

CHARACTER  BUILDERS
Patriotism

This book is a gift for:

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from:

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for:

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Justyna D. Waclawik

True Patriotism

Parental Guidelines by Dorothy Krempf

Illustrations by Jakub Kuźma

I dedicate this book first and foremost to the active duty soldiers and veterans of the United States of America and Poland as well as all those who work for the Kingdom of Heaven.

I also dedicate this book to the families of these people and their friends who actively support them. I pray the Most High will protect you, guide you, help you and support you in your time of need. God bless you all.



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*I*t was springtime high up in the mountains, the clearing was merging with the sky on the horizon. On top of that mountain, there was a small, cosy home, where the very old Mr. and Mrs. Owl lived. As every spring, they had guests — their grandson and granddaughter. During their visits, old Mr. Owl would take his grandkids for a hike around the mountains and teach them about nature. Sometimes, during the evenings, they would start a campfire. This evening however, old Mr. Owl lit up the furnace.

“Come here, children,” he called out to his grandkids.

Old Mrs. Owl was in the kitchen looking at the cookies she had made with the kids and contemplating making her famous hot chocolate.

“What is going on, Grandpa?” asked the Little Owl.

“Where is your brother? I would like to sit down with both of you and tell you a story.”

“I’m here,” said the Little Owl’s elder brother.



“Come, sit down on my lap, Little Owl. And you, young man, sit down next to me. Like I said, I would like to tell a story. Young Owl,” said old Mr. Owl, “You talk a lot with your friends. You have mentioned you like to play being soldiers.”

“That’s right!”

“Tell me, young man, what is the purpose of being a soldier?”

“To fight for your own country!” the Young Owl shouted out eagerly.

“Good! And you, Little Owl, what do you think, why do we need soldiers?”

“So they can protect us,” quietly said the Little Owl.

“You are right, children. However, being a soldier means more than just that. Being a soldier is to be a patriot.”

“What does ‘patriot’ mean, Grandpa?” asked the Little Owl.

The old Mr. Owl smiled at his granddaughter and said, “I will tell you a story.”



*I*t was a terrifying time of war in the beautiful country where animals of all kinds lived. An army of vultures and skunks launched an attack. It happened all of a sudden, without any warning. The first bomb fell on a warm, sunny, quiet day.

“Our wonderful country!” the King Eagle thought to himself as he flew over the valley covered with forest and lakes. “It is our duty to take care of this country like our mothers took care of us and like our fathers and ancestors did. We’ve been through a lot together and we had to overcome many issues and like any society, we need forgiveness. However now, the time for unity has come.”



The King Eagle, the wise monarch of this country, arrived at the village where all kinds of animals gathered for an emergency meeting concerning the situation.

“Oh King!” shouted General Royal Cobra. “We have been waiting for you! Our spies just came back from the battlefield with news. You will find all the information about our situation in the folder.”

“Thank you” said the King Eagle taking the red folder from the Royal Cobra. “What is the situation of civilians in the place of the attack?”

“Wounded and in need of urgent medical help.”

“Did you take care of that?”

“Yes, I did. All the wounded have been transported to the hospital and are under medical care. Unfortunately, there are still many animals trapped under the ruins. The rescue team is working on setting them free. We are trying to avoid panic among the civilians.”



“Captain, what are the orders in case of another bomb falling?” a Territorial Force soldier asked.

“It is forbidden to disclose any information without my permission first. We must not escalate panic.”

“Understood.”

“Now, give me the phone so I can call the enemy’s commander, the Master of Destruction.”

“Sir, he is nowhere to be found”

“Coward. What kind of chief gives orders and then hides. The true leader always stands by his soldiers, always in the lead.”

General Royal Cobra smiled standing up straight with his head up high. He was proud of his leader. He knew that the King Eagle would stand for what he believed and would not hide in time of need.

“Call our animals to fight!” said the King.



*I*n the meantime, about 100 miles from where the bomb fell, a Little Boy was running to the playground.

“Did you hear that?” he shouted to his friends.

“Yes! They are trying to kill us. I cannot believe it is happening again. It’s horrible!” one of the friends shouted back.

“We have to do something. We cannot just stand here,” said the Little Boy.

“And what do you want to do? You don’t know what you’re talking about.”

“Yes I do. Don’t you remember what our parents have taught us?”

Everyone looked at them both. They grew up together and argued a lot. Though they could not come to an agreement in certain subjects, there was nothing they wouldn’t do for each other.

One of the Little Boy’s friends shouted, “Stop it, both of you. It’s not the time to fight each other. We are all under attack.”

“We have to go and do something. Let’s go to the front! That’s where the action is.” said the Little Boy.

“Maybe it’s just a game and we are really not in danger?” someone shouted.

“I vote for going. Our country needs us!” said the Little Boy.

“We are going as well,” some other boys said.

“When are we leaving?”

“Now.”

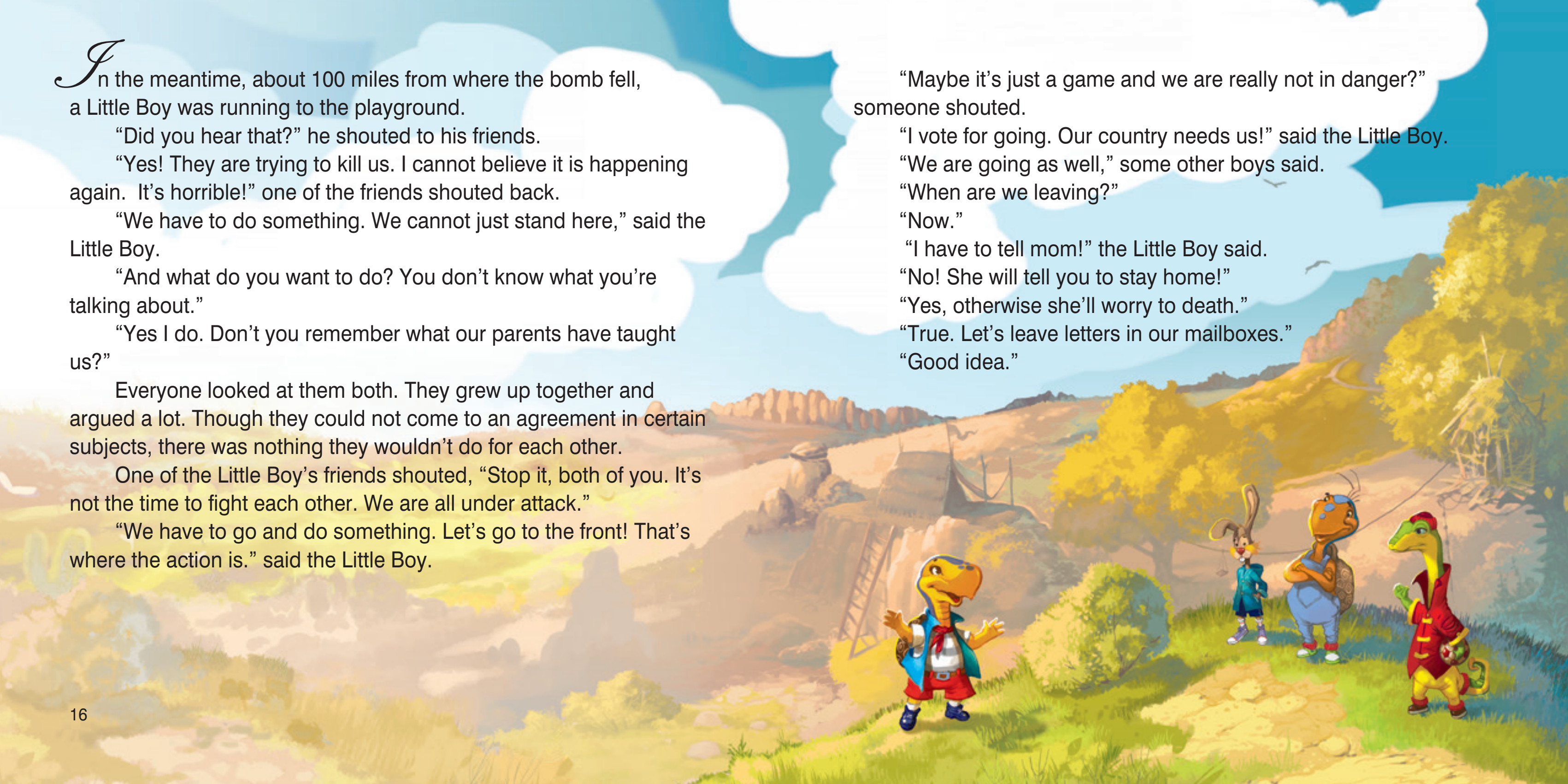
“I have to tell mom!” the Little Boy said.

“No! She will tell you to stay home!”

“Yes, otherwise she’ll worry to death.”

“True. Let’s leave letters in our mailboxes.”

“Good idea.”



The boys went to their homes to leave letters in their mailboxes explaining why they disappeared.

“What is it?” asked a little girl seeing her older brother putting something inside the mailbox.

“A letter, but don’t tell anybody!”

“What do you mean?”

“Sister, I am going to fight for our country and mom cannot know about it until after I leave.”

“No!” The little girl started to cry. “You cannot leave us! You are the only man in the house. What are we going to do without you?”

“Sis, what will happen to our home if the enemy comes over here? We will not have a place to live. That is, if we survive. I am doing it for you, too. We cannot allow the enemy to come close to our homes!”

The little girl hugged her brother tightly.

The brother kissed her forehead tenderly and turned away. Tears rolled down his cheek, and for the first time he felt fear and sadness.



“Alright. I think we are all together. Time to go. We have a long road ahead of us,” said the Little Turtle looking straight in his friends’ eyes.

“Let’s go,” said his half-brother.

The animals set out on their journey. Approaching the place of the bomb explosion, they saw the immensity of destruction. Shattered trees and nests with hatchlings were lying all over the ground. Burrows were destroyed and lots of animals were killed. Others were standing, terrified not understanding what was happening. One could hear the chirrup of flying birds and the screams of scared animals:

“What are we supposed to do? Where are we going to live?”



All of a sudden, an army of flying birds started to shout: “They’re coming! They’re coming!” The scared animals understood that the army of the enemy was coming closer and closer. Some of the animals started to run away. Others decided to stay and fight for their territory.

When King Eagle got the report about the enemy’s attack, he ordered General Royal Cobra and his large army to attack the enemy. The battle began.

The newly arrived boys decided to stay and support the troops. They screamed: “We will never give away our country. We have to fight the enemy. It’s our land, our families, our friends. We have homes here, we live here and we’ll stay here!” With no fear for their own lives, they went to the battlefield to meet the enemy.



The battle lasted 7 days. The spies – Gophers – dug new tunnels in order to find out the enemy’s plans. Hidden snipers watched over and protected the hospital and the civilian population. The rumble of the artillery fire continued. The army of the enemy was surprised by the animals’ bravery and started to grow weak. It gave new strength to the boys, who were tired, still they kept on fighting. All of a sudden, they saw one of their friends – the little Bunny – wounded and their determination only grew. It got them angry.

“We will not give up! We will not give up!” they shouted.

They took their wounded friend to the hospital where the paramedics took care of him with utmost care.



General Royal Cobra sent a report to King Eagle “We are winning. The enemy has started to back away.” King Eagle departed to the battlefield. Another country decided to help the King and his brave army. The army of Skunks and Vultures ran away, terrified at the sight of the allied reinforcements. Peace set in. The animals from the neighboring country stayed to help to rebuild the damage.

King Eagle awarded medals to the brave soldiers and everyone else who had fought. The youngest soldier, the Little Boy, got the special medal of honor for his bravery in defense of his own country. Every heart was filled with great joy. All went back to their families where they were cheerfully welcomed by their parents and friends. King Eagle flew to the country of the other king, who had supported him in the battle. He showed his gratitude by honoring him with a special gold medallion of friendship between the two countries.



“Grandpa!” said the Little Owl. “Are you the one who was the youngest soldier in the army?”

“Yes, it was me.”

“Grandpa, does it mean a patriot is one who loves his country and fights along side others to protect the homes of his family and friends?” asked the Young Owl.

“Yes, my grandson. Unfortunately, many soldiers get wounded sometimes even killed, however, they should always be remembered and honored. Patriots are also people who support the country and the soldiers.”

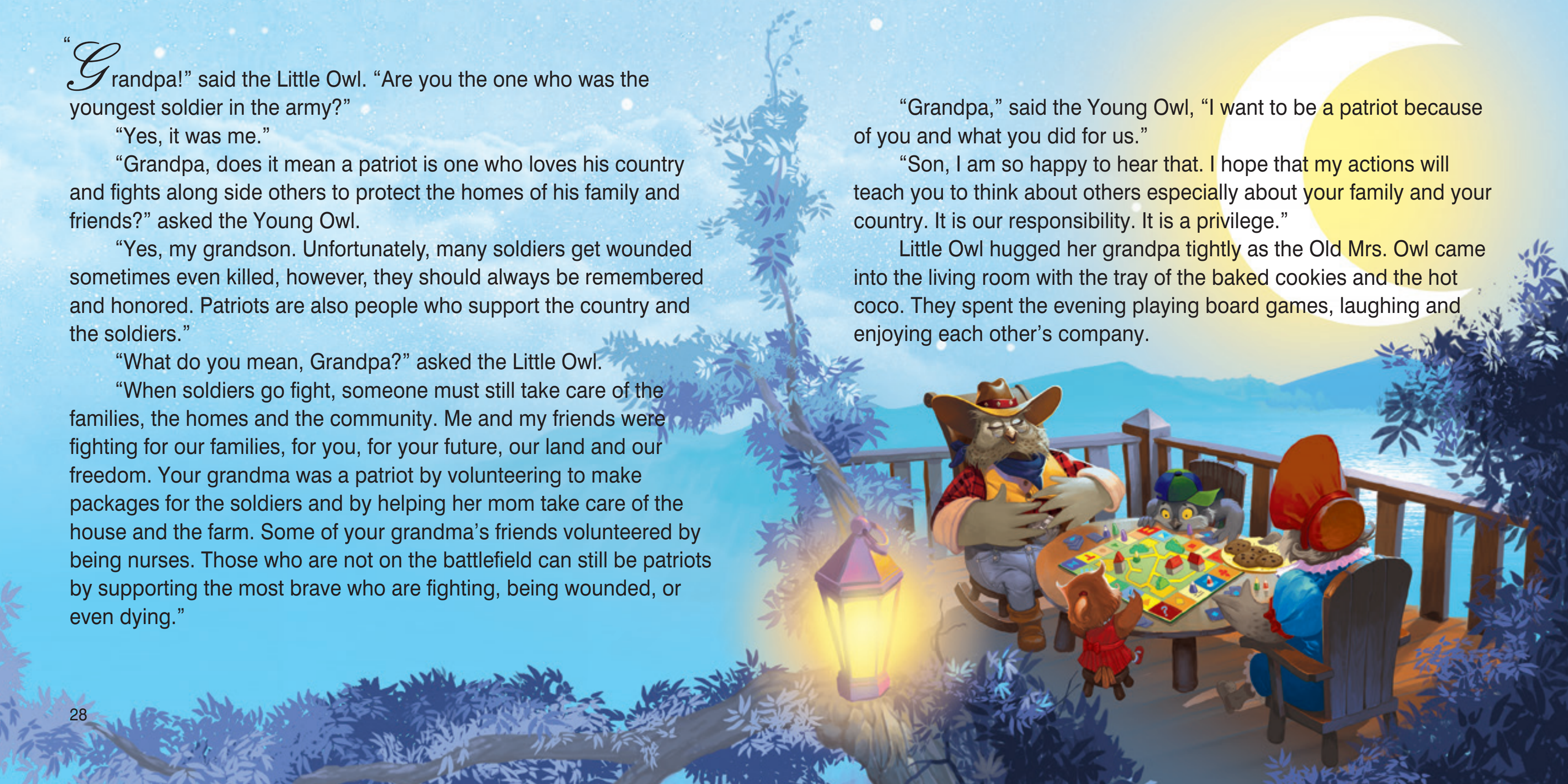
“What do you mean, Grandpa?” asked the Little Owl.

“When soldiers go fight, someone must still take care of the families, the homes and the community. Me and my friends were fighting for our families, for you, for your future, our land and our freedom. Your grandma was a patriot by volunteering to make packages for the soldiers and by helping her mom take care of the house and the farm. Some of your grandma’s friends volunteered by being nurses. Those who are not on the battlefield can still be patriots by supporting the most brave who are fighting, being wounded, or even dying.”

“Grandpa,” said the Young Owl, “I want to be a patriot because of you and what you did for us.”

“Son, I am so happy to hear that. I hope that my actions will teach you to think about others especially about your family and your country. It is our responsibility. It is a privilege.”

Little Owl hugged her grandpa tightly as the Old Mrs. Owl came into the living room with the tray of the baked cookies and the hot coco. They spent the evening playing board games, laughing and enjoying each other’s company.



PARENTAL GUIDELINES

Before picking up this book for your child, what were your thoughts about patriotism? If you are like I was as a young mom, patriotism meant 4th of July, Veteran's Day and Memorial Day were for parades, picnics, and fun with the family.

When the Lord called my husband and me to minister to those undergoing persecution for their faith in Christ, I began to value our religious freedoms much more. The more time I spent with people living under Communism, the more I appreciated our country, even with all its faults and shortcomings.

I began to think about what a patriot is – according to the dictionary it is “a person who loves, supports and defends his country and its interests”. Patriotism is “devoted love, support and defense of one's country; national loyalty”.

As a Christian, I knew my first loyalty was to God and then my country. I had to ask myself “Am I a patriot?” and if so, “How does that affect my life?”.

As I researched the founding of our country, I saw: God had a plan for our nation; the first settlers came to America looking for religious freedom; and our nation was founded on the principles of the Bible. I also realized that God has used our nation to send missionaries around the world with the message of salvation, often called The Good News.

In Matthew 26:36-46, we have the account of Jesus in His time of agony in the Garden of Gethsemane. He has asked His closest friends to watch and pray with Him. But they were so overcome with both grief and exhaustion that they fell asleep.

This story reminded me of what has happened to us as a nation. After World War II, it seems the church, as a whole, fell asleep and didn't pay attention to the crafty things the evil one, Satan, was doing to drag our country away from its Biblical foundation. The church stopped being patriots and the spiritual warriors that we are called to be. We were lulled into a spiritual sleep.

While the church slept, Satan influenced people to: take prayer and the Ten Commandments out of our schools/government buildings; disrespect our flag; stop using the phrases “In God we trust” or “One nation under God” ; condone the killing of the unborn; mock those who stand up and fight for the truth of God's Word; blur the lines of distinction between males and females; change the narrative of the history regarding the founding of our nation in schools; and remove the message of the cross and even the centrality of the Bible in some churches.

God is calling us to be patriots and spiritual warriors again! It is time to stand up and fight for the truth and the heritage of our country. How can you do that with your children?

There are organizations such as Children of the American Revolution that will help you and your children learn to value our country. You can join with your children in a project called Wreaths Across America, which put wreaths on the graves of our veterans. Study our Constitution and Bill of Rights with your children. You will find many more ideas on teaching patriotism online. But most importantly, pray for our nation and its leaders with your children.

Dorothy Krempf

Wife, mother, and grandmother

Co-founder of Persecuted Church Commission

Member of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution

Bible teacher and conference speaker

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR YOU AND YOUR CHILDREN

- 1. Which animal in the book do you like most? Why?**
- 2. Was the King Eagle a wise ruler? Why do you think so? Would you follow such a ruler?**
Proverbs 20:26 “A wise king scatters the wicked like wheat, then runs his threshing wheel over them.”
- 3. Why did the King call an emergency meeting?**
Proverbs 12:20 “Deceit fills hearts that are plotting evil; joy fills hearts that are planning peace!”
Proverbs 15:22 “Plans go wrong for lack of advice; many advisers bring success.”
Proverbs 24:6 “So don't go to war without wise guidance; victory depends on having many advisers.”
- 4. Was the Master of Disaster a good leader? Why or why not?**
Proverbs 28:15 “A wicked ruler is as dangerous to the poor as a roaring lion or an attacking bear.”
Proverbs 29:12 “If a ruler pays attention to liars, all his advisers will be wicked.”
John 16:11 “Judgment will come because the ruler of this world has already been judged.”
- 5. Whom do you consider a good leader in your country? Why do you think so?**
- 6. Would you be terrified if you found yourself in such a situation as the animals in the book? What would you do?**
- 7. Who do we call a national hero?
Is every veteran a national hero?**
- 8. How can we support veterans?**
- 9. Have there ever been patriots in your family? Are there patriots among your family today? Why do you consider them patriots?**



10. What can children do to become wise people and true patriots?

Proverbs 10:1 “The proverbs of Solomon: A wise child brings joy to a father; a foolish child brings grief to a mother.”

Proverbs 13:1 “A wise child accepts a parent’s discipline; a mocker refuses to listen to correction.”

Proverbs 15:20 “Sensible children bring joy to their father; foolish children despise their mother.”

Deuteronomy 5:16 “Honor your father and mother, as the LORD your God commanded you. Then you will live a long, full life in the land the LORD your God is giving you.”

Matthew 5:9 “God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God.”

11. What is the difference between the true patriotism and a falsely conceived one?

12. From the following traits, choose those of a true patriot:

- He loves his country.
- He works in order to take a good care of his family.
- He looks after the vulnerable.
- He always speaks well of his country.
- He cares only for his own good.
- He encourages increasing taxes.
- He incites other nations against his own country.
- He strengthens his country’s international standing.
- He is ready to fight in order to defend his country.
- He is ready to sacrifice his own country for other nations’ interests.
- He tells lies about his country.
- Foreign leaders’ opinions are more important to him than his country’s interests.
- He stirs conflicts in the society.
- He is a good student and he works diligently in order to build his country in the future.
- He tells ugly things about his country and his people.
- He encourages cutting taxes.

13. Who is the KING of kings? Is there anyone more powerful than He?

Isaiah 9:6 “And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

Revelation 19:16 “On his robe at his thigh was written this title: King of all kings and Lord of all lords.”