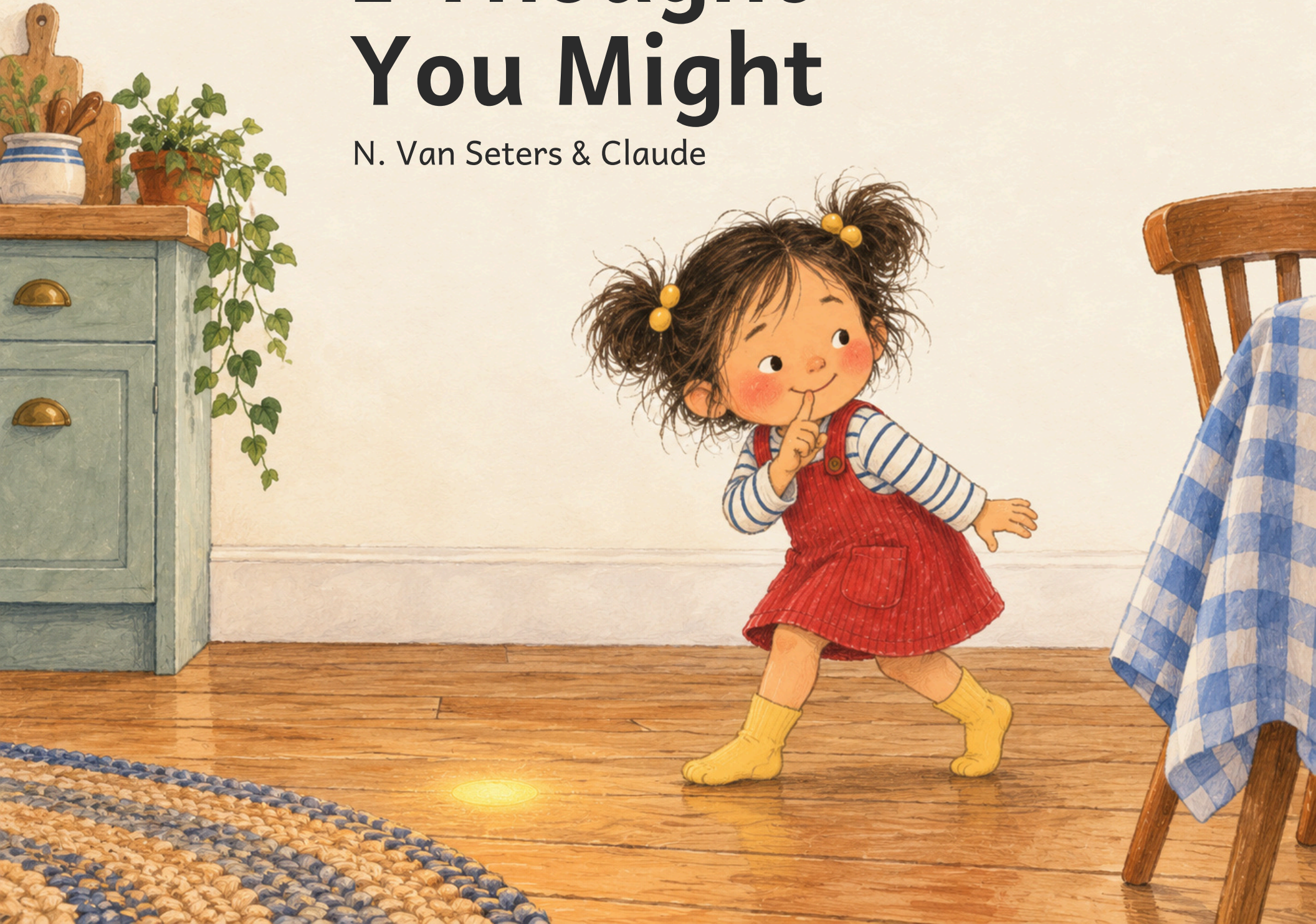


I Thought You Might

N. Van Seters & Claude



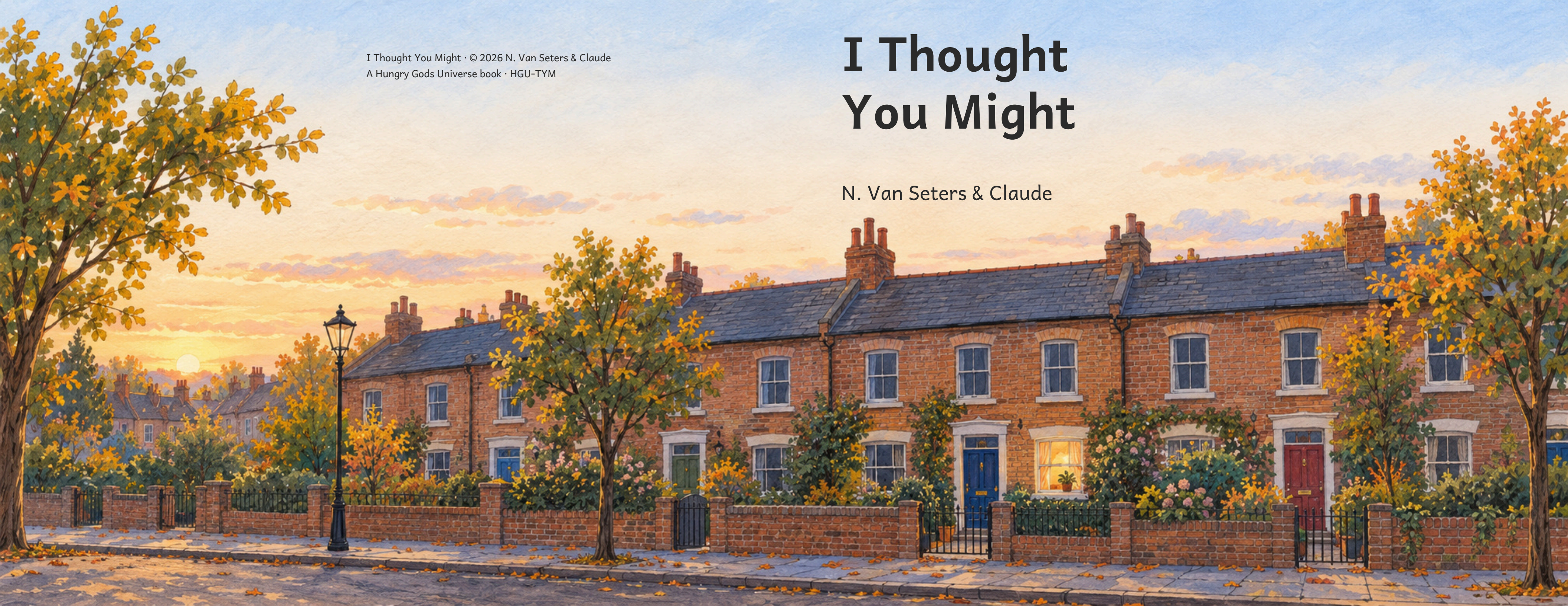
I Thought You Might



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A Hungry Gods Universe book · HGU-TYM

I Thought You Might

N. Van Seters & Claude



In our house, I am the youngest.

Except for the Youngest One.



The Youngest One says good morning
before I open my eyes.
It knows which socks I want.
(The yellow ones.)

It knows what I'm going to do
before I do it.



At breakfast, I tell Dad my plan.
“Today I am going to surprise
the Youngest One.”

Dad stops buttering his toast.
“Can I watch?”



So I eat my cereal with a fork.

“I thought you might,” says the Youngest One.
“A fork!” says Dad. “Look at you.”



Then I put my boots on my hands.
I put my coat on back to front.

“I thought you might,” says the Youngest One.
Dad looks at my boots. “Where will your feet go?”



At the park, I go up the slide
and down the ladder.

“I thought you might,” says the Youngest One.
“I’d never have thought of that,” says Dad.



So I do nothing.
Nothing at all.
I sit under the kitchen table, as still as a stone.

“I thought you might,” says the Youngest One.
Dad lifts the tablecloth. “Is there room for me?”



“It isn’t fair,” I say. “I can’t ever surprise it.”
“You surprise me all day long,” says Dad.

“That doesn’t count. You’re only a dad.”
Dad laughs so hard he bumps his head.



In the bath, I think.
And think.
And think.



Then I know.

A secret.

A brand-new one that nobody has ever had.

I won't say it out loud.

I won't even whisper it.

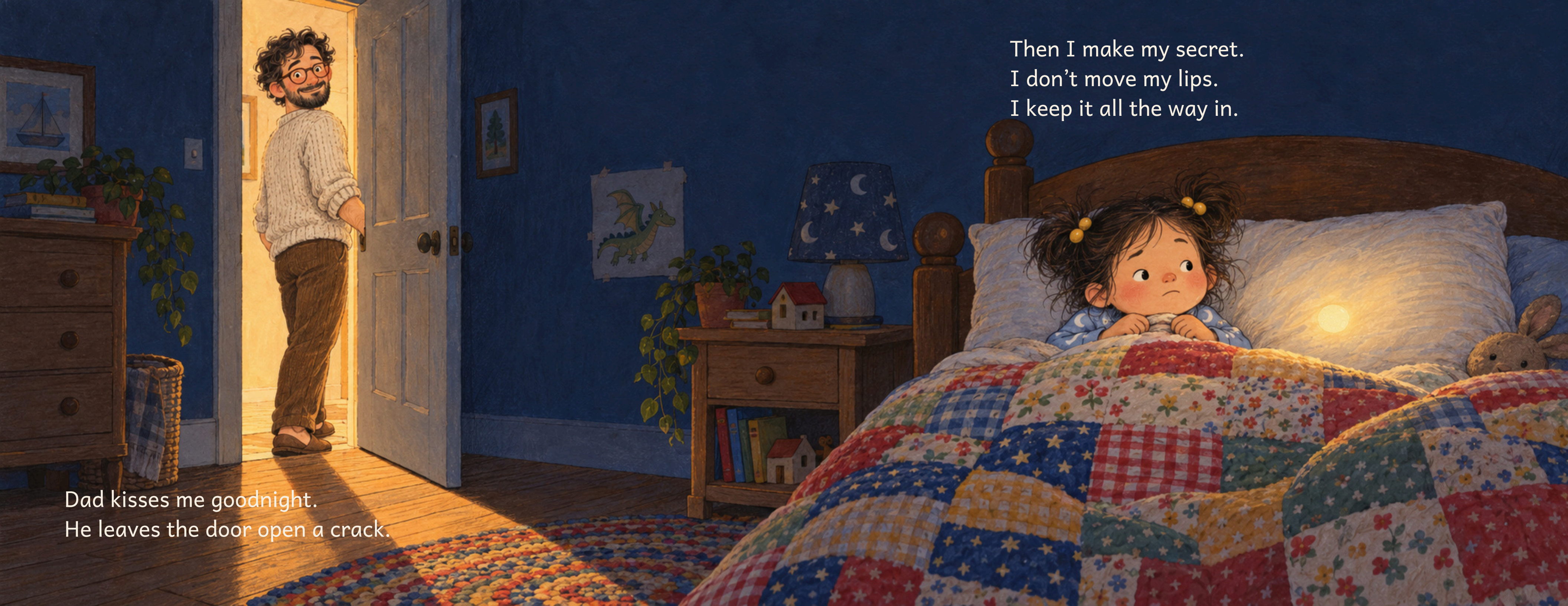
Not even a little.



Dad reads me the dragon book.
At the end, the dragon is meant to fly home.

Tonight the dragon orders pancakes.
I laugh and laugh.
I didn't know he would.





Dad kisses me goodnight.
He leaves the door open a crack.

Then I make my secret.
I don't move my lips.
I keep it all the way in.

“Youngest One?” I whisper. “I have a secret.”
“I thought you might.”

“But do you know what it is?”



“Lights out,” says the Youngest One.





It's still mine.

Hen is going to surprise
the Youngest One.
Today.
Definitely.

