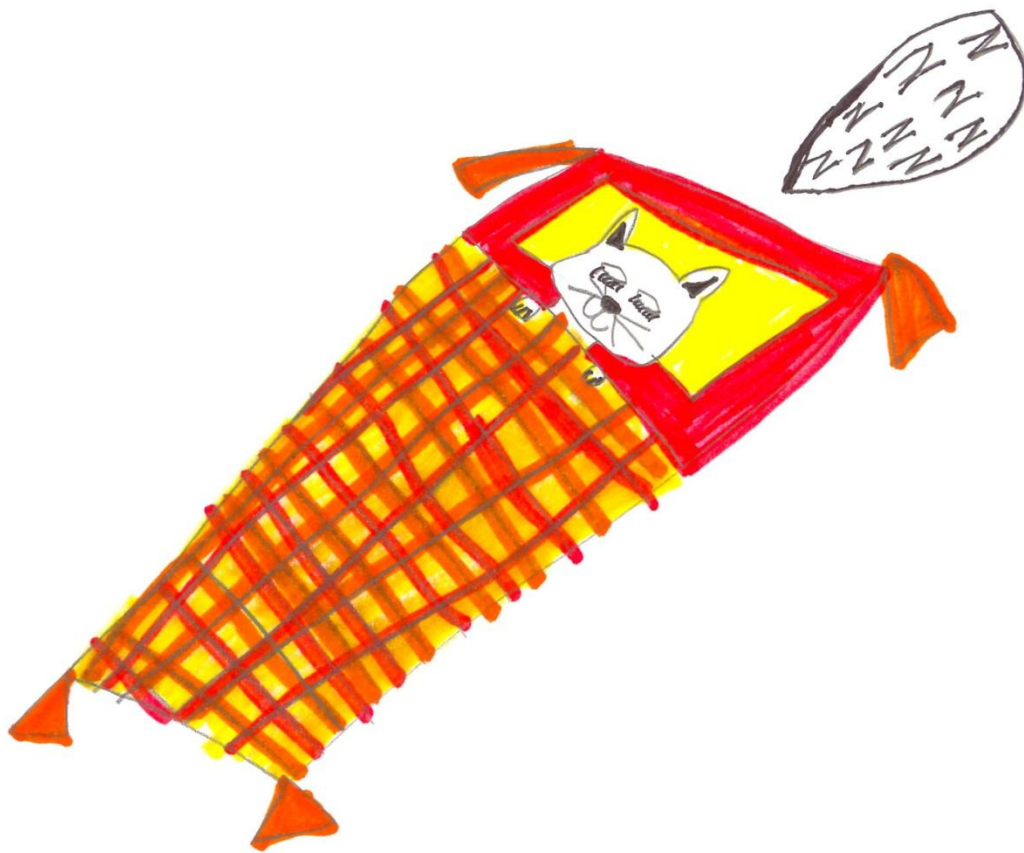


WHEN
THEY'RE
GONE

By Audrey Jo Quint

An almost true story



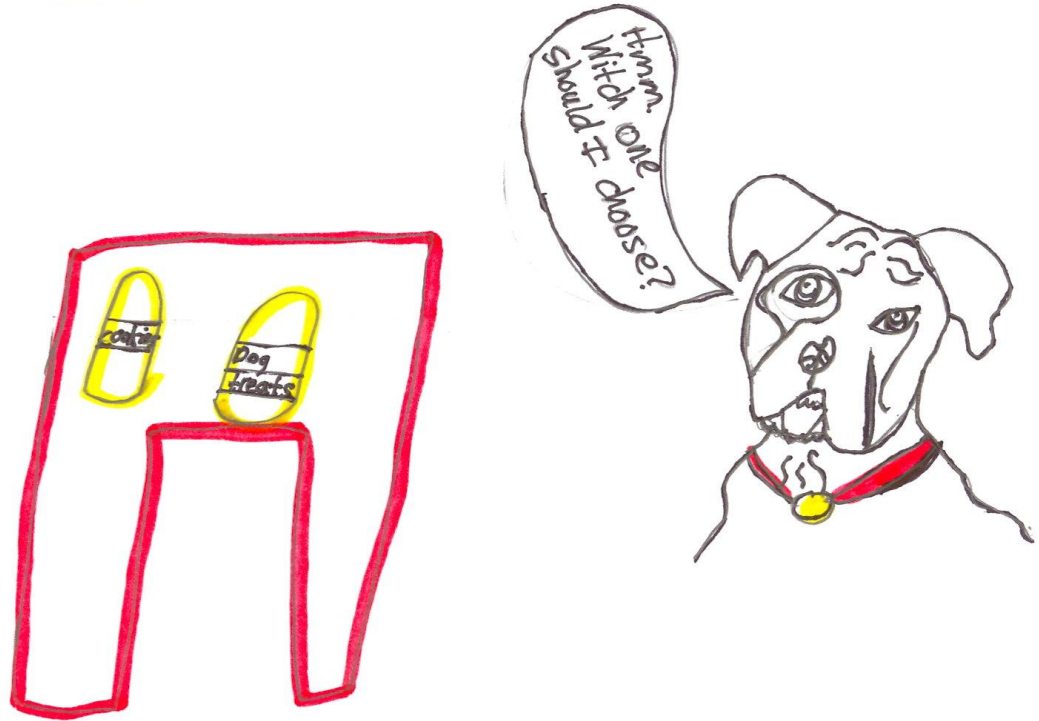
"Finally, they're gone! Mom and Dad are at work and Molly is off to school. Let's have some fun!" said Mickey.

"Shhh!" said Miss Kitty. "I'm trying to take a nap!"



"OK, Ok fine. I gotta go to the bathroom anyway"
Mickey said as he headed off to the master bathroom.

Later.....



"I'm in the mood for a snack, how about you Miss Kitty? Mickey asked. "Nah, I'm in the mood for some TV--Animal Planet is coming on!" she told Mickey. "OK , suit yourself." Mickey said.



"Aahhh! All full, are you done being a couch potato yet?" Mickey asked. "Hey, I'm not the one who ate all of the cookies in the cookie jar. Molly will blame her dad, again." Miss Kitty said as she got up to get on her dress-up clothes.

"Don't get any hair on Mollys moms lipstick." Mickey teased.

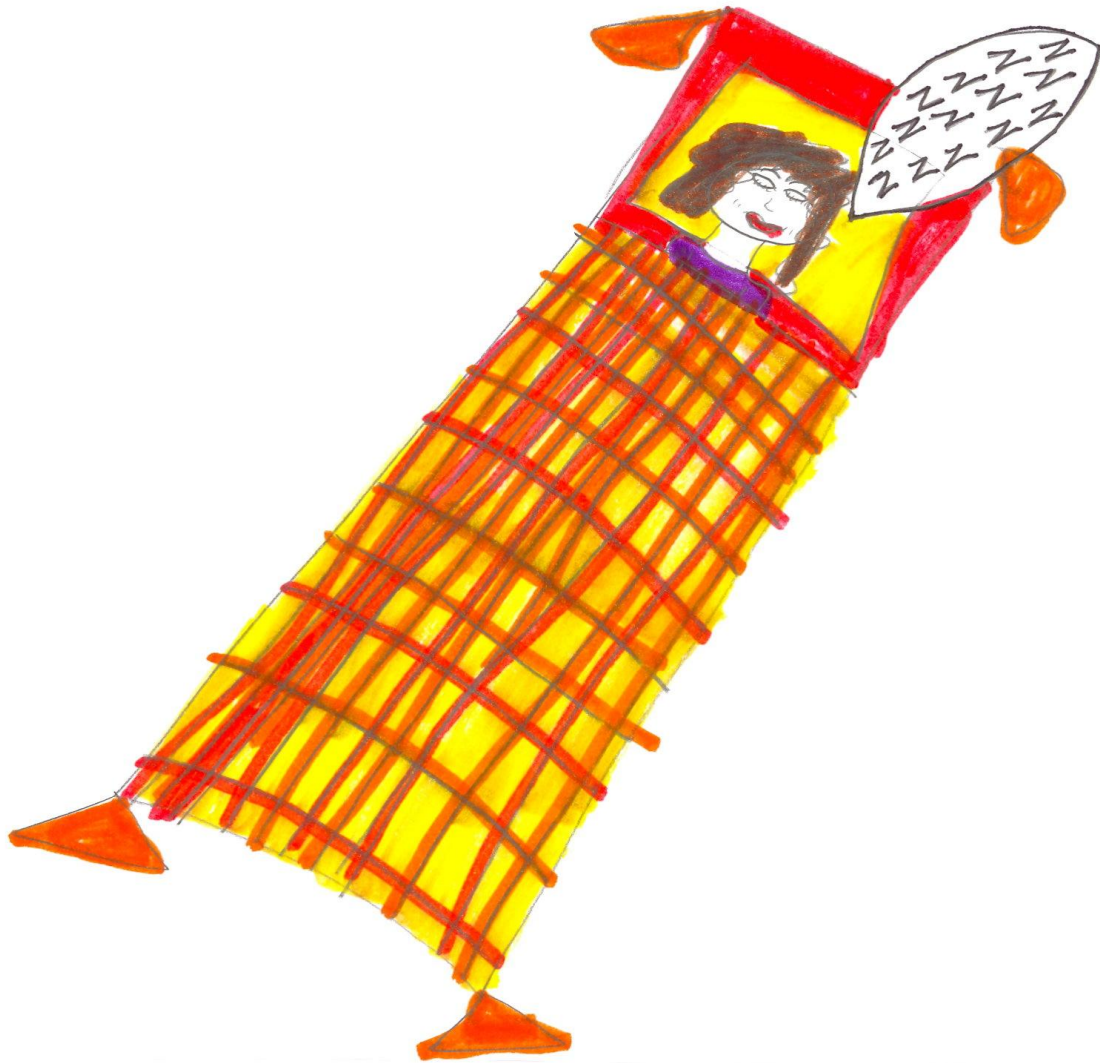
Five minutes later.....



"Ahhh, not that girly stuff again...a dress? I don't understand you!! I've got to get my mind off it. I think I will listen to some music." said Mickey.



"Ok, but be careful not to scratch the disks." Miss Kitty warned. "Whatever, quit being such a worry rat." Mickey said. "Rat? Rat? You think I'm a rat? I eat rats for dinner!" Miss Kitty argued. Mickey laughed, "You haven't eaten a rat in ten years, you can't even catch one!" "Well, pipe down and get into position, there's Molly's bus!" said Miss Kitty.



Later that night as Molly was getting into bed she wondered how her bed got so messy while she was at school. Come to think of it.....who left the toilet seat up? Why was her new dress on the floor? Why was her new rap CD in her player instead of on her dresser where she left it? And who ate all of the cookies anyway? There can be only one explanation.....**DAD!!**