

JJ Toots to the Moon



A story about achieving great things with tools

Story by: Brianna Krueger
Illustrations by: Erin Stirling

Dedication

From the author:

To colicky babies and their parents, may this distress end up taking you wonderful places.

And to JJ. Happy first birthday, you very special boy!

From the illustrator:

To my beautiful and sweet nephew, JJ, on his first birthday. May you be surrounded by love, happiness, and laughter always. I love you with my whole heart.

Mommy and Daddy rocked baby JJ to bed under a full moon sky.

JJ was hypnotized by the big bright moon, round as a cookie, playful as a ball, and big as a castle.

JJ wanted to go to the moon. It became all he thought about. And he had an idea on how to get there.



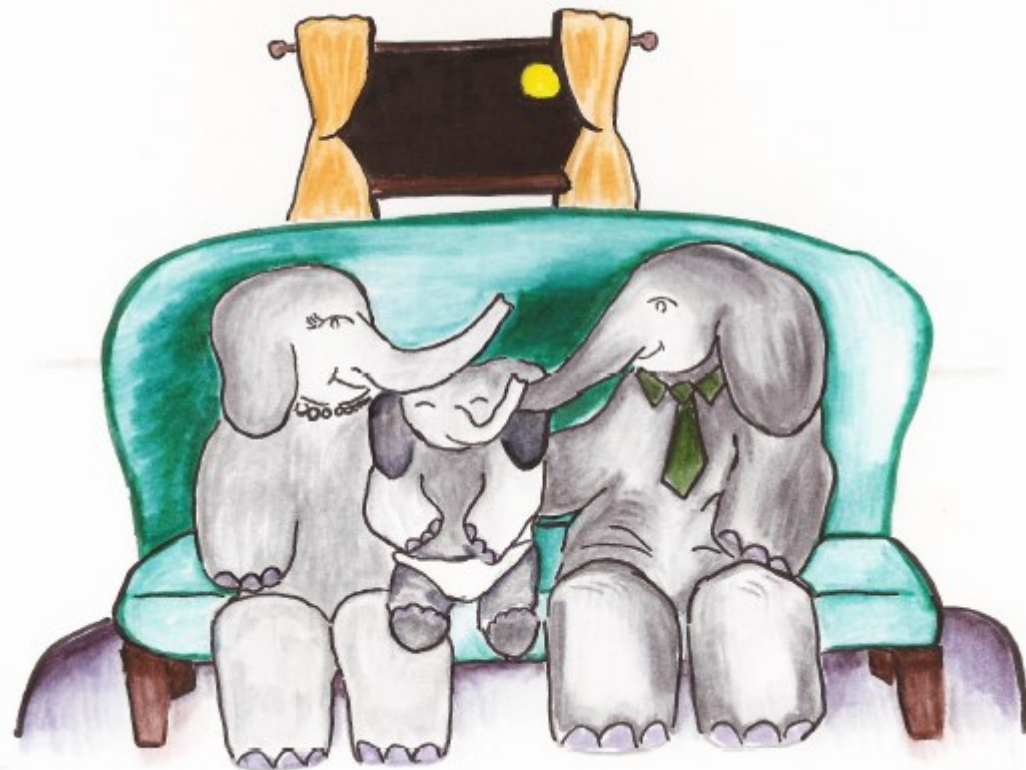
Each day, JJ saved up his toots.

The toots stored up in discomfort, causing him to frequently cry.

Mommy and daddy worked so hard to figure out what was upsetting their precious baby boy.

They gave JJ extra feedings. Extra baths. Extra hugs. Extra kisses. Extra love. Anything to make the crying go away.





But JJ stuck through the pain because he knew the moon was going to be incredible.

On another full moon night, JJ knew it was the night he'd go to the moon.

Mommy and daddy rocked him to sleep, each giving him a kiss on the cheek and saying, "I love you," before leaving the room.



He blinked an eye open and knew it was time for JJ
to toot to the moon.

3... 2... 1... Blast off!

JJ erupted a toot so big, he launched through the roof
and into the sky!

JJ soared past the clouds and into the stars!



JJ toot-tooted his way to the moon, each toot pushing him faster and higher before landing in a nice crater.

He'd made it to the round cookie, playful ball, and big castle in the sky.

From his resting spot in the crater, Earth was a marble of blue, brown, white. Somewhere down there, mommy and daddy were missing baby JJ.



JJ explored the moon, using his powerful toots to bounce himself around and explore his kingdom.

From the dark side of the moon to where the sun reflected off the moon, JJ made claim to the moon with his toots.

One toot was so large, he made a new crater that astronauts would be mystified by.

But the nights were lonely, with no mommy or daddy to tuck JJ in and tell him to not let the bed bugs bite and that they loved him.

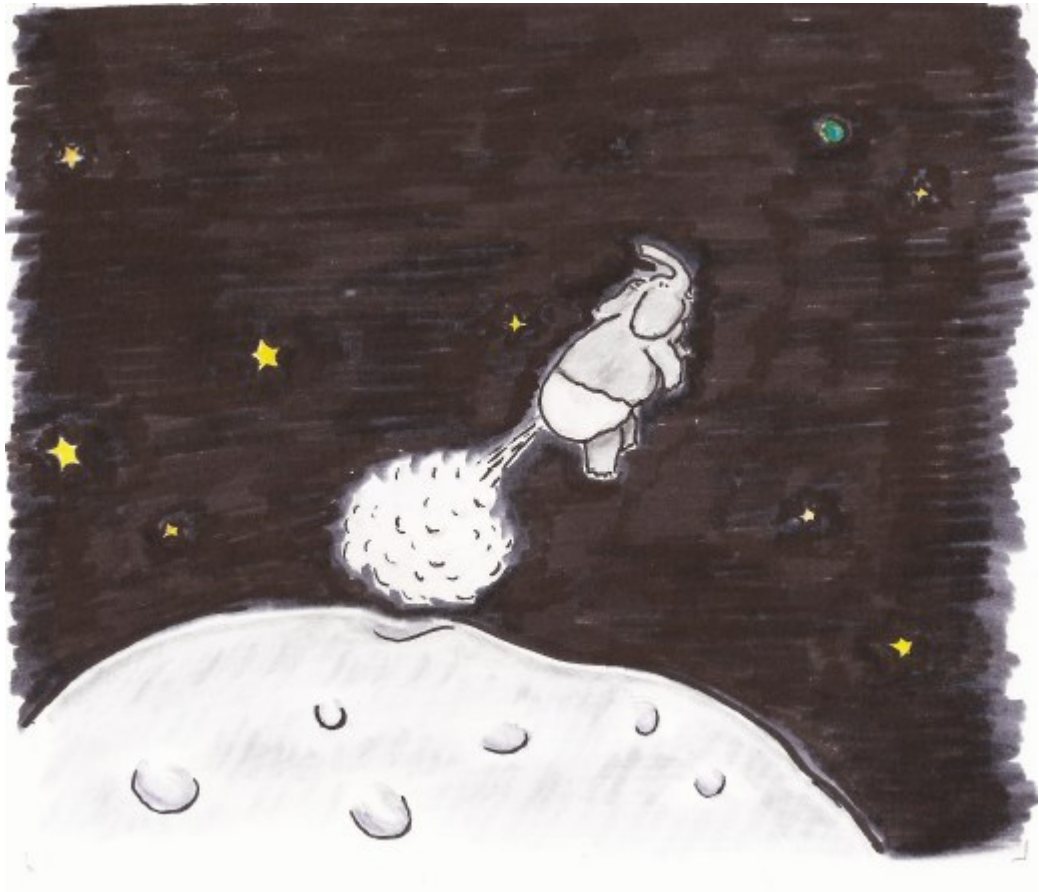
Suddenly JJ's moon kingdom wasn't so cool. He missed his crib with Mr. [stuffed animal]. But most importantly he missed mommy's and daddy's love.

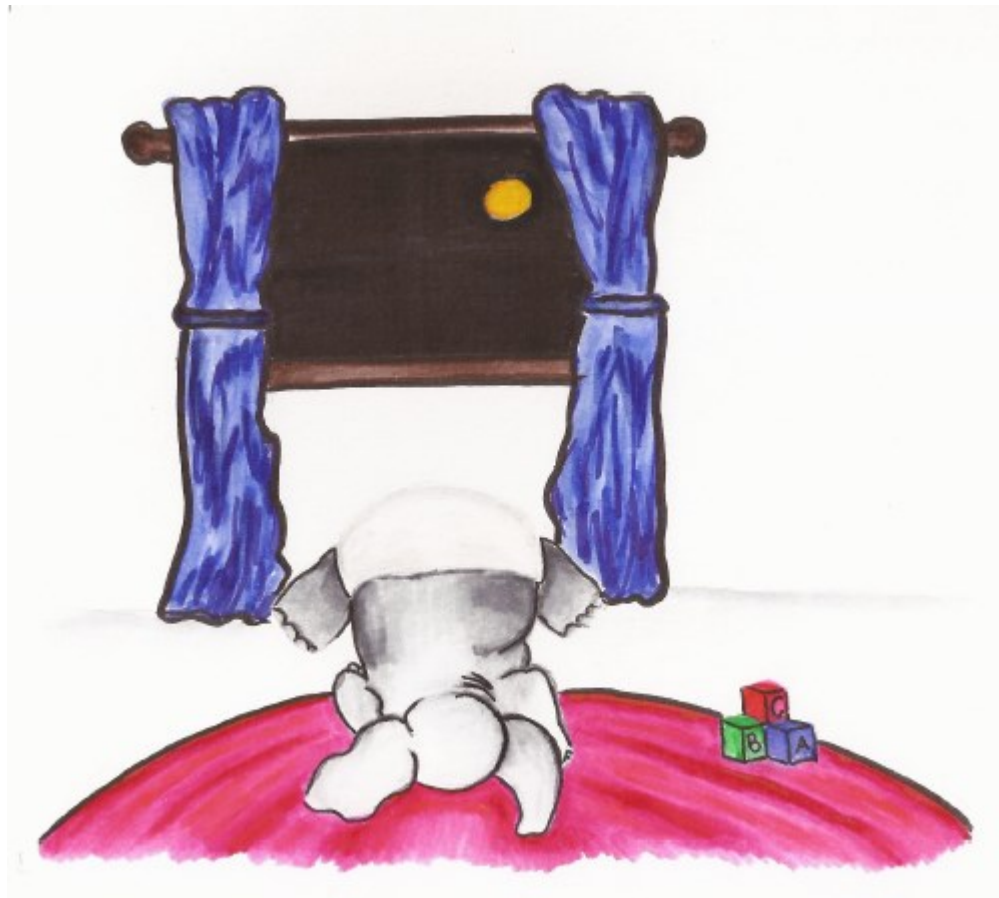
JJ knew it was time to return home. Except he'd used up all his toots! JJ was stuck on the moon. How would he ever get back to mommy and daddy's arms?!



JJ let his toots build up from the safety of his crater and before he knew it, he had enough toot power to get home.

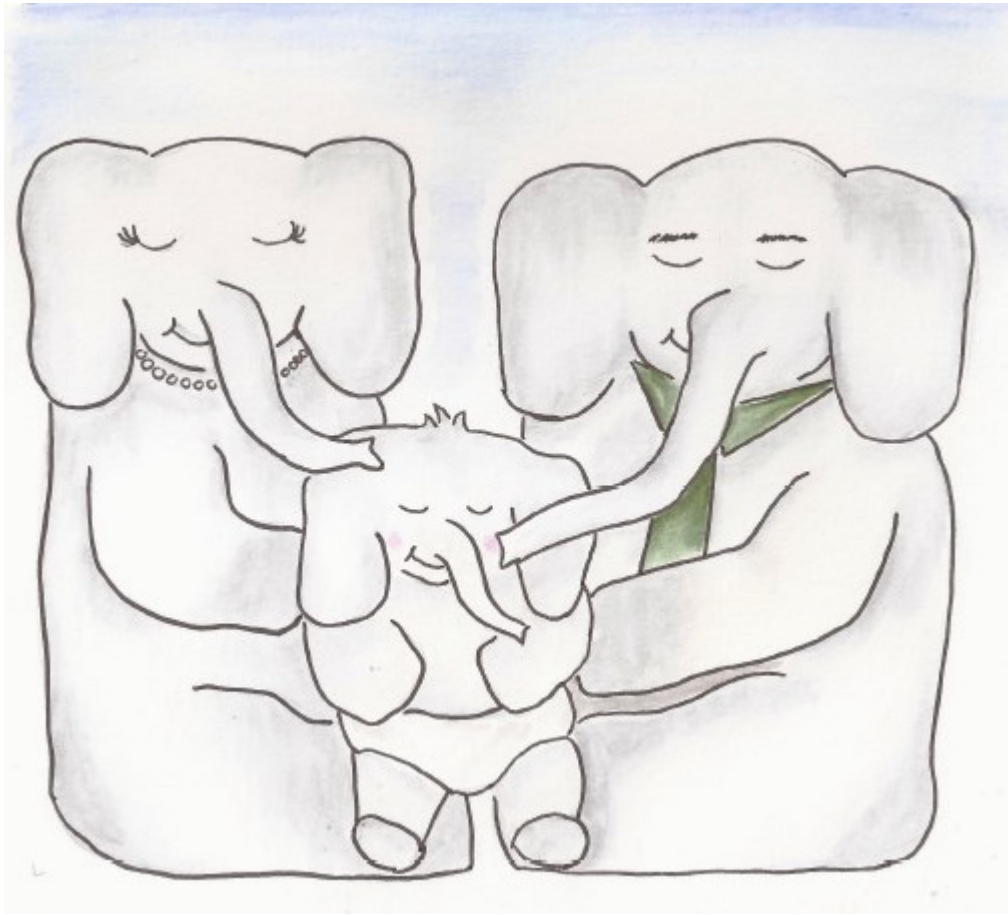
3... 2... 1... Blast off!





JJ launched a toot that shot him soaring through the stars, bouncing through the clouds, and tumbling through his window onto his soft red rug.

The noise startled mommy and daddy, who ran in to the room. JJ had tooted his way home!



Mommy and daddy were so overjoyed to see their precious baby JJ, they smothered him in hugs and kisses and love galore.

JJ smiled happily to be right where he belonged — in mommy and daddy's arms.



JJ never stored up his toots again, but he did love being put to bed under a full moon sky, where mommy and daddy would never know the adventure he'd had when he tooted to the moon.

"Good night, JJ, we love you....

...to the moon and back."