

"I'll find her!" said the doctor. "Please don't you worry. She can't have gone far, I'm bigger, I'll hurry."

After a visit to the doctor Eva learns that she must spend some time in hospital. Not feeling one bit happy about being away from her best friend and big brother Paddy, Eva flees from the doctor's sight leaving everyone on a search spree. While Eva is on her hospital adventure, **Eva's hair** decides to take an adventure of her own. There are twists and turns before they all return home!

"Delightful and informative ... Beautifully illustrated." *The Irish News*

"Wow, I love this book. Can we read it again?" Charlotte, 6

"Can I have a smuddle and a kiss?" Erin, 4



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EVA MEETS DR MAC

by Tracy Hughes

# Eva meets Dr Mac



Written by Tracy Hughes









This is a tale of **Paddy** and **Eva**,  
A **Big** brother who is **loving**, and his sister the **diva**!  
This is their **Nanny** who they love to the core,  
And this is their **Granda** whose hugs they adore.  
Living with **grandparents** is not typical, they know,  
But for **Paddy** and **Eva** it's the way life must go.

Their life is so full of **adventure** and **fun**,  
They are **happy** and **hearty** in hail, rain or sun.  
**Paddy** loves the **lake** with his **rods** and his **bait**,  
**Eva** loves to picnic with the teddy bears, her mates.





Now Eva's nearly four and Paddy is five,  
And for Eva's birthday, Paddy plans a surprise.  
A party with **poppers**, **balloons** and a **cake**,  
Auntie Tracy and Paddy are preparing to bake.

But when Paddy looks at Eva, she seems very **down**,  
Her eyes they are **dim** and her face wears a **frown**.

"What's the matter?" Paddy asks her,  
With a soft touch and a stare.

Eva, she whimpers, and tries hard to smile,  
"There's a pain in my neck. I've had it a while."



Nanny did wonder and grew quite **concerned**,  
About the tears from Eva and of the **pain** she had learned.  
Eva rarely ate breakfast, at times not at all,  
And for dinner she'd say, "Please make it small?"

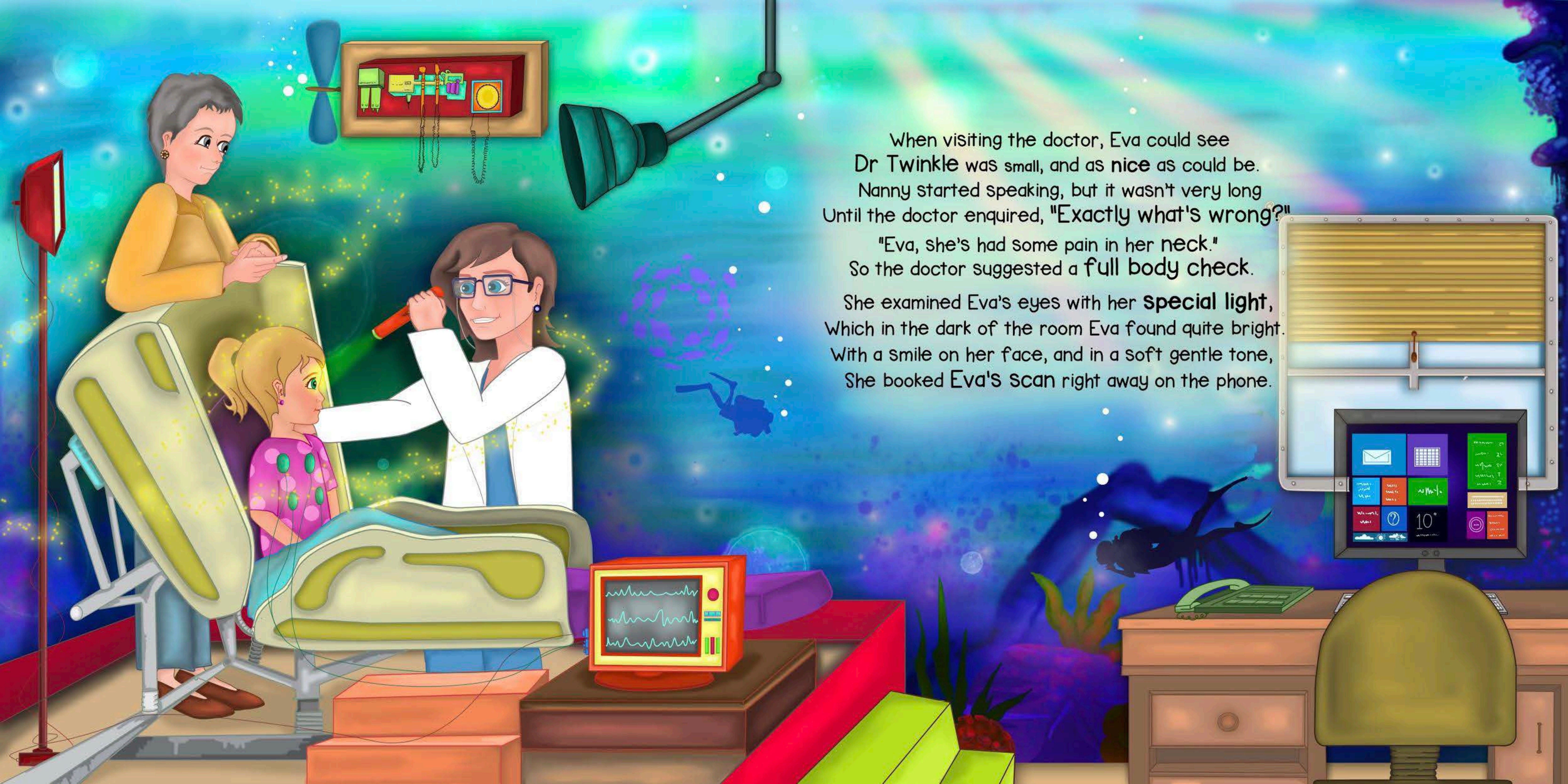
"It's time for the doctor," Nanny then said,  
As she kissed Eva's forehead and put her to bed.

But Paddy was worried which Granda could see,  
He said "the doctor will take good care of Eva,  
and keep her pain free"

So Paddy slipped off to sleep with a **zed** and a **zee**.







When visiting the doctor, Eva could see  
Dr Twinkle was small, and as nice as could be.  
Nanny started speaking, but it wasn't very long  
Until the doctor enquired, "Exactly what's wrong?"

"Eva, she's had some pain in her neck."  
So the doctor suggested a full body check.

She examined Eva's eyes with her **special light**,  
Which in the dark of the room Eva found quite bright.  
With a smile on her face, and in a soft gentle tone,  
She booked Eva's scan right away on the phone.





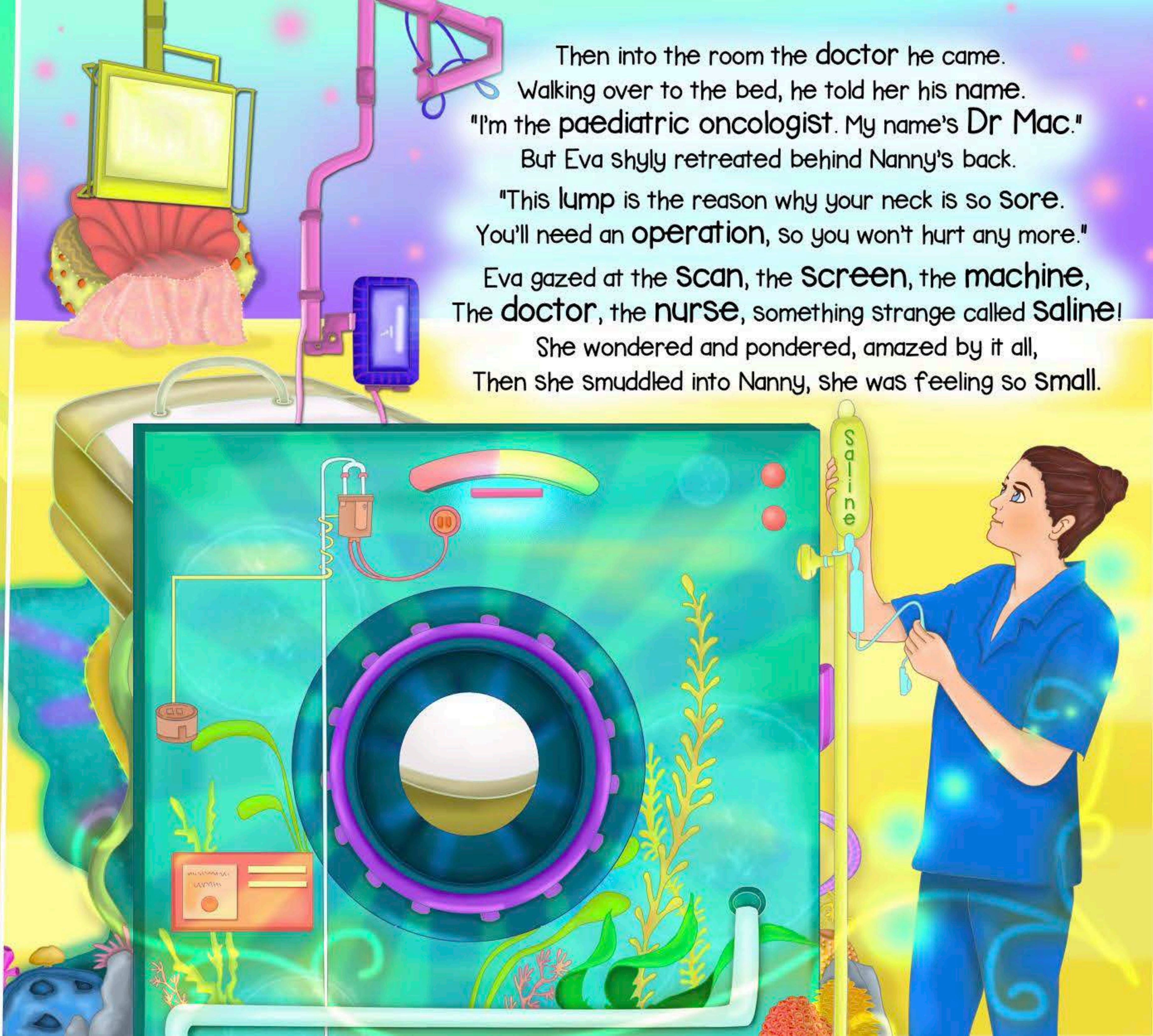
"What is a scan?" Eva asked with a sigh.  
"It's a photo of your body," said the doc in reply.  
"It's just like a photo from the inside out."  
With that Eva smiled and no more did she doubt.  
"You'll take special **medicine** to put you to sleep,  
And when they're taking your photo you won't hear a peep.  
When you wake up you'll feel less energetic –  
It's because of the medicine, it's called **anaesthetic**."  
"Let's collect Paddy and be on our way,  
We're off to the hospital" Eva did say!



Eva travelled to hospital in an ambulance bus.  
She climbed into the back without making much fuss.  
Then all of a sudden a loud siren went on  
With a flashing blue light and whoosh they were gone!  
Eva grinned as they went on their way,  
Even though it was at home she wanted to stay.  
When they arrived at the hospital they stepped out of the bus,  
They waited until it had stopped- that's a must!  
Down the long corridor on the soft bed she flew..  
Eva was excited - this was all brand new!











Dr Mac started talking and this he did say,  
"It's here in the hospital that Eva will stay."

Eva was sad, she jumped off Nanny's knee,  
And out of the room she quickly did flee!

"I'll find her!" said the doctor. "Please don't you worry.

She can't have gone far, I'm bigger, I'll hurry."

"Eva!" he cried when no Eva could he see.

Then looking at Nanny asked, "Where could she be?"

"Maybe she's in the window, behind the long curtain?"

He checked, pulled it back, she wasn't there, he felt certain.



Then Eva she chuckled from under the chair.

Nanny smiled at the voice she heard in the air.

**"The chair!"** cried the doctor as he bent to the ground.  
He pulled up the covers and **Eva** was found!

Everyone smiled as Eva stretched out her arms.

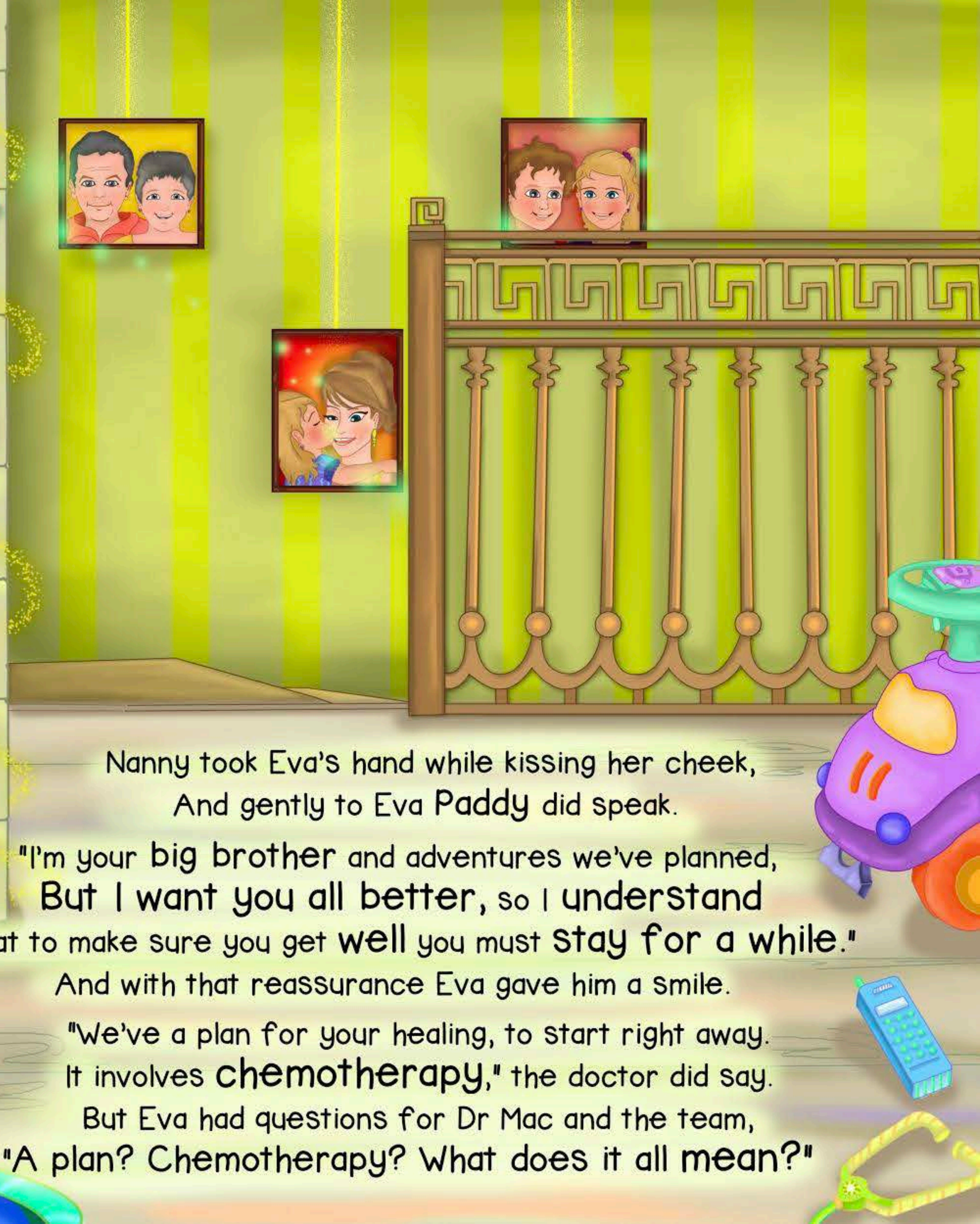
Nanny lifted her up, not resisting her charms.

Eva looked down and in a lowly voice said,

"Who will I play with alone in my bed?  
Where will I adventure if I have to stay?  
And what about Paddy – with whom will he play?"





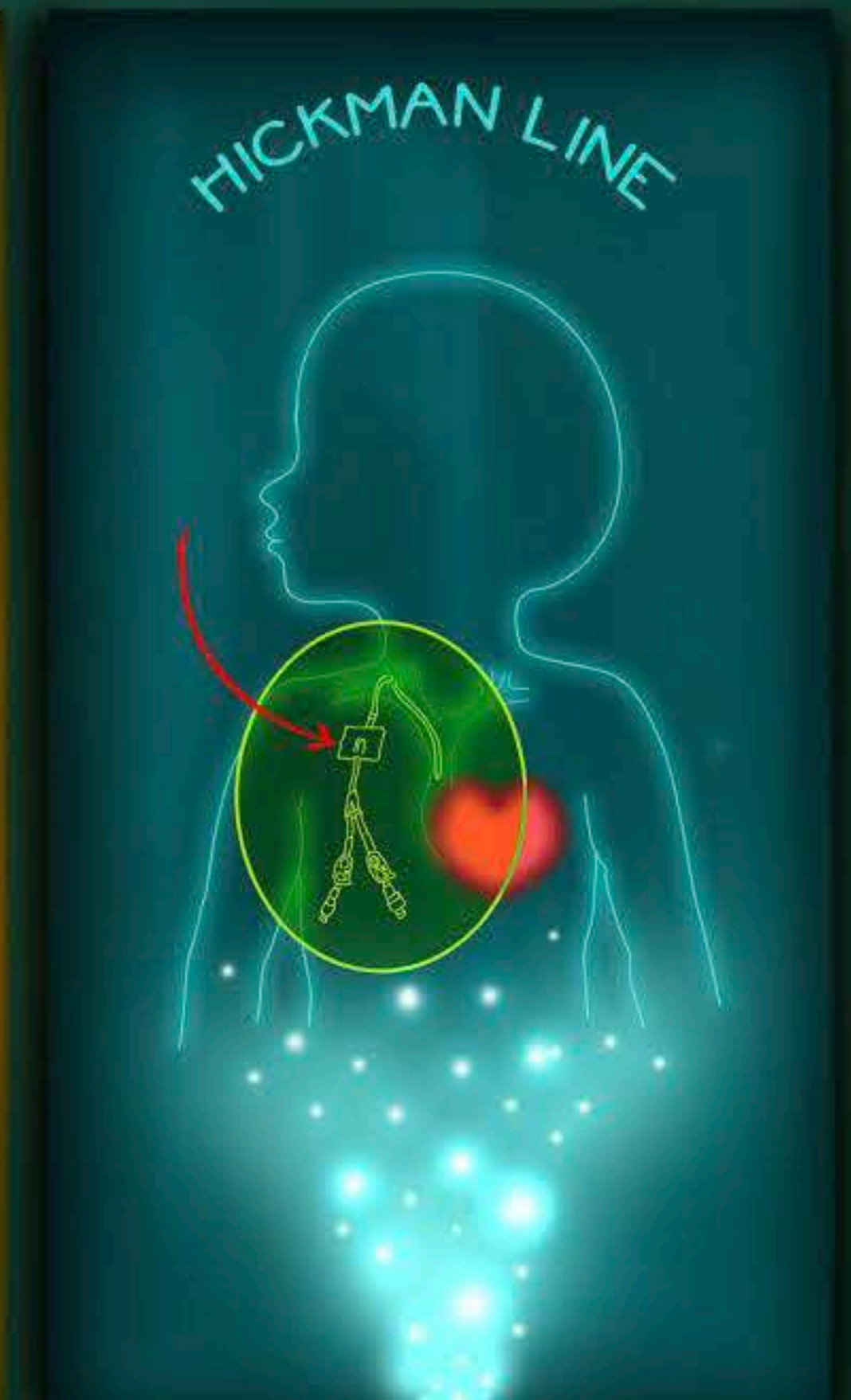
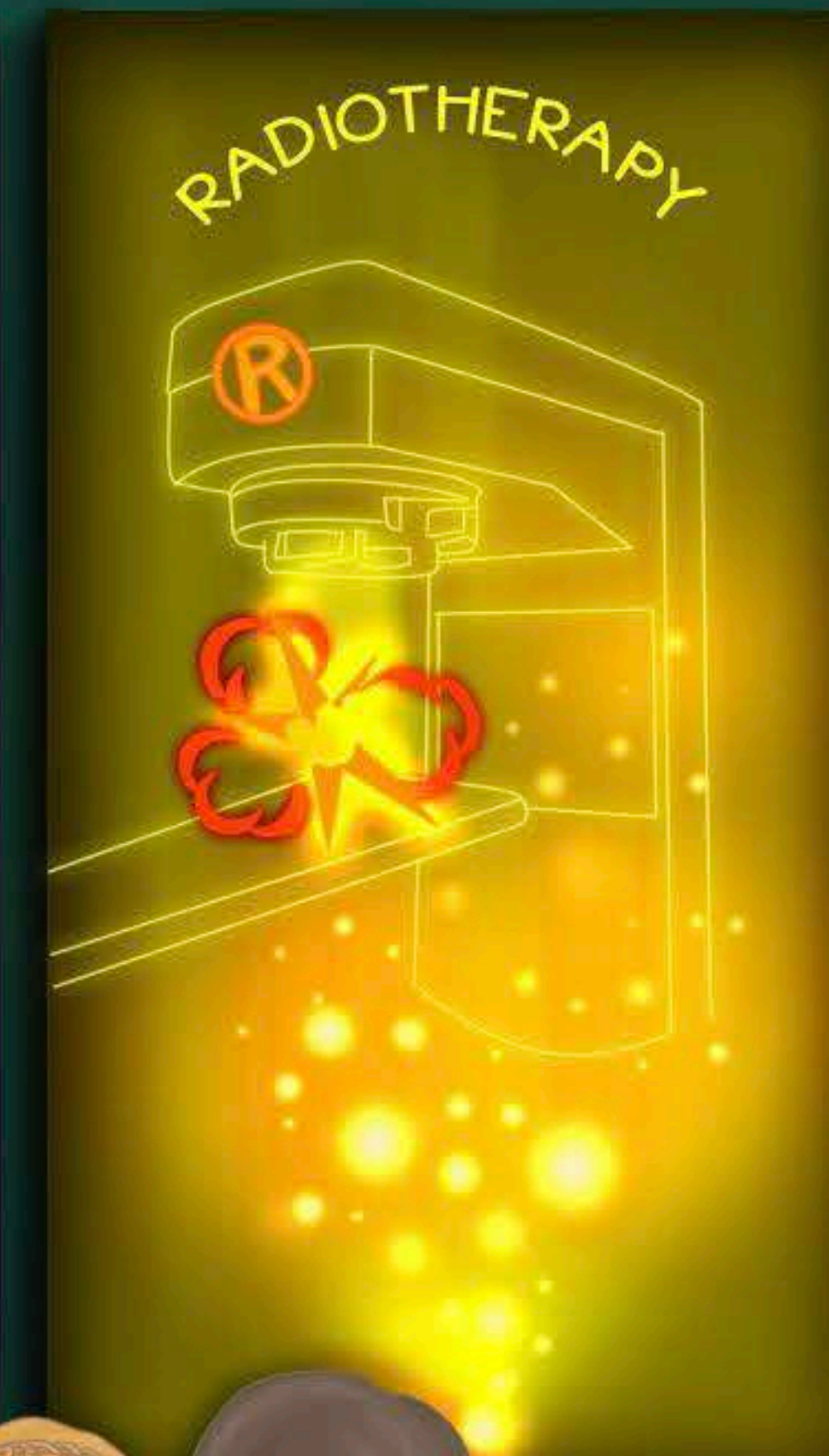
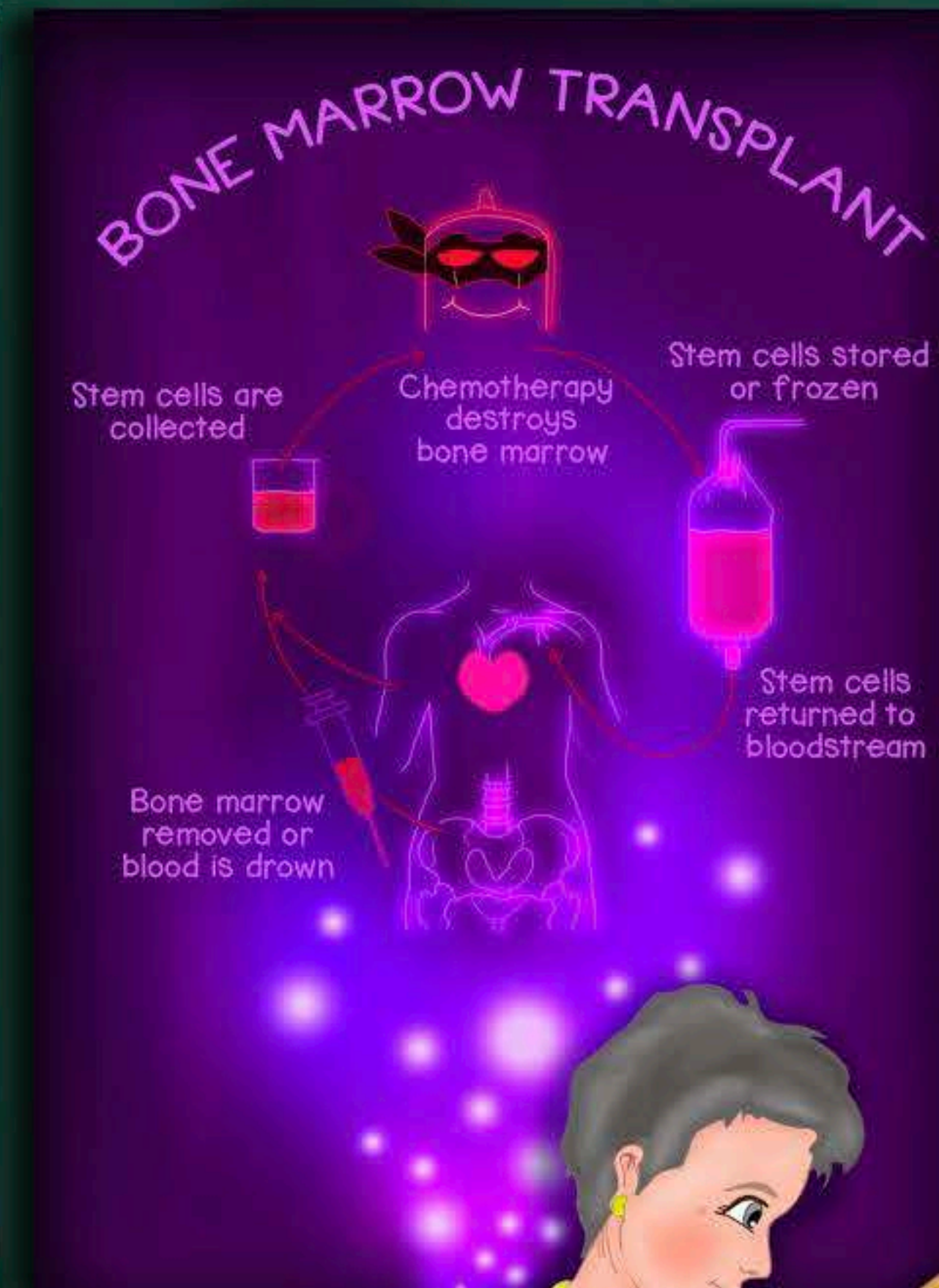


Nanny took Eva's hand while kissing her cheek,  
And gently to Eva Paddy did speak.

"I'm your big brother and adventures we've planned,  
But I want you all better, so I understand  
That to make sure you get well you must stay for a while."  
And with that reassurance Eva gave him a smile.

"We've a plan for your healing, to start right away.  
It involves **chemotherapy**," the doctor did say.  
But Eva had questions for Dr Mac and the team,  
"A plan? Chemotherapy? What does it all mean?"





"Chemotherapy's a medicine to stop the growth of bad cells.  
You'll need a bone marrow transplant - it won't hurt but it smells!

Radiotherapy's also here for our use.  
It stops the bad cells so they can't reproduce."

"I don't like to swallow medicine," Eva said with a frown.

"This goes through a line; you won't feel it go down."

"It's called a Hickman line," Dr Mac replied,

"But I call him Mr Wiggly - he's tested and tried!

And these are the pouches to tuck Wiggly in."

Cheered up by the doc, Eva gave him a grin!







When the chemo started, Hair she fell out.  
It didn't hurt at all, but Eva did shout.

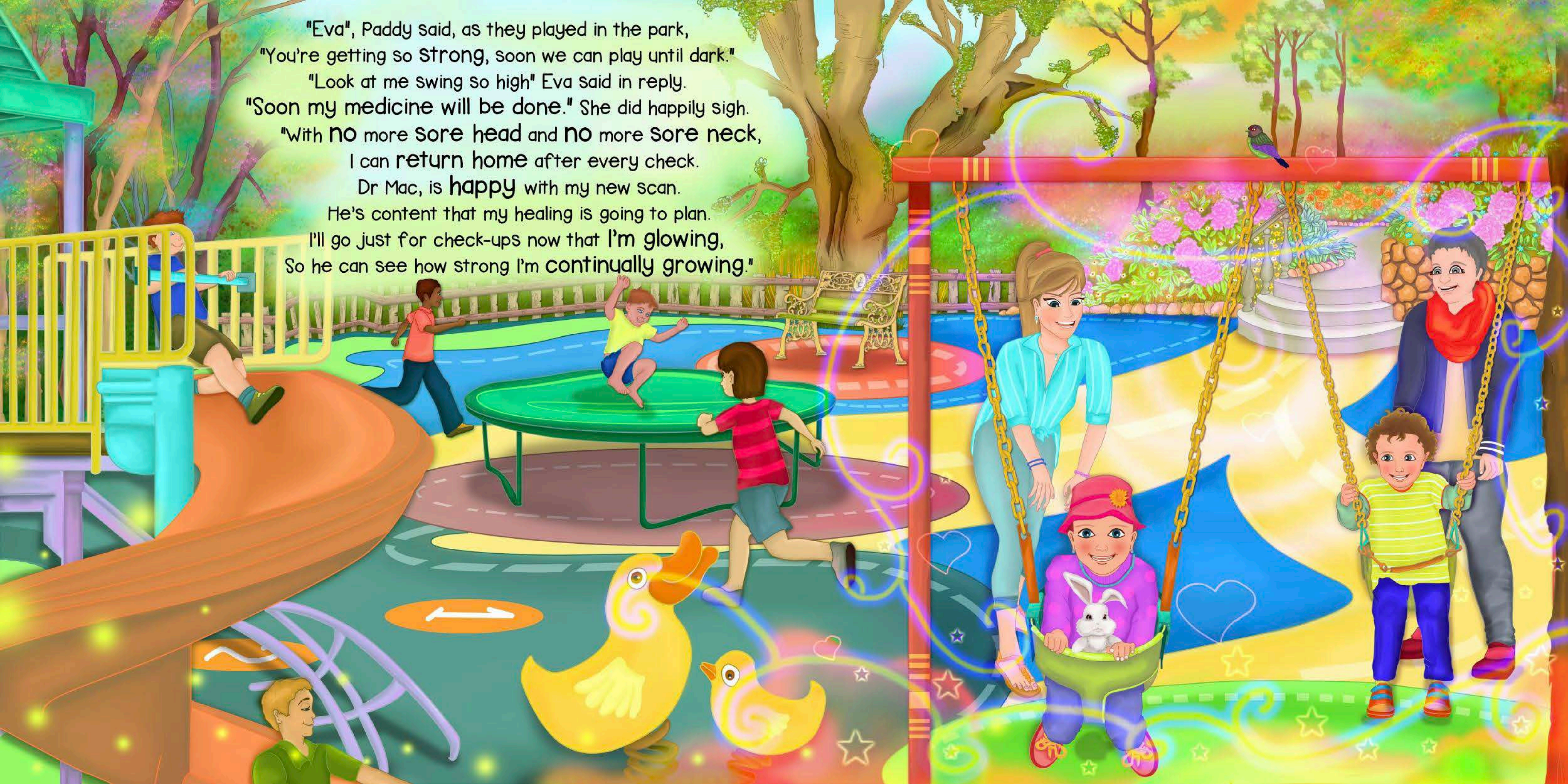
"I twiddle my hair and style it a lot,  
that will I do now that I can't do that!"

"I know," Tracy thought, "we'll get hairbands and bandanas. And hats in lots of colours to match your pyjamas."

Tracy soothed Eva's head as they **Smudged** into bed,  
She told Eva of the adventures which for Hair lay ahead.  
"When Hair's adventures are over, she'll surely return."  
And Eva slipped off to sleep showing no more concern.



"Eva", Paddy said, as they played in the park,  
"You're getting so strong, soon we can play until dark."  
"Look at me swing so high" Eva said in reply.  
"Soon my medicine will be done." She did happily sigh.  
"With no more sore head and no more sore neck,  
I can return home after every check.  
Dr Mac, is happy with my new scan.  
He's content that my healing is going to plan.  
I'll go just for check-ups now that I'm glowing,  
So he can see how strong I'm continually growing."







Time quickly passed and when the medicine was done,  
Hair realised that adventures without Eva weren't much fun!  
Eva missed Hair and Hair missed Eva too,  
And of Hair's adventures Eva now knew,  
Hair, she was **back**, and no more would she fall,  
And their **new adventures together** would be the greatest of all!





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