



**This book is dedicated to:**

**-Mom, Dad, and Dwayne (deceased), Connor, Natalie, Tim, Peyton, Abbey, Hanna, Laura, Nichole, Karen, Sandy, Theresa, Shelby, and all of my family members, including the Ellisons.**

**-My beloved professors from Fielding Graduate University, Dr. Edwards, Dr. DiStefano, Dr. Henderson, Dr. Zee, Dr. Steier, Dr. Epstein, and Dr. Jacobs (Four Arrows).**

**-The Barabaig tribe, especially Mbeesha—the luminous village elder who embodied and modeled the beauty to simply be—and the girls of the Barabaig tribe who could not go to school before having clean water close to their village.**

**-The Rotary Club of Edina for their humanitarian support and Patty Hall for her work to create clean water projects.**

**-De'Arris, Paulette, and the illustration support, Meaghan and Kendra from Minneapolis College of Art and Design.**

**-Endangered cheetahs and elephants.**

**-All the world's youth. This book is uniquely yours, you are my ultimate inspiration!**

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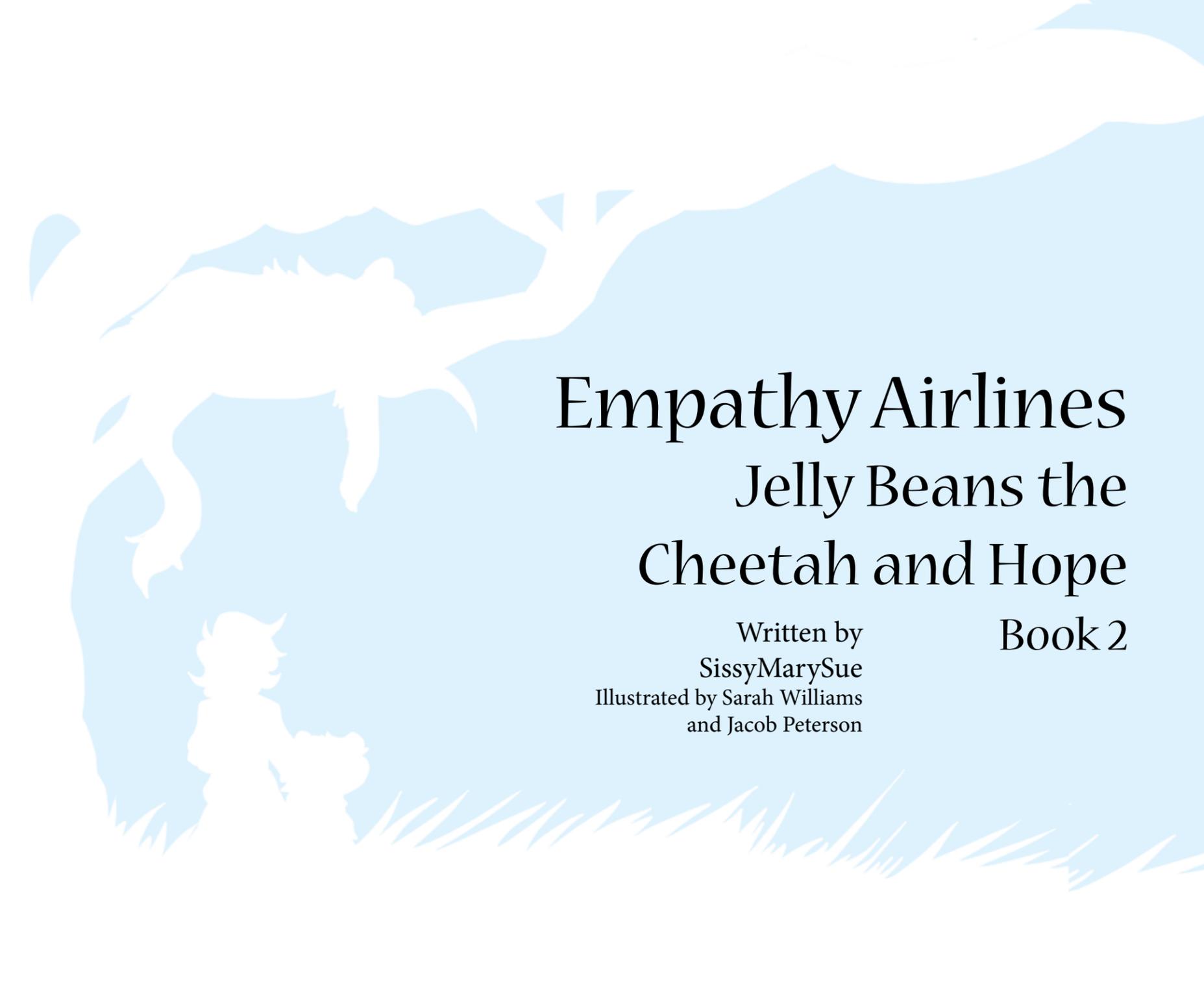
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Contact SissyMarySue at [www.SissyMarySue.org](http://www.SissyMarySue.org) for classroom visits, speaking engagements, and interviews.

A stylized illustration in shades of blue and white. A cheetah is shown in profile, walking towards the right. In the foreground, a girl with curly hair is seen from behind, looking towards the cheetah. The background consists of simple, rounded shapes representing hills or mountains.

# Empathy Airlines

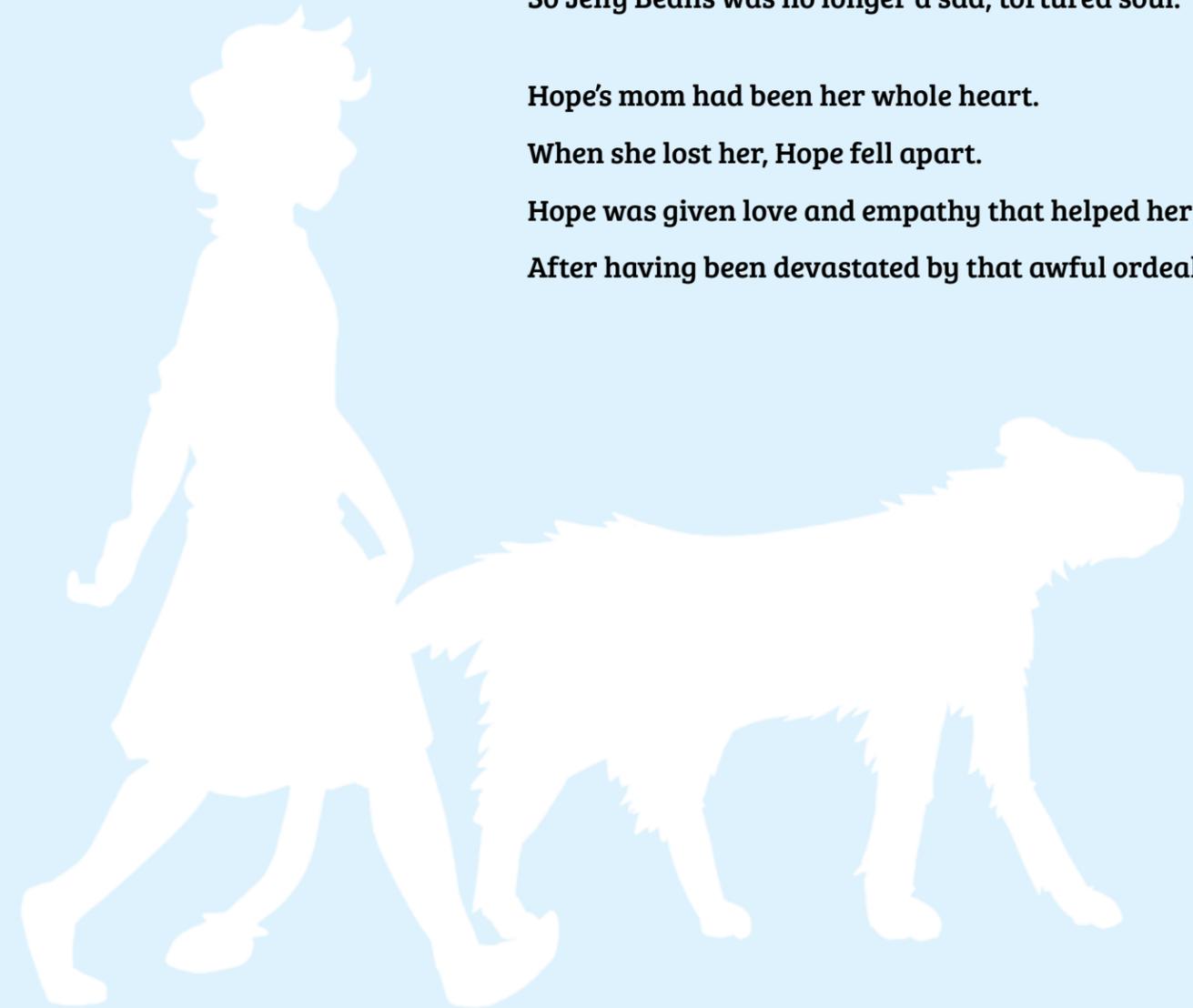
## Jelly Beans the Cheetah and Hope

Written by                      **Book 2**  
SissyMarySue  
Illustrated by Sarah Williams  
and Jacob Peterson



**Jelly Beans the cheetah was filled with joy and grace.  
It was literally written all over his body and face.  
The Barabaig tribe and Hope had helped him feel whole  
So Jelly Beans was no longer a sad, tortured soul.**

**Hope's mom had been her whole heart.  
When she lost her, Hope fell apart.  
Hope was given love and empathy that helped her heal  
After having been devastated by that awful ordeal!**

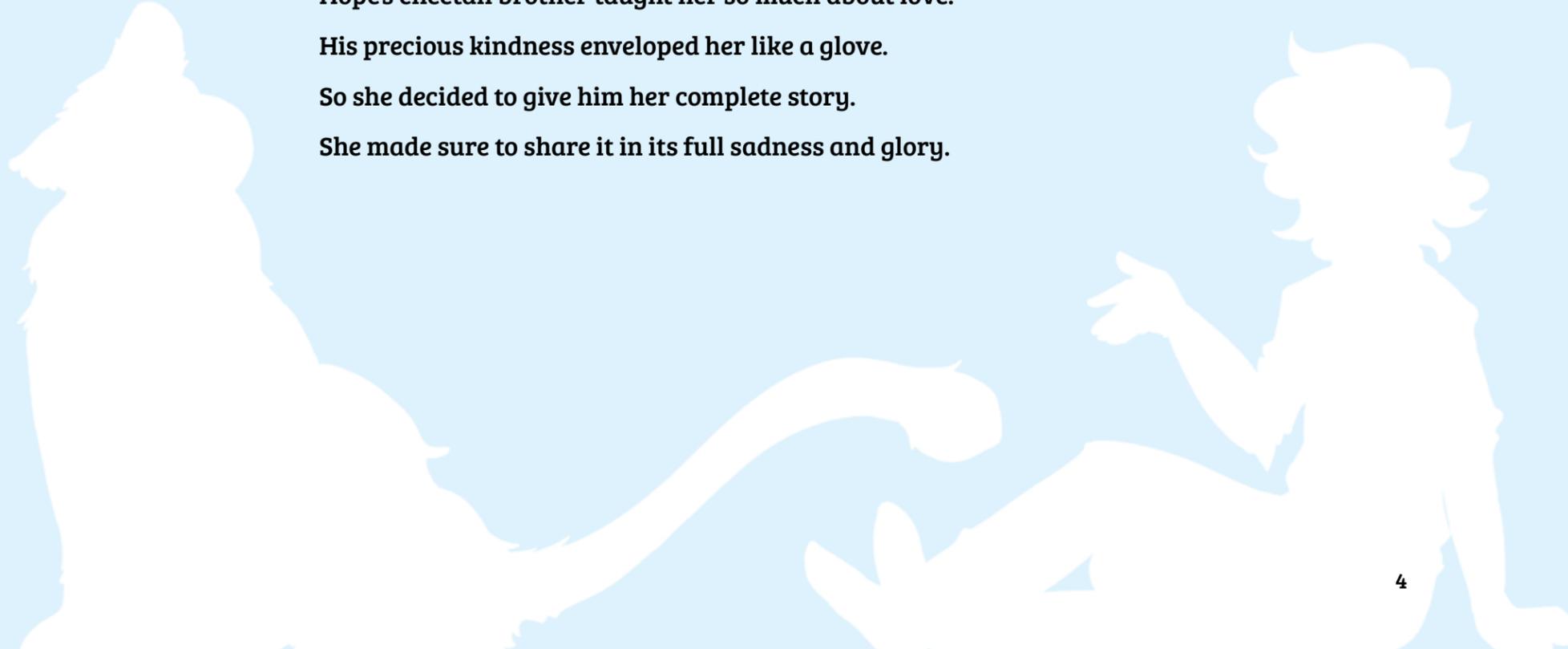


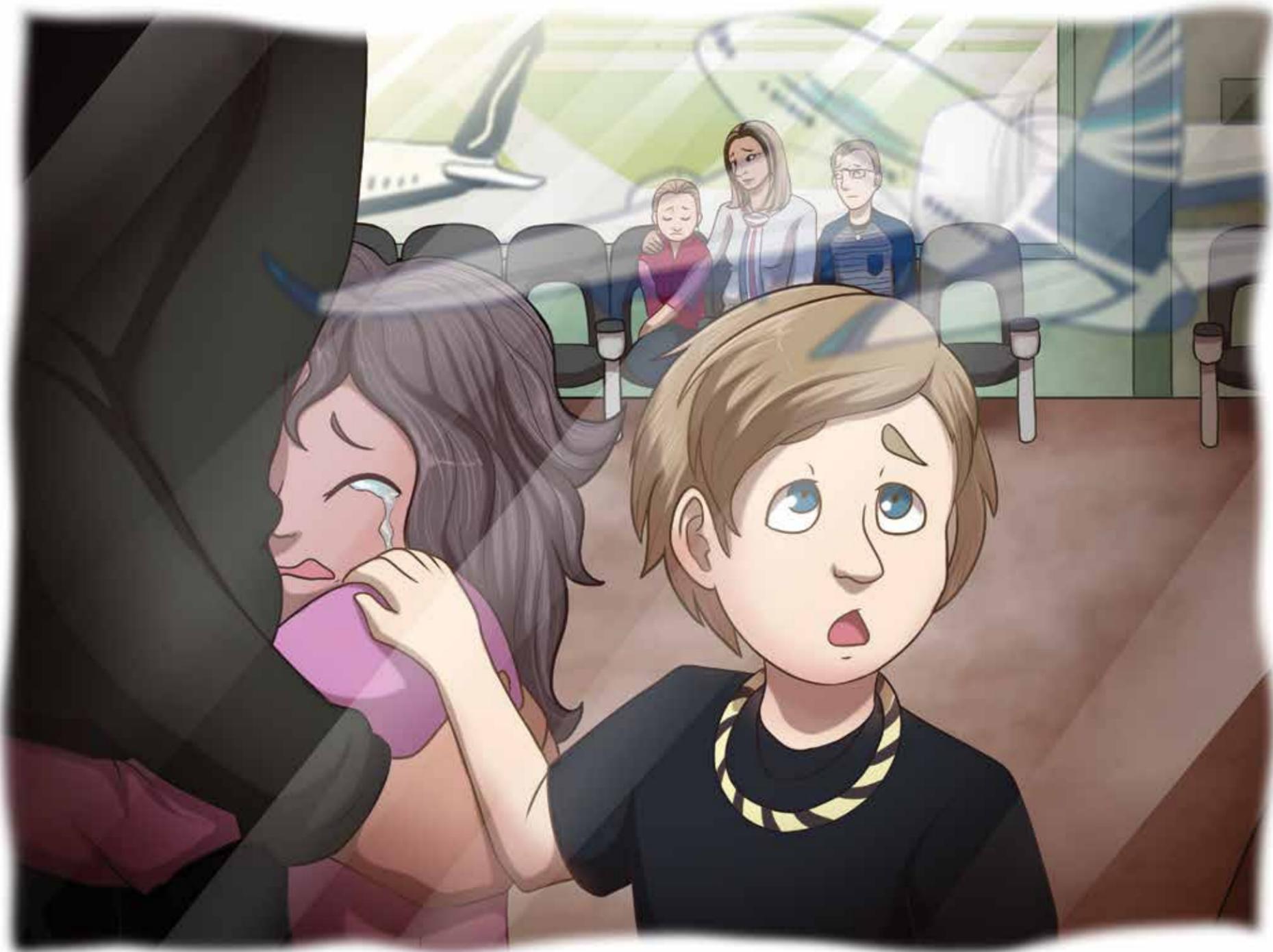


It wasn't Hope's idea to come to Africa, it's true,  
But she came to love the experience of what was new!  
Hope often thought about her very long airplane ride  
On which she found someone with whom to confide.

It was on that plane, Hope clung to her elephant drenched in her tears.  
When a loving, kind flight attendant noticed and cared, easing her pain and fears!

Hope's cheetah brother taught her so much about love.  
His precious kindness enveloped her like a glove.  
So she decided to give him her complete story.  
She made sure to share it in its full sadness and glory.



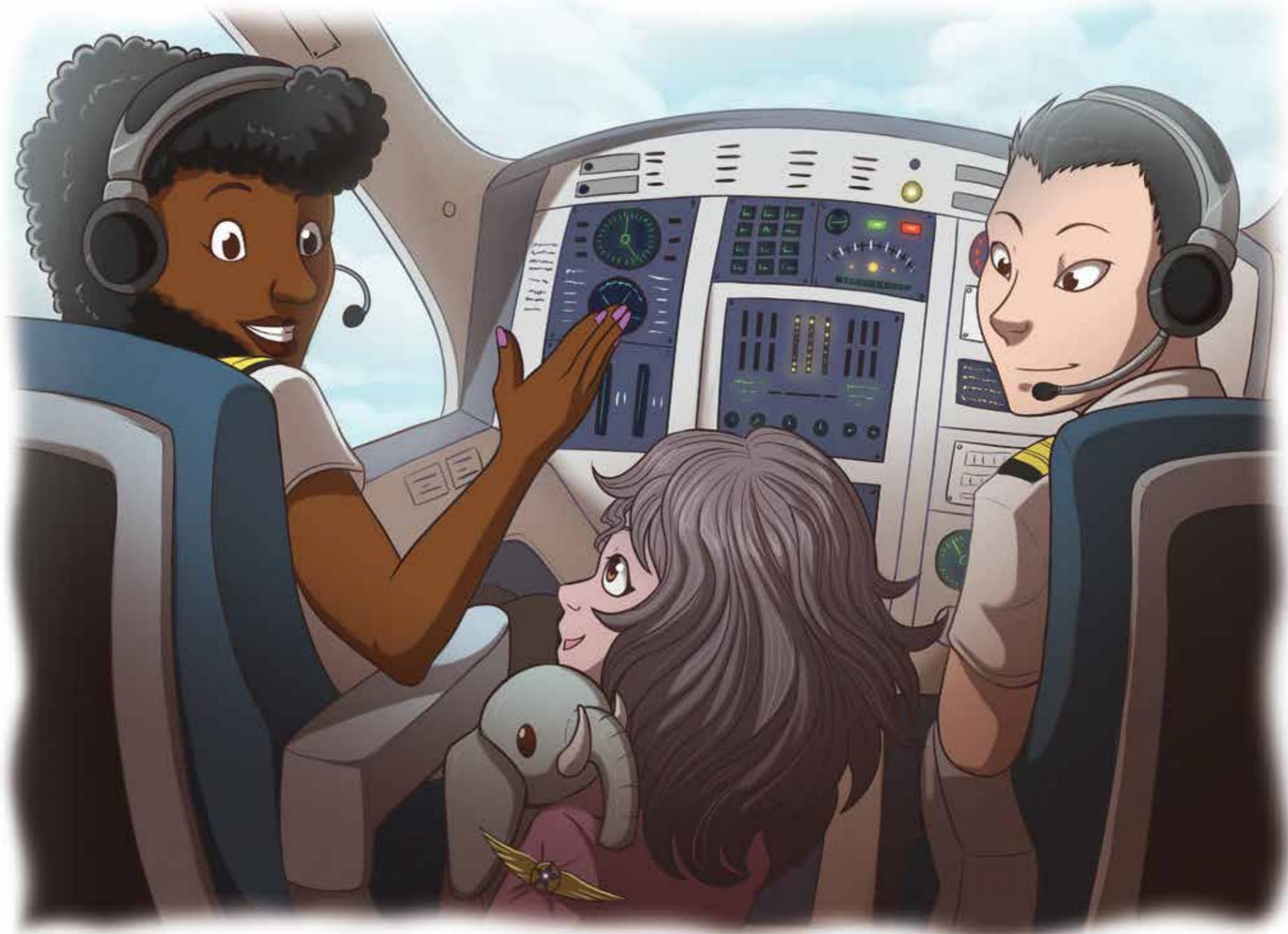


Hope explained, "Jelly Beans, to get on that airplane to Africa was rough. I knew I'd miss my new family terribly, which was tough. It had been hard enough to lose my mom—but I had her Jelly Beans song. It helped me remember her love and that to her, I will always belong.

Jelly Beans, I wondered why I had to go to Africa to be with my dad. He'd been away my whole life, so I was far from glad. Why did he want me now that my mom was no longer here? Couldn't I have stayed with Mom's friend Tris who was near?

To travel alone as far away as Africa was a lot to take From a guy whose absence didn't make life a piece of cake."





“On the plane, the flight attendant and crew were loving and kind.  
They all could tell I had a devastated heart and mind.  
They noticed tears had soaked my elephant friend,  
So the flight crew quickly sought to help me mend!

A flight attendant brought me to meet the captain on that flight.  
She told me I could fly someday too, encouraging me that night!  
The male co-pilot quickly echoed her notion,  
Saying, ‘Male and female can lead locomotion.’

The flight attendant named Theresa Blue  
Came over to say, ‘I have something for you!  
This is an airplane I had bought for my niece,  
I’ll get her another—will you take it, please?’

Captain Ferrell had already given me wings,  
Saying, ‘A life can only be lived with a heart that sings!’  
I think she meant to follow our dreams,  
Like she did becoming a pilot, it seems!”

Jelly Beans empathized, “You went through a great deal before coming here.  
You received such wonderful love and support in the air, it’s clear!”



“Jelly Beans, I have always wondered how it is you learned to talk.”

Jelly Beans replied, “It was as easy as when I learned to walk!”

“But how?” Hope persisted. “Can’t you explain?”

“It happened as we played—I know that sounds insane!”

Jelly Beans beamed, “I was set free when I could understand you!

And I could actually do that long before you knew!

When we played, I paid close attention, you see.

Your words, sounds, and tone all taught language to me!

All that we did together helped sink language into my brain.

When you slept, I practiced sounds to distract me from my pain.

Next, I practiced to say a word,

But was careful not to be heard!”

Hope asked, “Jelly Beans, why were you so afraid of that?

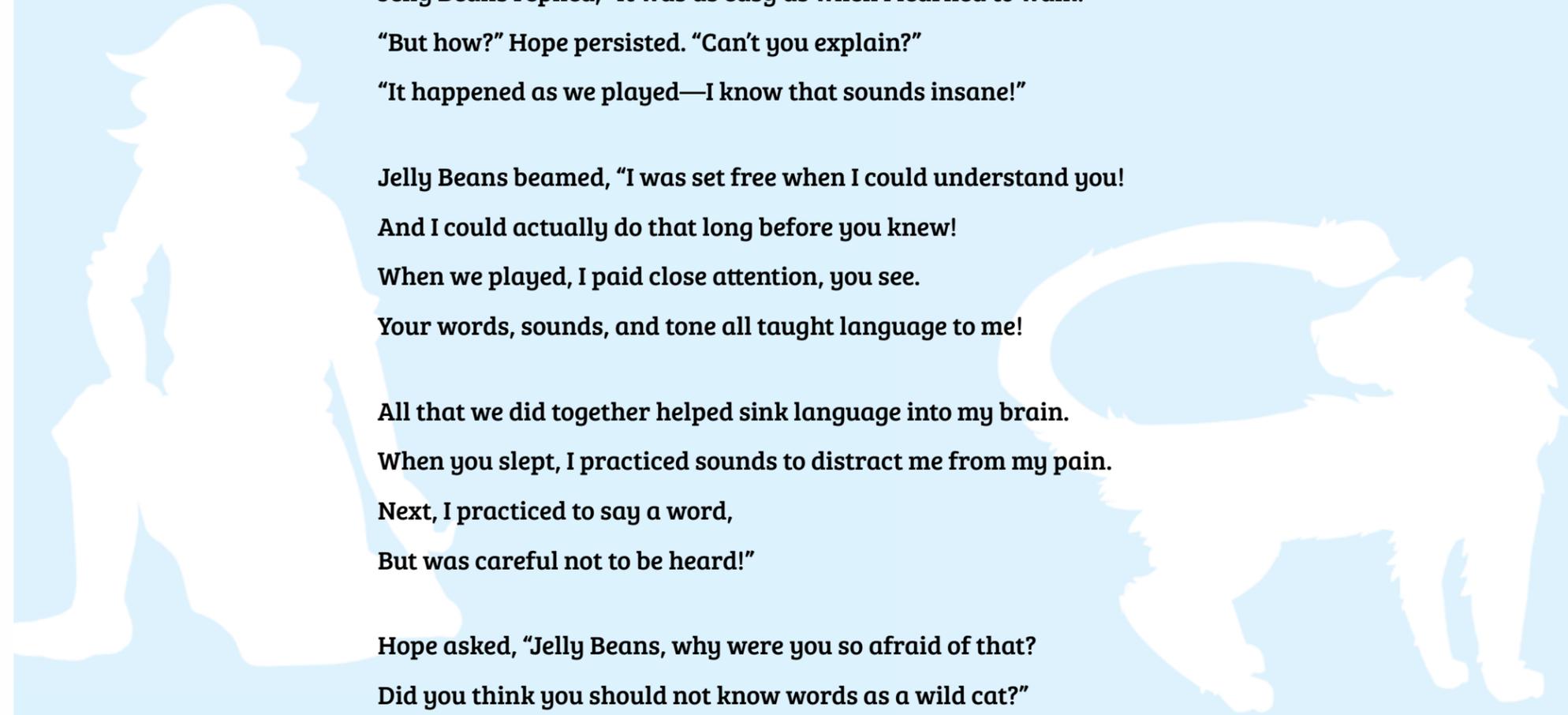
Did you think you should not know words as a wild cat?”

Jelly Beans replied, “Yes, then I would have been in danger more than before.

If my captors knew I was a talking cheetah, who knows what would have been in store?”

“Hmm,” Hope reasoned, “if you learned to talk through play,

Perhaps we could learn Barabaig and teach the children English the same way.”





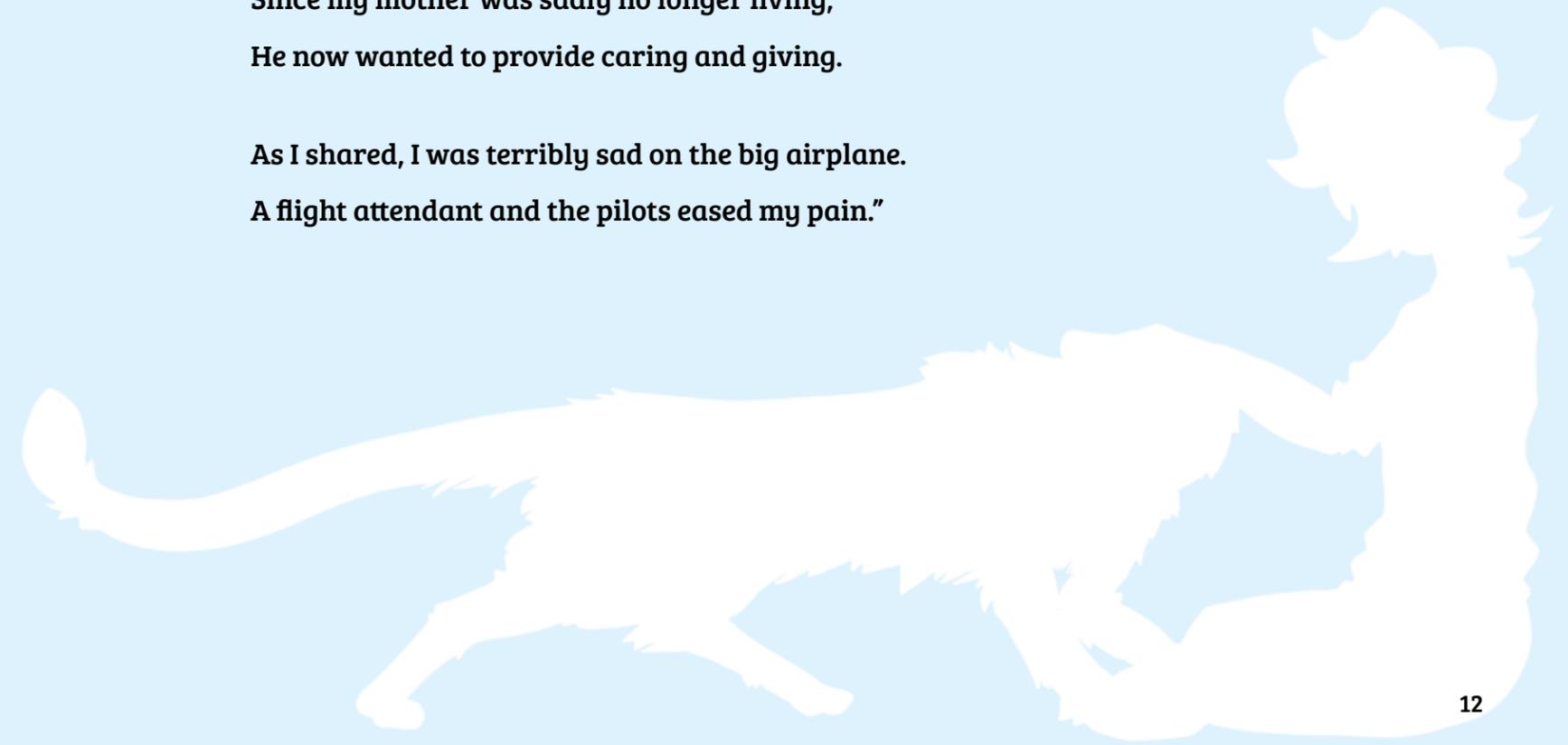
Jelly Beans asked Hope, "How did you lose your mother so dear?"

Jelly Beans empathized, "I know it wasn't your choice to come here."

Hope answered, "My mom had a most terrible terminal disease,  
Even though I prayed for it to go away please!

That is when my dad, who doesn't live in the USA,  
Called to tell me I'd be meeting him in Africa—to stay.  
Since my mother was sadly no longer living,  
He now wanted to provide caring and giving.

As I shared, I was terribly sad on the big airplane.  
A flight attendant and the pilots eased my pain."





“Jelly Beans, they showed me empathy just like you!

They could sense I was terribly sad, lonely, and blue.”

Jelly Beans admitted, “I know a lot of words but not that one.”

“Oh,” said Hope, “I’d be happy to teach you, Jelly Beans—it’ll be fun!

Empathy means to put yourself in somebody else’s shoes, my dear!

Imagining how they think and feel—is that clear?”

“Yes, Hope, I understand since you did that for me too!

You showed me empathy like you regularly do!

I was alone and afraid in that cage at night.

So you sat near me and eased my fright.

You also showed me empathy by letting me go free.”

“Yes, Jelly Beans! Since a cage was no place for an endangered animal to be!”



Hope chimed in, "The Barabaig tribe showed us empathy too.

When we were alone and didn't know what to do.

And the humanitarians showed empathy to the tribe.

The Barabaig lived in gratitude too beautiful to describe.

It had been the Barabaig girls' job to walk, when it was cool, to get water at night

Before the humanitarians made the earth dam close-by, they regularly lived that fright.

Mbeesha and the tribe noticed what courage it took

For the girls to do their job, stay calm, and not be shook.

They were relieved that now the girls could sleep at night and go to school

With the humanitarians providing the earth dam as that important tool.

The earth dam was given in empathy,

Which is a step up from sympathy.

It was meant to help the Barabaig tribe thrive.

Clean water is essential to keep people alive."

Hope said, "Jelly Beans, I have more questions for you."



Jelly Beans eagerly said, "I'm happy to answer them too!"

Hope asked, "What ever happened to your mom, do you know?"

Jelly Beans said, "I certainly have been wondering that as I mature and grow.

As I ponder this it still makes me cry,

People took her quite on the fly.

They could have wanted her for a pet.

Hope, I still haven't quite figured it out yet.

She's still alive, is sincerely what I think.

It hurt to have her taken away in one quick blink.

Hope, I'm so very sorry your mom didn't live,

And your dad's missing, just when he was ready to give.

You know, someday I plan to find my mom and help set her free!

But Hope, I have a fear—will she still know me?"

Hope assured, "She'll know you for sure, since you are her heart!

No time or distance can tear that love apart."

Hope announced, "I understand, since I believe I'll find my dad too.

My intuition tells me he's alive, and coming back to me and you!"





Jelly Beans declared, "The Barabaig kids would love to hear about your trip on a plane. Most of the kids have not seen a passenger jet, or even a train! We could play your trip from the USA, teaching how you flew here that way.

Don't you have a toy airplane that you can share?"  
Hope said, "Oh yeah, and I have hats we can wear!"  
Jelly Beans said, "You have hats to use for play? How fun is that!  
Let's set up rows where all the people sat!"

Hope said, "We should name the airline something nice!"  
She joked, "How about Sugar, Pickles, and Spice?"  
Hope said, "I'm just joking, you know."  
Jelly Beans offered, "How about Africa Doesn't Snow?"

Hope said, "Funny, but not quite right.  
I've got a good one, so sit tight."  
Jelly Beans said, "I know I have the perfect one too!"  
They both burst out with "Empathy Airlines!" so it stuck like glue.





**“My mom would be proud since she taught me the importance of play.  
She was a teacher and knew kids learn that way.  
Let’s pretend to be humanitarians traveling to serve the needs of the tribe.  
Together we can spread love, kindness, and the all-important empathy vibe!”**

**The three friends didn’t understand what Hope was saying.  
They listened intently and knew they’d learn more in playing.  
Jelly Beans announced, “I had been meaning to ask you,  
Can you kindly explain the word humanitarian too?”**

**Hope said, “Jelly Beans, it’s wonderful to ask questions galore.  
We learn through taking the initiative to explore!  
Humanitarians are those who help people in need,  
Providing clean water, shelter, or even to help feed.**

**Some people don’t have a home or food to eat.  
Their needs are what humanitarians work to meet!  
Mbeesha really served as a humanitarian to me and you.  
He brought us into the tribe, providing a home and clean water too.**

**Mbeesha demonstrated the example that when we share  
There’s enough in this world for everyone, everywhere.”**





Before they could play with the kids in the tribe that day,  
They decided to go back to the shack to enhance their play!  
They created a song and practiced it as they walked.  
They figured out the words to use as they traveled and talked.

The song would be used in Empathy Airlines in a meaningful way  
When they returned to the village to play Empathy Airlines that day!  
While at the shack they would need to get the hats, plane, and something more.  
Since there was a dire need to find food and a place to stay, it wasn't important before.

When they neared the shack they encountered something new.  
It was a herd of elephants, and they didn't know what to do!  
The mom with a baby glared and angrily stomped her foot.  
They quickly ran inside to see where the items were put.

Hope was touched when she found her elephant from her airplane ride.  
It was hard to revisit her feelings, so they quickly went back outside.



The mom elephant seemed extremely agitated.  
Hope's melancholy feeling was almost negated.  
Hope had read that some people hunt elephants for their tusks alone.  
As afraid as she was, she lovingly proved this behavior she didn't condone.

Instead she spoke softly and said, "We mean you no harm!  
Mrs. Elephant, there's no need for serious alarm!"  
They walked away, relieved . . . until a hat blew into a tree.  
It was far away from the direction of where they needed to be.

Darkness had not yet fallen on the two.  
So they did what they needed to do.  
Jelly Beans climbed the tree to get the hat,  
Where he saw a cheetah in peril from where he sat.

The cheetah, in fact, was wailing in incredible pain.  
Jelly Beans said, "Hope, go back! But I plan to remain.  
There is a cheetah in a dangerous, terrible mess.  
With night coming, predators could have success.

This could be his last night alive,  
If I don't help him to survive."  
Hope said, "Jelly Beans, we've been through a lot!  
I'll help you and together we'll get him out of this spot."





The injured cheetah said, "You should leave me to cry.  
I was terrible and mean to you, and that's why!"  
Jelly Beans had recognized the cheetah's face,  
He'd been teased by him near this very place.

"I could never do that," Jelly Beans said.  
"That would be wrong, don't worry your head."  
But it was getting darker by the second, it's true.  
The trio worried as the crushing darkness grew.

This reminded Hope of the Barabaig girls' courage walking miles to get water at night.  
She imagined their strength and made it her own—she too could handle the fright.

It was scary, but they were brave as they carried their new friend.  
They knew that through empathy and love his foot and heart would mend.

By morning they made it back to Mbeesha's arms, outstretched with care!  
Mbeesha gushed, "We were so worried, you gave us quite a scare!  
We are so glad to finally have you two home.  
Next time, please tell us before you choose to roam!

It was good you brought your hurt friend here for us to love and heal.  
We are more than happy to welcome him with a warm bed and a meal!"



### One Child Cries

When one child cries  
We all wipe our eyes  
Know that we care  
Our love is there  
Our empathy we share

When any being dies  
The Universe, it cries  
Embrace them all  
No life is small  
Show empathy to all

Know that we care  
Our love is there  
Our empathy we share

The need is great  
We won't hesitate  
To serve them all  
No life is small

The world is small  
We belong to all  
We hear the call

Know that we care  
Our love is there  
Our empathy we share

We're one human family  
We reside on the same tree  
It's clear to see!

Finally, we've begun  
To think as one  
To be as one!



Finally home, they were so excited to play their Empathy Airlines game.  
Each time they played it, it was entirely unique and never the same.  
They learned Barabaig and taught English by playing airplane many ways.  
They played Hope's trip from the USA and imagined missions of empathy for days!

As they played, the two sang their love song to all, "One Child Cries."  
The song had helped the injured cheetah when he had tears in his eyes.  
The song is meant to relay that all people and animals have value in being.  
It encourages loving each other, empathy, kindness, and a world of seeing.



They pretended to help serve people in the world with humanitarian work.  
They even served animals through conservation, which for Jelly Beans was a perk!

Hope beamed, "I remember playing airplane when I was a younger girl.  
I actually pretended to fly to Africa!" This sent her head in quite a whirl.  
"Jelly Beans, play actually helped me to realize that lifelong dream,  
Even though it didn't happen exactly how I thought it would seem."

Sometimes life isn't quite what we had expected it to be.  
But if we remain open, life delivers what we dreamed and longed to see.  
The details may differ, and it takes trust when it doesn't appear at first,  
But then the reality that it did come true springs forth in a beautiful burst.





Play is how we learn to talk and grow.

Through playing, we expand what we know.

Language learning is clearly encouraged and acquired through play.

The Barabaig children and Jelly Beans learned each others' languages that way.

Hope declared, "My dear Jelly Beans, together we helped a new friend survive.

But I must say, without your forgiveness and empathy he would not be alive!"

Jelly Beans added, "I am not the only hero of empathy. So many others are the same.

We can all choose to travel within our own personal empathy game."

Jelly Beans continued, "We grow by empowering and giving.

Connecting with each other—that's true living."

Hope added, "We learn so much from the unexpected, that's true.

Like our cheetah friend so enhanced the lives of me and you.

Let's give him my name! Hope spelled backwards is Epoh, you see.

Since hope can be disguised in people and animals regularly."

Jelly Beans and Hope have empathy, so they understand we share this earth

With each and every animal, plant, and human being from death back to birth.

They feel that to honor our home we share,

It is vitally important to be lovingly aware.

Every being has value, all the inhabitants who live here.

We must protect and honor all life, since it's our mirror!



**SISSYMARYSUE** is a lifelong Minnesota educator with an MA in Human Development. During her doctoral studies in education, she was awarded a Fielder Graduate Fellowship through the Marie Fielder Center for Democracy, Leadership, and Education. SissyMarySue is the author of the award-winning, five-star rated children's book *Jelly Beans the Cheetah and Hope*, and the playwright and lyricist of the accompanying children's musical. The musical was first produced in association with H2O for Life Schools and Children's Performing Arts of Minnesota at Hanifl Performing Arts Center.

SissyMarySue is also widely recognized for her innovative Jelly Beans Creative Learning approach that focuses on drama, play, social-emotional growth, critical thinking, cultural sensitivity, language learning, and the natural world. Using her books as content, her play/drama approach has been effectively implemented in many classrooms from pre-K to middle school.

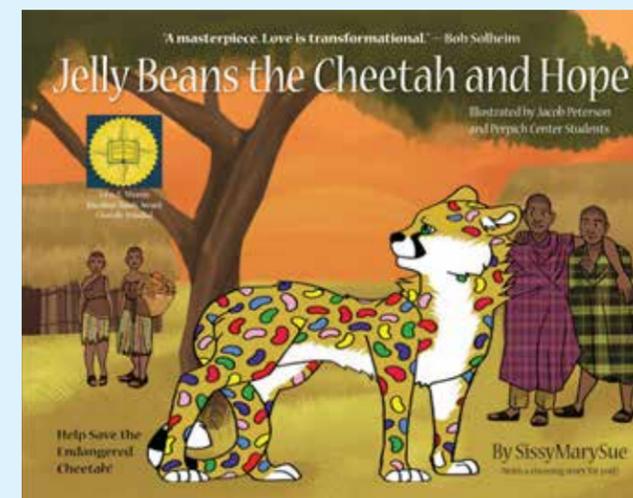
SissyMarySue is developing multi-media offerings that focus on literacy, inclusion/diversity, empathy (social/emotional), critical thinking, animal conservation, clean water, and world themes. She collaborates with the Center for Interactive Learning and Collaboration to offer video-conferencing experiences for classrooms worldwide.

For more books by **SissyMarySue** visit [www.sissymarysue.org](http://www.sissymarysue.org) or e-mail [sissymarysue@gmail.com](mailto:sissymarysue@gmail.com)!



*We go through life quite a while  
Logging many an emotional mile  
Before it becomes clear  
The beauty of life has always been here  
We had been too consumed to see  
The simplicity and beauty to simply be*

In the first book in the Jelly Beans the Cheetah and Hope series, the unlikely pairing of a sad little girl and a captured cheetah discover how much they share in common when they embark on an adventure in friendship. They've both experienced profound loss but persevere through sharing empathy, kindness, joy, and love. Together they learn about their connection to the human family and to all, which provides for their self-esteem and a feeling of wholeness. The characters learn that their uniqueness not only drew them together, but was a gift in many unexpected ways.



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or at a bookstore near you!

SissyMarySue is proud to support the following organizations:



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**Cheetah Conservation Fund**  
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**SARAH WILLIAMS** is an illustrator living in Deephaven, Minnesota. She earned six credits from Minneapolis College of Art and Design for her unique version of Jelly Beans and the other characters. Sarah's portfolio features a vast array of truly incredible-looking characters with an exceptional, three-dimensional quality. Her vision and inspired gifts in illustration shine through in *Empathy Airlines*.



**JACOB PETERSON** is an illustrator living in Brooklyn Center, Minnesota. Jacob was one of the illustrators of SissyMarySue's first book, *Jelly Beans the Cheetah and Hope*, and served as an invaluable illustrator support for *Empathy Airlines*, kindly volunteering his time. In *Empathy Airlines*, he created precious, poignant silhouettes to accompany every illustrated page and helped conceptualize various scenes.

