An illustration of a man in a grey t-shirt carrying a child in a yellow shirt on his shoulders. They are on a beach looking at the ocean. Yellow leaves are falling from a tree in the top right corner. The title 'My Thousand Special Names' is written in a large, flowing, reddish-brown script across the top half of the image.

My Thousand Special Names

Ben Morley

YT Tommy Lee

My Thousand
Special Names



*To L, R, O and M,
Sometimes love means letting go
when all you want to do is hold on tight.*

—Ben Morley

To the memory of my Pa.

—YT Tommy Lee

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My Thousand Special Names

Written by

Ben Morley

Illustrated by

YT Tommy Lee



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My dad is as tall as the top shelf and as strong as the wind.
He has moon rock hands, a scratchy face and big smiley eyes.

He squeezes me like toothpaste
and chases me round and round
until we fall down dizzy.



And when the nights are clear,
he wraps me up in his arms and
we sleep under the stars.



But best of all, my dad has
a thousand special names
just for me.

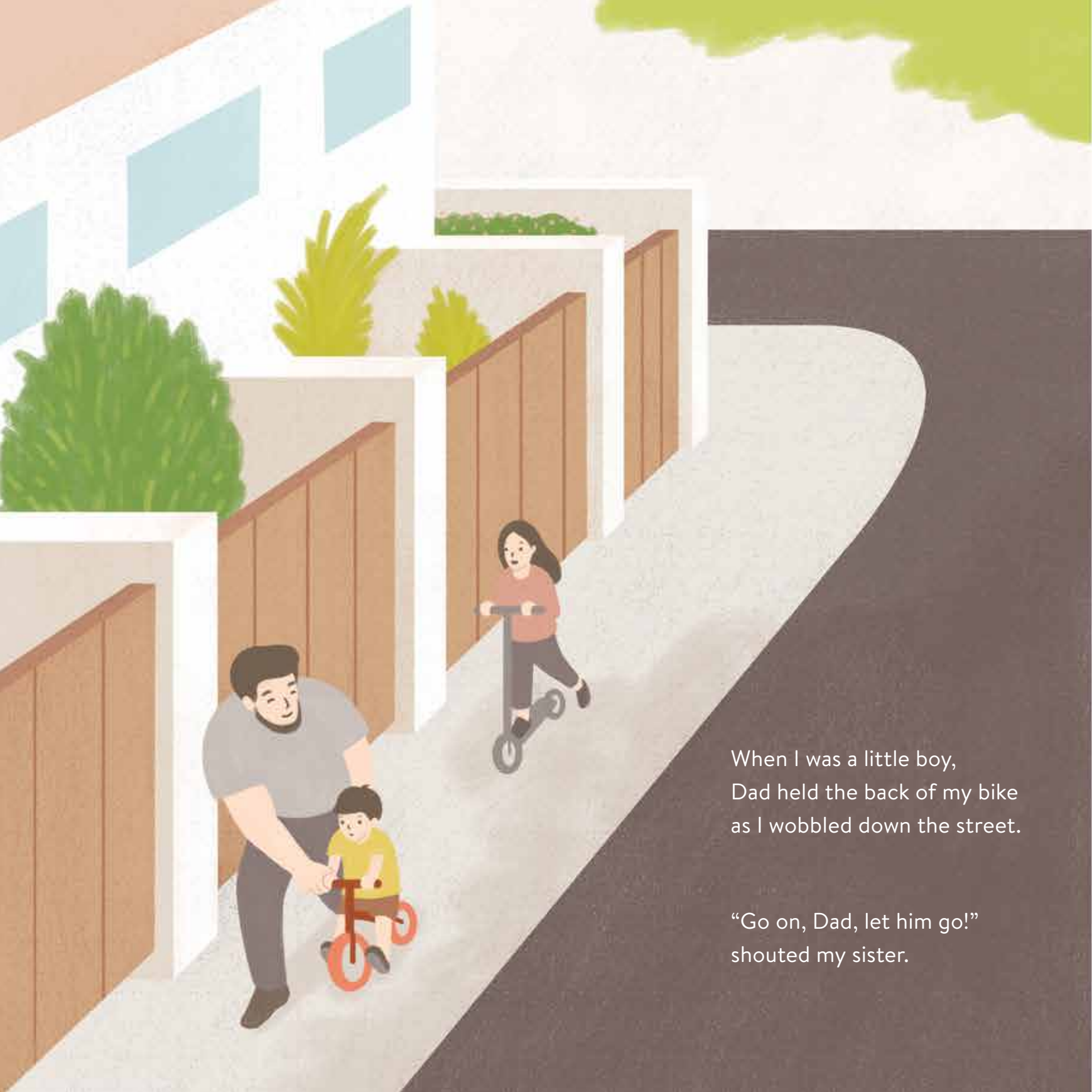
When I was a baby,
Dad rocked me gently like a breeze
until everything was quiet.



“You can put him down you know,”
laughed Mum.



And Dad smiled at me and whispered,
“Not yet, baby boy, not yet.”



When I was a little boy,
Dad held the back of my bike
as I wobbled down the street.

“Go on, Dad, let him go!”
shouted my sister.



And Dad winked at me and whispered,
“Not yet, partner, not yet.”

When I started big school,
Dad stayed and played with me
until I found a friend.

“It’s time for mums and dads to go now,”
announced the teacher.



And Dad poked my side and whispered,
“Not yet, buddy, not yet.”





Today, we hid under the blanket and talked about anything and everything.

When Mum shouted for me to have my bath, Dad picked me up and held me close until the day went quiet.

It was just like before, my dad and me.

“I’d better go,” I said.

And Dad looked me straight in the eye and whispered...



“Not yet, son, not yet.”

Partner.

Buddy.

Champ.

Little man.

My dad has a thousand special names just for me.

But what happens when the special bond between
a father and son is put to the test?

From the author of *The Silence Seeker*—praised as “poignant” by
Publishers Weekly—comes a new story about a child’s capacity to
understand, empathise and love.

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