

ESCAPE FROM BEDTIME
(Sample)
By Cici Drzik

Black text = narration

Grey text = dialogue and sounds from outside of narration text

Blue Italics = illustration notes

Mom says it's time to clean up for bed, but Raff and I are still playing!

We say that we have to make a city using every single block!

Illo: A child is crouched on their bedroom floor arranging an elaborate toy tableaux populated by a great variety of toy denizens. They consult with Raff, a well worn stuffed giraffe. Mom is peeking her head in the door with the bedtime call

(Page 1- 2)

Mom says that I'm going to miss my bedtime snack if my room isn't clean by toothbrush time.

But Raff is leading the parade!
We can't stop now!

Illo: Mom stands in the doorway with a laundry basket giving the time warning. The child has arranged a parade down the city street, in apparent celebration of the beloved giraffe stuffy. They throw ripped up bits of notebook paper in the air like confetti.

(Page 3-4)

Mom says time to brush teeth.

Illo: Mother leads reluctant child away from the toy tableaux, giraffe in hand

(Page 5)

Raff says that he doesn't care if my breath stinks!
We would like our snack now.

Sorry Kiddo, that's the choice you made.

Illo: Grumpy child is perched on edge of bathroom sink, giraffe under arm, mother is brushing their teeth

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Mom says Pajamas!
Raff says Boo Mama!

Illo: Mom is pulling a T-Rex pajama top over the child's head, Raff is on the dresser beside them

(Page 7)

Luckily, only I can hear him.

Illo: Child, head now out of the neck hole, looks shocked at the shade throwing giraffe and holds up a shushing finger

(Page 8)

FINNISH! We say!

Illo: Child makes a leap—arms wide—towards the block cityscape on the floor

(Page 9-10)

BED! Says mom.

Illo: the leap interrupted as mom has caught them around the middle

(Page 10-11)

Just close your eyes, I'll help you relax.

Uh oh!

We know this trick.

Illo: Mom tucks them both in

(Page 12)

Raff doesn't want me to give in,
but what can I do?

Illo: child looks to stuffed giraffe in defeat

(Page 13)

There's no escaping bedtime.

Twinkle, twinkle, little star...

Illo: Wide picture of whole bedroom, child in bed as mother begins to sing, chaos of toys still left out all over the floor

(Page 14-15)

How I wonder what you are...

Illo 1: Mother strokes child's forehead

Up above the world so high...

Illo 2: Child's eyes drooping closed

Like a diamond in the sky...

Illo 3: Child's eyes closed

(Page 16)

Twinkle, twinkle, little star...

Illo 1: Raff's stuffy eyes stare blankly out from under the child's arm

How I wonder what you are...

Illo 2: Raff becomes animate, head is turned to look up at the child's eyes which are closed under the mother's forehead strokes

Illo 3: Raff squeezing out from under child's arm

(Page 17)

Raff?

Illo: Child peeks out of one eye

(Page 18)

What are you doing?!

Illo: Child's POV, beyond mom, Raff is at the foot of the bed, hopping onto the window ledge

(Page 19)

Illo: Raff has thrown the window open. Wind bursts into the room, blowing the curtains wildly. Mom is lunging to try and grab the stuffed giraffe

(Page 20-21)

Illo 1: Raff jumps out the window

Illo 2: Child and mother look at each other in shock beside the open window

Illo 3: Raff has grown to the size of a real giraffe and he looks slightly more realistic. He sticks his head in through the window

(Page 22)

Illo 1: Child scrambles to climb on top of Raff's head

Illo 2: Raff ducks them out of the window, mom lunges to stop them

Illo 3: Close in on mom's hand as she manages to grab the child's sock which is slipping off

(Page 23)

Illo: Raff walking them away from the house. The child riding on his head looks back to see the exasperated mother leaning out the window waving the sock

(Page 24)

Illo: Raff and child move down the sleepy suburban street, some windows lit by TV light—sky full of stars. One star is particularly bright. Child points for Raff to follow it.

(Page 25)

Illo: Raff and child march through a starlit field towards the glow of a city on the horizon just below the bright star.

(Page 26-27)

*This is just a sample of the manuscript,
please email if you are interested in reading the whole thing.*