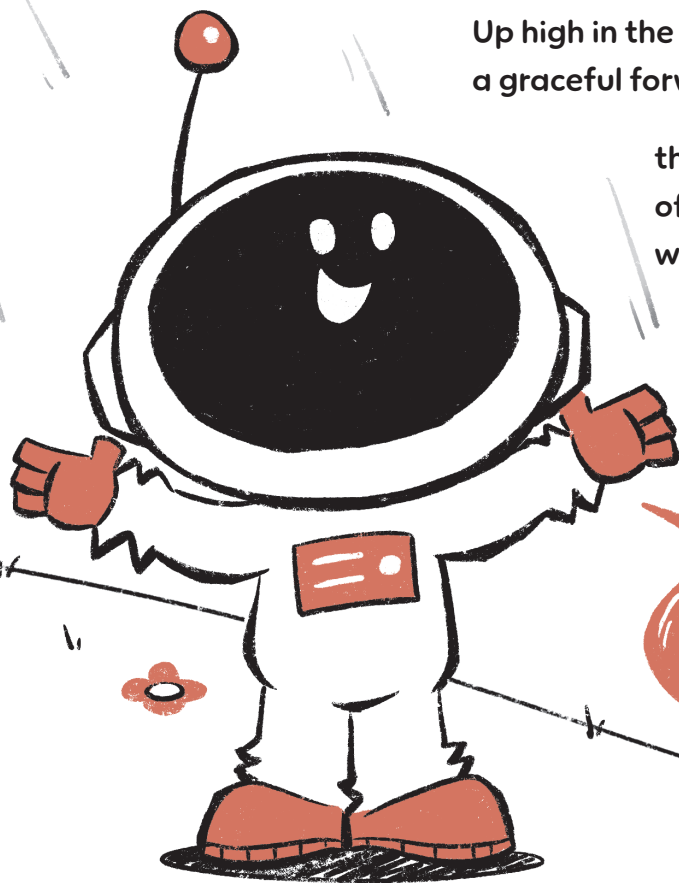


Chapter Two

Up high in the sky, Mooki does
a graceful forward flip –

then lands in front
of his two mates
with his arms wide.



Ta-da!

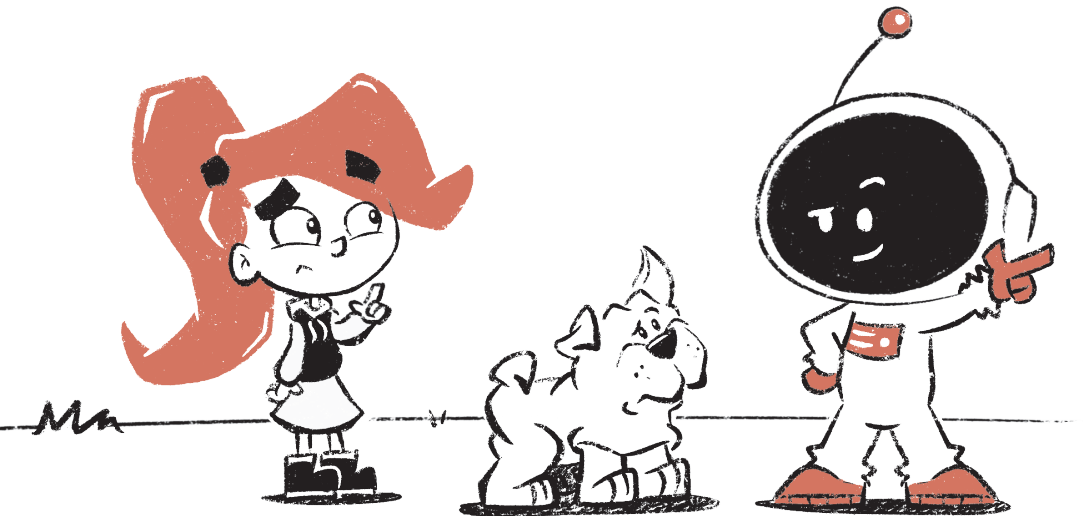
Cindy and Ralph **clap**.

'Why, thank you,' says Mooki. 'Thank you very much.
Practice makes permanent!'

'So, what do you want to do today?' Cindy asks.

Mooki grins. 'Well, I was thinking, our mission, if you
choose to accept it, is to climb that!' He turns and points
dramatically.

The others follow his finger –
which is aimed at a nearby tree.

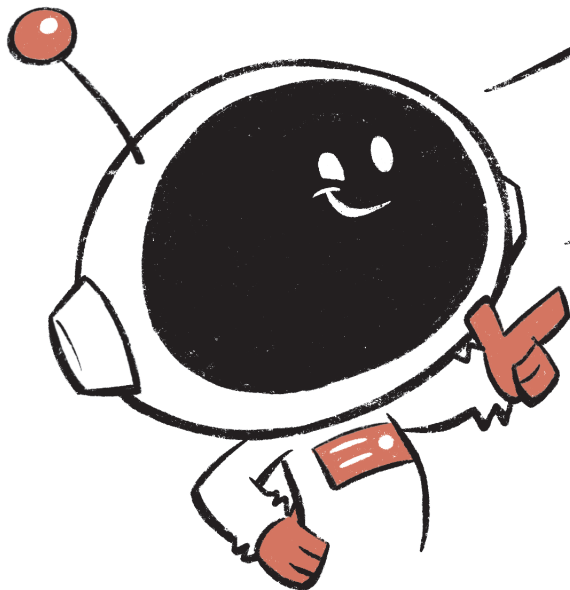


'Oh. Okay,' says Cindy. 'I mean, it's not that exciting but, sure, if you want.' She walks over and starts to climb the tree.



'No, no, no, not that. **That!**

Mooki points dramatically again. This time he makes sure to aim his finger at the **towering** mountain that looms behind the tree and looks like the Matterhorn. (BTW, the Matterhorn is a very tall, very cool-looking mountain in Europe.)



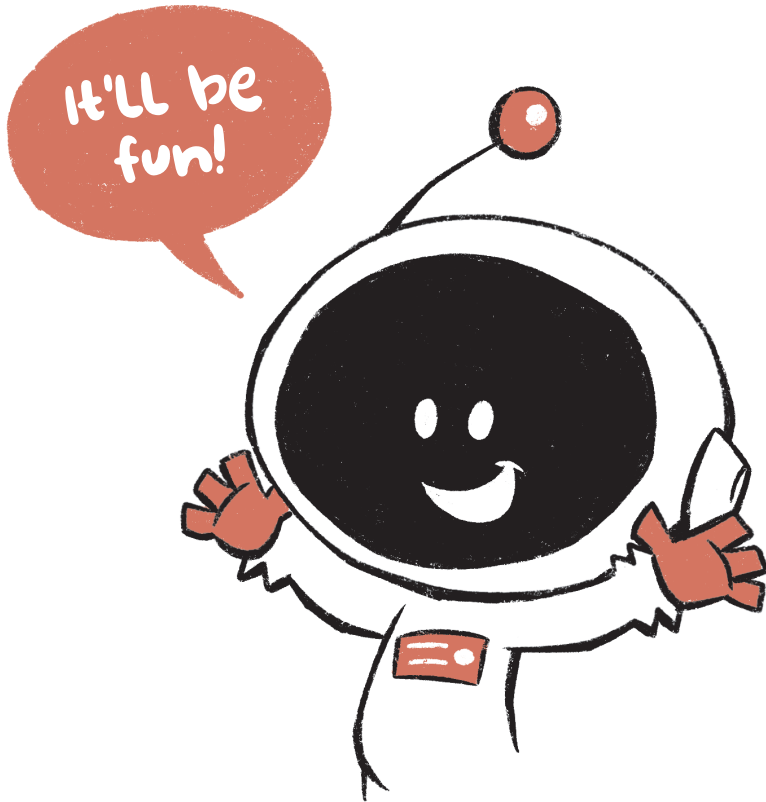
Ralph is confused. And so is Cindy. 'Excuse me, but are you pointing at that ginormous mountain?'

'Indeed I am,' replies Mooki. 'Indeed I am.'



'Because it's there, Cindy. Because it's there. Look, we don't have mountains like that on the moon. That's why **I Love your strange, blue world.** It's so different to where I live. I want to explore every bit of it.'

Mooki can see that Cindy and Ralph are not sure about this.
'Oh, come on, let's give it a crack!'



Cindy looks up at the mountain again. 'Fun?' I'm not sure that's the word. Hard, sweaty, tiring, annoying, sure. But fun?'

Bark, bark,
bark?

Ralph has similar thoughts.



'No, I'm not crazy,' says Mooki. 'And yes, it's steep!'

Bark,
bark,
bark!

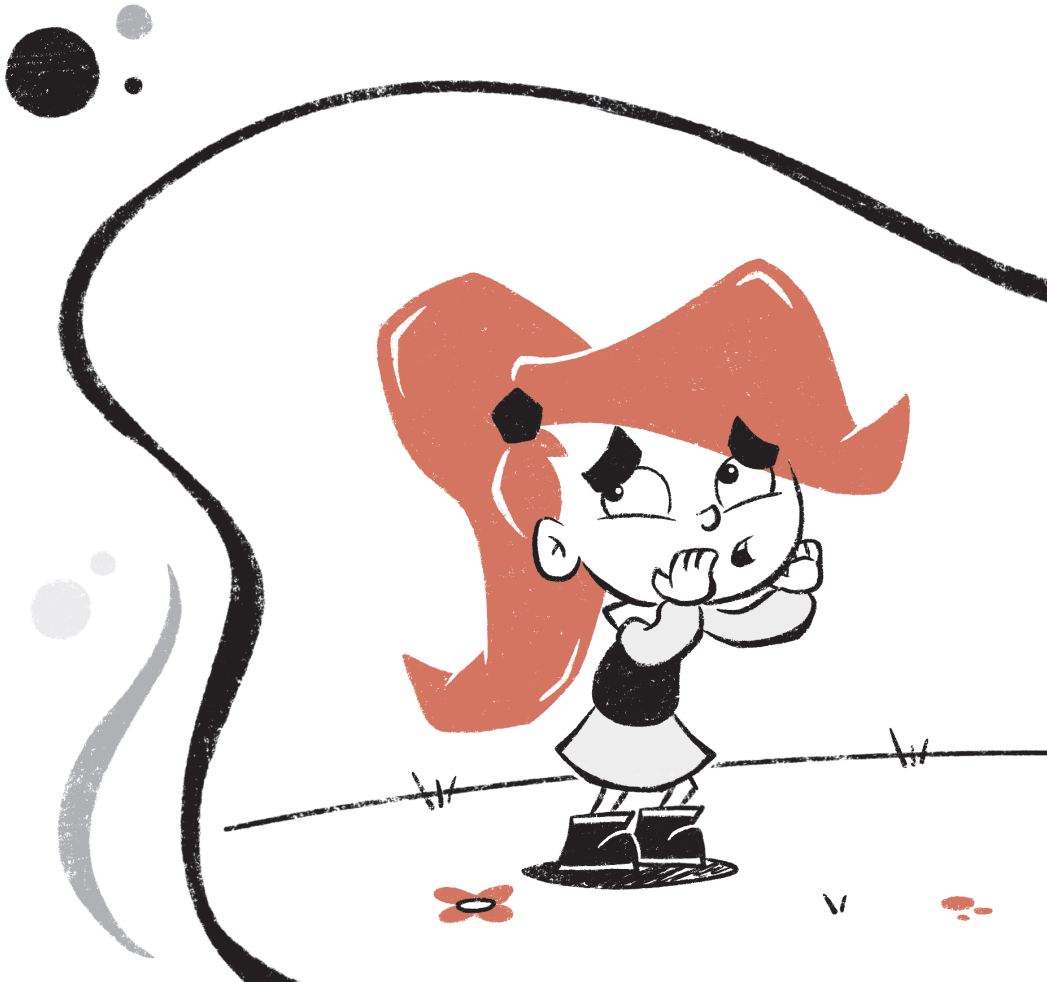
'Okay, very steep. But let's dig deep!'



Cindy is still unsure. 'This just might be the **Mooki-est** thing you've ever wanted to do.'

'I'm okay with that.'

'And word has it that there's a **Big scary** up there.'
Cindy whispers the words 'Big Scary'.



As often happens when Ralph gets really scared, and hearing about a Big Scary always makes him really scared, he does a nervous wee.

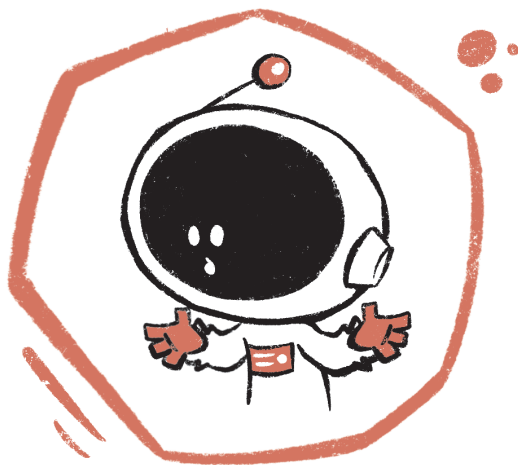


Mooki is a little freaked out too. 'Did you say – a Big Scary?'



'Shh', keep your voice down.'
Again Cindy whispers.

Now Mooki whispers too.
'Why are we whispering
when we say "Big Scary"?''



Cindy keeps whispering. 'Because a Big Scary doesn't like
it when people talk about them.'

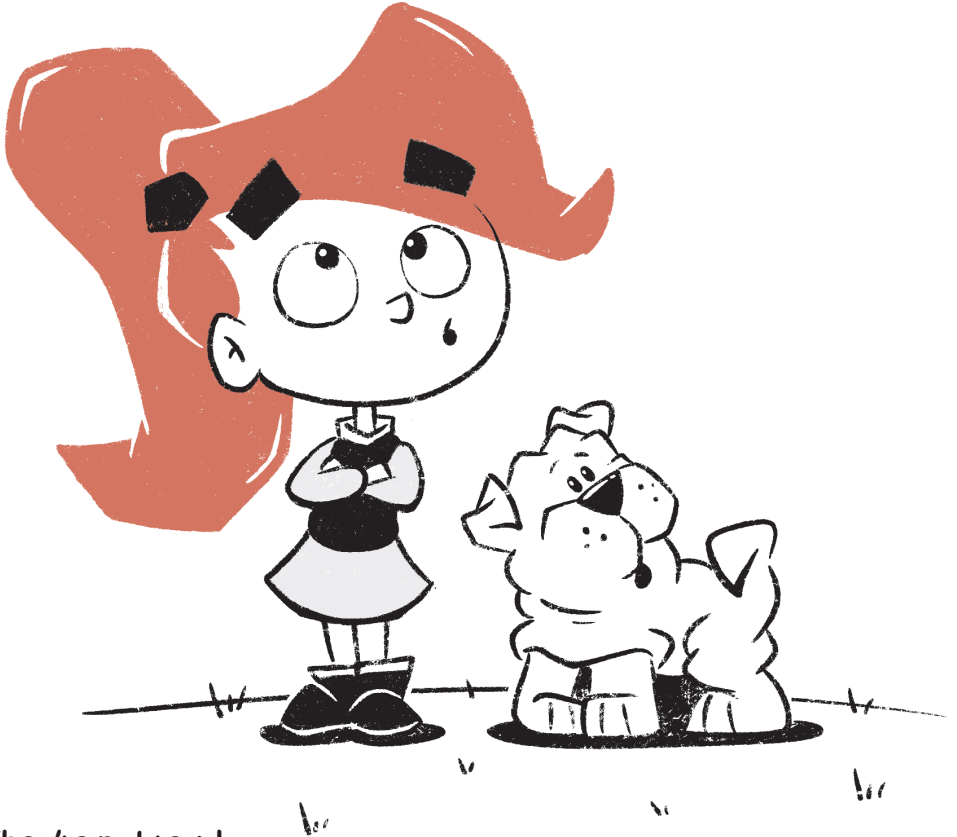
'Oh, I see. Good call!' Mooki quickly shakes off his worries about the Big Scary. 'We should go anyway. We can't stop doing stuff just because something *might* happen. If everyone did that, no-one would do anything and then there'd never be any **adventures**. Now, who's with me?'

Mooki holds out his hand and waits for the others to stack their hand, and paw, on top of it.



They don't do it.

'Whenever you're ready,' says Mooki.

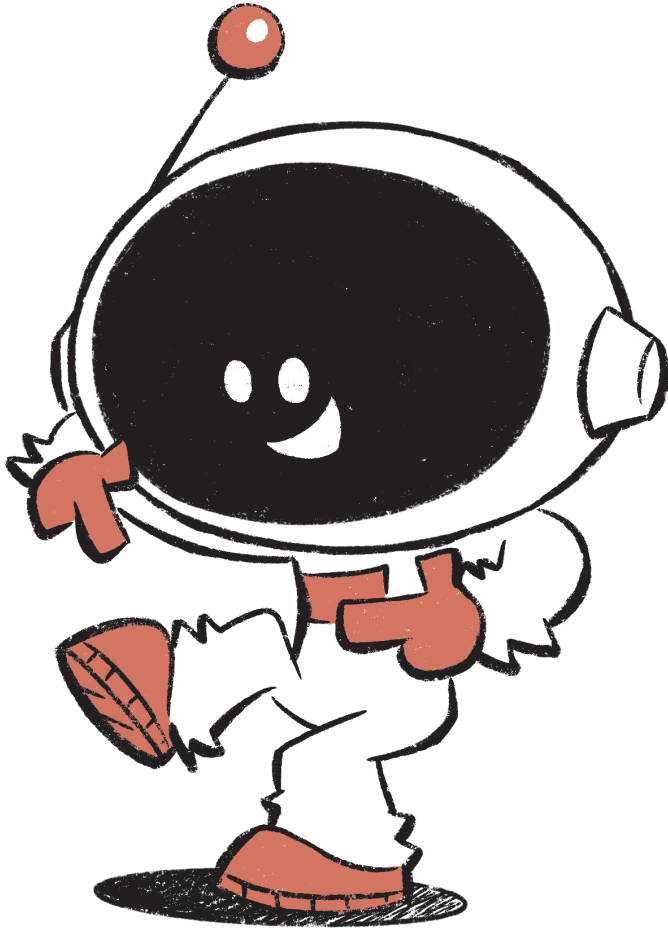


They're not ready.

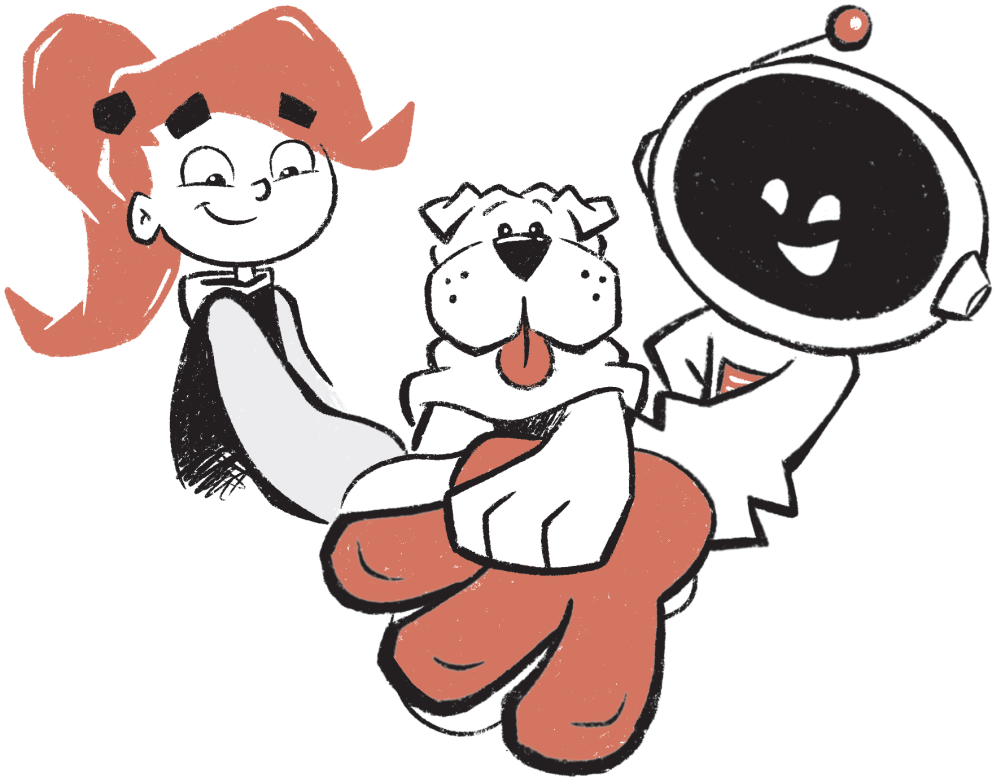
'Don't leave me hanging.'

They leave him hanging.

So, Mooki tries a different approach. 'You know, if we put our minds to it, and make the effort, we can **accomplish** anything, even climb this mountain. We just need to put one moon boot in front of the other.'



Cindy hears Mooki's words, thinks them over – then throws her hand out so Mooki can stack his on top. Mooki grins, then looks at Ralph. The dog takes his sweet, sweet time, then, very slowly, stacks his paw on top of Mooki's hand.



'Most excellent!' Mooki is jazzed.
'This is going to be **awesome!**'

Ralph does another nervous wee.

