



a tiny space

FIFI COO & FAMILY



by Ethos Books

a tiny space

fifi coo & family*

*That's Papa, Mummy, Diamond, Ramona, and Ruth.

orbit #001

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To protect the family's privacy, their names have been changed.

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*“One lesson I have learnt is how wonderful it is
to really finally be able to openly voice my thoughts...”*

9 May 2016

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Outside

Mummy Did you not like that little girl at the playground?

fifi Yes.

Mummy She was trying to get your attention.

fifi Yes.

Mummy She couldn't get your attention so did you notice how she started copying you? She tried to tap the way you do.

fifi Yes.

Mummy Why were you upset then?

fifi Her mummy didn't like her copying me.

Mummy I see. But her mummy didn't say that. Her mummy praised her for playing with you before they left.

fifi She shouldn't have done that.

Mummy Why not?

fifi She was praising her for being kind to me, because she knows I am disabled.

Mummy I see. Is that why you started crying? Are you upset because you have a disability?

fifi No. One shouldn't be praised for being kind. Kindness is for everyone, not only those who are disabled. I heard inside the little girl's heart. She was not trying to be kind because of my disability. I heard loneliness in her heart. She only wanted a friend to play with.

27 April 2016

No person will ever comprehend,
how hard it is when I hardly feel my hands.
You won't understand
why we sit for hours just sifting sand.
I only want to play in such a way,
to awaken my senses, it sometimes takes all day.
I need help, I need to be consoled,
trapped in a body I cannot control.

17 February 2016

Walking pleases my senses,
in ways many fail to understand.
Love and acceptance will help you comprehend,
that play only works in our own time, at our own pace.

Diamond: fifi's first beach outing

When fifi was very little, he disliked certain textures on his feet. Blades of grass were immensely uncomfortable for him, and he would curl his feet away from such sensations. Ramona and I one day decided that the perfect place for fifi was: the beach. It married his love for water and his discomfort with icky feet textures, and I was curious about how he would deal with this dilemma. We brought fifi to Pasir Ris beach, and packed a box of his favourite ginger biscuits and ribena. fifi was very excited when we arrived at the beach. He laughed and smiled and could not wait to reach the water. Running forward, I remember him stopping short for a moment, just as his feet touched the sand. He jumped up and down slightly, feet treading in and out of the grains for a while. I was curious about what he felt beneath his feet, and was imagining him thinking through his dilemma: to move forward towards the water, or to turn back towards his sisters? After just a few seconds, and armed with a cheeky grin, he let out a laugh and sprang forward. I watched as he skipped through the sand, cautiously at first, then picking up speed as he raced into the waves. I was so proud of him!

Others in the series

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