

BOXER BABY

BATTLES BEDTIME!

BY MIA WENJEN

ILLUSTRATED BY KAI GIETZEN

*“Float like a butterfly,
sting like a bee.
The hands can’t hit
what the eyes can’t see.”*

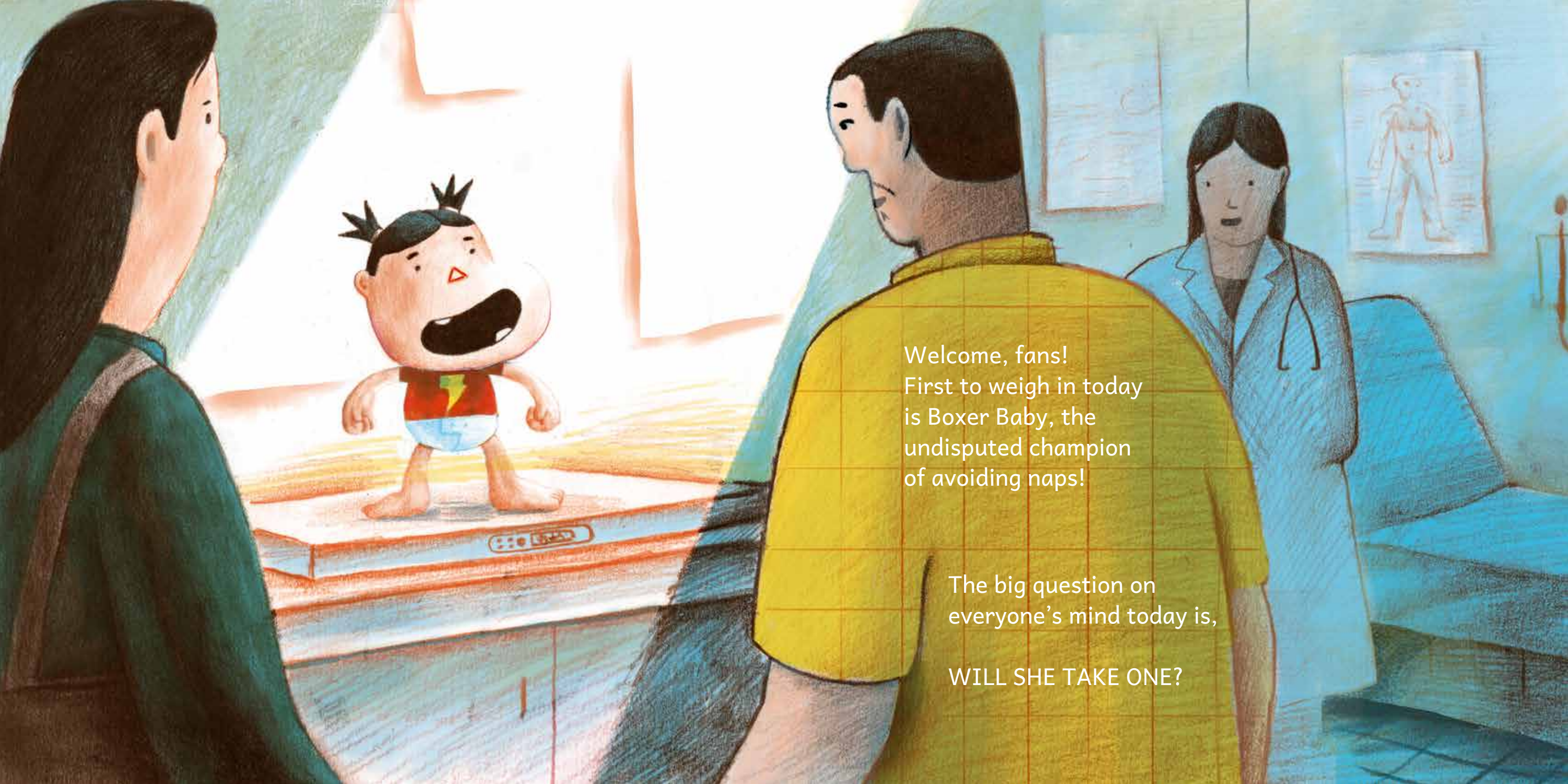
~ Muhammad Ali



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Welcome, fans!
First to weigh in today
is Boxer Baby, the
undisputed champion
of avoiding naps!

The big question on
everyone's mind today is,
WILL SHE TAKE ONE?

And now,
entering on her
own two feet...

Boxer Baby!





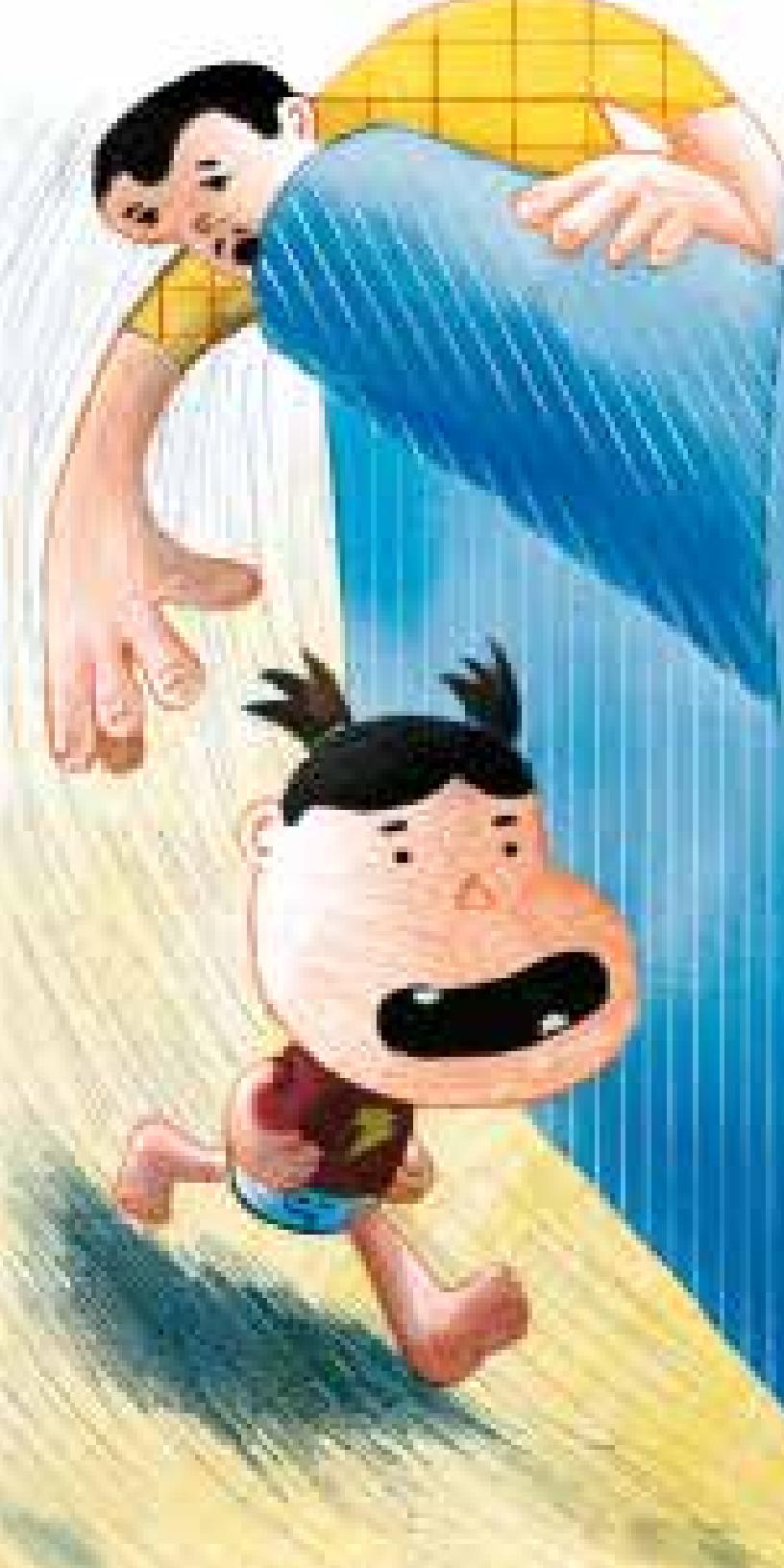
In the red corner...

In the blue corner,
Dad realizes it's way past
Boxer Baby's naptime.

“Make sure she naps,”
says Mom.

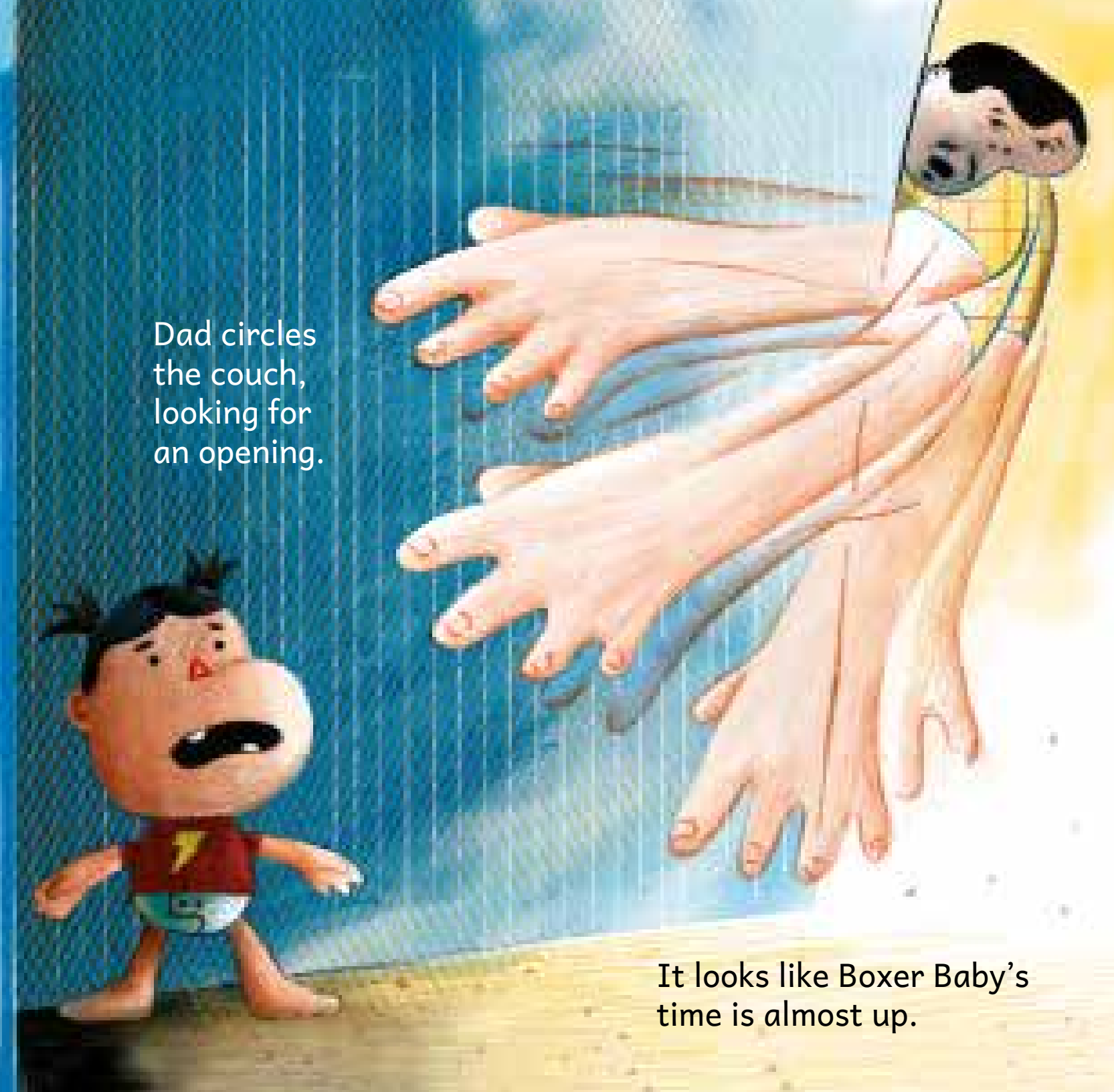
It's up to Dad to get Boxer Baby
down for the count!





It's nap time
for Boxer Baby.

Dad chases
after her,
but she ducks
behind the sofa.



Dad circles
the couch,
looking for
an opening.

It looks like Boxer Baby's
time is almost up.

But wait!

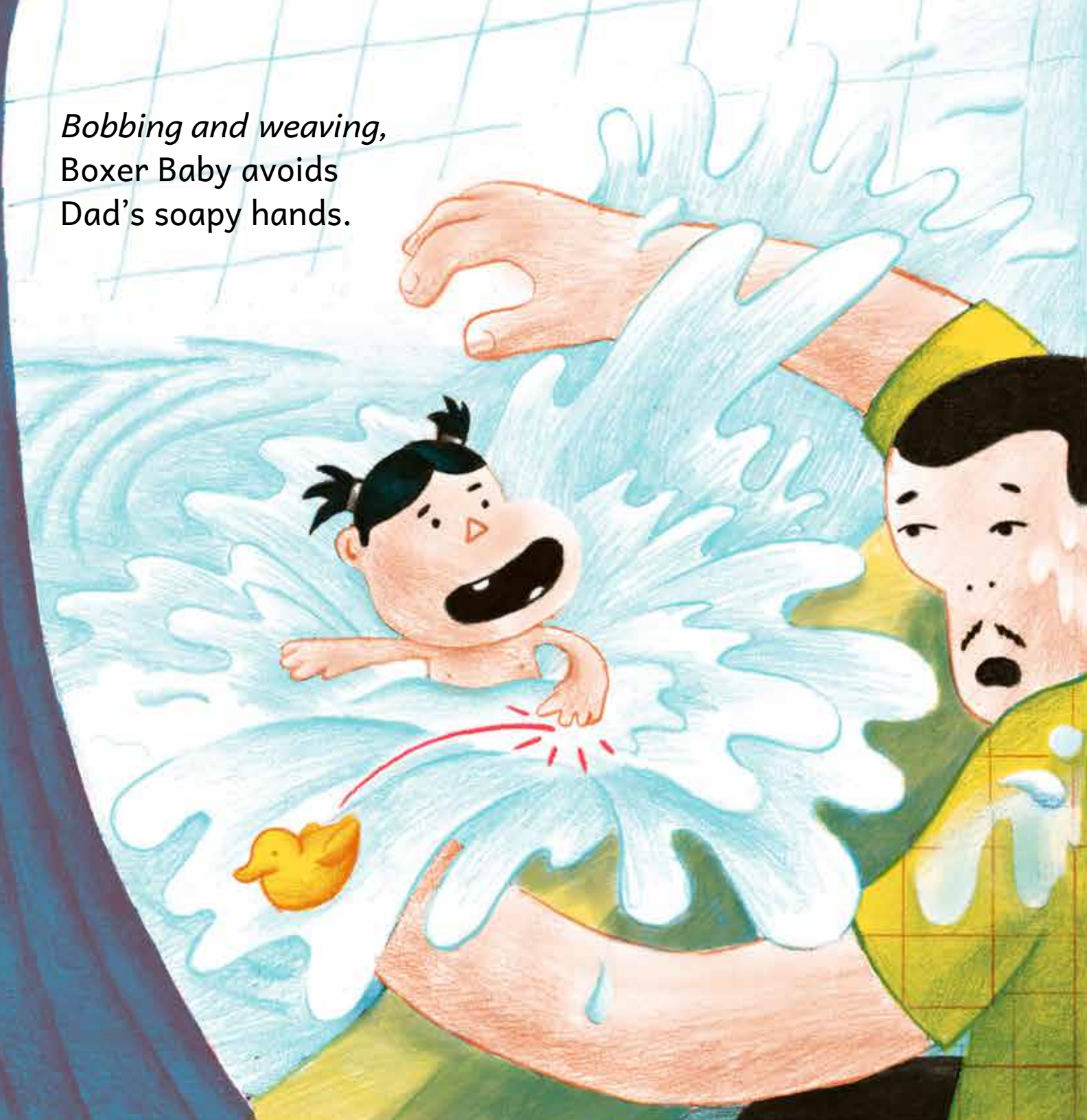
Is that a foul *below the belt*?

Yes! It's a colossal poo.

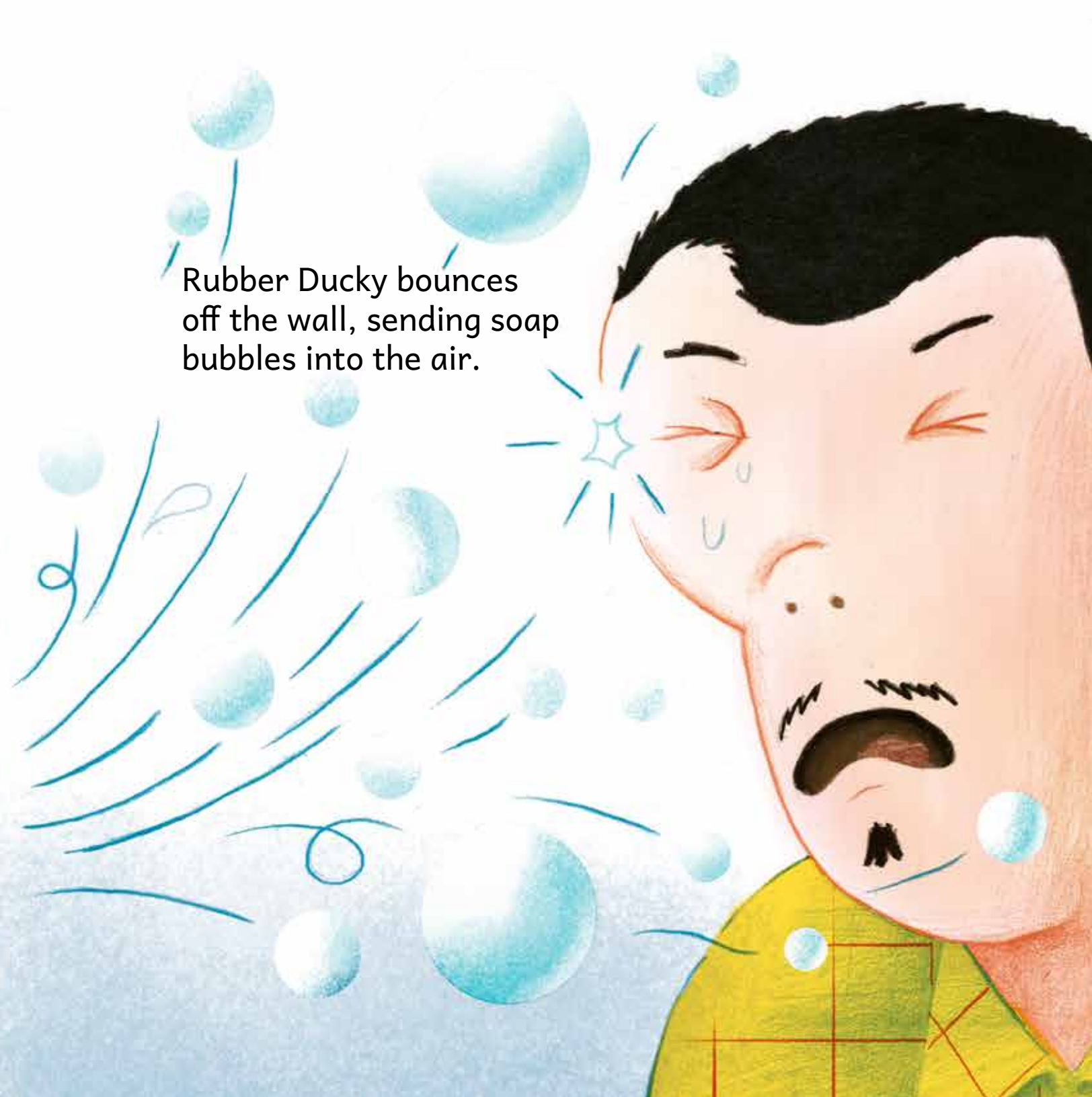
This poo is too big for
a diaper change.



*Bobbing and weaving,
Boxer Baby avoids
Dad's soapy hands.*



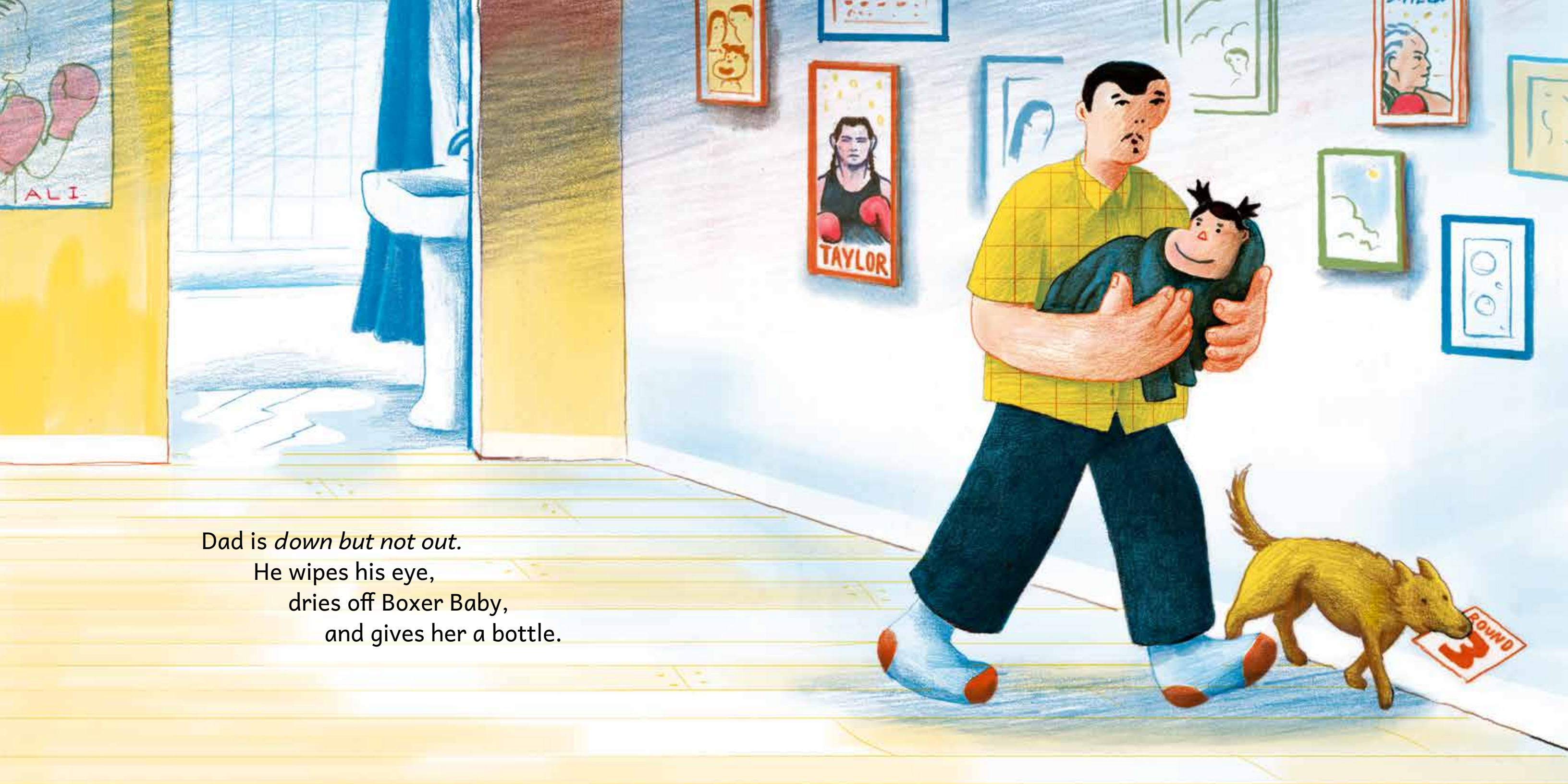
Rubber Ducky bounces
off the wall, sending soap
bubbles into the air.



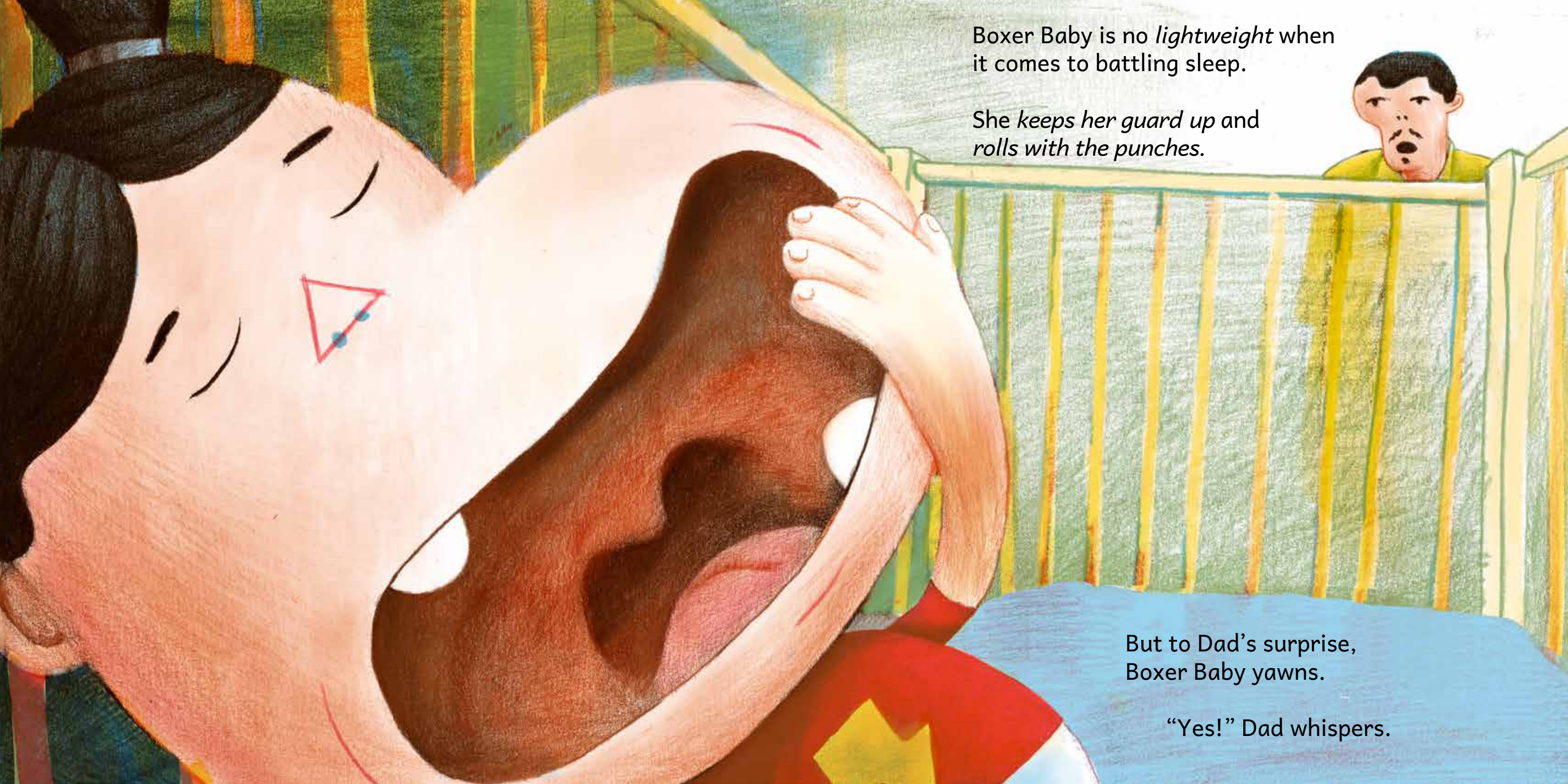


Will Boxer Baby win by *TKO*?

What's this?!
Is that a tear falling
from Dad's eye?



Dad is *down but not out*.
He wipes his eye,
dries off Boxer Baby,
and gives her a bottle.



Boxer Baby is no *lightweight* when it comes to battling sleep.

She *keeps her guard up* and *rolls with the punches*.

But to Dad's surprise, Boxer Baby yawns.

"Yes!" Dad whispers.

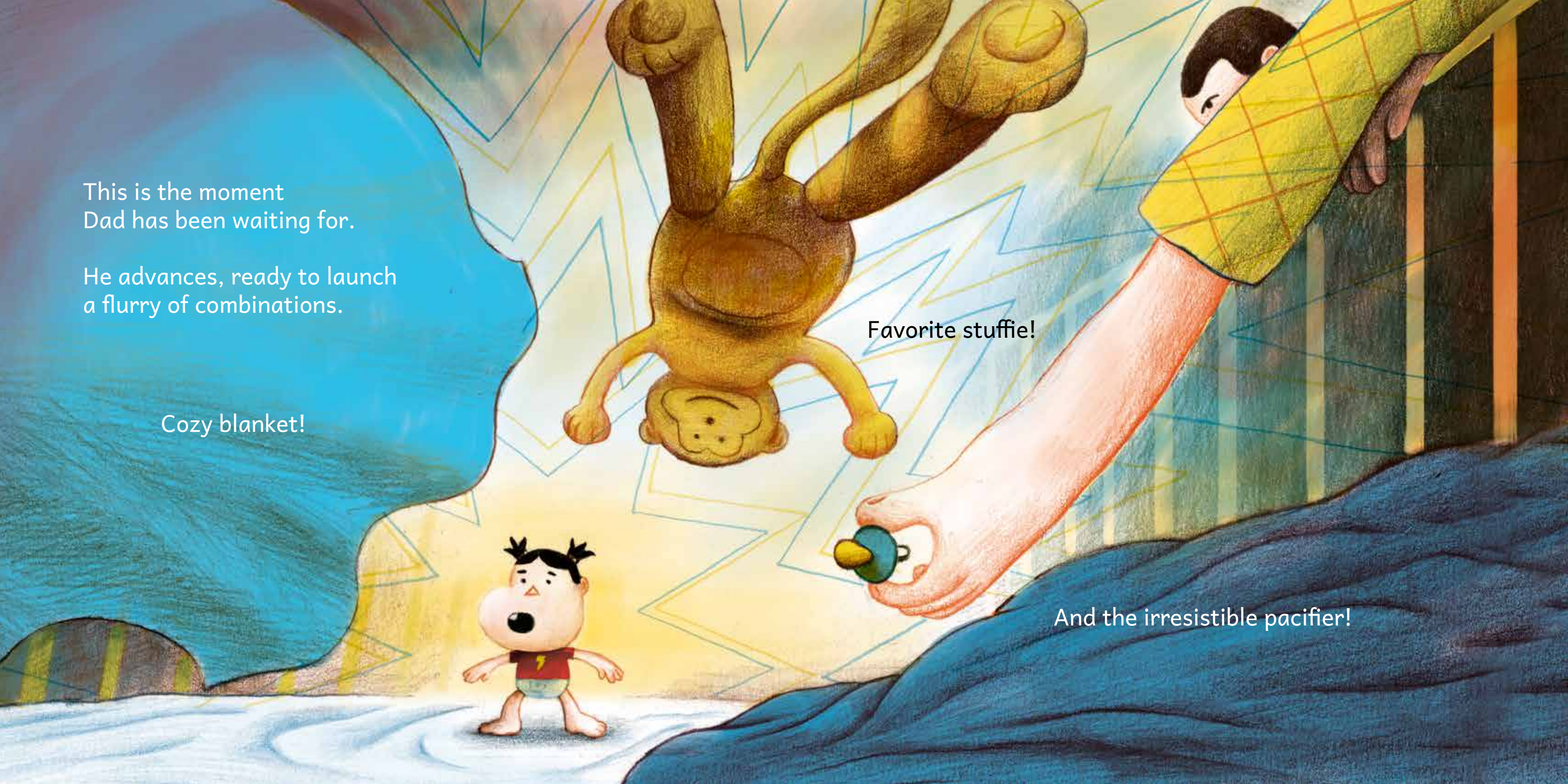
This is the moment
Dad has been waiting for.

He advances, ready to launch
a flurry of combinations.

Cozy blanket!

Favorite stuffie!

And the irresistible pacifier!

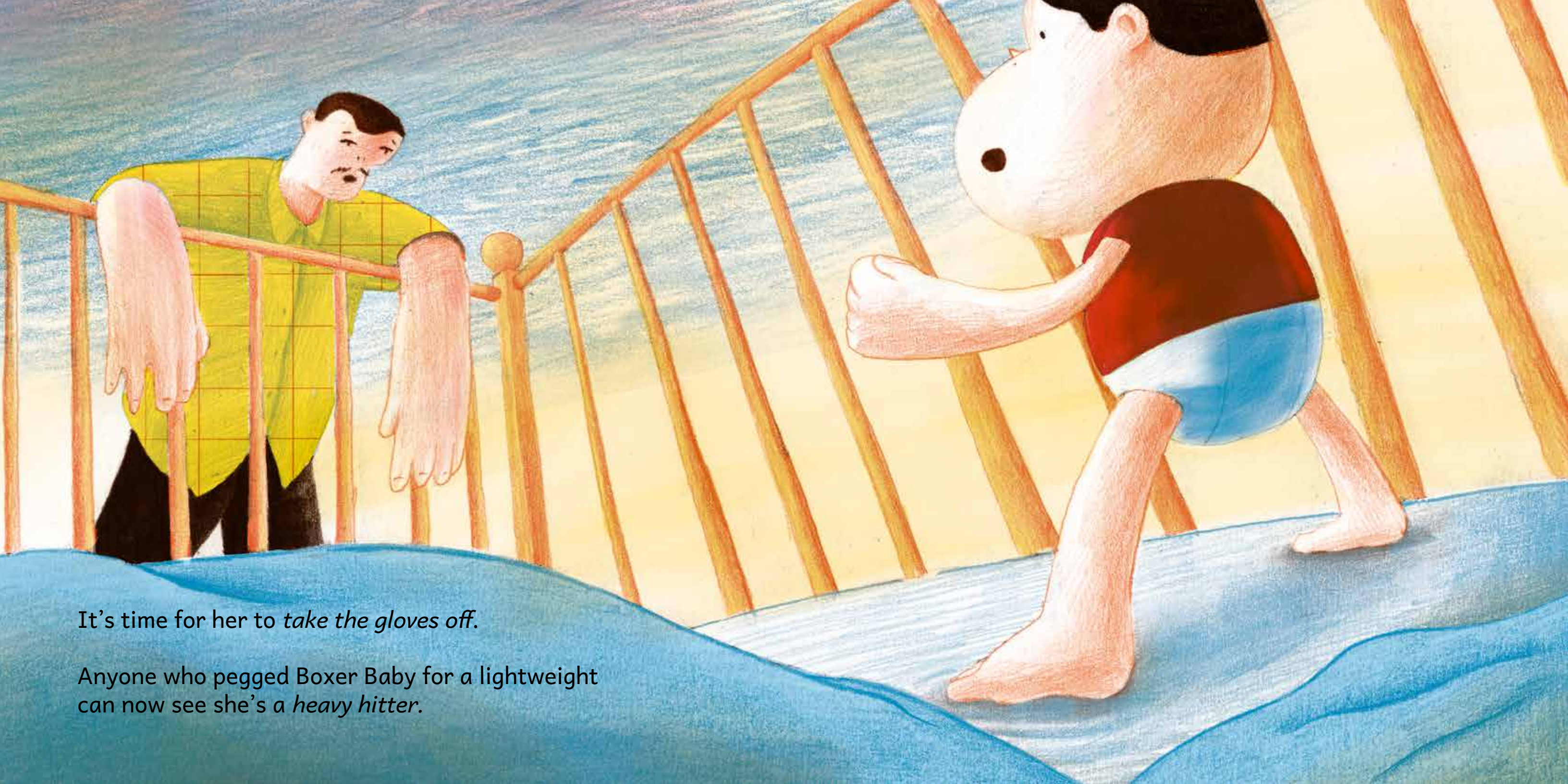


Sleep moves in with a **one-two** attack.
Boxer Baby's eyelids flutter and droop.

*Up against the ropes,
Boxer Baby shakes it off.*



*She's not ready to
throw in the towel yet.*



It's time for her to *take the gloves off*.

Anyone who pegged Boxer Baby for a lightweight can now see she's a *heavy hitter*.

It's unanimous.
There will be no nap today.

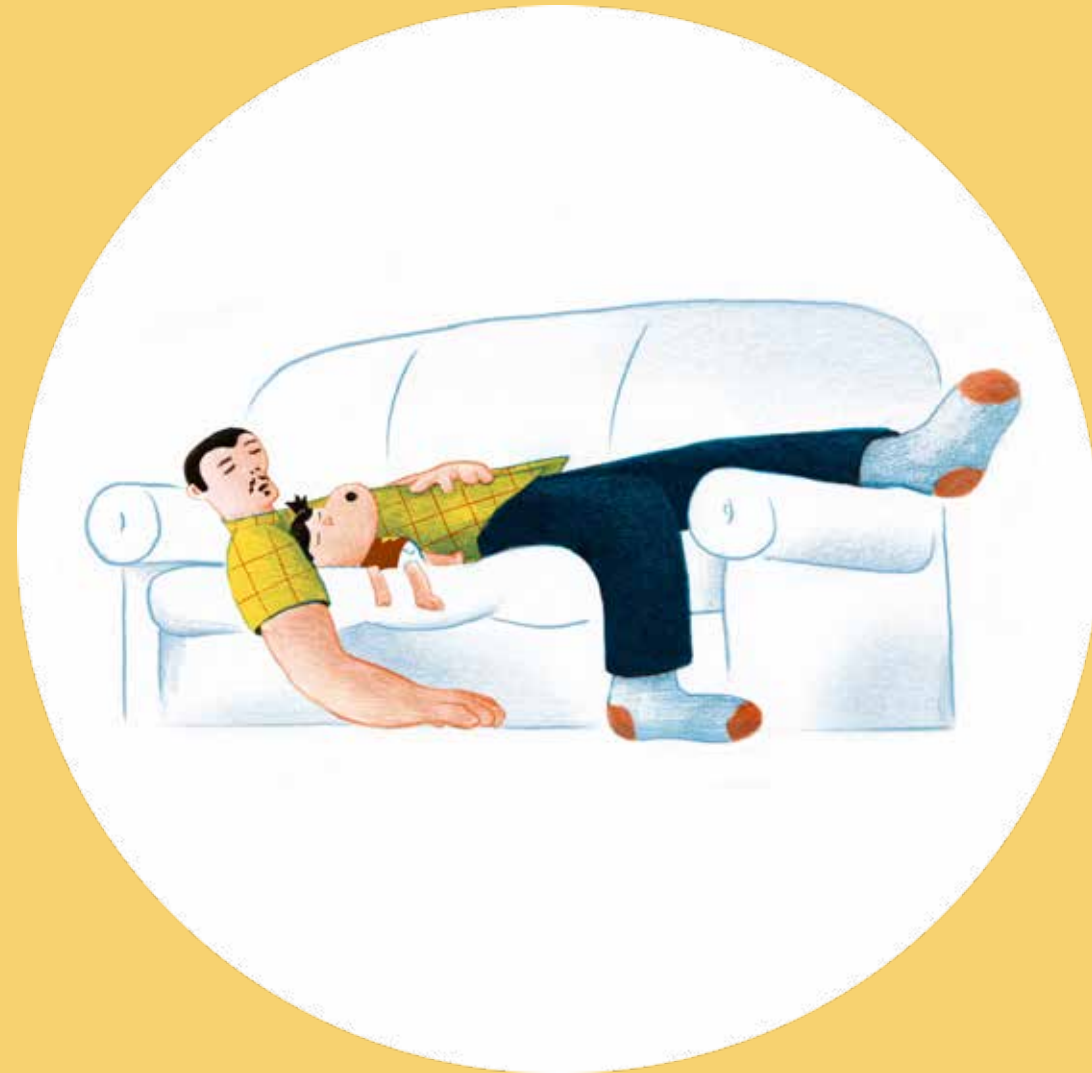
Boxer Baby is the winner!



Dad wants a rematch.



Glossary



Down for the count:

a boxer who is unable to resume fighting after the referee's count of ten

Idiom: defeated

Below the belt:

an illegal blow below the waist

Idiom: to do something unfair

Bobbing and weaving:

a series of movements to dodge punches

Idiom: repeatedly avoiding dealing with a situation

TKO:

total knock out

Idiom: a decisive blow

Down but not out:

a boxer who is knocked down but not for the count

Idiom: struggling to survive

Lightweight:

a weight class in boxing weighing under 135 pounds

Idiom: someone insignificant

Keep your guard up:

holding your hands in a defensive position

Idiom: be cautious and alert

Roll with the punches:

a defensive maneuver to receive blows and partially deflect them

Idiom: be flexible

Bobbing and weaving:

slipping and ducking punches

Idiom: avoidance, evasiveness

One-two:

a punch combination of a jab followed by a cross

Idiom: a sequence of two impactful things

Up against the ropes:

pushed back to the ropes in a defensive position by your opponent

Idiom: in trouble

Throw in the towel:

indicating surrender by throwing a towel into the ring

Idiom: to quit in defeat

Take the gloves off: boxing without gloves

Idiom: without mercy

Heavy hitter: someone who hits particularly hard

Idiom: a person of influence



A Note from the Author

When I started boxing in 2012, I realized how many boxing terms are part of everyday language, though people might not realize the origins. The father in **Boxer Baby** was inspired by Filipino-American boxer, Nonito “The Filipino Flash” Donaire, a champion both in the ring and as a hands-on dad.

I was also inspired by female boxers: Leila Ali, a pioneer in the sport of women’s boxing and one of the greatest female boxers of all time; Clarissa Shields, the first woman to win a gold medal in Olympic boxing and raises awareness of the Flint water crisis by dying her hair blue, the color of clean water; and Katie Taylor, an Olympic champion who holds all four major world titles in boxing. I had the great pleasure of meeting Katie at my boxing gym. Finally, this is my ode to stay-at-home dads!

~M.W.



About the Artist

Kai Gietzen is an award winning artist and illustrator based in Providence, RI. **Boxer Baby** is his debut children’s book since graduating from the Rhode Island School of Design in 2022 and provided a wide range of emotions to illustrate, from action packed face-offs to tender moments between family.

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The illustration shows a man in a yellow shirt with a grid pattern peeking over a blue blanket. A large, stylized hand is holding a blue and yellow pacifier. The background is a light blue and yellow grid pattern.

Mom is counting on
Dad to get Boxer Baby
down for her nap, but
Boxer Baby is the G.O.A.T.
of sleep avoidance. This
hilarious face-off mimics a
three-round boxing match,
as Boxer Baby is no lightweight
when it comes to staying awake.
Dad has a few tricks up his
sleeve, but will it be enough
in this epic battle against
naptime?