

A large, vibrant blue heart is centered on a background of a bright blue sky filled with soft, white, fluffy clouds. The heart is a solid, deep blue color, contrasting with the lighter blue of the sky and the white of the clouds.

To all children who are feeling  
alone and frightened,

**YOU ARE IMPORTANT!**

May you find the love and happiness  
you so much deserve.



250 East 54th Street, Suite P2  
New York, New York 10022  
[www.lightswitchlearning.com](http://www.lightswitchlearning.com)

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***Joey's Journey*** by Elaine Sussman  
Illustrated by Joshua S. Brunet

The text of this book is set in Billy

Printed in Republic of Korea



# JOEY'S JOURNEY



by Elaine Sussman • illustrated by Joshua S. Brunet





Four year-old Joey and his mom lived in a storage room behind Sosney's Fish Market. It was small, dark, and damp and always smelled like stinky fish.

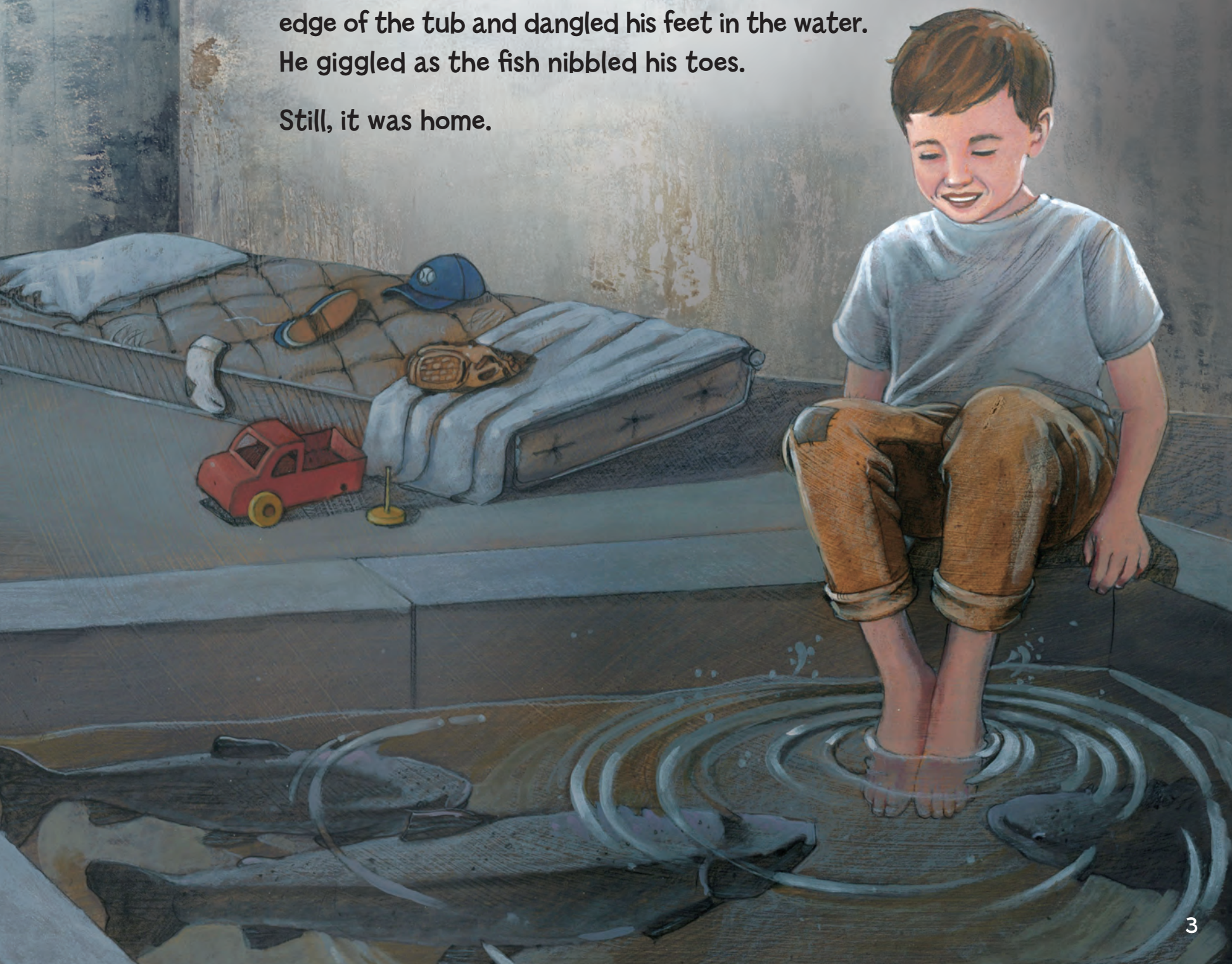
In one corner of their room, Mr. Sosney kept live fish swimming in a cement tub.



Each morning, the store manager, Reggie, prepared the fish to display in the store window. Sometimes, he left a fish or two swimming in the tub.

When his mom wasn't looking, Joey sat on the edge of the tub and dangled his feet in the water. He giggled as the fish nibbled his toes.

Still, it was home.





Joey's dad left them when Joey was just a baby.

Living alone with his mom was hard. She was moody. Some days, she was happy and read books to Joey and took him to fun places. Other days, she was mean and yelled at Joey. Then she would nap and ignore him.







At bedtime, Joey snuggled under his blanket and imagined living with his dad and mom in a cozy apartment. He dreamed they would eat meals together and share lots of hugs.

“Maybe Daddy will come home and I’ll have a happy family, just like my friends do,” Joey always hoped before he fell asleep.