

Why Am I So Tall?

a Sally Harper Story

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First Edition

This is a work of fiction. Names, characters, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination and any resemblance to actual persons, living or dead, is purely coincidental.

Independently published by Sally Harper

For Freddie

“Why am I so tall, Mummy?” asks Freddie. Mummy thinks for a moment. “Well, I’m quite tall and we have lots of tall people in our family,” says Mummy. “So maybe it’s because of that, but maybe you’ve had a growth spurt.”

“What’s a growth spurt Mummy?” asks Freddie.



Mummy takes Freddie into the hallway. On the edge of the door, there are marks where Mummy has measured Freddie every year on his birthday.

“Look,” she explains, “you grew a lot more between the age of 4 and 5, than you did between the age of 3 and 4 and 2 and 3. So last year, you had a growth spurt.”



“Why is my friend Tommy so little, Mummy?” asks Freddie.

“Well,” says Mummy, “Tommy’s mummy is little, so maybe it’s because of that, or maybe Tommy will get a growth spurt soon, and he won’t be little any more.”

“Will Tommy be as tall as me?” asks Freddie. “Maybe he will,” says Mummy.



“Why am I so loud, Mummy?” asks Freddie.

“Well,” says Mummy, “maybe you have a big voice box. Or maybe you are an excited little boy who sometimes shouts a bit.”



“Why is Tommy so quiet, Mummy?” asks Freddie. “Well,” says Mummy, “maybe Tommy has a softer voice. Or maybe he is shy, so he whispers instead of shouting”.



“Will I always be louder than Tommy, Mummy?” asks Freddie.

“Well,” says Mummy, “maybe Tommy will become more confident as he gets bigger, and maybe he will talk more. And maybe you will become less excitable, and maybe you will become quieter.”



“Why am I always in trouble at school, Mummy?” asks Freddie.

“Ah,” says Mummy. “Maybe it is because the teacher sees and hears you before she sees and hears the other children, because you are tall and loud.”



“Why is Tommy never in trouble at school, Mummy?” asks Freddie.

“Well,” says Mummy, “maybe the teachers don't see or hear Tommy because Tommy is smaller and quieter than the other children.”

“One day, will Tommy be in trouble as much as me?” asks Freddie.

“Maybe he will,” says Mummy.



“Mummy, will I always be friends with Tommy?” asks Freddie. “Even if he gets bigger than me?”

Mummy thinks for a moment and then says, “I certainly hope so, because you two are so good together and such fun!”



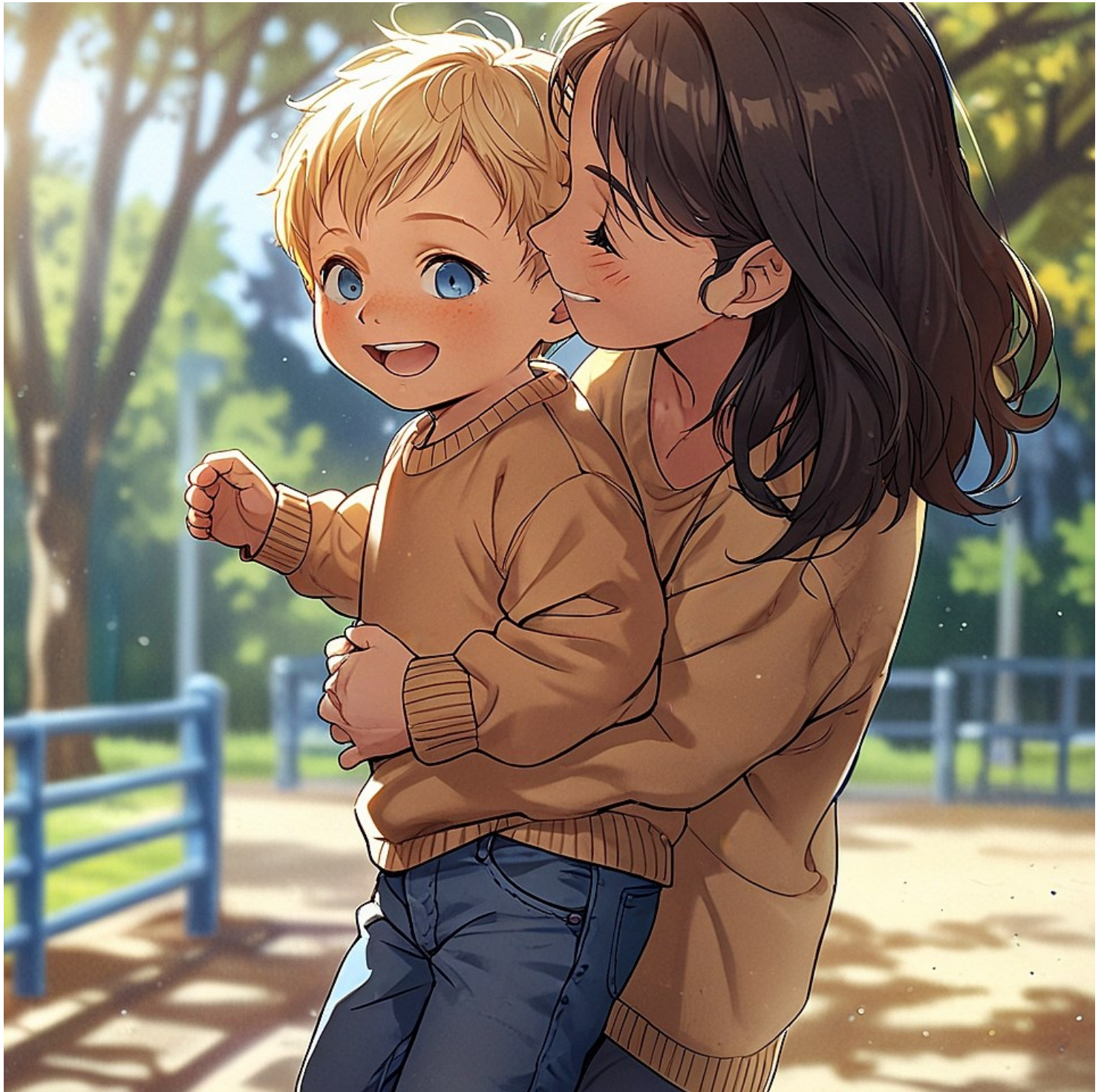
“Besides,” says Mummy, “I was friends with Tommy’s Mummy when I was about your age, and we’re still best friends today!”



“Do you know what I think, Freddie?” asks Mummy.

“No,” says Freddie, shaking his head.

“I think you are just perfect the way you are,” says Mummy.



“Do you think that Tommy's Mummy thinks Tommy is perfect the way he is too?” asks Freddie.

“Oh yes!” says Mummy. “I don't have to think about that at all; I am quite sure of it!”



This story teaches children about the importance of accepting themselves and others as they are. Through Freddie and his friend Tommy, young readers see that everyone has different strengths and qualities, and that's what makes each person special. It encourages children to recognize that both differences and similarities make us all perfect in our own way, fostering self-esteem and empathy for others.

Look out for more Freddie stories by Sally Harper

Acknowledgments:

Illustrations by Martin Fretwell