

A BABY IN THE BELLY

By Cheryl Chapman

Illustrations by Phil Lobdell

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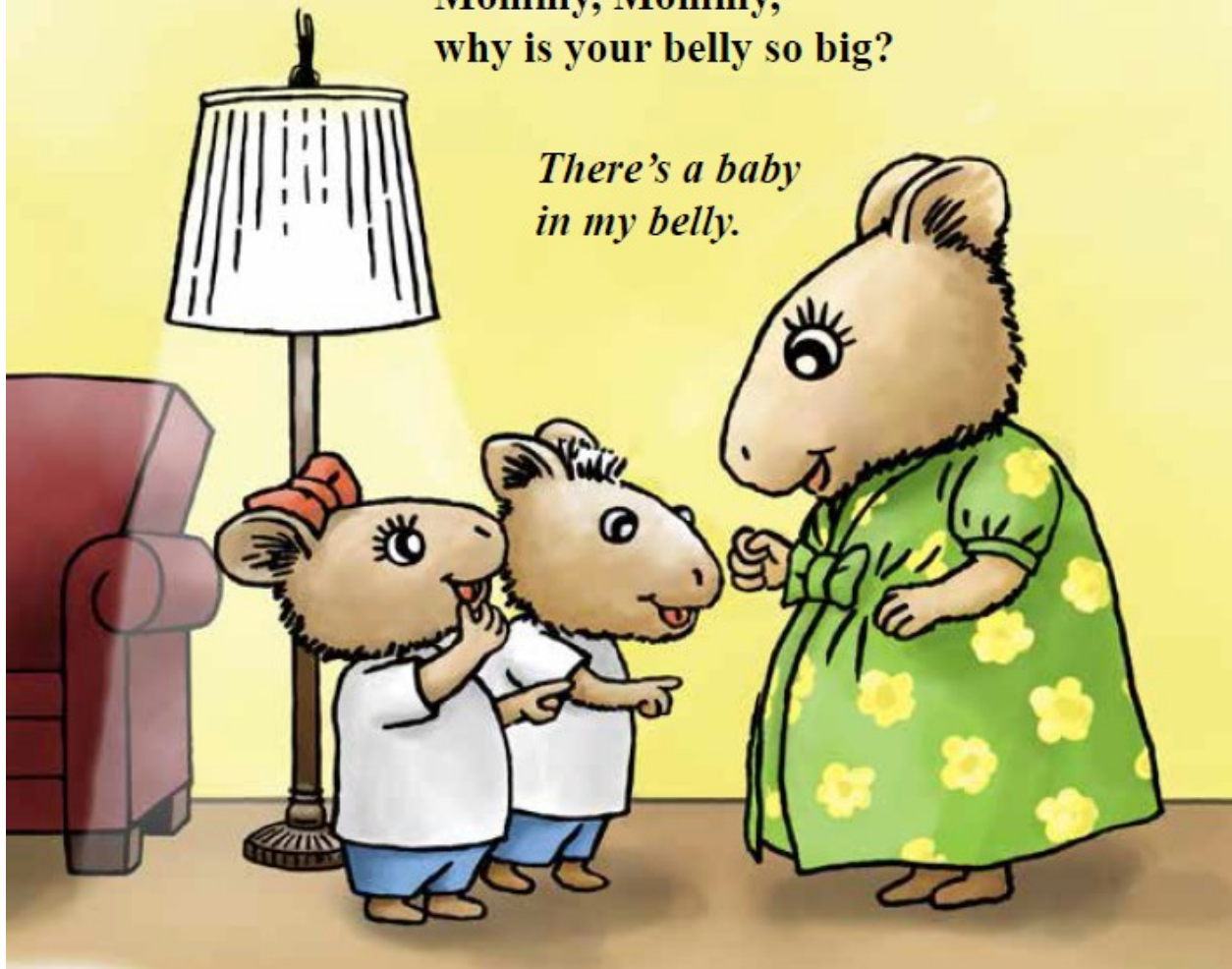
Smashwords Edition

With love, for Wesley and Leah from Gramster

For my boys, Kevin and Mark, from Dad

**Mommy, Mommy,
why is your belly so big?**

*There's a baby
in my belly.*



**There's a baby in your belly?
There's a baby in there? A little hamster babester?
We don't think so! Let's ask Popster.**

**Popster, Popster, why is
Mommy's belly so big?**

*There's a baby in
Mommy's belly!*



**There's a baby in her belly? There's a baby in there?
A little hamster babester? We don't think so!
Babies come in cribs. Let's ask Gramster...**

**Gramster, Gramster,
why is Mommy's
belly so big?**

*There's a baby in her belly!
Look, here is a picture
from the doctor!*



**There's a baby in her belly? There's a baby in there?
A little hamster babester? We don't think so! Bampa!**

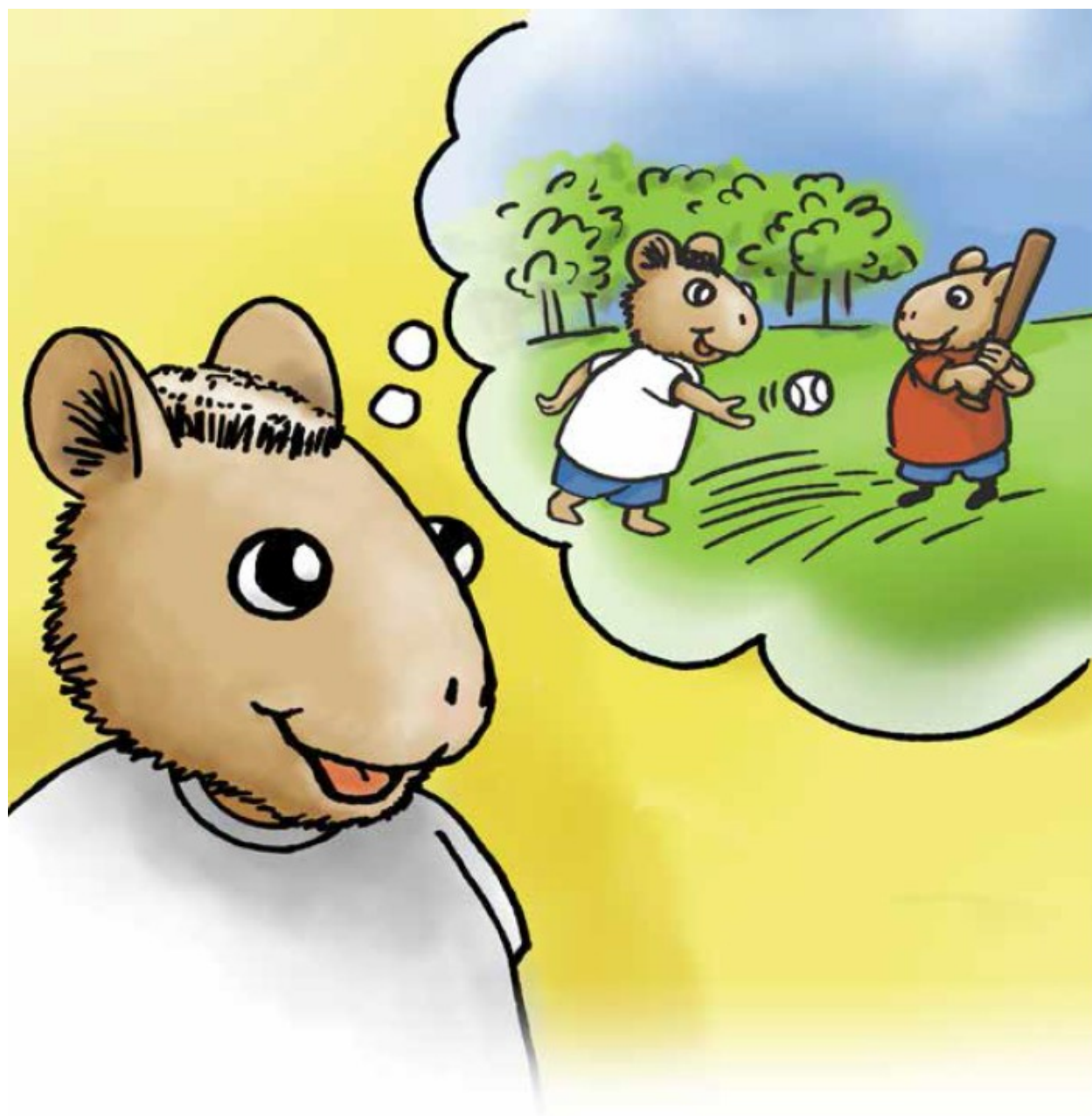
**Bampa, you have a big belly too!
Is there a baby in your belly?**



What? No! Only mommies can have babies in their bellies. Like your mommy. I have a big belly from eating too much of Gramster's sunflower seed pie.



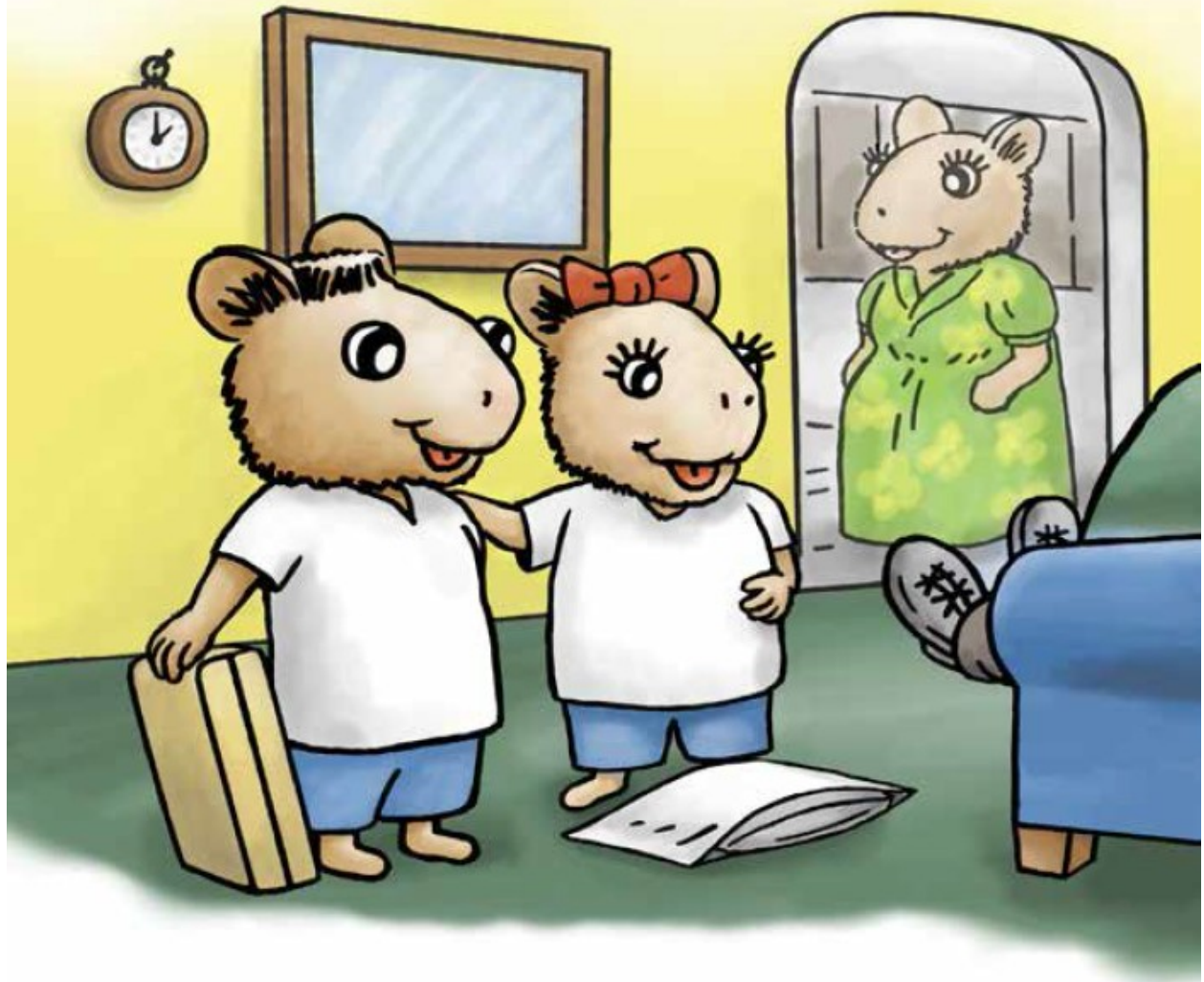
**Bampa, look at our big bellies!
We have a baby in the belly too!**



*Really, Samster? Listen up. You are a big boy,
so that means you are going to be a big brother.*

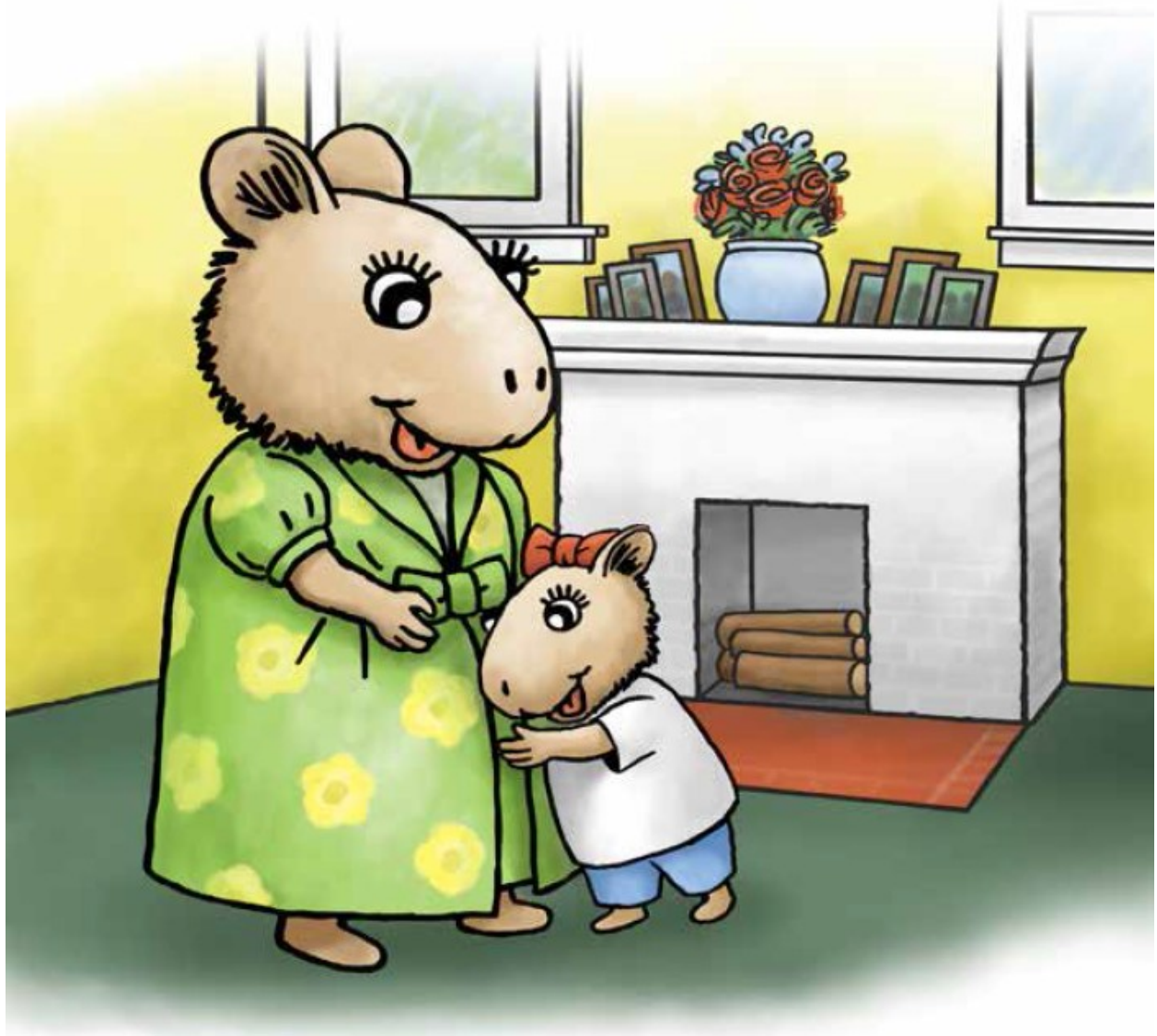


*Really, Pamster, you are a big girl,
so that means you are going to be a big sister.*



Okay, Bampa, *maybe* there's a baby in
Mommy's belly. *Maybe* we think so.
Maybe we can be a big brother and sister.

*Come over here Pamster. Put your paw
on my belly. Do you feel the baby moving?*



**Samster, Samster, the baby kicked me!
Come feel the babester kick you!**

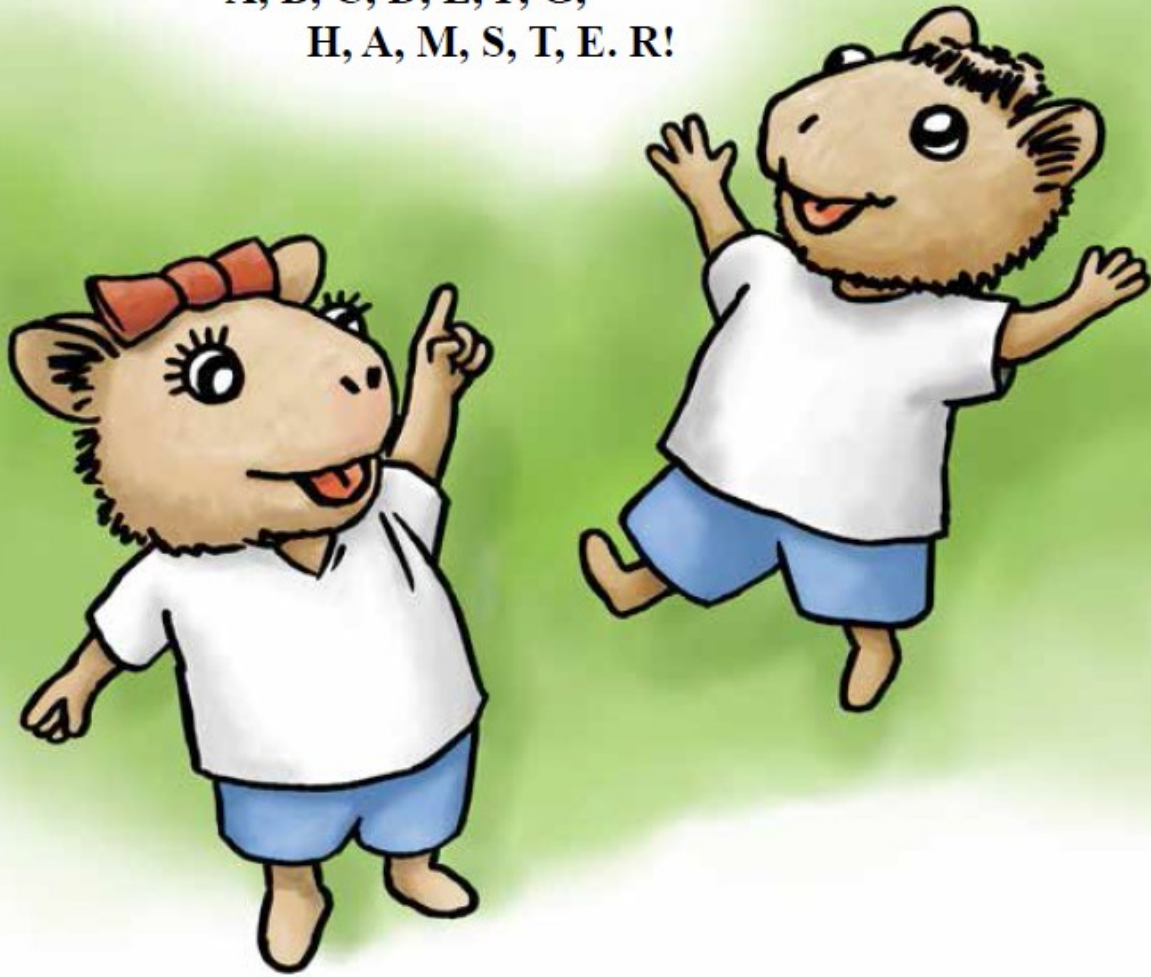
*Come here, Samster.
Now put your ear on my belly,
Do you hear the little noise?*



**Mommy, Mommy, I hear a little drum-a-drum-a-drum-a!
There's a baby in the belly! There's a baby in there!**

Hey, let's sing to the babester!

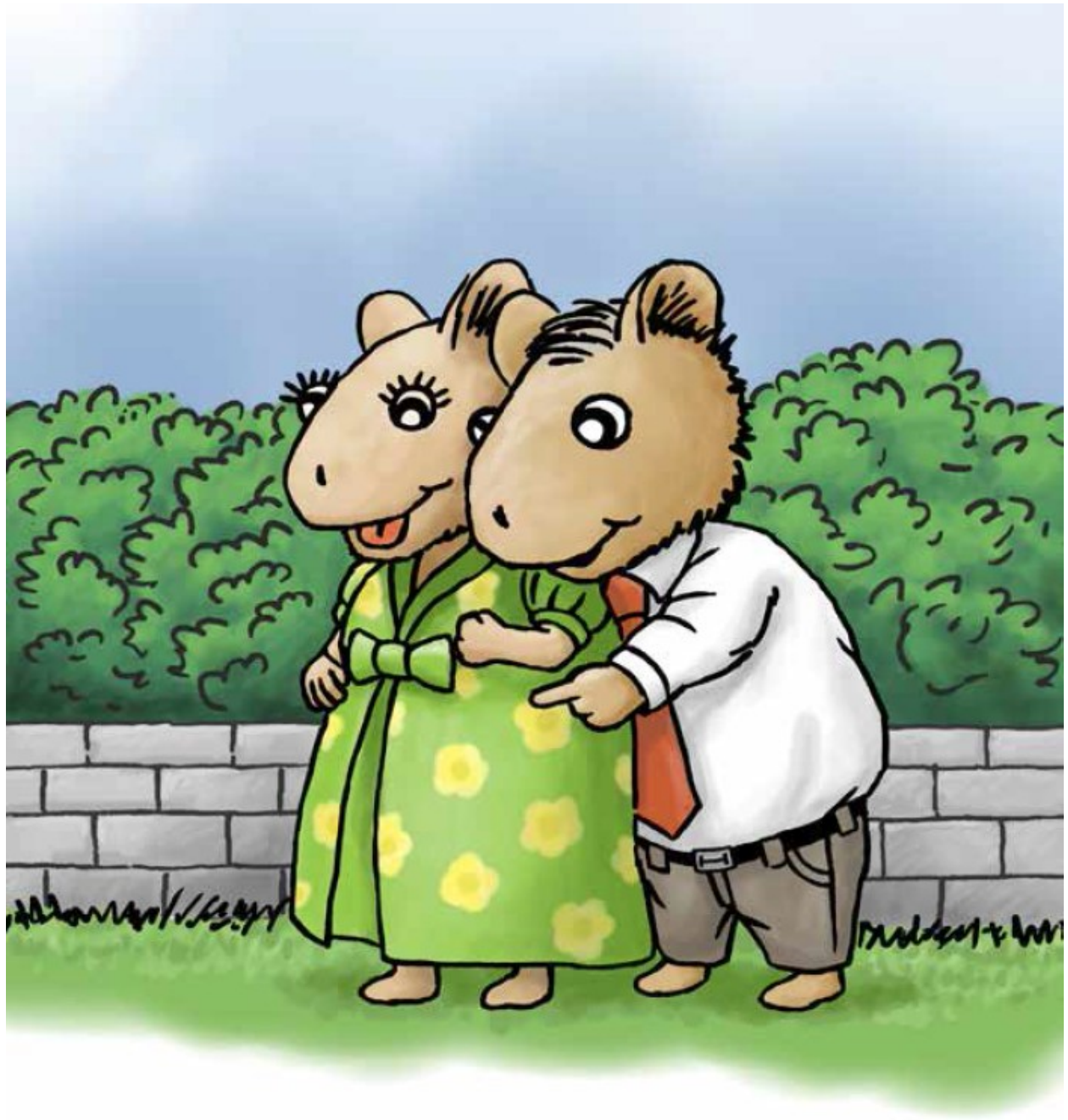
**A, B, C, D, E, F, G,
H, A, M, S, T, E. R!**



**Listen to our poem, babester:
Five little hamsters, running in a ball,
One ran away to shop at the mall!**



**Mommy, when will the baby in the belly come out of there?
We want to play with little babester.
And read her stories too.**



*The baby in the belly has to grow-oh-oh.
When babester's just the right size we will know-oh-oh...*

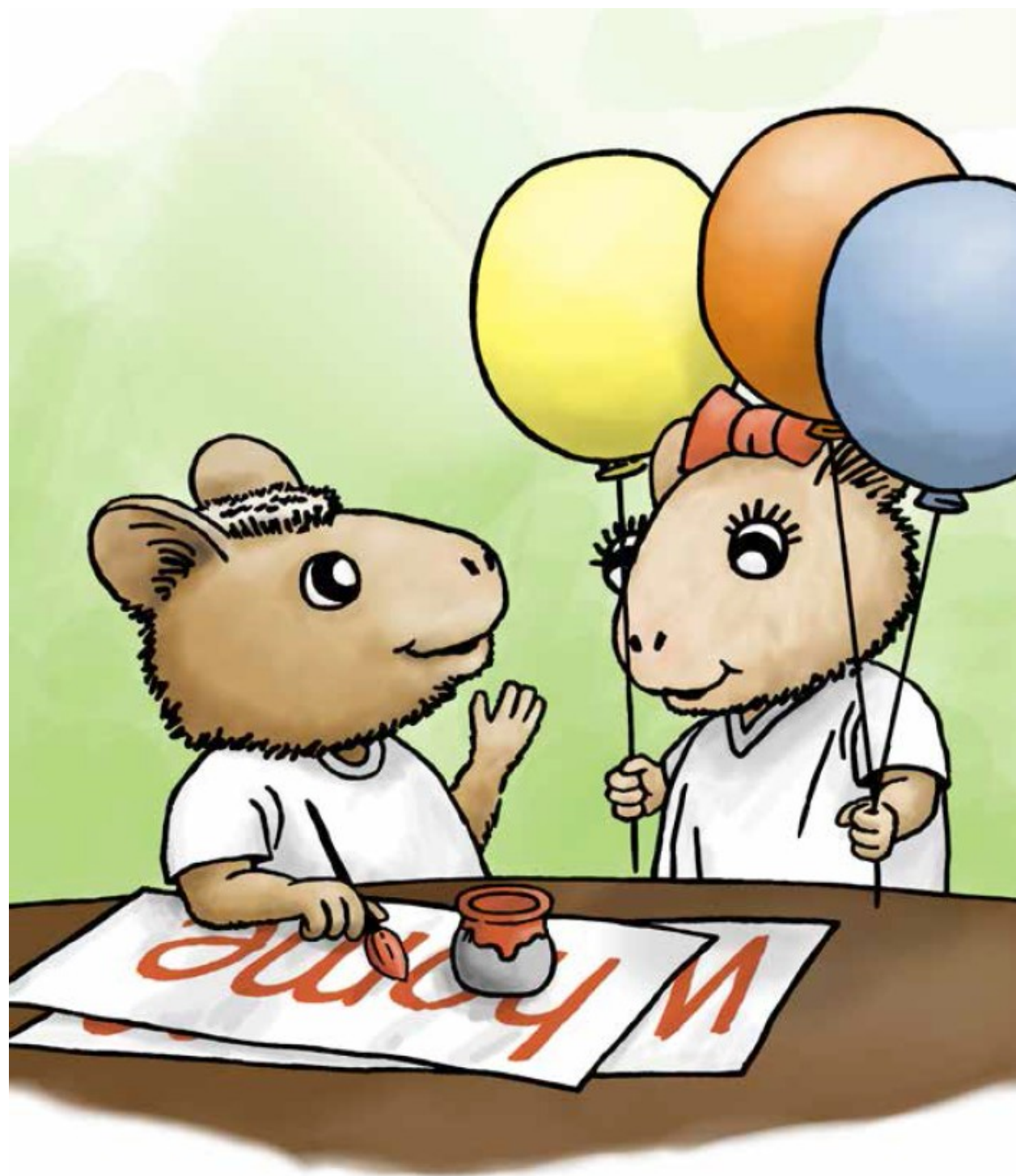
*Oh-oh! My goodness! Popster! Popster!
It's the baby in my belly! It's the baby in there!*



Our little hamster babester wants to be born! Right now!



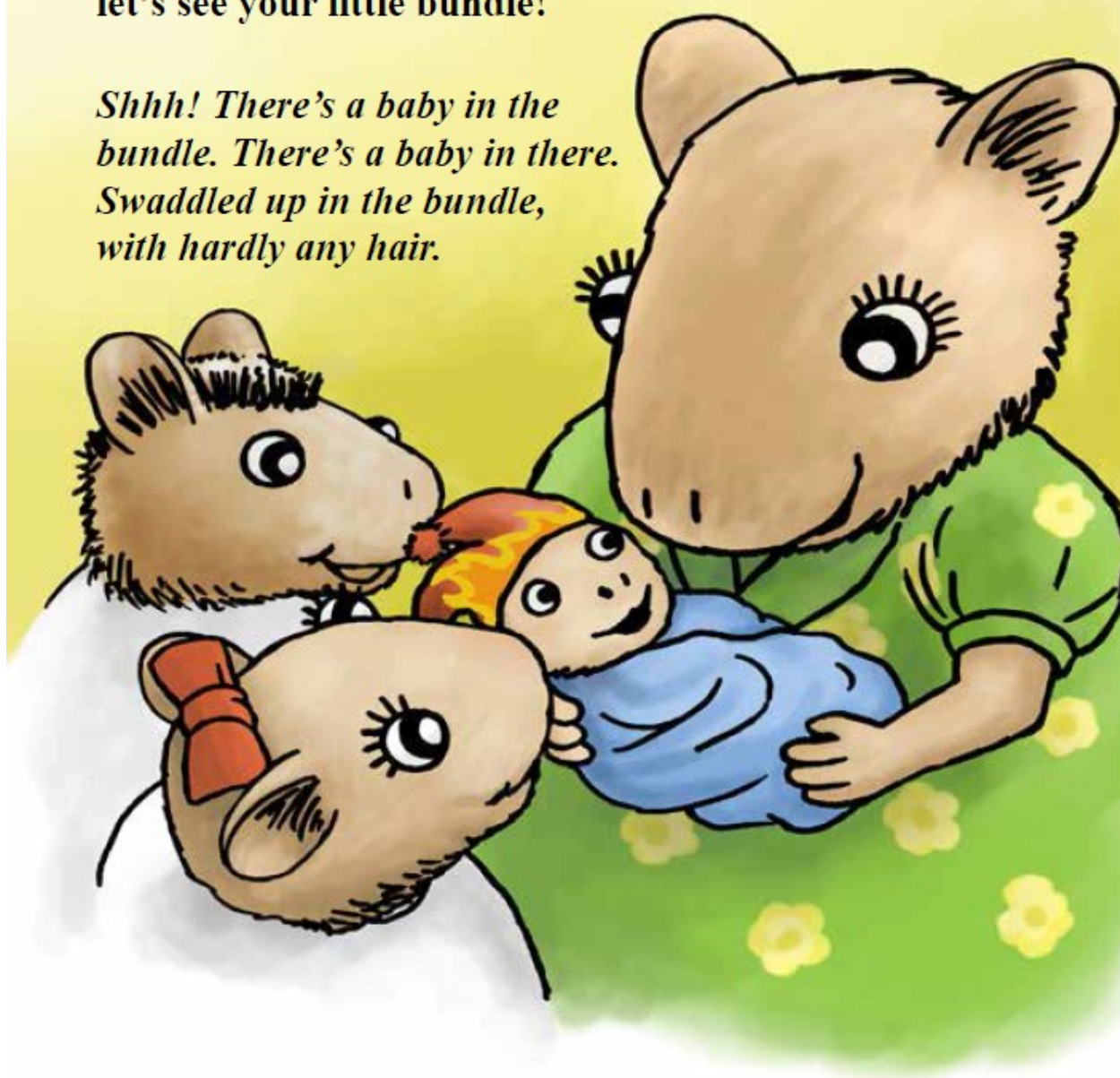
*We love you little Pamster! We love you little Samster!
We will be back soon! Bampa and Gramster will take
good care of you while we are gone.*





**Mommy, Mommy,
let's see your little bundle!**

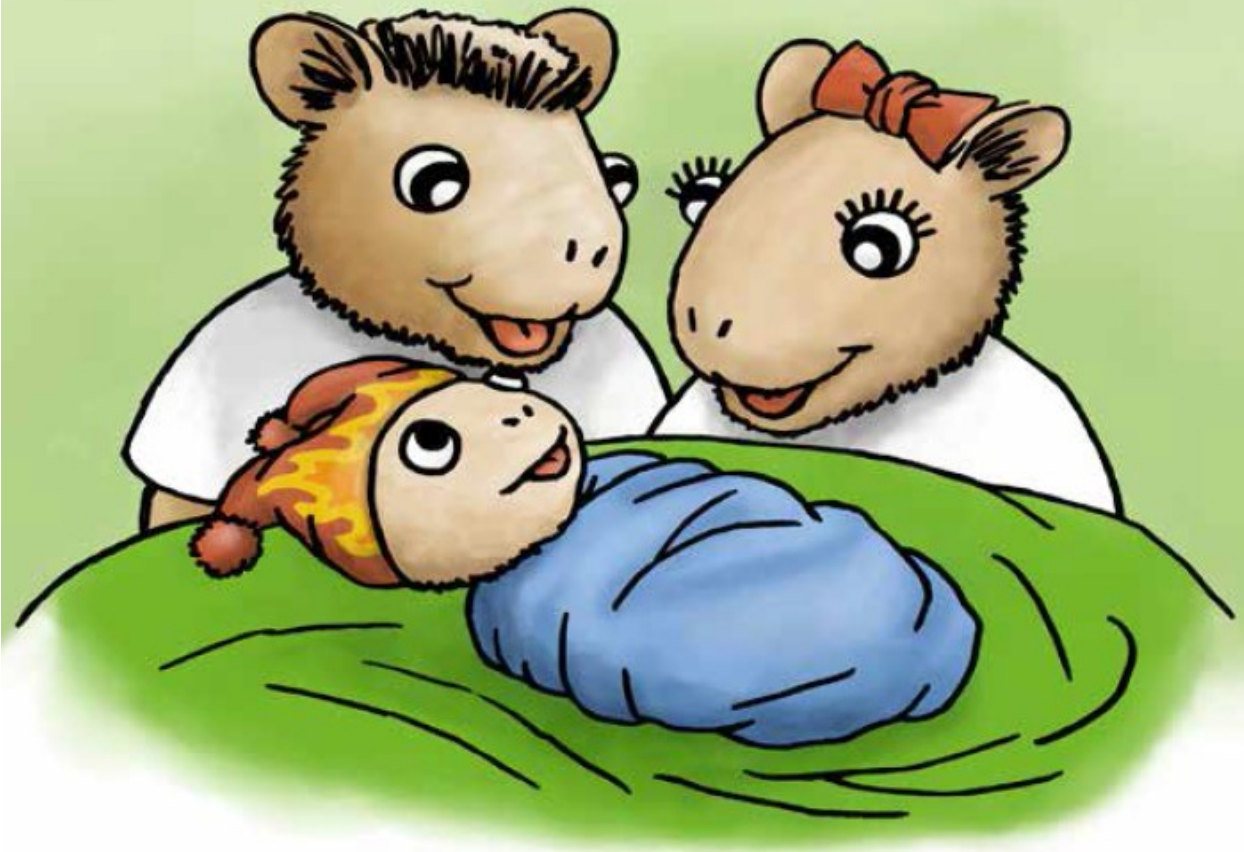
*Shhh! There's a baby in the
bundle. There's a baby in there.
Swaddled up in the bundle,
with hardly any hair.*



Mommy, Popster, this baby is so-oh-oh so cute!

Hi there, little babester!

Wahhhh! Wahhhh! Wahhhh!



Your little sister is a little spit-fire!

Our little sister sounds like a little dragon!

Let's name her... Dragster!

Dragster? Perfect! Hi Dragster!



This sweet little hamster will be alright.

**Goodnight Gramster and Bampa, Mommy and
Popster too. Sweet dreams Pamster and Samster.
Little Dragster, nighty-night.**



**And will they all live happily ever after?
We think so!**



Cheryl Chapman is a fun-loving gramster.
She writes her stories by the southern shores of Lake Michigan.
Many of today's parents grew up with her earlier stories;
Pass The Fritters, Critters and Snow On Snow On Snow.



Phil Lobdell is happy to be a dadster of two boys,
Kevin and Mark. He lives in the suburbs of Chicago with
his wife Suzie, two boys and their pet hamster.

And will this writer and this artist make more
great stories for you to read in the future?
We think so!



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