in which we live, grinning with arms wide open, inviting us to another great new experience. Life is all about changes: living, growing, and learning new, beautiful, and exciting things.”

I remembered how I learned to swim last summer. And I remembered watching how my baby sister had to learn to crawl, walk, and talk. Each challenge was a door that led to something new and fun. Maybe Mom was right. Maybe I could do this!



Doubts

I told myself, "I trust Dad and Mom. If I try my best, I can do it! It might be fun and plus, I want to meet the person on the other side of the door!"



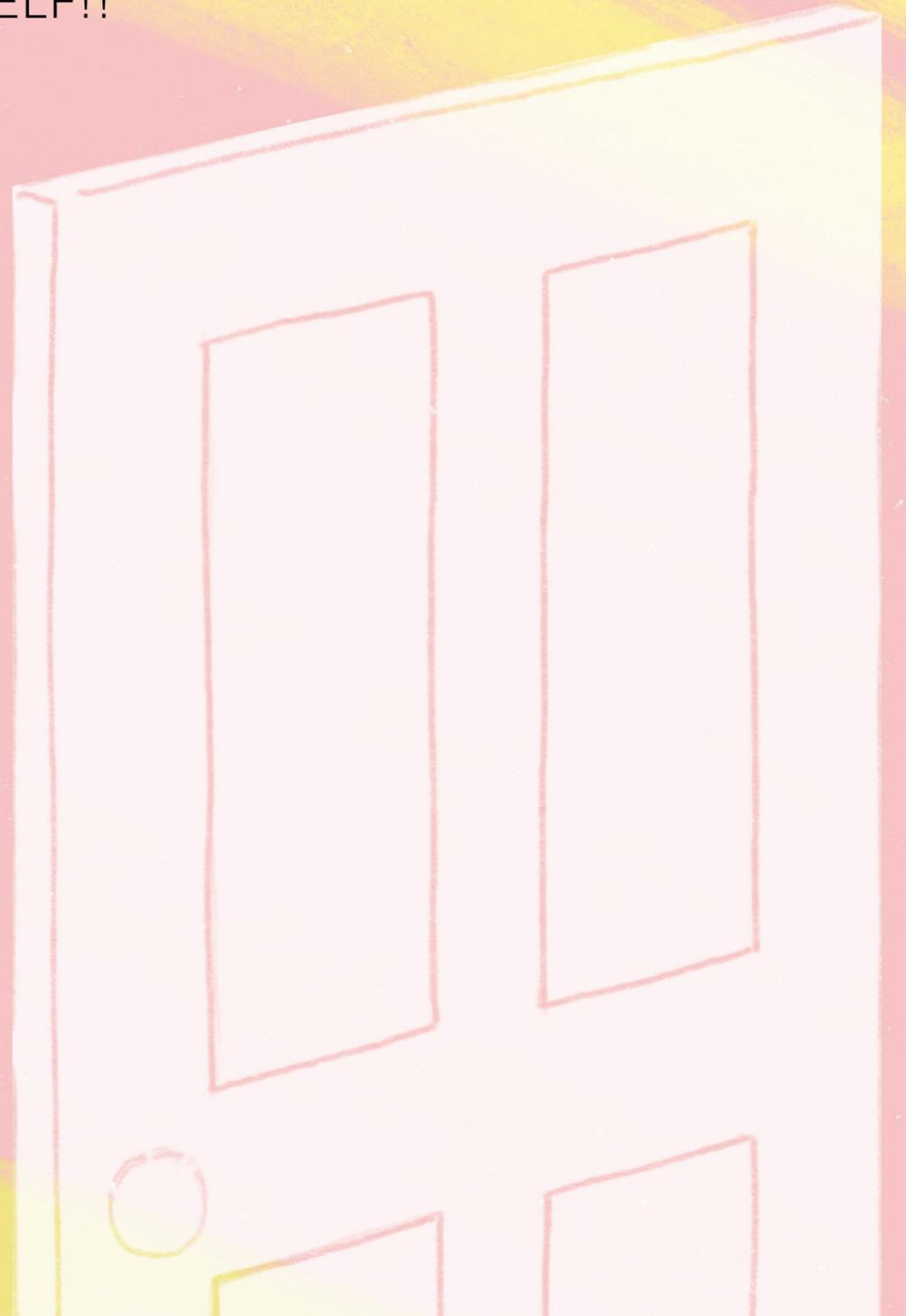
Try, Try Again

I got on my bike but all I could see was that scary purple monster behind the door. Did he want to scare me or maybe even hurt me? I paused. I worried. I shook my head. I couldn't shake that feeling!



The Step

But I kept trying. Again and again, up and down, start and stop... and just about when I was about to give up, it suddenly happened! Just like my mom said, I WAS RIDING MY BIKE ON TWO WHEELS – ALL BY MYSELF!!



Thru The Door

I realized I had passed through the door and did not meet the scary purple monster I feared. It was actually easy, like my dad and mom had said, and so fun! I could turn left and right, go up and downhill, go fast or slow, and wobble around like crazy!





Great Experience

I learned it's OK to be scared, nervous, and cautious. But even when I feel like that I know I can get through it if I practice and get advice from my parents. I truly have the ability to do anything I want if I set my mind to it. Once I get prepared and when the moment is just right, I will take that big first step and get through it. And I know now it will be okay – maybe even great!!



Lesson

I also learned another lesson. I learned there aren't monsters on the other side of the door...Only the my parents and a great universe smiling and inviting me to a new and fun experience. I guess the monster was only in my head!





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