

Zach Apologizes



William Mulcahy
illustrated by
Darren McKee

free spirit
PUBLISHING®

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Dedication

To Jane for always believing

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Alex was playing with Zach's robo-rocket cruiser . . . **again.**



It made Zach so mad he forgot all about his manners and pushed his little brother down.



"It's mine!" Zach yelled.

"You pushed me!"

"Well **you** started it!"

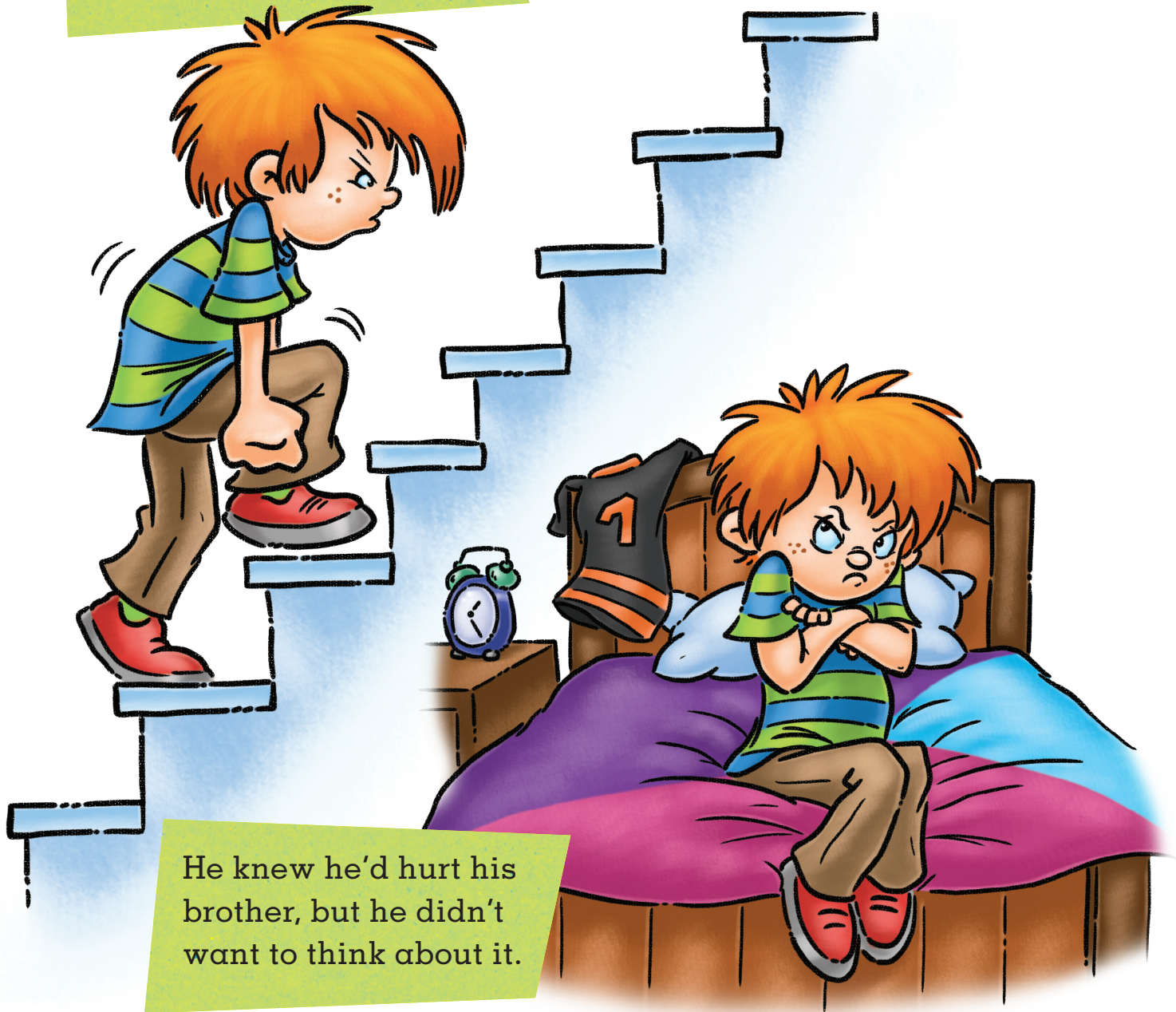
That's when Mom interrupted.

"Enough!" she said.

"Zach, give me
the spaceship and
go cool down."



Zach went to his room.



He knew he'd hurt his brother, but he didn't want to think about it.

Not gonna think about it.



He played with his toys, but it wasn't any fun.

Not gonna think about it.



He tried reading his favorite book, but he couldn't concentrate.

Not gonna think about it.



Not gonna think about it.

He threw paper space cruisers around the room, but all they did was crash and crumple.

After a while, Zach gave up.
He felt too scrambled up inside to do anything.
Then he heard a knock at the door.
"How are you feeling?" Mom asked.
She could tell he was upset about
what happened.

"Crummy."



"I think I can help," Mom said.
"I want to show you how to apologize."
"Apologize? Do I have to?"
"It always makes **me**
feel better," she said.



"Besides, I know you can handle this.
It's called the four-square apology."

Mom handed Zach a pencil. She showed him how to do the four-square apology. "You have to think really hard about what happened, and then fill in each of these squares," she explained. "You can write or draw. In the first square, write or draw what you did to hurt Alex."



Zach thought about what happened.
What did he do to hurt Alex?
He wrote, "Pushed Alex down."

1. What I did to hurt someone



PUSHED
Alex down

2. How the

do next time

4.



Mom said, "In the next square, you have to say how you think it made him feel."

This was hard. Until now, Zach had only thought about how **he** felt. How would it feel to be shoved by your brother?