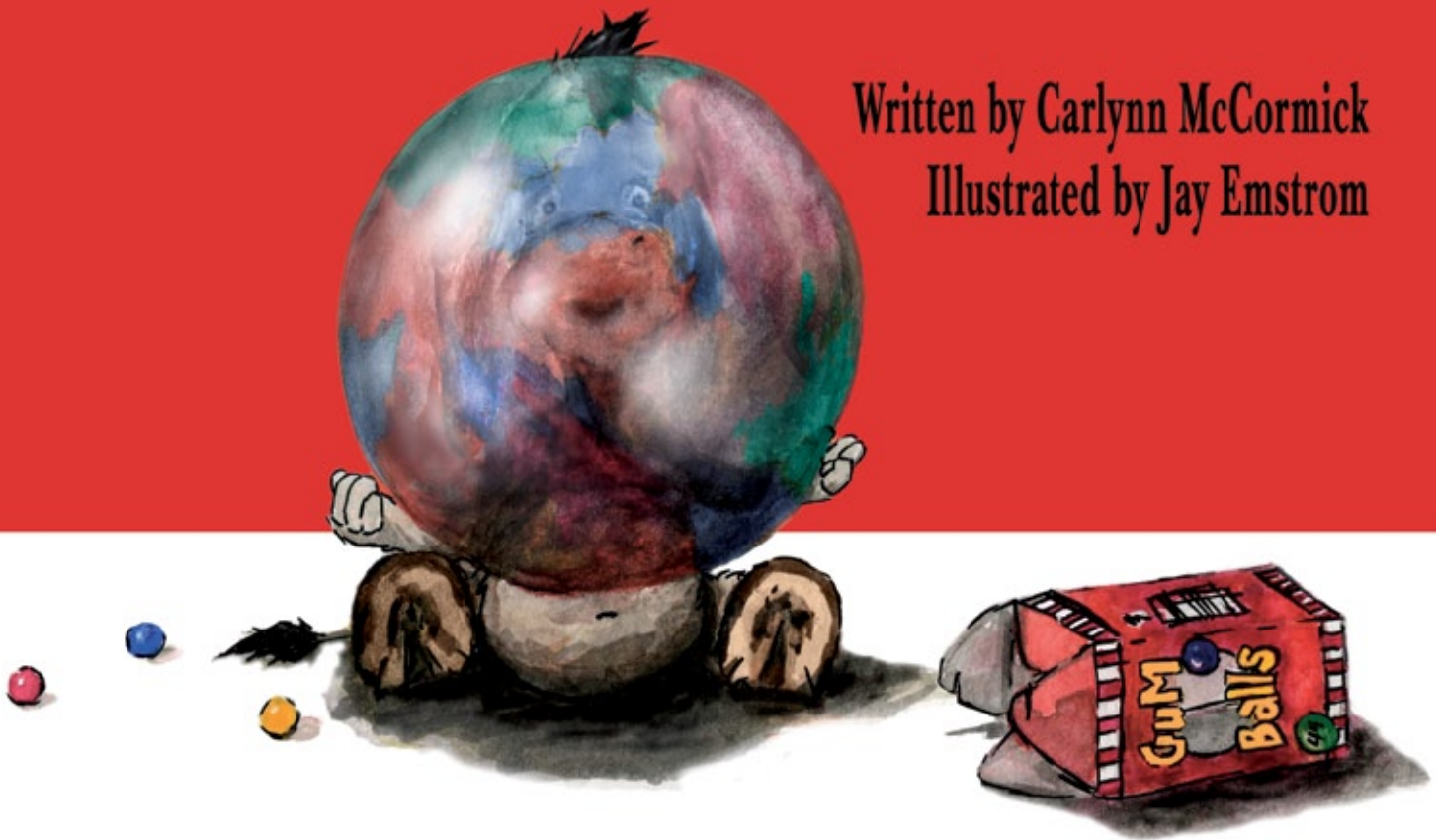


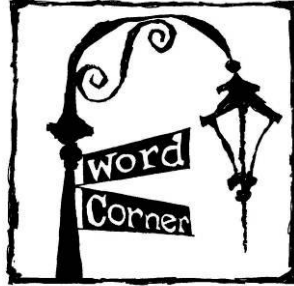


Gum Ball Bandit

Written by Carlynn McCormick
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Definitions

Bandit: A bandit is someone who steals things. Thief and robber are other words that can mean someone who steals. *This is the story of Little Donkey who is a bandit because he steals some gumballs.*

Warden: A warden is someone who is in charge of a prison. *Little Donkey needs a warden to stop him from stealing.*

Cop: A cop is another name for a policeman.

Committed: To have done something. *Little Donkey committed a bad action when he stole the gumballs.*

Theft: A theft is the act of stealing something. *In this story, Little Donkey commits a theft.*

Brow: The brow is that part of the face above the eyes. *Sweat ran down Little Donkey's brow.*

Evidence: Evidence is something that shows a crime has been done. *The empty gumball box was evidence that Little Donkey had taken all the gumballs and that is why he buried the box.*

In too deep: In too deep means to get oneself into a situation that is hard to get out of. *Little Donkey was in too deep because he had eaten all the gumballs.*

Dark secret: A dark secret is one you don't want other people to know because you think it is so bad. *Little Donkey did not want to tell anyone the dark secret that he had stolen the box of gumballs and eaten them all.*

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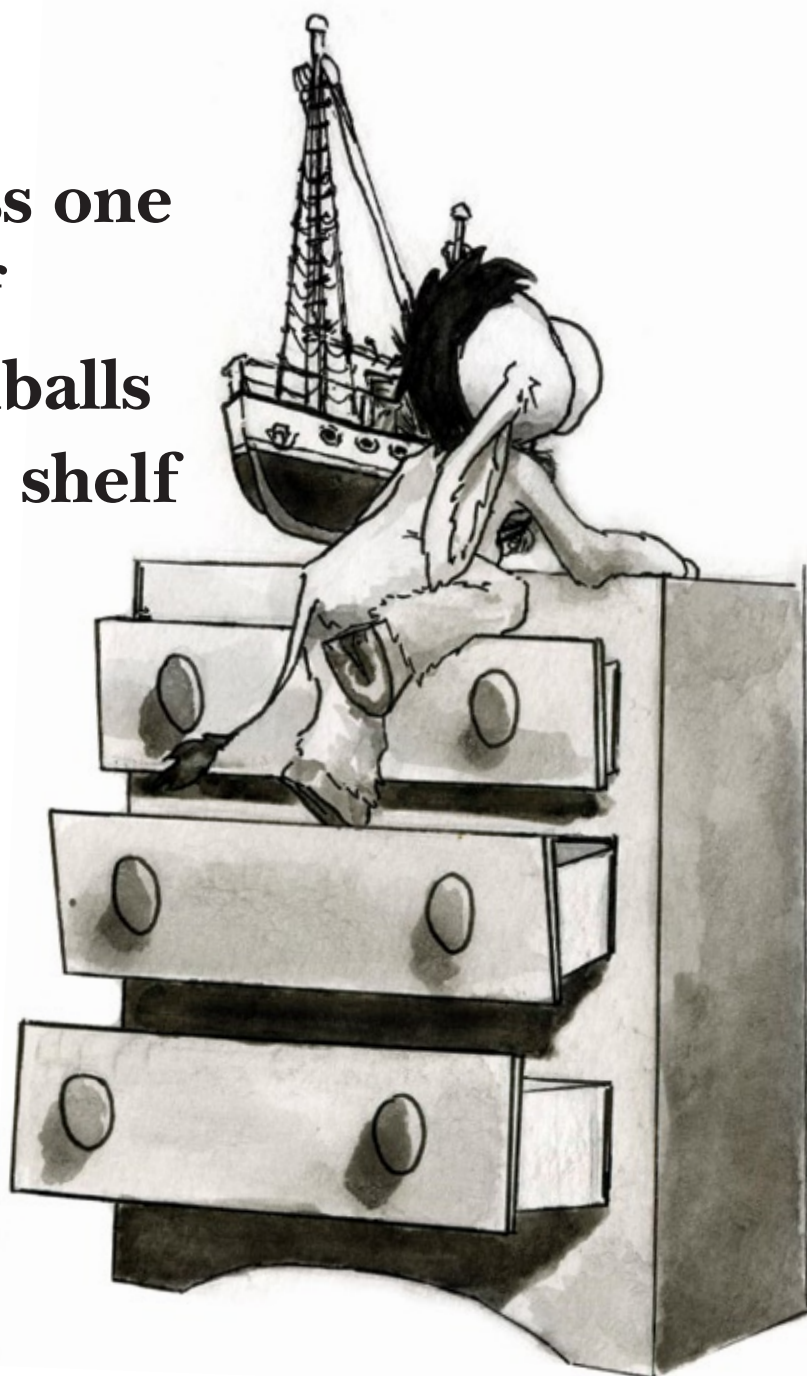
My brother had gumballs
A box of forty-four

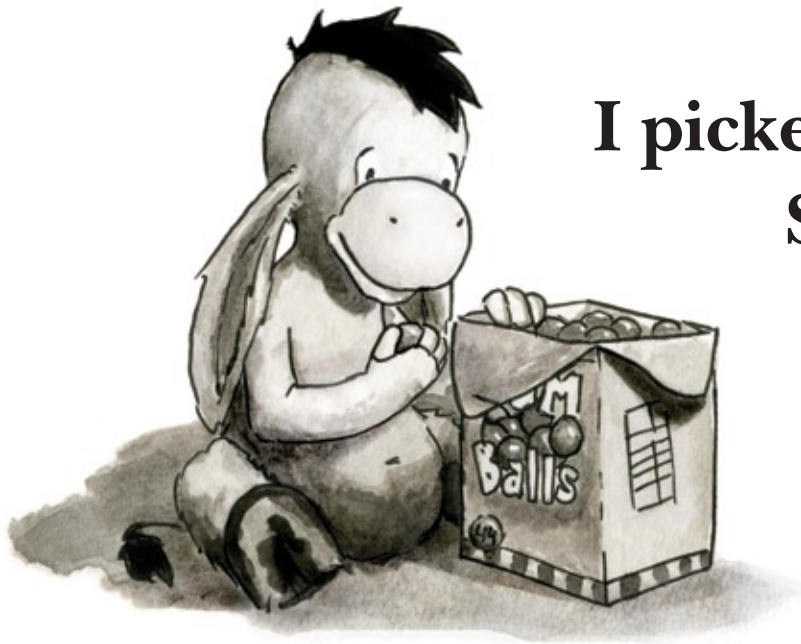




If I ate only one ball
He'd have forty-three more

He'd never miss one
I said to myself
Taking his gumballs
Down from the shelf





**I picked out a beauty
Shiny and green**

**I knew I should ask him
But brother is so mean**



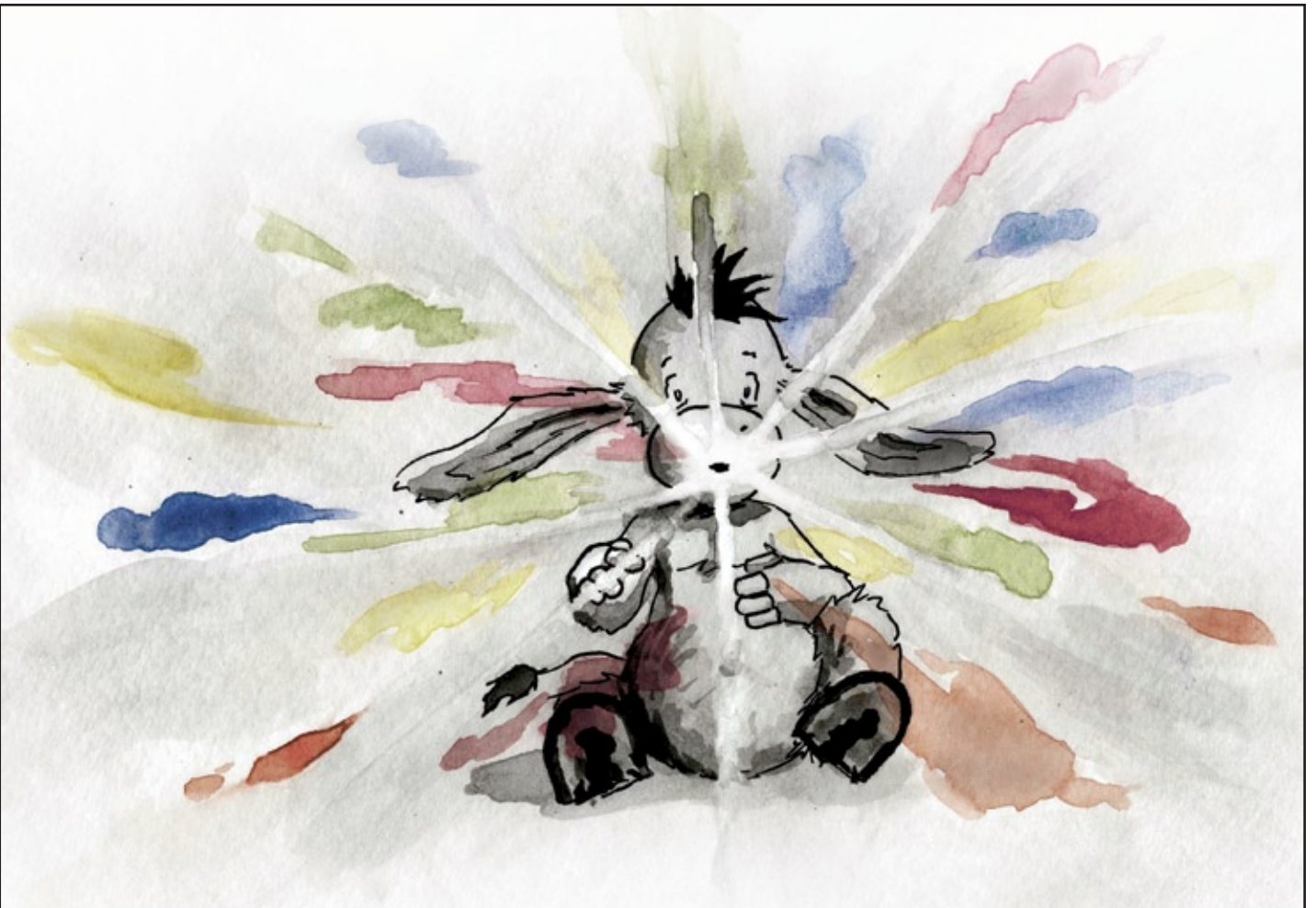


**He'd tell me "No!"
Of that I was sure
But what happened next
Is all such a blur**



**After one gumball
I just couldn't stop**

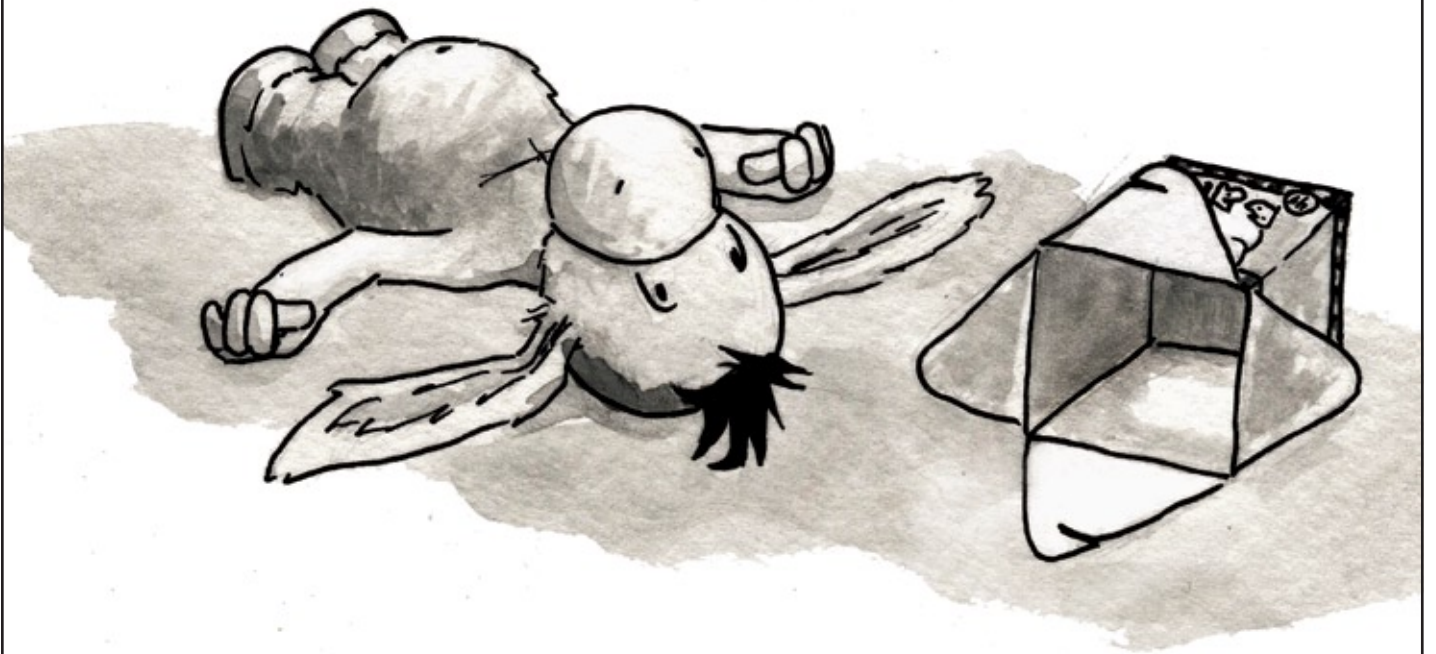




**I needed a warden,
A policeman or cop**



**I had eaten them all
Not one ball was left**



**I had committed
A most terrible theft**

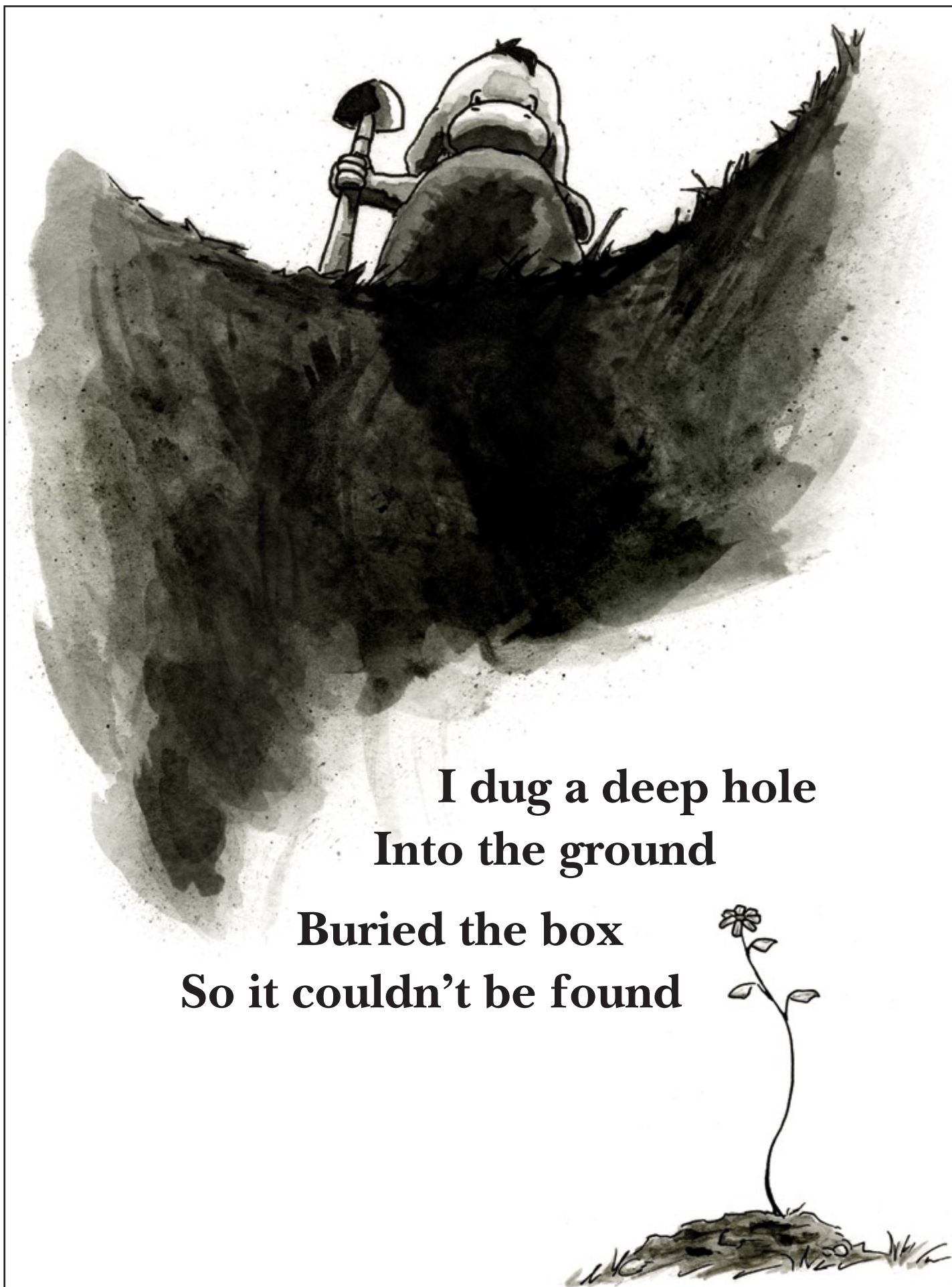
**I felt really bad,
As bad as could be**

**I wouldn't want someone
To do that to me**



The empty box
I knew I must hide
I slid out of the house
To the garden outside





**I dug a deep hole
Into the ground
Buried the box
So it couldn't be found**

**Back in the house
I heard brother say**



**“Where are those gumballs
I bought yesterday?”**

A few drops of sweat
Formed on my brow
Knew I should tell him
But didn't know how





**The evidence gone
I was in way too deep
Must be my dark secret
Forever to keep**



“Oh, you have gumballs!”

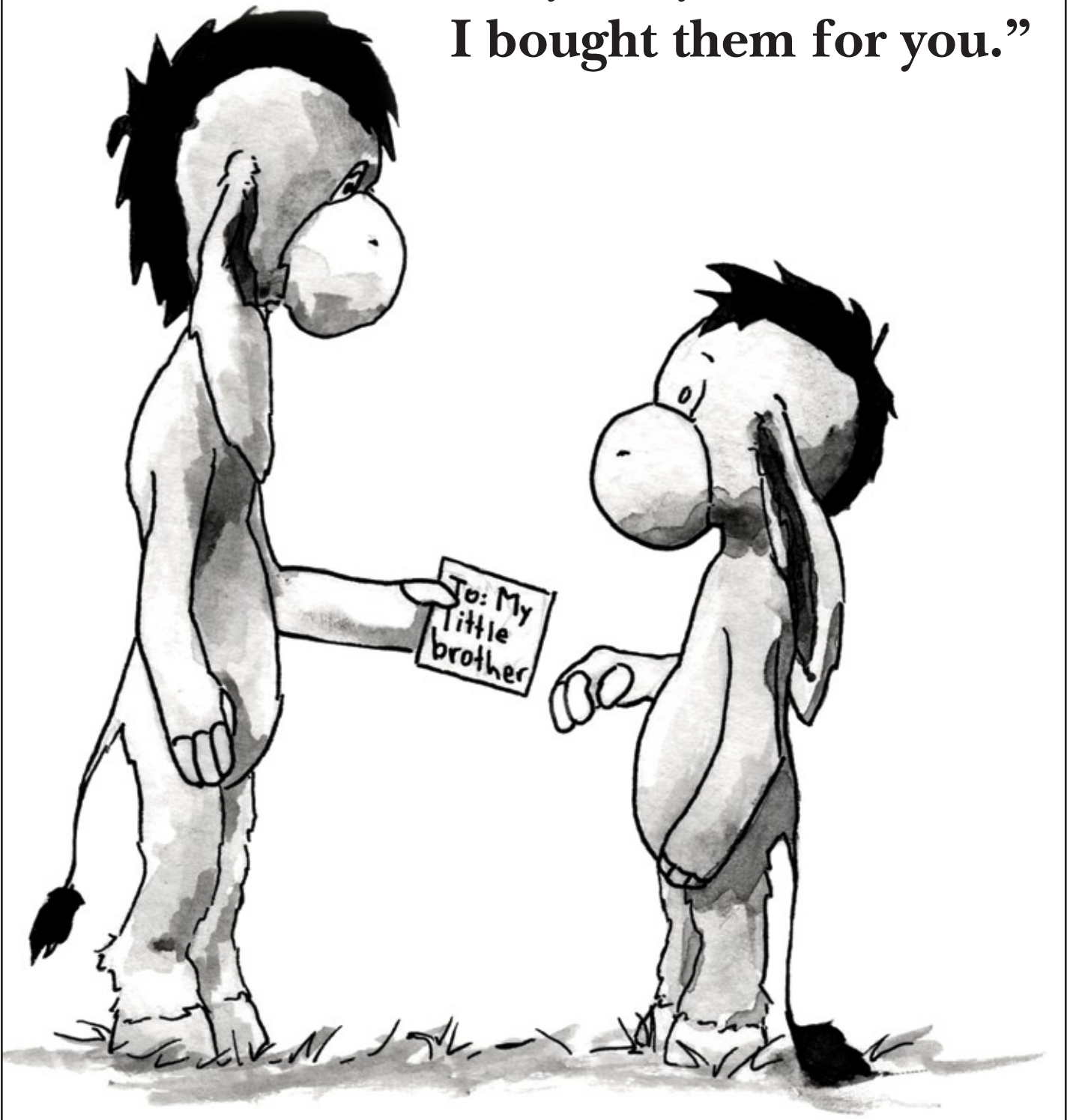
I said with suprise

Trying to cover

The guilt in my eyes



**“Yes I bought gumballs
Because I knew
They are your favorite,
I bought them for you.”**





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