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Kiddie and The Cuddly Toys



Mijade



“Mother doesn’t know it, but I have a wolf under my bed.
Its name is Wolfie. We are best friends. But shh... it’s a secret.”

Éric Englebort

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For Julie, Thomas, Diane, Antonin, Éléonor et Malo.
É. E.

For all the cuddly toys.
C. K. D.

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18, rue de l'Ouvrage
B-5000 Namur
Belgium
www.mijade.be

Text © 2018 Éric Englebort
Illustrations © 2018 Claude K. Dubois
English Translation by Jane Singleton Paul

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“Wolfie,” yells Kiddie. “You’ll never guess. Catastrophe!”
“What is it, Kiddie?”

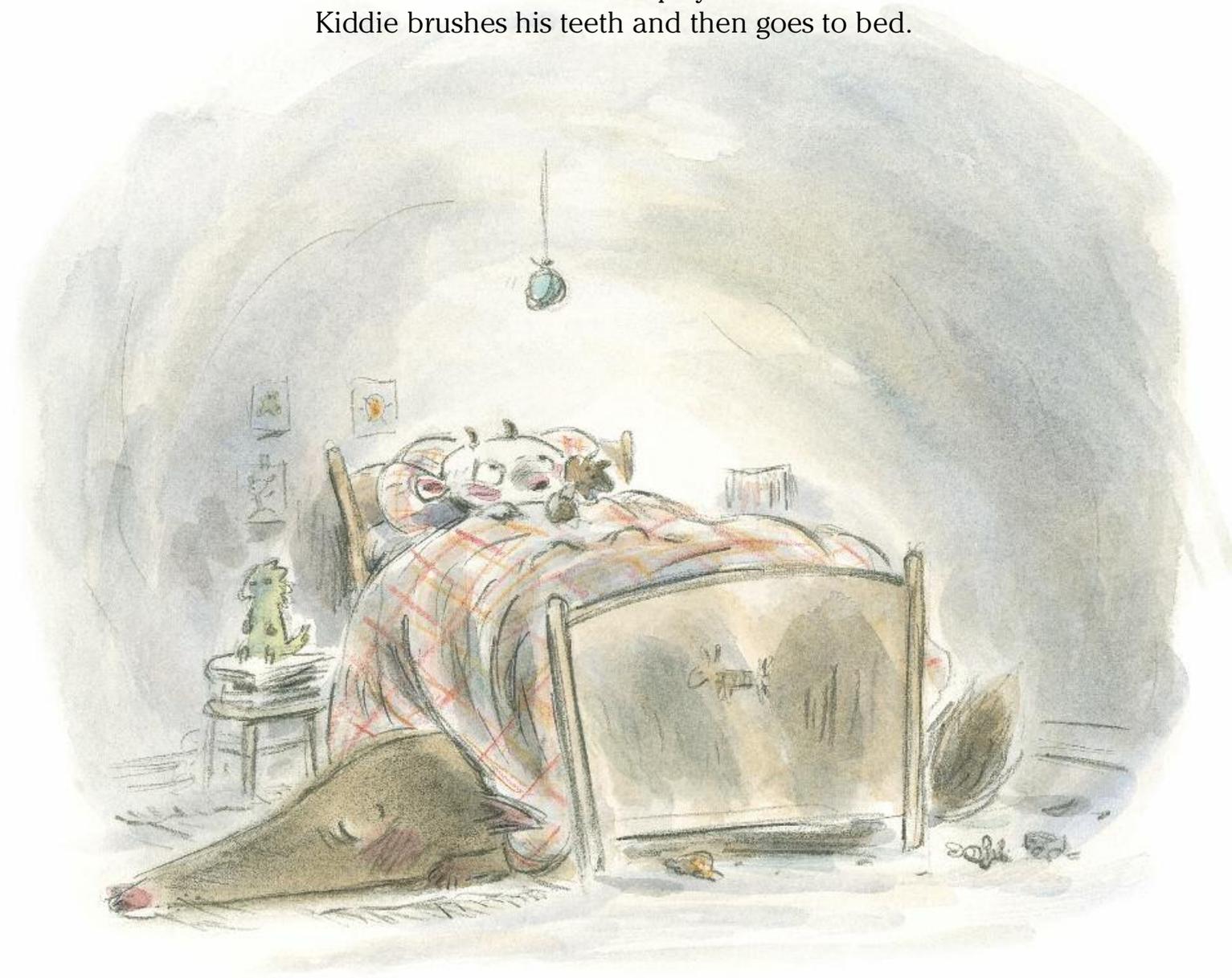


“I’m leaving for a week on a school trip.
I’ll be all alone, far away from Mum and Dad.
Far away from you!”



“Now, now. There’s no reason to worry.
You’ll have a great time with your friends!”
“But I don’t want to go!”

“Kiddie! Time to sleep!” yells Mum.
Kiddie brushes his teeth and then goes to bed.



“Good night, Kiddie!”
“Good night, Wolfie!”
But Kiddie has a bad night.



At school, they prepare for the big departure.
Mr. Bernard gives out the supply list.
“You will all receive a new cap for the trip,” he announces.
The week at school seems very long.



Departure day arrives.
With his backpack and a suitcase
full of daily notes from Mum and Dad, Kiddie is ready.

“Hurry up, Kiddie,” cries Dad. “We’re going to be late!”
“I’m coming, I’m coming!”



“Good-bye, Wolfie.”
“Good-bye, Kiddie. Did you take your cuddly toy?”
“Of course! My little wolf is nice and safe in my suitcase.”



“Go on, then,” says Wolfie reassuringly.
“Your little wolf is with you.
And I’ll be there, in your heart.”
“And you’ll be in my heart.”

“Hey, Wolfie. Here’s a little gift for you.
It’s mini-Kiddie!”
“Why, thank you,” says Wolfie.
“That way, you will be with me.
It’s our secret...”



“Kiddie! The bus is waiting! Let’s go!” says Dad, rushing.



All the children gather together. It's time to say good-bye.
Mr. Bernard puts on his red cap and verifies that everyone is present.

"Everyone to his or her seat!"
In the bus, it's so much fun to sing as loud as they can.



Kiddie makes lots of new friends!
Especially Koddoo and Kadda... even if they do sing off-key.
"This is fun!" thinks Kiddie, all reassured.



All the afternoon long, they play leapfrog and ball. It's great!
When they play football, Kiddie is the best goalie.



At dinner, they eat cabbage at the canteen.
Kiddie would have preferred Mum's nice carrot soup...

Nighttime arrives...
It's time to sleep.



“Everyone to bed. The only thing I want to hear is snoring... or tiny farts!”
says Mr. Bernard.

But Kiddie feels so alone,
so far away from Mum and Dad...
It doesn't feel like home here.



And so, just as he does every night,
he makes a sign with his paw to say good night to Wolfie.

“Oh! I think I hear snoring under my bed...”
says Kiddie. He leans over.



“Wolfie, you’re here!” says Kiddie as he squeezes his little wolf cuddly toy.



Back home, Wolfie is really sad, so far from Kiddie.
“Come to my paws, my little Kiddie!”



“My Wolfie!”



zzzzzzz...

All reassured, Wolfie snores.

Kiddie is just going to sleep when he hears a small voice coming from the next bed.



“Say, Kiddie,” asks Koddo. “Are you sleeping?”
“Yes. What about you?”
“Me? I want my mum,” says Koddo.

“Wait,” says Kiddie.
Very quietly, he gets out of his bed while holding tight his cuddly toy...
“You know what? I’ve got a secret.”



He comes closer and whispers his secret in Koddo’s ear.
The secret about cuddly toys.





So, from Kiddie to Koddo, then from Koddo to Kadda, from Kadda to Kuddu...



... the secret passes from bed to bed.



Soon, all the little kids go to sleep, silently...

... or almost!





Kiddie will soon depart for an overnight school trip.
He is afraid to leave his family and his house.
Thank goodness he has his cuddly toy
and a lot of friendship to share.



ISBN 978-2-8077-0028-4 EUR 11,00