

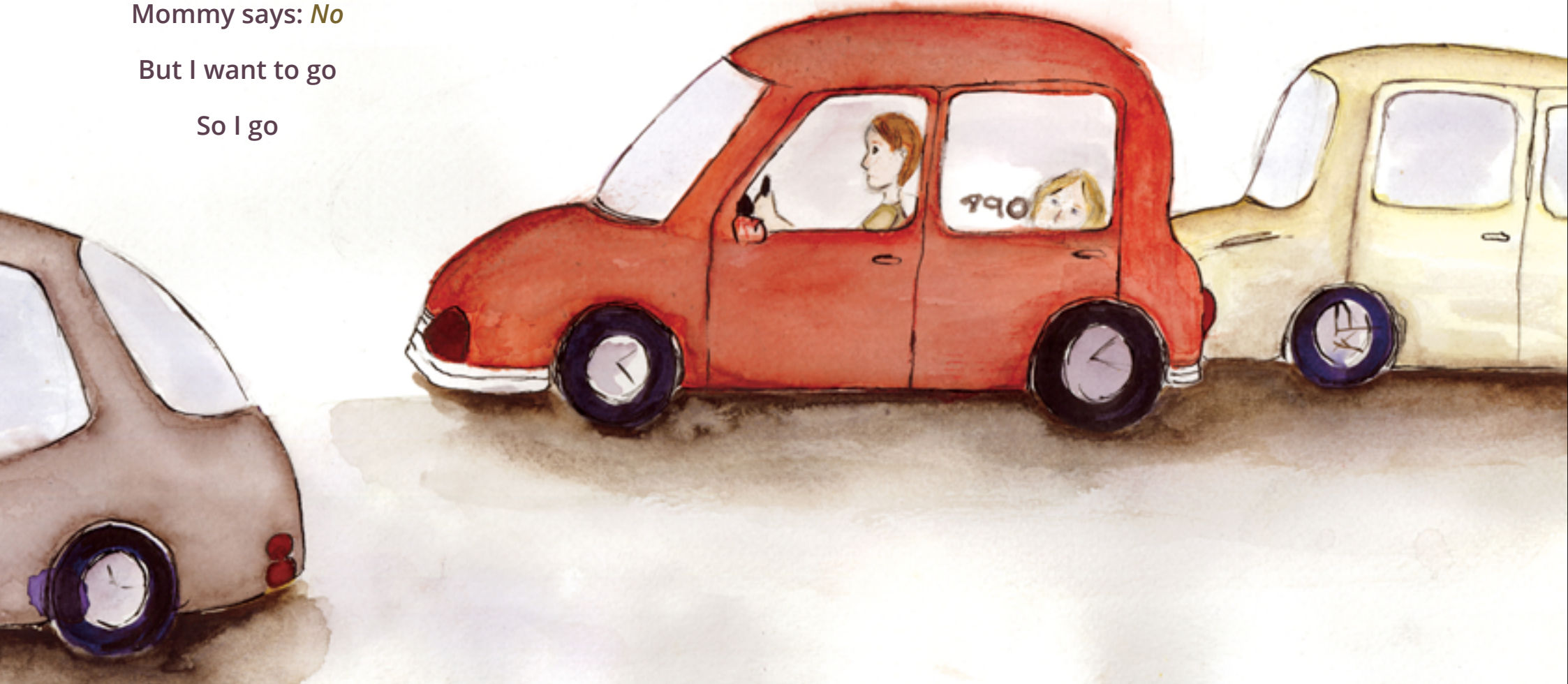
My grandpa



is dying

My grandpa is sick
My grandpa is dying
The hospital calls
Mommy has to go

I want to go
Mommy says: *No*
But I want to go
So I go



The car stops
Mommy and I get out
The hospital is big

Mommy walks fast
I don't want to go anymore
I stop
Mommy lifts me up



Grandpa says: *Hi Dorien. Do I get a kiss?*

I say: *Hi grandpa*

And shake his hand

What's with all the tubes?

He says: *Because I'm sick*

Mommy says you're going to die

He says: *Yes, I'm not doing well*

I say: *No, you're not dying*

I don't want to lose you

You can't die



He says: *You won't lose me*

I say: *Yes, dead is gone*

He says: *Look at me*

I look

He says: *I'll tell you our secret*

At first you're sad

Then you're mad

But when you close your eyes

You'll see me

I'm always there, never gone

I say: *That's stupid. I don't want it*

He says: *Want not, helps not*

You're a sweet girl



Mommy walks in
She says: *Dorien, go play in the hallway*

Grandpa is going to sleep

I nod

Grandpa nods

He squeezes my hand

I want to give him a kiss

But



His eyes are closed

I'm scared

I yell: *You're dead*

Grandpa opens his eyes

He smiles

And says: *No, sweet Do. I'm sleeping*

I give him a kiss



I go to the hallway
I'm big
I'm scared
My grandpa is dying



The hallway is empty

I start to cry

The doctor walks into me

He says: *I'm sorry*

I say nothing

He says: *What's your name?*

I say: *Are you a doctor?*

He says: *Yes, I make people better*

I say: *No you don't, stupid*

And ...



I kick him hard
I kick him really hard
Against his leg

I yell:
Stupid doctor
You lie

And I run away
I run into my grandpa's room



Mommy says: *sshht*

I say softly: *What's that tube for?*

Mommy says: *If something happens*

The machine will beep

The doctor will come in and help

I'm very quiet



Grandpa opens his eyes

He says: *Where's Do?*

I yell:

Here

He says: *I'm not deaf*



He says: *Don't forget our secret*

I say: *I have a secret. You want to know my secret?*

Grandpa nods

I whisper: *I kicked the doctor*

Grandpa smiles

He says: *Thank you*

He says: *Don't be scared*

I'm dying

I say: *Yes, but*

He says: *Want not, helps not*

I love you all



The machine beeps
The nurses and the doctor walk in

They yell
They talk
They act

I'm scared
Mommy pulls me away
Out of the room

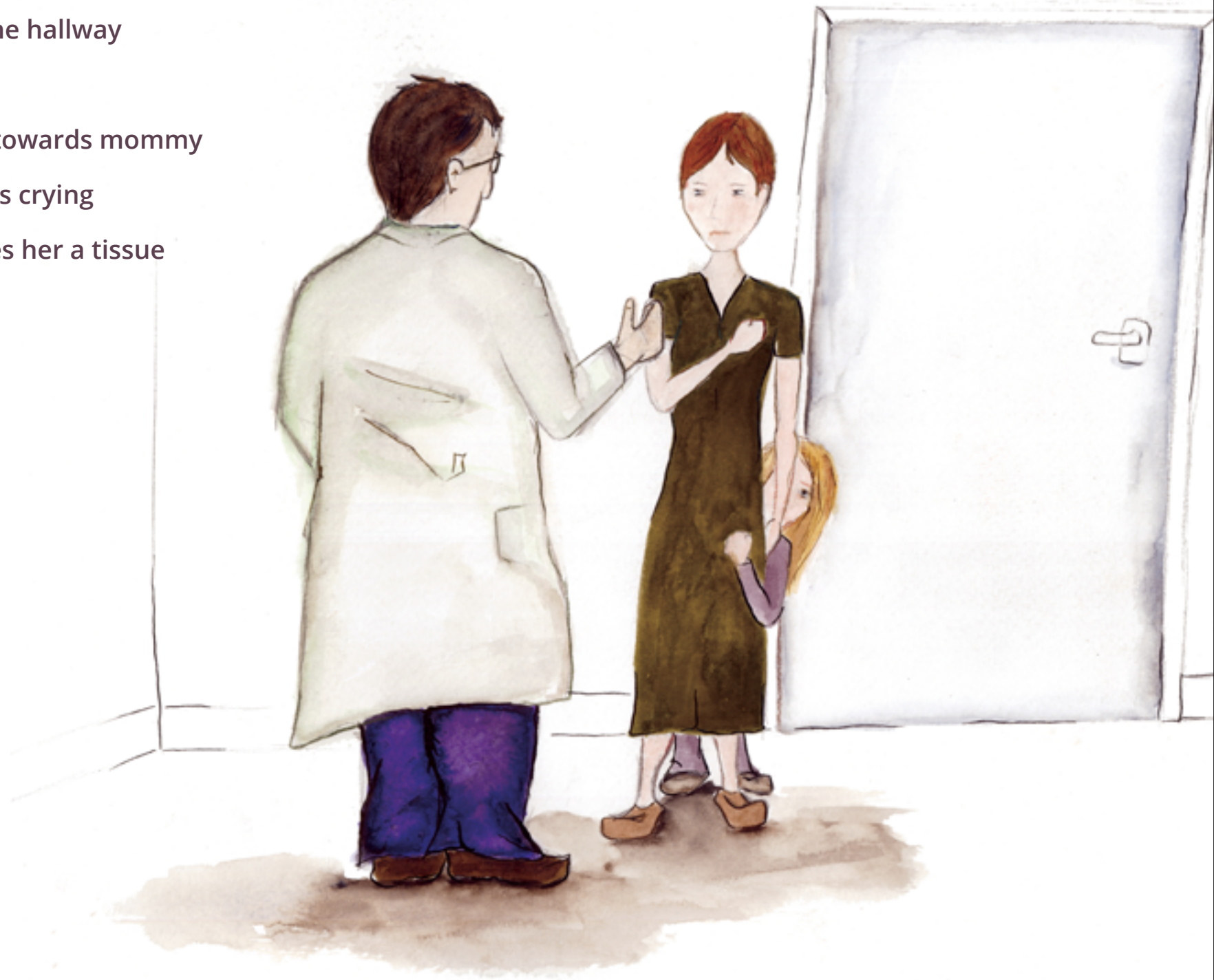


We are in the hallway

The doctor walks towards mommy

Mommy is crying

The doctor gives her a tissue



I look at mommy
The doctor looks at me
I glance at him

He says: *I'm sorry, your grandpa is dead*

I say nothing

He says: *You were right*

I'm a stupid doctor

I couldn't make him better

He says: *That kick, it really hurts*

But I won't tell anyone

It will be our secret

I nod



Mommy and I walk to the car

Mommy drives slowly

I shed a tear

I close my eyes

I see grandpa

Grandpa is dead

But he's not gone

We have a secret

He's never gone





DITA
&
CINDY