



**What if the
Moon was gone?**

**Why I'm No Longer
Scared of the Dark**

A Community Fundraiser

Our Mission

The What If...project is a community-wide fundraiser which promotes literacy and the visual arts. The project provides a non-traditional funding source for local not-for-profits.

Local authors, artists and non-profit organizations are chosen to bring together each "What If..." book, to offer a wide variety of subjects for children.

These children's books deal in a delicate and joyous way with many issues. The "What If..." books are beautifully illustrated and full of color, which allows children to become part of each educational journey.



Sally is a very happy girl who is just five years old.

She has silky black hair and eyes like the morning dew.

Her smile makes everyone forget their sadness.

Sally goes to kindergarten every day and that is one of the happiest times of her day.

She sometimes feels lonely after school because she doesn't have any brothers or sisters to play with.





Her only play mate in the house is her small teddy bear.

In the daytime, Sally's laughter echoes around the house.

The only thing that would stop her delightful smile is the arrival of the dusk.



Sally is afraid of the dark nights. One day in particular, Sally worried all day from the sunrise until the sunset.

Eventually, the terrible dusk came.

When the light was off, Sally's room became very, very dark.

"It is so scary in such a dark, dark room" Sally trembled to herself.

The moon was hidden up in the dark, dark sky.

“Dong! Dong! Dong!” As the big clock chimed as it struck midnight.

Poor little Sally was still up in the bed.



In the dark her imagination started to get the best of her.

Suddenly, she saw something flying past.

“Is... that... a monster out there?”





Sally's trembling voice echoed in the room.

But no one answered her question. All she could hear was the clicking sound of the clock and dogs barking. She was alone.

All that accompanied her was the silence and darkness of the night.

Sally could not help crying in her bed as she covered her head.

She tried to hide herself under the quilt because she thought it would be a much safer place to be.

"Hey, where has the monster gone?"

Gosh, it's just a piece of cloud near the moon."

Sally popped her head out and looked around.

Only the clock was moving.





Sally's fears returned, and she started crying again.

She wished harder than she ever had before to no longer be afraid at night.

Suddenly, the room became extremely warm and bright.

Sally squeaked with a trembling voice, "Is something out there?"

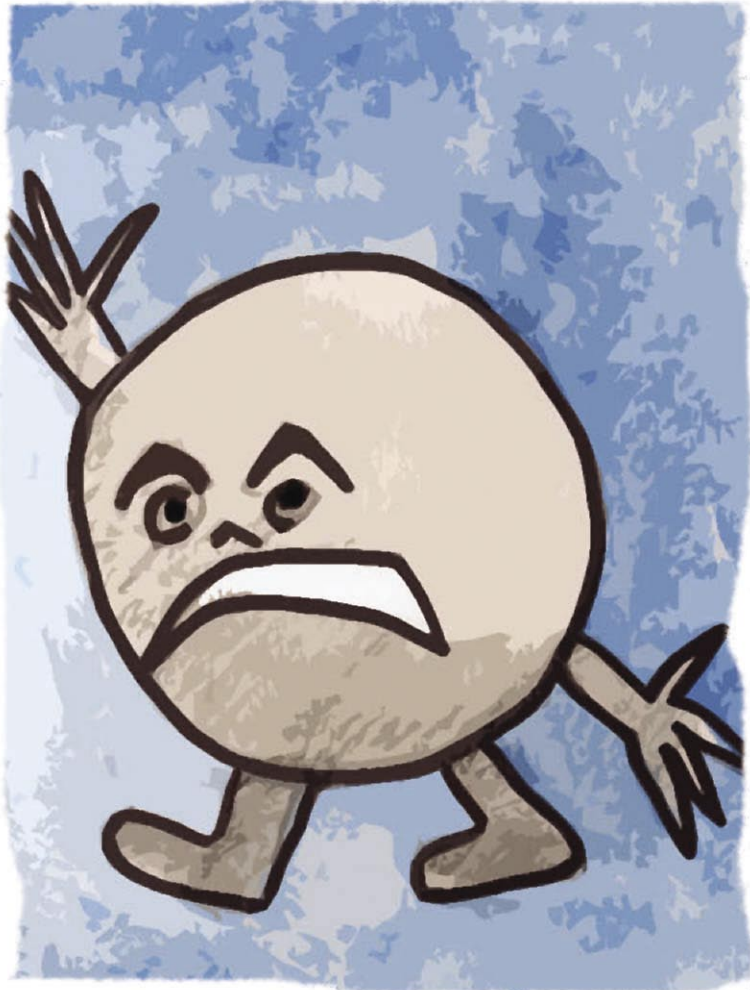
"It's me, Sally," said a childish voice.

“What?” Sally exclaimed surprised.

A brilliant, glowing, yellow, moon sat on the window and smiled at her.

“Who are you? And why are you here?” Sally asked suspiciously.





“I don’t really know where I am. I’m Little Moon, and I was startled by a screaming voice and then I fell here,” the little moon said.

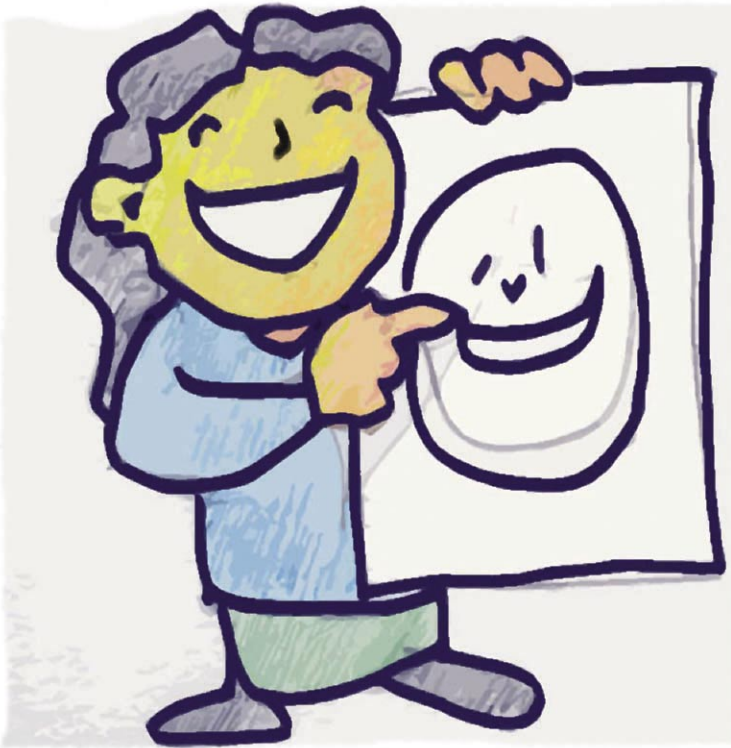
His legs knocked the edge of the window sill constantly.

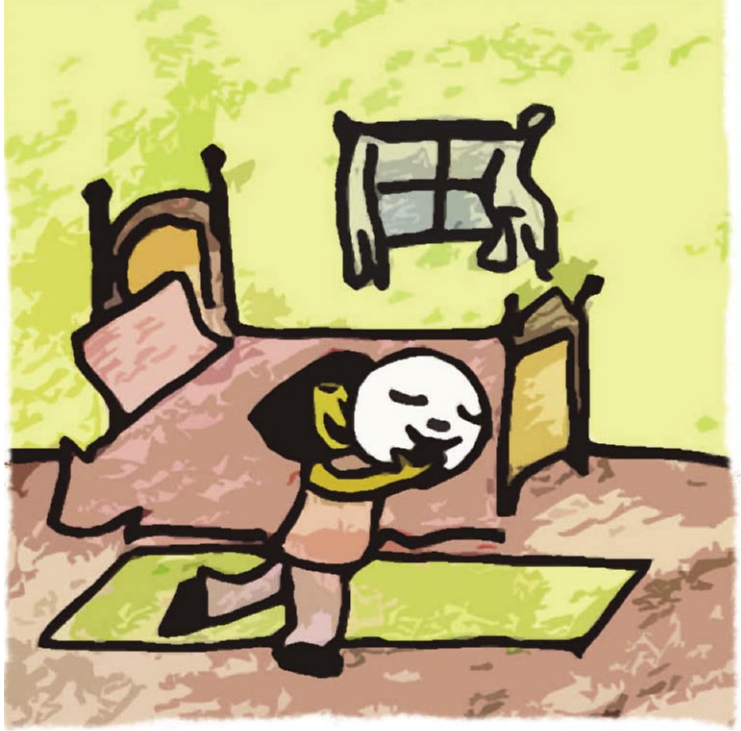
“You are the moon!” said Sally.

She jumped out of bed and cautiously stepped close to the moon.

“I’m a long way from home,” Little Moon cried.

Teardrops started rolling down from the brim of his face.





“Don’t worry; I will be your friend.”

Sally held his hand tight and gave him a big hug.

The moon lit up the whole room.

Sally was not afraid anymore and she started smiling.

“Let’s go out and play!” Sally was so excited that she grabbed little moon’s hand and shook up and down.

The little moon stopped crying and smiled at Sally, "O.K. let's play outside!"

He grabbed Sally's hand and dragged her outside through the window.





“Wow! We are flying!” Sally screamed loudly.

She laughed and her face was bright and brilliant.

Little moon was holding her hand tightly and smiled at Sally.

The stars sparkled like a fairy light and the wind blew softly.

“Meeeoow! Meeoow!” came from below.

“What’s that strange sound?” asked Sally curiously.

“It’s just kitty cats. They make those strange cries when they’re in love!” Little moon explained.

“People get scared by things they don’t know.”





Several very dark nights passed outside.

But Sally was very happy, she was not afraid because her little friend lit up the room.

Unlike Sally, Little Moon was becoming very sad.

“Aren’t you happy, Little Moon?” asked Sally.

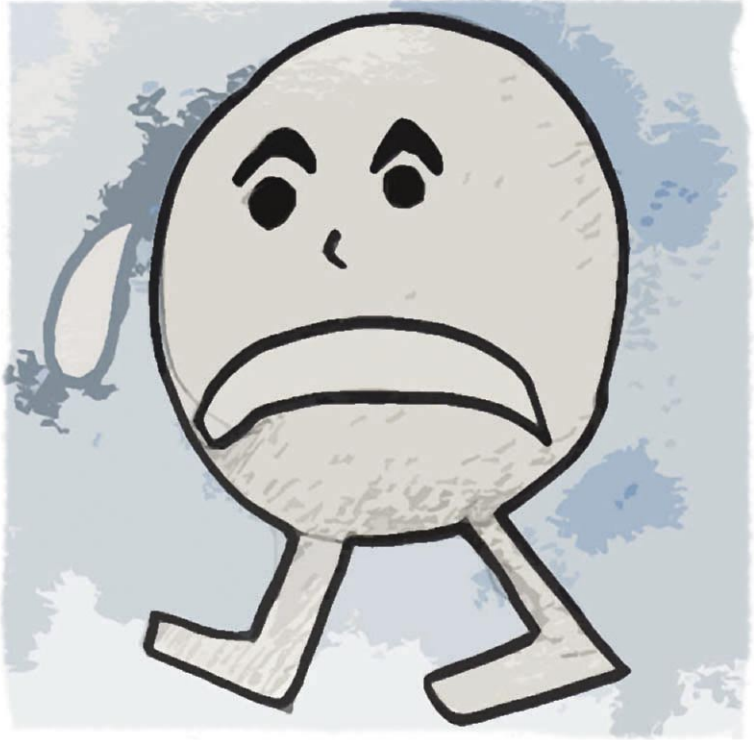
She held Little Moon's hand with great concern.

She really cared about her little friend who made her unafraid of the dark nights.

"The sky is so dark without me," Little Moon said.

"I don't think so. I feel very warm and bright in the night!" said Sally cheerfully.





“The reason is that I am with you, only you,” Little Moon raised his head and said to Sally.

“I have heard lots of kids just like you, who are scared of the dark. They will be even more frightened now that they don’t see me in the sky.” said Little Moon sincerely.

“I think it’s time to go back.” Little Moon declared, “If you get scared of the dark night, I will always be by your side!”

Sally suddenly realized she had been selfish with Little Moon’s night light.

“I won’t be scared of the night any more! I will always feel you around me,” Sally said confidently.

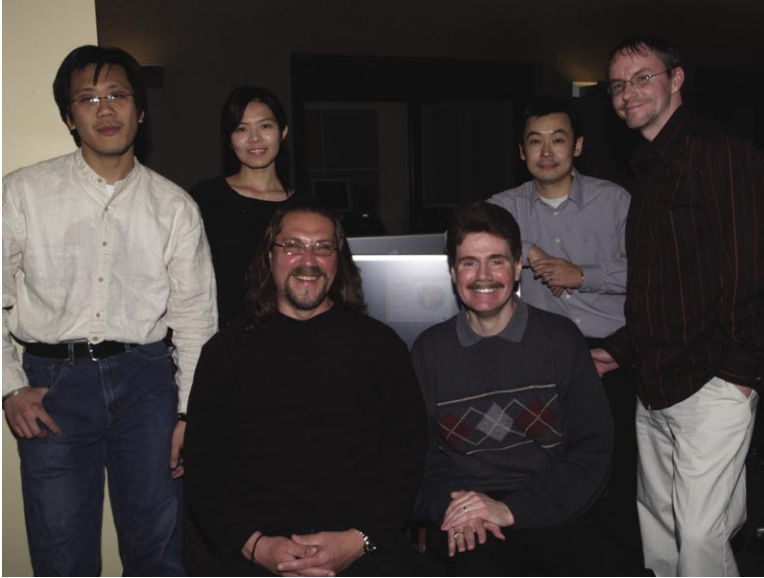
Little Moon waved his hand good-bye and started floating up to the sky.





Tear's rolled down Sally's face, but she was still wearing a beautiful smile.
With a special friend, Sally won't be afraid of the dark night any more.

THE END



FROM LEFT: Wei Ma, Chia-Kun Lee, Ben Bryant, Dr. John Dailey, Chi-Hsun Chiu and Curt Sutterfield.

About this book

This "What If?" children's book and accompanying interactive CD-ROM were produced by graduate students in Dr. John Dailey's Interactive Storytelling class at Ball State University in the spring of 2005.

Credits

Story	Chi-Hsun Chiu
Art	Ben Bryant
CD-ROM	Wei Ma, Chia-Kun Lee
Editor	Curt Sutterfield