

# NoraLee's Adventures on Planet Ifwee



By Terry Nicholetti  
Illustrations by Annie Campbell



*If we care, it's magic!™*

**Book 1**



**This is my book. My name is \_\_\_\_\_**

**Here are some special people who read with me:**





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**Here are some special grown-ups who could be my family pen-pals:**



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*If we care, it's magic!™*

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**Book 1**

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## GoldStars and Thank You's to These Special People

**Creative Team:** I knew what I wanted GoldStarMagic™ and the Family Pen-Pal kit™ to look and sound like, but I could not make that happen by myself. So the Universe provided a very special group of people whose talents brought my vision to earth in a truly magical way. Annie Campbell—Illustrator—you gave colorful life to NoraLee and Loofi and their families. I didn't really know them until I saw them through your whimsical eyes and magical pencil. Patrise Henkel, Stafford Institute—Original Art Direction, Book and Kit Design Concepts—your ability to combine whimsy with practical design ideas translated my vision into a real product. Kristen Dill, Market Experts, Inc.—Book Cover Design, Book and Kit Design Execution—you joined us partway and whole-heartedly and skillfully brought us to the finished product. Jan Nigro, Song Writer, Leader of the Vitamin L Children's Chorus—Composer and Producer of *The Ifwee Song*, & Peggy Haine, Kaitlin Stilwell, Daniel Bonthius, Sam Harris, Bethan Lemley—singers—you gave us a delightful, energetic version of NoraLee's story. Cheryl Ostrom, second grade teacher—you wrote thoughtful questions to encourage family discussion. Michael Kincheloe, Karol Media—Kit Manufacture—you taught me how to pull all the kit pieces together—and then made it happen. Teri Gureckis, Dan Daniels Printing—Book Printing—you preserved the beauty and richness of Annie's drawings.

**Friends and Allies:** So many other dear ones provided ideas, support, and encouragement during the past two years. My sisters Joanne-Clare and Loraine Nicholetti, for unwavering support and generosity of resources, Janice Nigro, Director of Vitamin L for sharing expertise in producing music through a home-based business. Alex Orfinger, Publisher and Byron Adams, Marketing Director, *The Washington Business Journal*—if an artist has to have a day job, let it be as mine, a place where we get to use our talents, and where our heart projects are also encouraged and supported. (And Byron named the *Two-way Postal Card*™). Beth Zacharias and Lucy Webb, also from the *Business Journal* for generous text- and copy- editing. Jill Lawrence, Professional Editor and Organizer for editing ideas and inspiring the *Family Pen-Pal kit*™ name. Scott Stafford, Stafford Institute, and Nancy Benson, who continue to share marketing and management expertise. Kathleen Loehr, who told me to put the "big heart" in the story. Toy and Book Retailers Roberta Blanchard, *The Fairy Godmother*; Steve Shuman, *Trover Shop*; Carole Segal, *Treetop Toys*; Kate Karcher Clark, *Yattoy*; who all shared precious time and expertise. David Davis, Susan Hough and Jennifer Halls who helped me find Spirit and my mission in my art. My housemates Dena Huff and Jada the Cat for putting up with 3 a.m. writing sessions and overlooking my "household lapses" when I'm on deadlines. Betsy Crane, Laurie Kamp, Mahboob Asgar, Marguerite Beck-Rex, Deana Bodner, Annette Fuhr, Roger, Patrick, & Josette Garrison, John McGriff, Rev. Sylvia Sumter, my WISE friends (Women in South East—Audrey Thomas, Ruby Lewis, Joan Bell), Mary Ellen Kahn, Sara Lavner, Felicity Gage, for ongoing love and support, and for countless responses to calls and emails beginning, "Tell me what you think of this!"—And finally, Anthony Nigro, who at age 4, after hearing the first draft of NoraLee's story, said, "I don't get it," and after hearing the ninth, "I like it." I ask Spirit to bless all of you, and any other dear souls who in my effort to meet deadlines I may have overlooked.

## Ordering Information for other GoldStar Magic™ products:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Family Pen-Pal Kit (NoraLee's book, *The Ifwee Song* cassette, 6 Two-way Postal Cards™, gold stars, postal card sealers)—\$19.95
- \_\_\_\_\_ Family Pen-Pal Pack (same as kit, without the book)—\$12.95
- \_\_\_\_\_ Family Pen-Pal Refill (6 Two-way Postal Cards™, gold stars, postal card sealers)—\$5.95

## Terry Nicholetti

### Gold Star Magic

611 Pennsylvania Ave SE #121  
Washington, DC 20003  
[www.goldstarmagic.com](http://www.goldstarmagic.com)  
fax: 1-414-710-5518

## Ordering information for Character building music by Jan Nigro and the Vitamin L Children's Chorus:

Vitamin L  
105 King St.  
Ithaca, NY 14850  
E-mail: [vitaminlproject@hotmail.com](mailto:vitaminlproject@hotmail.com)

*NoraLee's Adventures on Planet Ifwee*

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ISBN 0-9716488-0-8

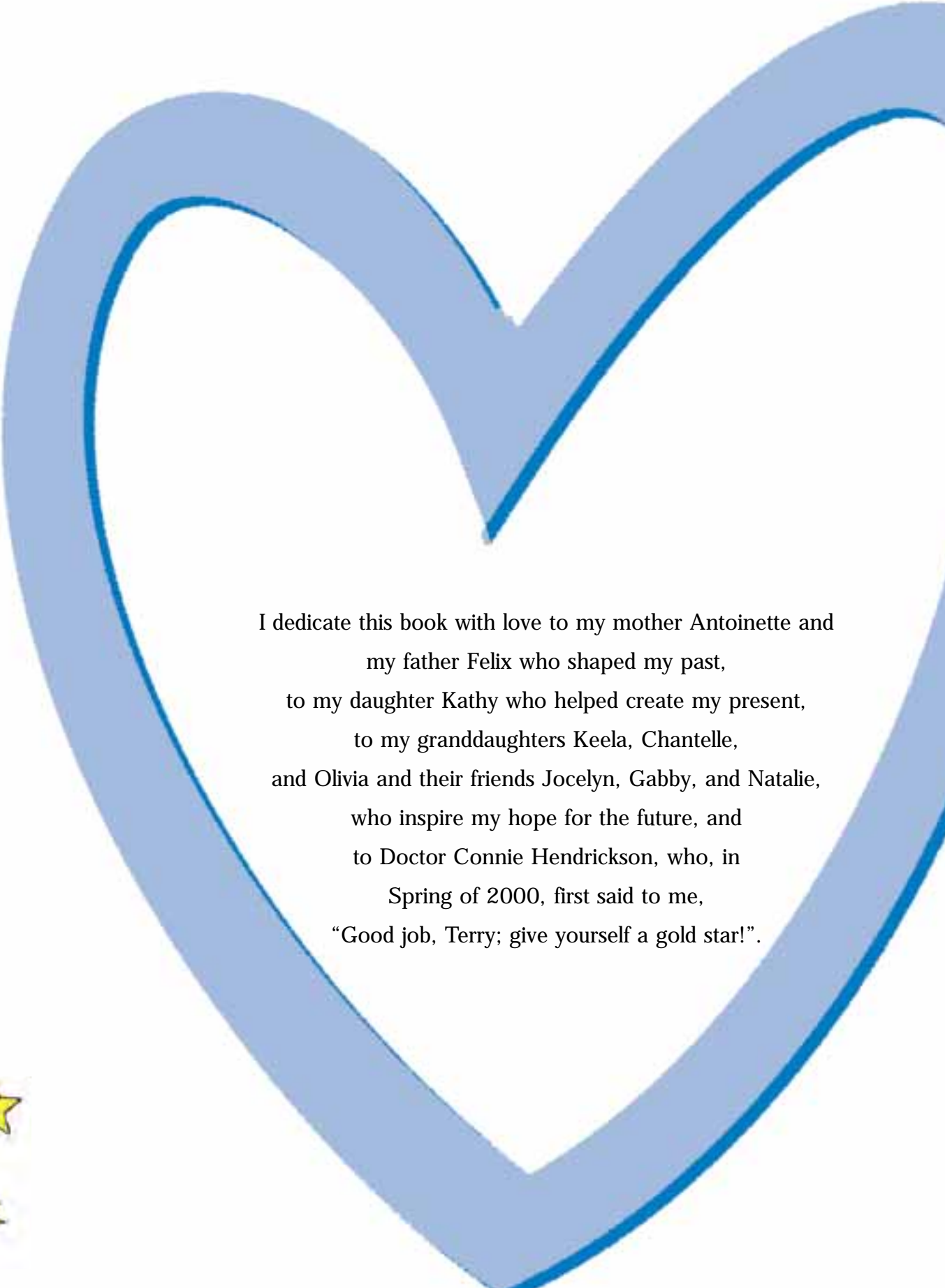
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Printed in the United States of America

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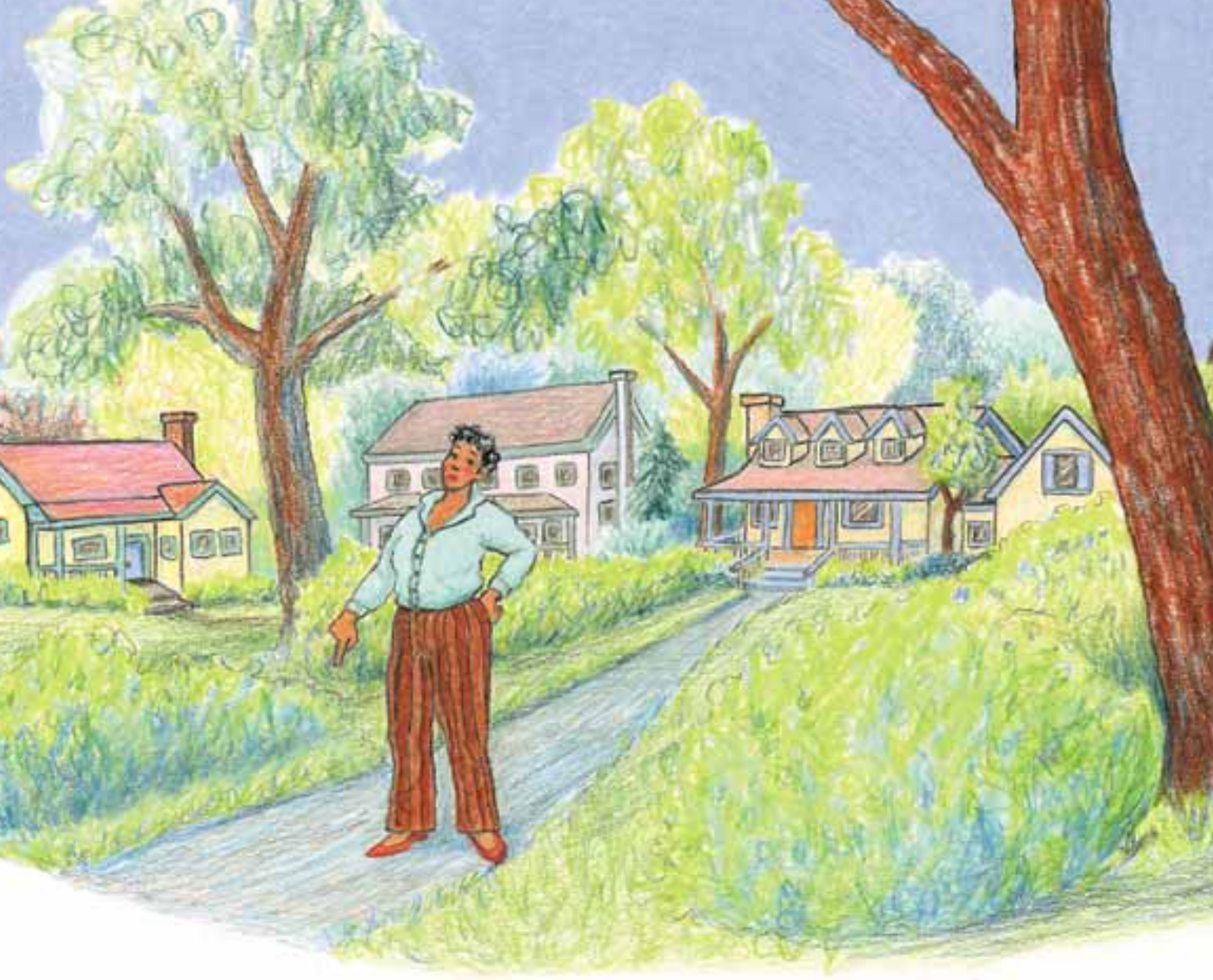
I dedicate this book with love to my mother Antoinette and  
my father Felix who shaped my past,  
to my daughter Kathy who helped create my present,  
to my granddaughters Keela, Chantelle,  
and Olivia and their friends Jocelyn, Gabby, and Natalie,  
who inspire my hope for the future, and  
to Doctor Connie Hendrickson, who, in  
Spring of 2000, first said to me,  
“Good job, Terry; give yourself a gold star!”.





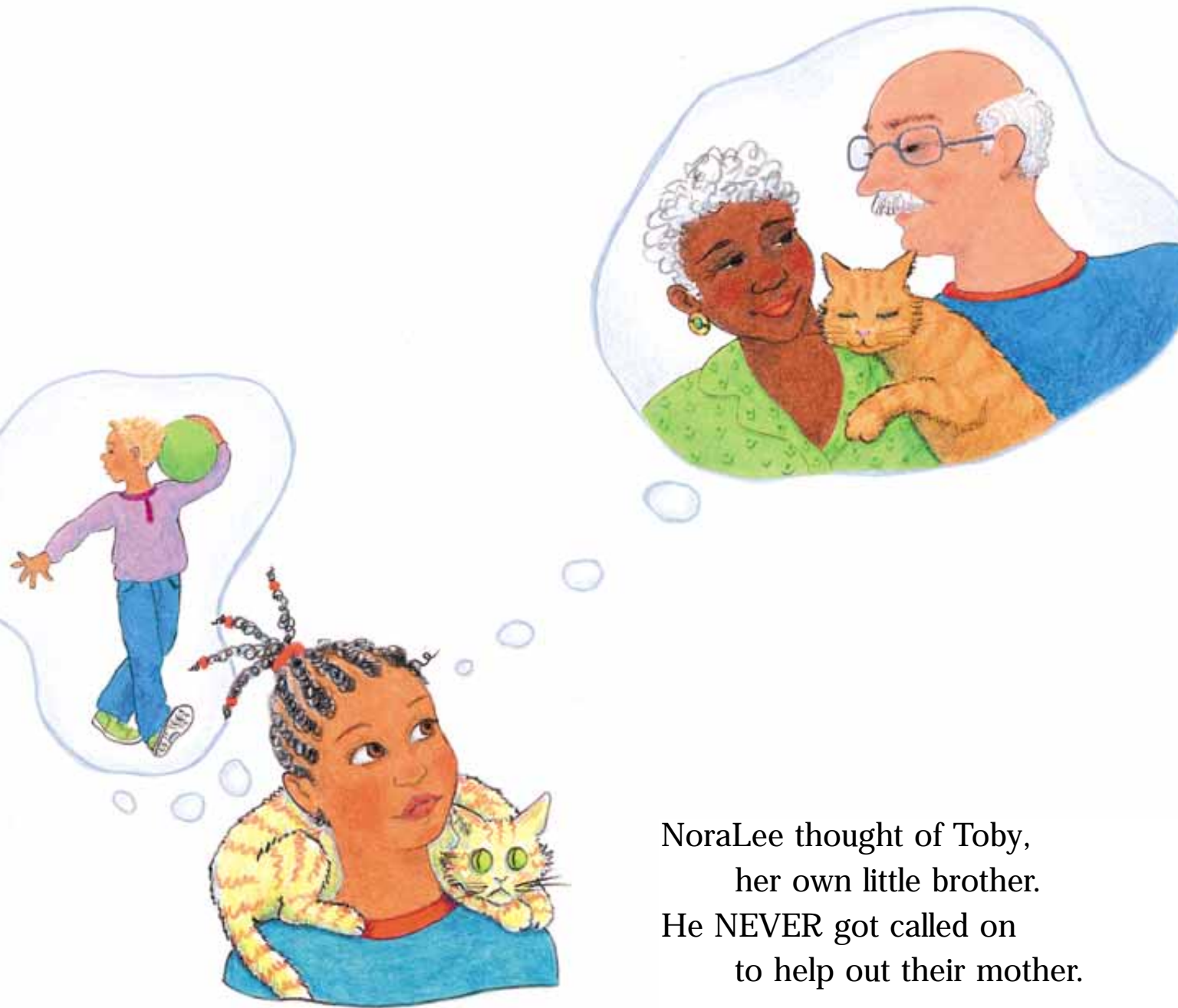
NoraLee Johnson was climbing her tree  
When she heard Mama calling, "Come here, NoraLee!"





So she sat very still on her favorite bough,  
As her Mama got louder, “YOU GET HERE RIGHT NOW!”

“Oh, I know I should answer,” she thought, “but how come—  
Just to clean up my room, or do something else dumb?”



NoraLee thought of Toby,  
her own little brother.  
He NEVER got called on  
to help out their mother.

Besides, she was feeling a bit sad today;  
“I wish Grandma and Grampa had not moved away.”





NoraLee wondered how long it would be  
‘Til her mama would notice her up in the tree.

Then she blinked — what was THAT? — flying right past her porch—  
A bright golden ball with a tail like a torch!





The ball landed softly. It shook and it wiggled.

A strange little boy tumbled out with a giggle.  
He smiled, his voice crackled, "What's up, NoraLee?"

I am Loofi Mondel from the Planet Ifwee.

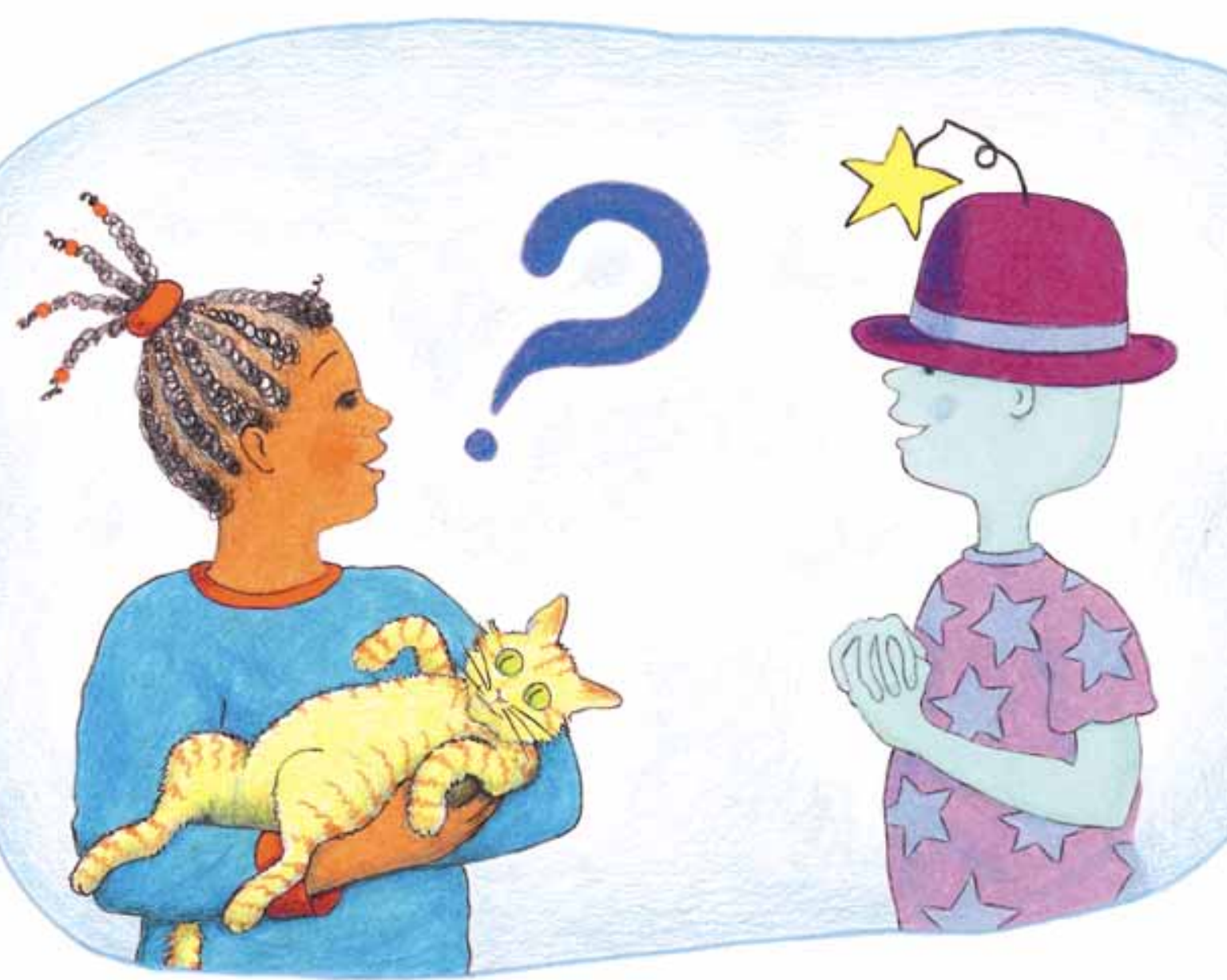
We're about a bazillion-and-one miles away,  
And I've traveled the heavens to come here to play.  
But just as my space ship was ready to land  
I could hear you say something I don't understand."



“Oh yeah?” NoraLee said, her voice a bit gruff,  
So this strange little creature would know she was tough.

“Oh, yeah,” Loofi said, “I heard grumbling and sighing  
About helping out, which is so satisfying!”





“You’re weird,” NoraLee said. “I just don’t like cleaning.”

“Why not?” Loofi asked her. “I don’t get your meaning.

On Ifwee, we always feel proud and have fun,

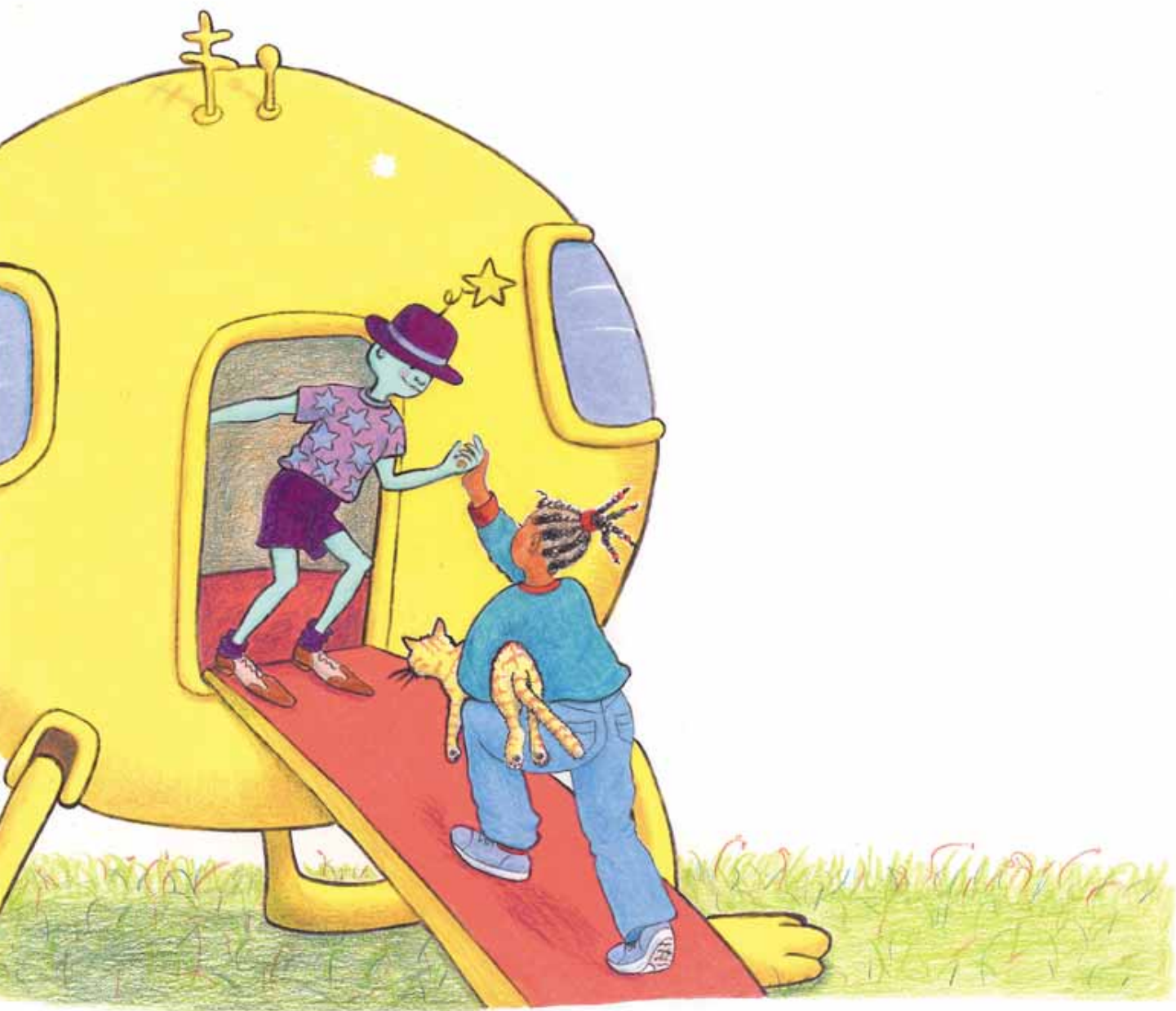
By deciding and doing what needs to be done!”



NoraLee was so puzzled by what Loofi said  
That she scrunched up her eyes and was scratching her head.

Then she noticed a tingle was tickling her toes.  
And it slithered inside her and niggled her nose.  
When it fluttered her eyelids and shivered her chin,  
She could feel an adventure about to begin.





So she thought for a minute, then feeling courageous,  
Said, “Loofi, I think what you’re saying’s outrageous.  
But maybe – if there was a way I could see....”

“All right!” Loofi cried, “Come to Ifwee with me!”

“Well, ok,” NoraLee said, “but let’s make it snappy.  
If I miss my dinner my mom won’t be happy.”

“No problem,” said Loofi, “I’m faster than light.  
Now let’s get to my ship and get ready for flight.”





Loofi revved up the engine as they took their seats,  
Pushing buttons that blinked, making strange blips and bleeps.

NoraLee's heart was pounding; could they really fly?  
Oh, she'd be very brave – or at least she would try.



Then before she could whistle three notes of a tune,  
They were soaring through clouds, zooming right by the moon.



Passing millions and billions and trillions of stars,  
Passing planets like Pluto and Saturn and Mars.

In a split-second flash they touched down with a bump.  
“Hey it’s Ifwee! We’ve landed! Come on now, let’s jump!”



NoraLee Johnson was not at all scared.

But she kept her eyes open so she'd be prepared,  
In case oogely boogelies might want to eat her,  
Or giant computers might try to delete her!



But soon she could tell everything would be fine,  
When she looked up and saw Ifwee's welcoming sign.



**Welcome to**

**IfWee**

**Population 3,261**

**If we care, it's magic-**

**GOLDSTAR  
MAGIC**



Loofi was grinning. He said, “NoraLee,  
This is the magic on Planet Ifwee.  
It’s why we don’t mind when we’re doing our chores.  
We just do what we care about—not a thing more!”



“I don’t get it,” said NoraLee,  
“what are you saying?”  
You care about cleaning  
when you could be playing?”



Loofi laughed, “We don’t care about cleaning up stuff.  
We just care about keeping our homes nice enough.  
We don’t tell you to love everything you must do.  
We just ask you to know why it matters to you.”





“Why it matters to me? I don’t get what you mean.  
It’s my Mama who tells me when I have to clean.”

“Well, of course,” Loofi answered, “when you were a baby,  
The grownups decided each ‘yes, no and maybe.’  
But we’re growing up now. So we get to see  
How to choose what’s important to you and to me.

Now just tell me the chores that you don’t like to do.  
And then come meet some folks with a different view.”  
NoraLee gave some thought; then she said, “I suppose  
That I really don’t like washing up dirty clothes.”

“So come meet Robinia Clarinda Gazaundry!  
She’s helping her dad with the family laundry.”



“Hello, NoraLee. I know just what you mean.  
I used to not care if my clothes weren’t clean.

But did you ever notice how you can feel grumpy,  
When things that you’re wearing are wrinkled and frumpy?”





“So now we make time to take care of our clothes,  
And we feel very proud from our hats to our toes!”

NoraLee wasn't sure she could WANT to do laundry.  
But still she said “thanks” to Robinia Gazaundry.

Then Loofi said, “Tell me,  
what else makes you stress?”  
NoraLee said, “When Mama yells,  
‘Your room’s a mess!’”

“Sounds like time to meet  
Mather and Dunobbi Shroom.  
Let’s see how they feel about  
cleaning *their* room.”



“Howdy do,” Mather said. “Here’s the truth about us—  
There are times when we don’t even care about dust.

But did you ever notice you’ll grumble and mutter  
When your favorite playthings are lost in the clutter?





“So that’s a good reason to put things away –  
To be sure we can find them the next time we play!

And whenever there's something that's got to be done,  
Try to do it together — it's so much more fun!"

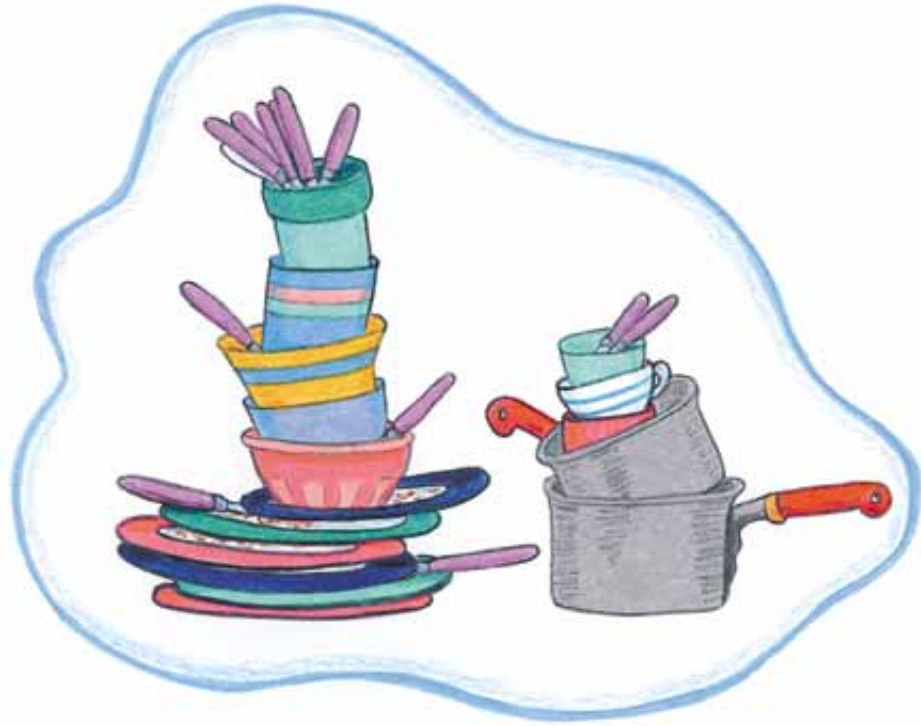
“Thanks,” said NoraLee. “But is anyone able  
To have any fun when they’re clearing the table?”

Loofi said, "Meet my Grandmother Grayleah Thrishes.  
She helped me make sense out of doing the dishes!"



"Good day, NoraLee. What a pleasure to meet you!  
I know dirty dishes can sometimes defeat you.  
But can you imagine them piled to the ceiling?  
If we never washed them, we'd surely be feeling  
A little bit sick when they started to stink.  
And on what would we eat? Tell me, what do you think?"





NoraLee smiled  
as she pictured the scene.  
“Yes I think I’m beginning to get  
what you mean.”

If a grownup in charge gives you something to do,  
Like some chore that can seem really boring to you,  
Ask, ‘Why do I care?’ Take some time to think through it.  
If we care, it’s magic, and that’s why we’ll do it!”



Everyone cheered, “Way to go, NoraLee!  
You’ll be helping yourself and your whole family!”

“Be proud,” Loofi said, “of the person you are.  
Every time you help out, give yourself a gold star!”



“And then,” said Robinia, “here’s what you do.  
Tell your Grandma, or somebody else who loves you.”

“That’s right, “ said Dunobbi, “whenever you share  
A proud moment with somebody special who cares,

**The whole family gets GoldStar Magic!**



NoraLee sighed, “Grandma and Grandpa would care.

But they’ve just moved away - I’m not even sure where.”

“Don’t you worry,” said Loofi. “It’s not really tragic.

‘I know just the way to share *your* Gold Star Magic.



This card is for you and your Mama to write

Something special you’re proud of; then mail it tonight.

I am sure, when your Grandma and Grampa receive it,

They’ll be so delighted—Oh, you can believe it—

The very next thing they’ll decide they must do

Is to write their encouraging words back to you!”



“Hey, we’ll be family pen-pals!” cried out NoraLee.

“I can’t wait ‘til they send their first answer to me!”

Grandma Grayleah nodded, “You’re going to be great!”

Yes!” agreed NoraLee, “And I’m going to be late!”

Loofi smiled. “We can hurry; let’s get in my ship.

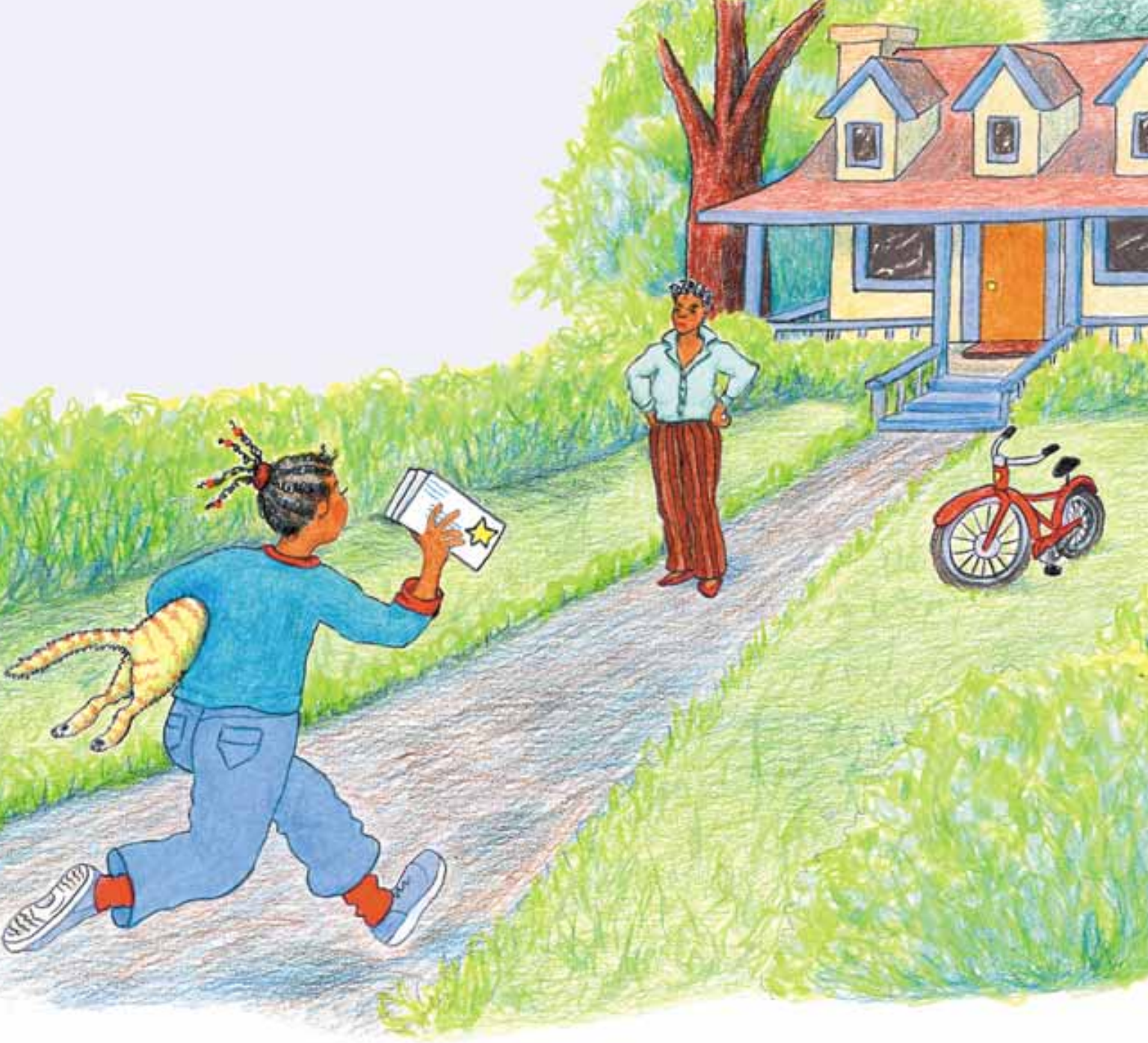
And whenever you want, we can take a new trip.”



So before they could whistle three notes of a tune,  
They were soaring through clouds, zooming right past the moon.

In a split-second flash they touched down with a bump.  
“Hey, we’ve landed! Bye, Loofi! I’m ready to jump!”





NoraLee waved goodbye to the vanishing ball,  
And she started towards home as she heard Mama call,

“Where’s that NoraLee Johnson? I need you right now!”  
OK, Mama, I’ll help you, if you tell me how!



Feeling proud, NoraLee saw her Mama's surprise.

And she felt kind of warm from the love in her eyes.

Mama said, "Where on earth did you get that cool card?"

"Not on earth," NoraLee answered, hugging her hard.

At the same time, a tingle was tickling her toes,

And it slithered inside her and niggled her nose.

Then it fluttered her eyelids, and—here's the best part—

She could feel GoldStar Magic just filling her heart.



**Dear Family Readers,**

**We hope you enjoyed *NoraLee's Adventures on Planet Ifwee*, and we think it would be really wonderful if you took some time to talk about it together. Here are some questions to help you get started.**

Why was NoraLee so sure that her mother was calling her to clean her room? *Page 5*

What do you think Loofi means when he says, "On Ifwee, we always feel proud and have fun by deciding and doing what needs to be done?" *Page 10*

What did you think was going to happen when NoraLee "could feel an adventure was soon to begin"? *Page 11*

Why do you think Noralee's Mama was surprised when Noralee said, 'I'll help you.'" *Page 31*

How does Noralee feel about herself when she sees the love in her mama's eyes? *Page 32*

What changed NoraLee's mind about helping out at home?

What ways do you think Noralee will help out at home now?

How do you think her Mama will feel?

How do you think her grandma and grandpa will feel when they get the special postcards? What do you think they will do?

You may have to think really hard for this one. Why do you think Loofi's planet is called Ifwee?

Do you have any chores that you don't like to do, just like NoraLee?. What are they? Are they important? Why?

How can you and your family make 'Gold Star Magic?'

If you were going to choose a family pen-pal so you could encourage one another, who would you choose?

**Take good care of yourselves!**

**Book One:**  
Why do we  
care about  
helping out  
at home?

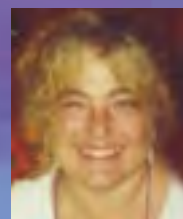
Dear Readers,

Have you ever put off doing something you know is important, simply because it's difficult or boring? In Book One of her *Adventures on Planet Ifwee*, NoraLee learns a new way to look at life's everyday chores and challenges—a magical way that turns them into opportunities to develop self-esteem, connect more closely with our loved ones, and have more fun.

It's called GoldStar Magic™ and here's how you make some:

1. Figure out what you really care about, and take care of those things.
2. Take pride when you do. Give yourself lots of gold stars!
3. Tell someone you love, so you can encourage one another.

One way to do Step 3 is to become Family Pen-Pals like NoraLee and her grandparents. Use GoldStar Magic Two-way Postal Cards\*™ or your own stationery—the important thing is to encourage one another. Let us know how it works for you!



Blessings to us all,  
Terry Nicholetti, Creator of GoldStar Magic

When a family uses GoldStar Magic, wonderful things happen! Here's what people are saying about the GoldStar Magic Family Pen-Pal™ Kit, which includes NoraLee's story, a cassette of *The Ifwee Song*, six Two-way Postal Cards\*™, lots of gold stars, and postal card sealers.

*"GoldStar Magic helps young kids feel more proud of themselves."*

— Keela Young, age 13

*"I like the post cards. They are cool and a really nice way to keep in touch."*

— Chantelle Young, age 10

*"It's a good way to communicate."*

— Olivia Young, age 7

*"GoldStar Magic helps to build your children's self-esteem by showing that both you and they care. The Ifwee Song is a lively, upbeat song that will have you humming along in no time!"*

— Lily Lavner, age 16

*"Children will empathize with and delight in the main character, NoraLee, her adventures on Planet Ifwee, and her wonderful discovery of GoldStar Magic. The Family Pen-Pal™ kit promotes family literacy and parents as reading partners by encouraging an enjoyable and rewarding family reading and writing experience."*

— Cheryl Kallet Ostrom, teacher, second grade, Ithaca, New York

*"The GoldStar Magic process helps children recognize their strengths and accomplishments, and motivates them to build on those strengths. Caring adults in their lives have opportunities for written communication with their children to reinforce those accomplishments. It also reinforces the idea of family values."*

— Betsy Crane, Ph.D. Assistant Professor, Indiana University of PA



GoldStar

Magic!

Pre-k and up

\*To write to us or to order the Family Pen Pal Kit, see page 2 or go to [www.goldstarmagic.com](http://www.goldstarmagic.com)