

I WANT TO BE SUPER!

by Chelsea Bingham
illustrated by Kent Bingham



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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

I Want to Be Super! was written by Chelsea for a college assignment in a Language Arts for Elementary Teachers class at Weber State University in Ogden, Utah. It is Chelsea's first experience writing children's literature and Kent's first time illustrating a children's book. Chelsea wrote the words in just a few hours, and Kent drew all of the illustrations in less than a day (which he would prefer to not do again). They both enjoyed the father-daughter collaboration.

Chelsea grew up reading comic books from her dad's collection, so she has always had a special love for superheroes. Even as a college student, she has been spotted running around town in costume with her superhero team, coming to the aid of civilians by delivering super cookies. She hopes to one day become what she has always wanted to be—a mom and teacher by day and a superhero by night.

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For everyone who's ever wanted to fly.

It was Saturday morning, and there wasn't a peep,
But something in the living room started to creep.



It was Chelsea, a girl in some boots and a cape,
Who was about to attempt a silent escape.



Invisibility was her power in her newest costume.
“Where are you going?” Mom called from out of the room.
“You can see me?” groaned Chelsea, who was very surprised.
“Of course,” said her mom, “but I like your disguise.”



Chelsea was sad her invisibility didn't work.
"I have to find my powers, or I'll just go berserk!"
Then she smiled as she wondered if she had super speed;
So she found her dog, JoJo, who was speedy indeed.



Then she raced him again and again on the grass,
But each time they raced, she came in dead last.



Again she was sad, 'til she thought something great.
She raised her hand, squinted, and stared at a skate.
She moved her hand slowly, but the skate didn't budge,
So back into the house little Chelsea did trudge.



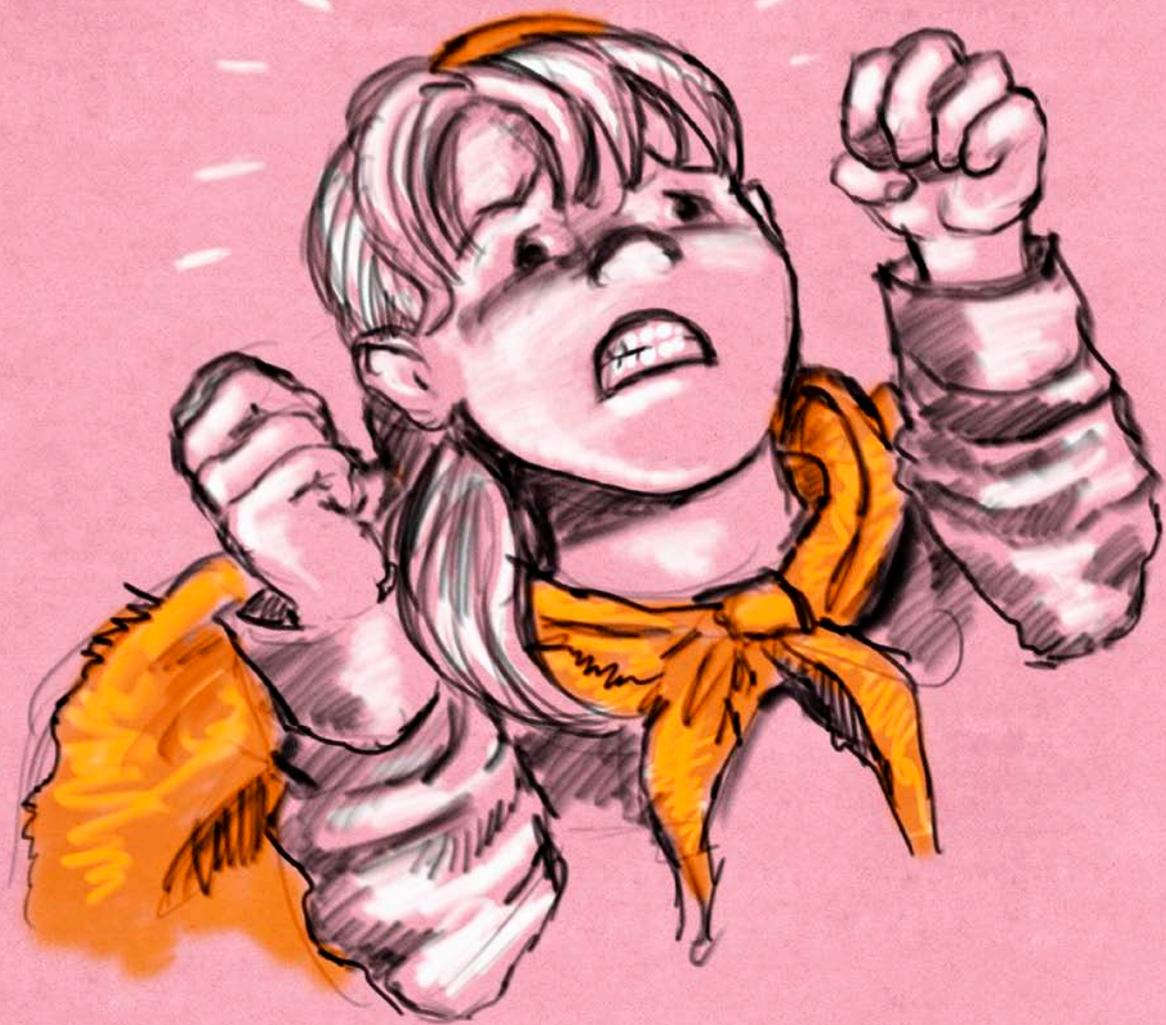
“Up, up, and away!” Chelsea yelled as she leapt from the couch,



But hitting the ground made Chelsea a grouch.



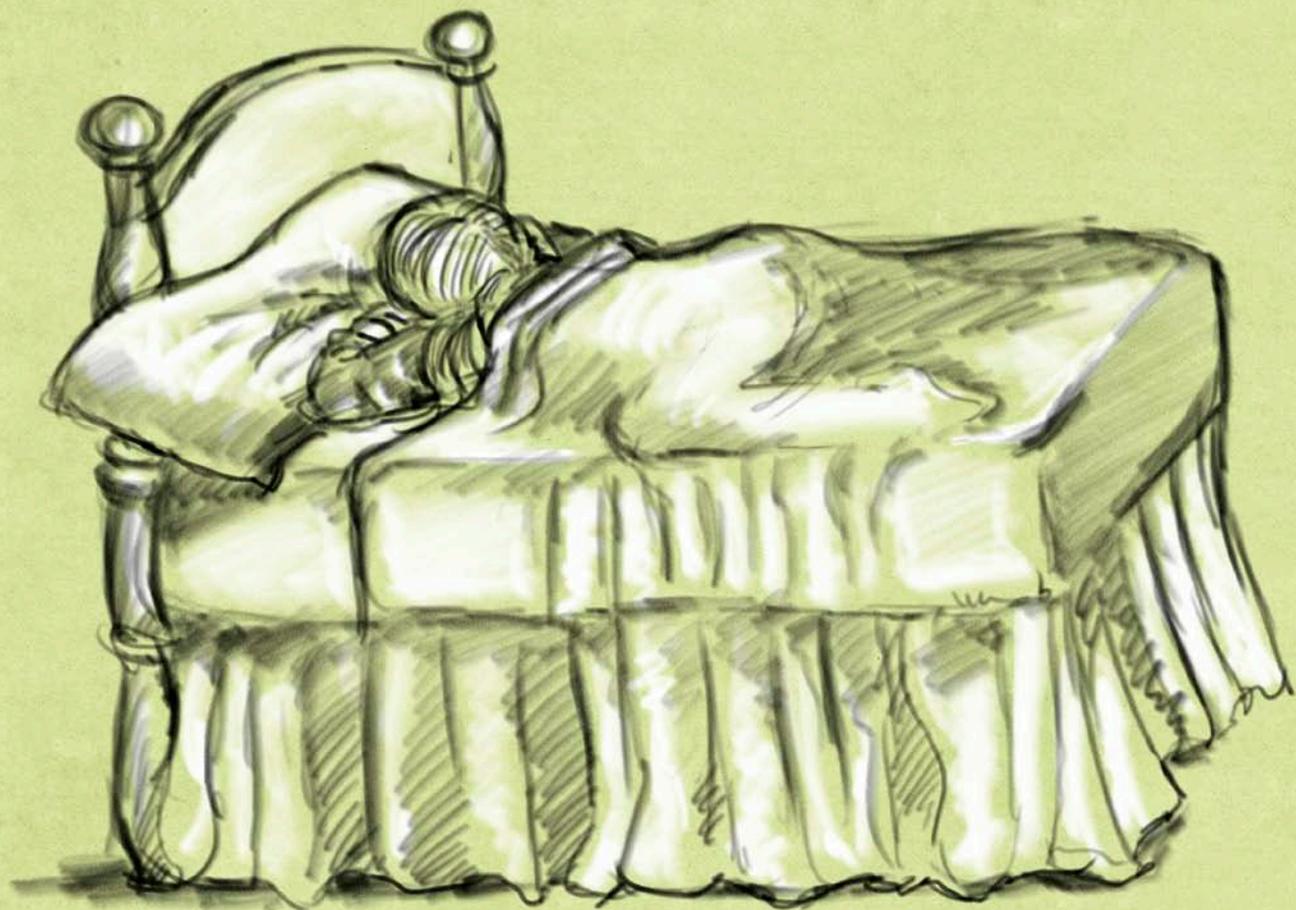
“Arrgh!” she exclaimed. “I just want to fly!
Or use my mind powers to move things nearby!
Or jump over buildings with one single bound!
Or jump off the couch without hitting the ground!”



As tears began to form in the little girl's eyes,
She stomped to her room and took off her disguise.



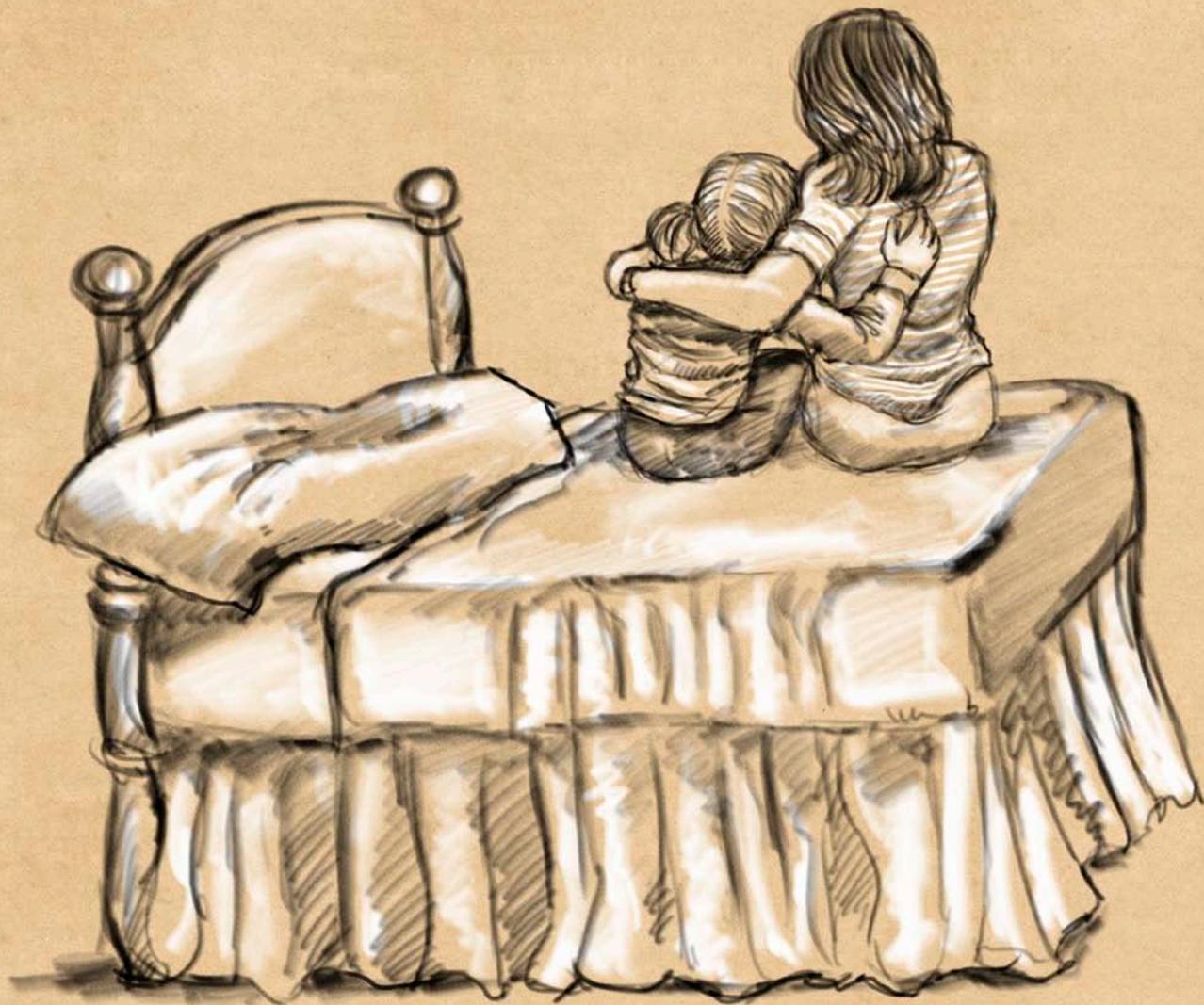
Then she crawled into bed, and she started to cry,
And her mom heard her sobs as she, right then, walked by.
“What’s the matter?” asked Mom, as she lifted the sheet.
Chelsea sobbed dramatically, “I have suffered defeat!”



“I want to be SUPER! But I know that I’m not.
I want super powers (which I just haven’t got).
I don’t jump or go fast or set people free.
I’m not anything special. I’m just plain old me!”



Chelsea's mom pulled her in for a nice, warm embrace
And wiped all the tears from her sniffling face.
"You may not be invisible or move things with your mind,
But you help out your mom and are so very kind.
You may not save people from men that are mean,
But when you give me big hugs, I feel like a queen.
You may not run fast or jump over a tree,



But you're my little Chelsea, and you're super to me!"





ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Kent Bingham has a rare, creative government job, working as a graphic designer for Hill Air Force Base in Utah. He also does a wide variety of freelance projects and in recent years has specialized in book layout and design for his company, JournalDesign. He always thought that someday he would illustrate a children's book but didn't foresee doing it in less than a day. In order to accomplish such an extreme deadline, he had to forego his perfectionist tendencies and just work quickly in a rough sketch style. The illustrations were created digitally, drawing in Corel Painter with a Wacom pressure-sensitive tablet and then coloring them in Adobe Photoshop. He enjoys collaborating on creative projects with his children, especially when they involve superheroes, real or imagined.

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