

GOOD NEWS FOR LITTLE HEARTS

WHEN YOU WANT SOMETHING
TOO MUCH

Gus Loses His Grip

DAVID POWLISON
Editor

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Illustrator





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Story creation by Jocelyn Flenders, a homeschooling mother, writer, and editor living in suburban Philadelphia. A graduate of Lancaster Bible College with a background in intercultural studies and counseling, the Good News for Little Hearts series is her first published work for children.

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**“Taste and see that
the LORD is good.
Oh, the joys of those
who take refuge in him!”**

Psalm 34:8



Mulberry Meadow was lined with towering trees.

In the hollow of the Great Maple lived Papa, Mama, Gus, and Gwen Raccoon.

One evening, as they ventured across the pond for a bite to eat, Gus hopped on a log and dashed to the other side. He wanted to be the first to get to the strawberry patch on the other side of the pond.

A raccoon named Gus is depicted in a vibrant, painterly style. He is wearing a bright red hoodie and is shown from the chest up, smiling broadly as he reaches towards a bush of strawberries. The background features a soft-focus forest with a stream and trees, bathed in a warm, golden light. The overall scene is cheerful and whimsical.

As he quickly filled his paws with strawberries, Mama joked,
“Gus, be sure to save some for the rest of us!”

Gus loved berries: strawberries, raspberries, blackberries—any berries!
He also loved sugar snap peas and sweets from the candy shop.

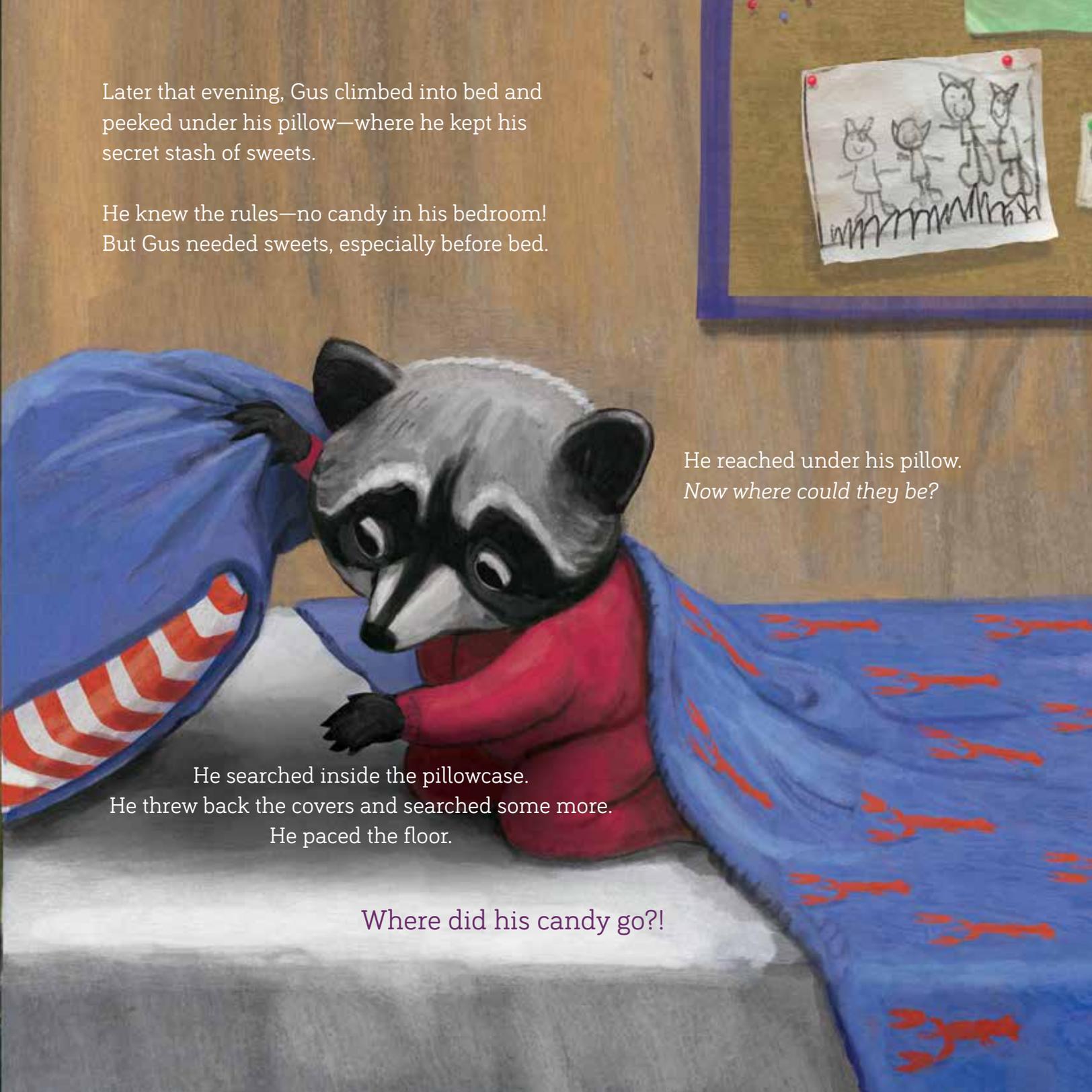
Gus loved sweets.
He loved everything sweet!



Gwen exclaimed, "These strawberries are great. And tomorrow is Easter. We'll get lots of goodies!" Gus paused to picture his basket filled with luscious sweets. He loved Easter!

Later that evening, Gus climbed into bed and peeked under his pillow—where he kept his secret stash of sweets.

He knew the rules—no candy in his bedroom!
But Gus needed sweets, especially before bed.



He reached under his pillow.
Now where could they be?

He searched inside the pillowcase.
He threw back the covers and searched some more.
He paced the floor.

Where did his candy go?!

And then he remembered—he ate it all last night.
Every last piece.

He simply couldn't stop. And now he had nothing.
I'll never fall asleep, he thought. He collapsed on the bed and
stared at the ceiling. Finally he did fall asleep.

