

CATHY,
PLEASE
DON'T
MOVE



CATHY, PLEASE DON'T MOVE

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DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to my friend, Margaret Lee.

My name is Sally, and I'm nine years old. I've just landed at the airport in Arizona. My grandmother and Aunt Carole and Uncle Bob live in Arizona. I'm thinking to myself, "I can't wait to get to my grandmother's house."



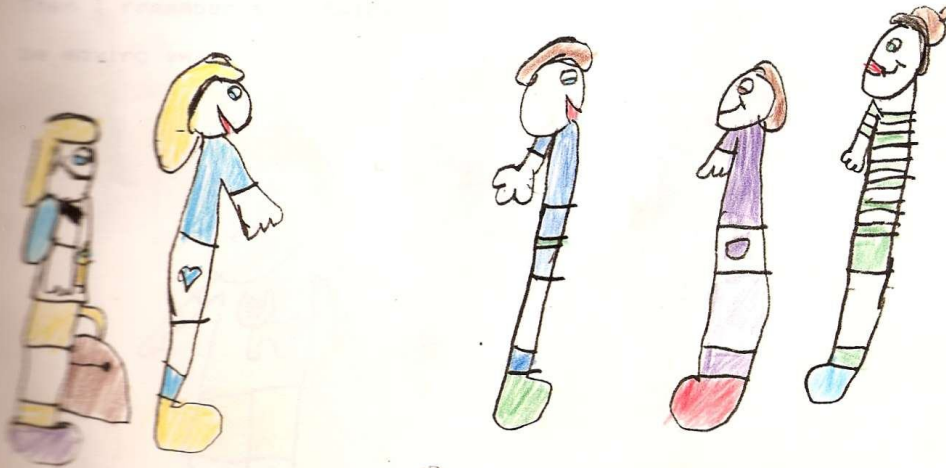
And then I remember my friend Cathy may be moving far away from my school in my home town so I might never be able to see her again.



I now see my Aunt Carole



and Uncle Bob coming towards me. "Hi," my Dad says. Then Aunt Carole says, "Hi, I got another dog." I am really excited. "That's a nice shirt, Sally", Uncle Bob says. I'm wearing my shirt with a yellow cat.



I remember that my teacher likes cats.



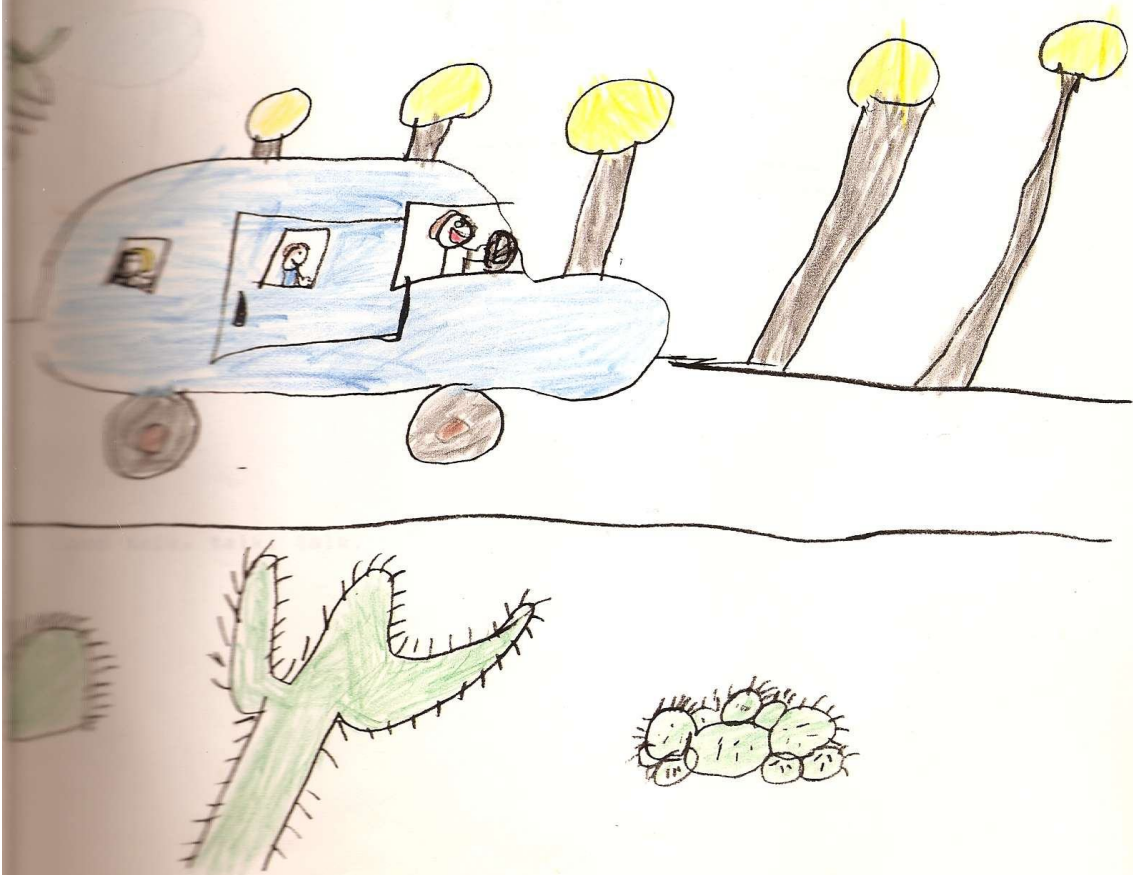
Then I remember that Cathy is in my class at school and she might be moving away.



It's warm in Phoenix but not too hot. I look at my watch and see that it is seven o'clock and the sun has set. I look in the windows of the gift shop, and I see some of those fancy magnets on a rack. The magnets have names on them like "Mary's kitchen." I see "Amy's kitchen", "Annie's Kitchen", and then "Cathy's kitchen". I look away from the gift shop because I'm sad. I don't want Cathy to move away. I'm almost ready to cry. Then I brush away the tears because it's time to get into Aunt Carole's car.



Aunt Carole and Uncle Bob help us to put our luggage in their van. I notice under Uncle Bob's seat are some presents. I pretend not to see them. On the way home in the car my sister and I think about what could be in the presents. I look out the window and see palm trees, cactuses, and a whole bunch of bright lights, and they're so pretty. My sister Amy says, "They are pretty." Then I say it, too. Then I say, "Great! I'm at Aunt Carole's house."



we sit down in the livingroom



and talk, talk, talk.

"How is school going for you?" Aunt Carole asks.



Talking about school reminds me of my friend Cathy. Cathy is in my classroom. Cathy has black hair and brown eyes and is very friendly. I've known her for two years. I like to play with her. I like to talk to her about things. I like being with her, even sitting next to her. but she says she might be moving and may change to a different school, and she says she may be moving when I'm away in Arizona.



after all this talk, we have dinner.



We go out for Mexican food, and I have a taco.



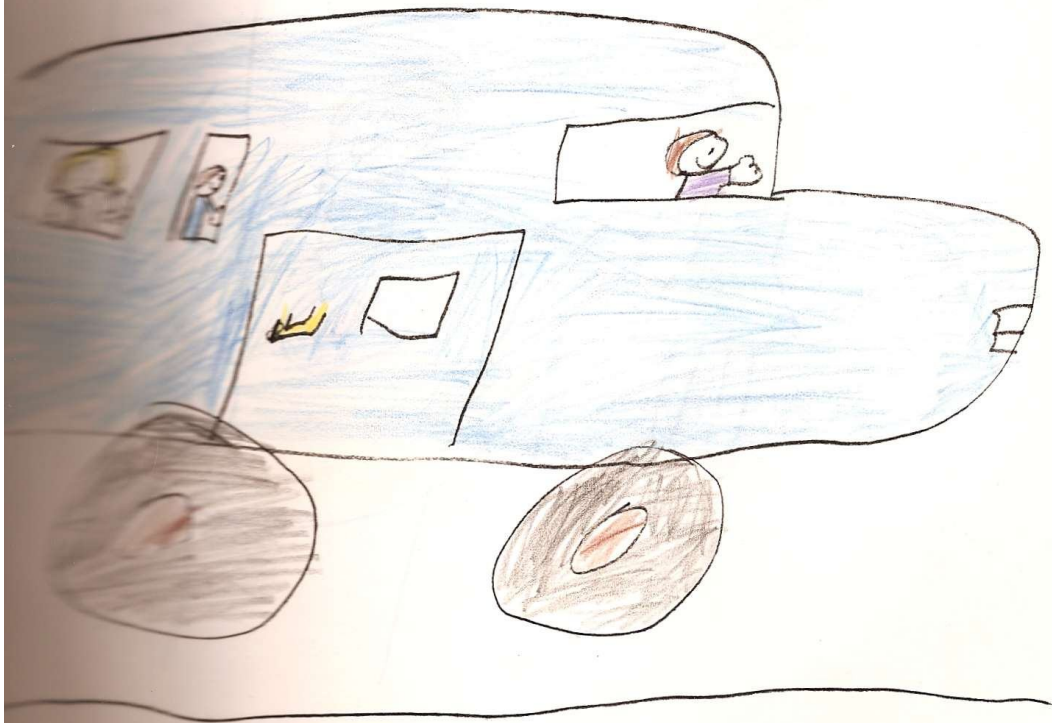
help to grandma's.

take off a tree in the

and breakfast, grandma

you know with all

what can't see



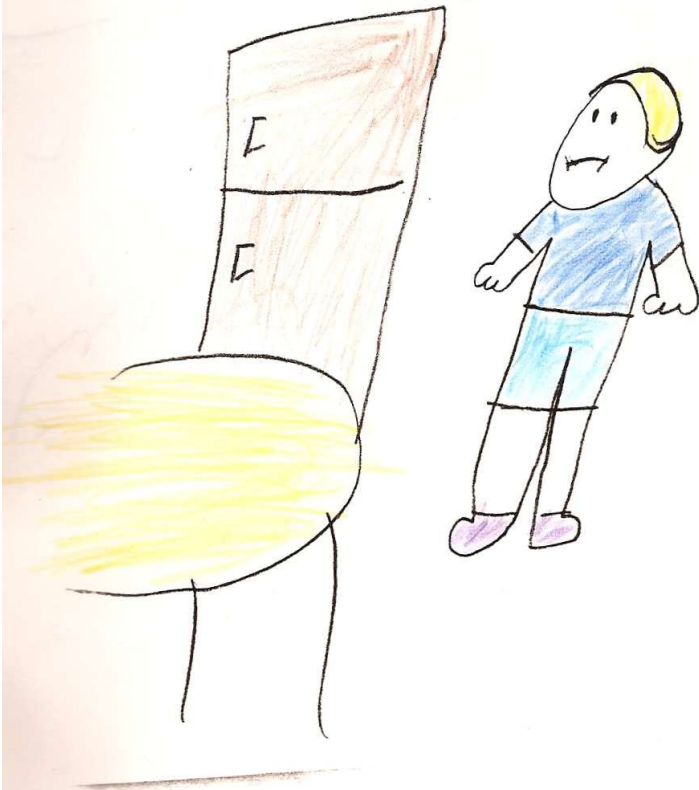
we sleep over night there. In the morning grandma picks an orange off a tree in her yard which I have for breakfast. "It's a good breakfast, Grandma," I say to her. After breakfast I go into a room with all her cats. I like all of her cats, except one who isn't very friendly.



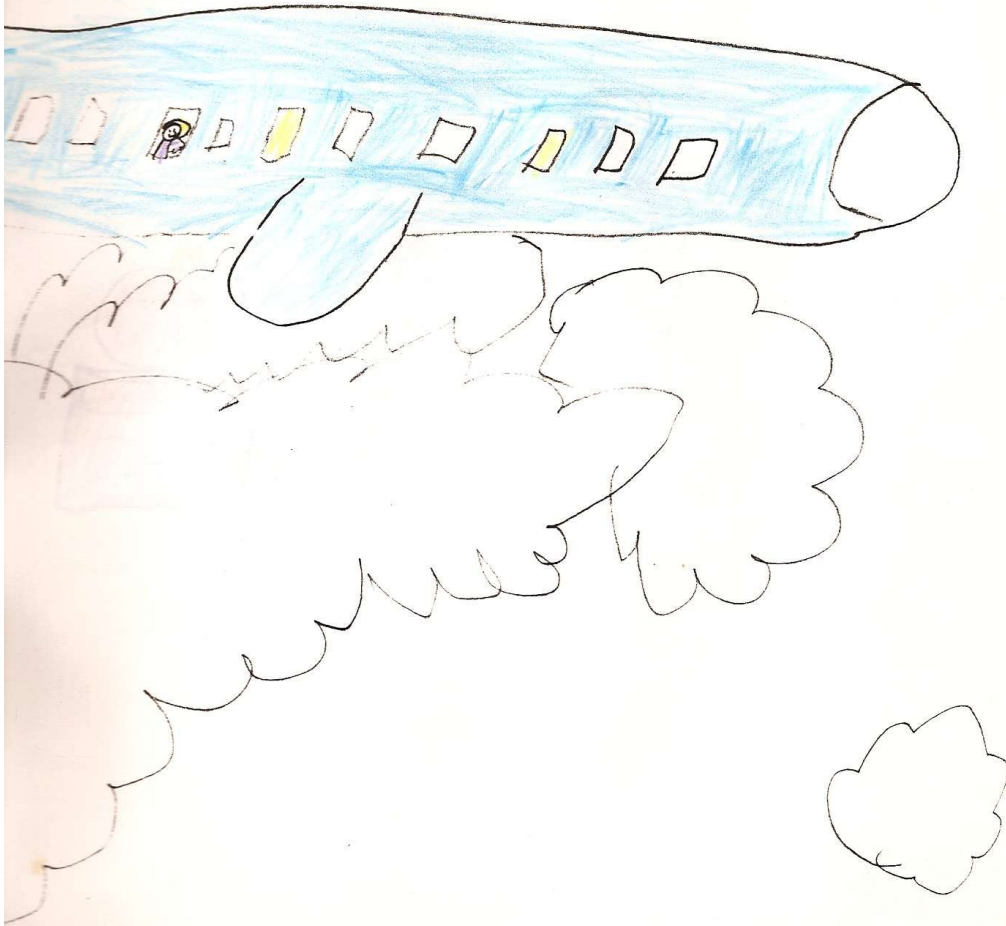
Leave that room.



ll feel very sad about Cathy.



After six days in Arizona, we get on the plane to go home. The
ride is fun. I like looking at the clouds below and
wondering if it's sunny or cloudy beneath the clouds.



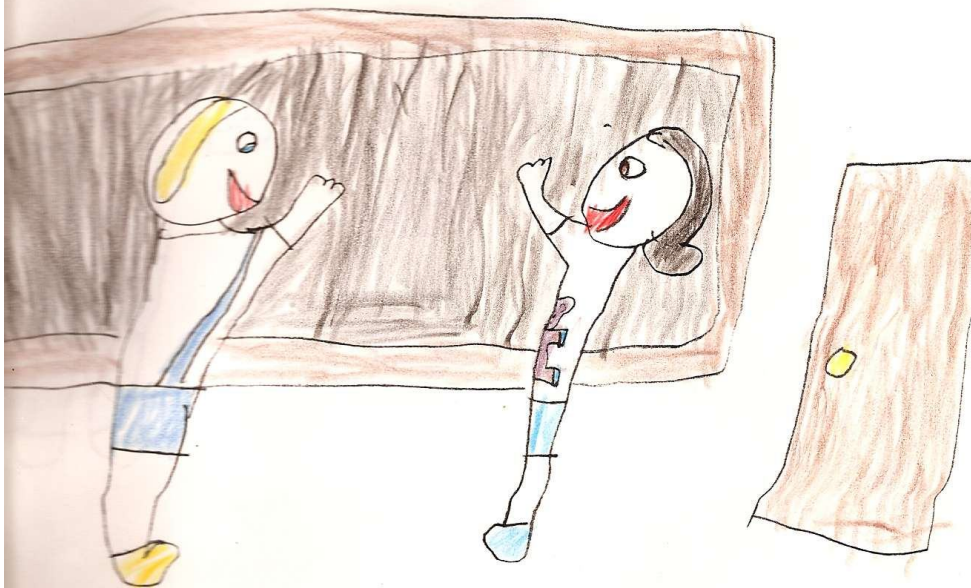
at I still keep thinking about Cathy.

...but I can't see Cathy.
...see someone open the door, and I
...in and says, "Hi, Cathy."
...Hi, Sally," she says. "I didn't see



The next day after we land, I go back to school. I go into the classroom, but I don't see Cathy. I feel like crying. But then I see someone open the door, and it's Cathy. I get out of my chair and say, "Hi, Cathy!"

"Hi, Sally," she says. "I didn't move after all."



... that I knew that when someone says something is going to
... you shouldn't spend so much time worrying about it that
... check your vacation because what you fear is going to happen
... ever really happen.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Heidi Julia Bender lives in University Park, Maryland with her mother and father, her sister Rebecca, and their two dogs Brittany and Davy Cocker. She was born on November 16, 1979 and is in the 6th grade at University Park Elementary School. Heidi loves to draw, write stories, and sing in the school choir. In addition to this award-winning book, she has created two cartoon strips—The Fruits and Vegetables involving (naturally!) animated fruits and vegetables, and The Smiths, about a typical American family. Unfortunately, paralysis caused by her brain tumor has kept her from continuing her cartooning activities.

This book is about a special friend Heidi knew in real life.

