

The Baker and The Bear

Read & Color



Written by Alex Rhodes

Illustrated by Funti

MOONBOUND PRESS

Luna. Loved. Bedtime.
Her Papa Bear was soft, warm,
and smelled like sunshine and soap.

Every night he tucked her in,
Luna would fall fast asleep.

But lately,
while Luna dreamed,
Papa Bear would slip away.





Whenever she woke up,
the spot next to her would be empty.

By morning,
Papa Bear was always back.

Good morning, sweetheart!

That night, Luna asked,
“Where do you go?
When I wake up and you’re
gone...” She stopped.
“Oh, sweet girl,” he whispered.
“I’m sorry it feels scary.”



“I go to the bakery
while everyone sleeps,” he said.

“To make fresh bread for the morning,
then hurry home to you.”

“But what if I miss you?”
Her lip trembled.

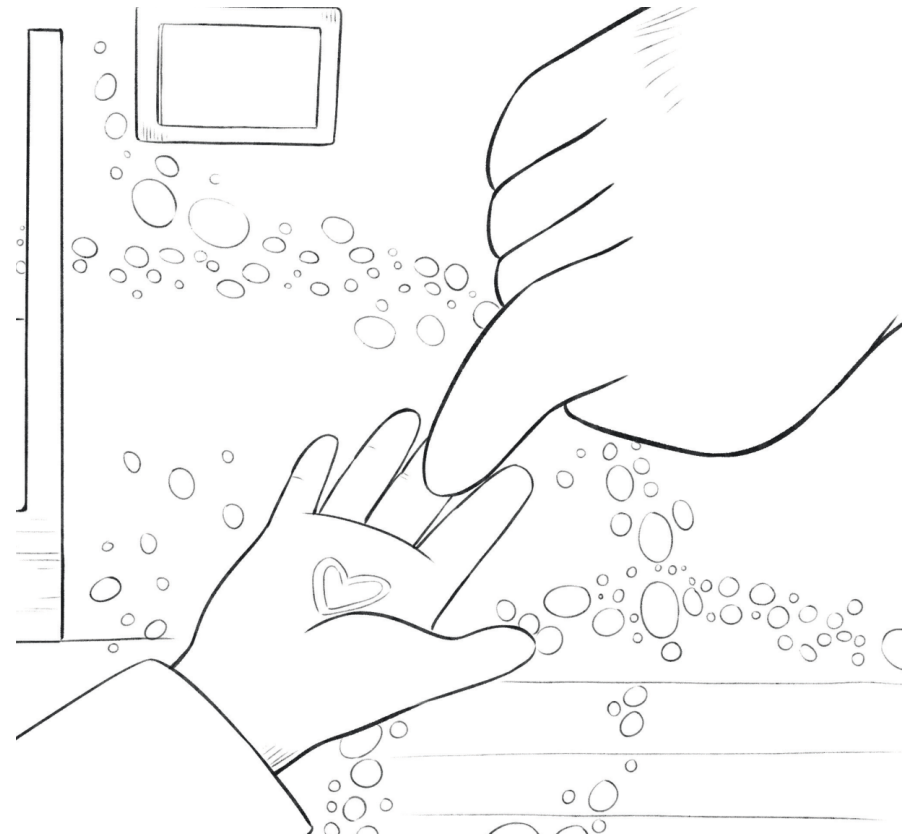


“I have some ideas.
Tricks to stay close.”

He pressed her palm.

“Your Hug Button.

Press it if you wake up,
and I’ll press mine
at the bakery.”





“Next,”
he gave her his soft tee shirt.
Luna breathed him in.
“Sunshine and soap.”

“And if you wake up,
look at the moon.

I see the same moon
from the bakery.

Our moon.”





That night,
Papa Bear kissed her goodbye.

Once,
she woke up.
Her worries stirred.



Then she remembered.
She squeezed her palm.
She imagined Papa Bear
feeling her hug
and sending one right back.

She looked up at the moon.

Their moon.

“Goodnight,
Papa Bear.”



By morning,
a little note waited
by her pillow.

She still missed Papa Bear
at night.

But it wasn't scary anymore.
It was a
waiting-for-the-morning-muffin
feeling.



That night,
Luna slept peacefully,
wrapped in Papa Bear's love...

...as big
and as constant
as the moon.



The next morning,
while Papa Bear was fast asleep,
Luna kissed his head.

Sunshine and soap.

“Now it’s my turn,”
she whispered.



“Goodnight,
Papa Bear.”

same moon.
same love.



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