



The Messy Room



My room might be declared a disaster zone, but I have all kinds of cool stuff:

- my rocket display from first grade
- posters of jungle cats and swinging chimpanzees
- a belated birthday card for my friend Sam
- an ant farm
- an overflowing trash can (okay, maybe that's not so cool!)

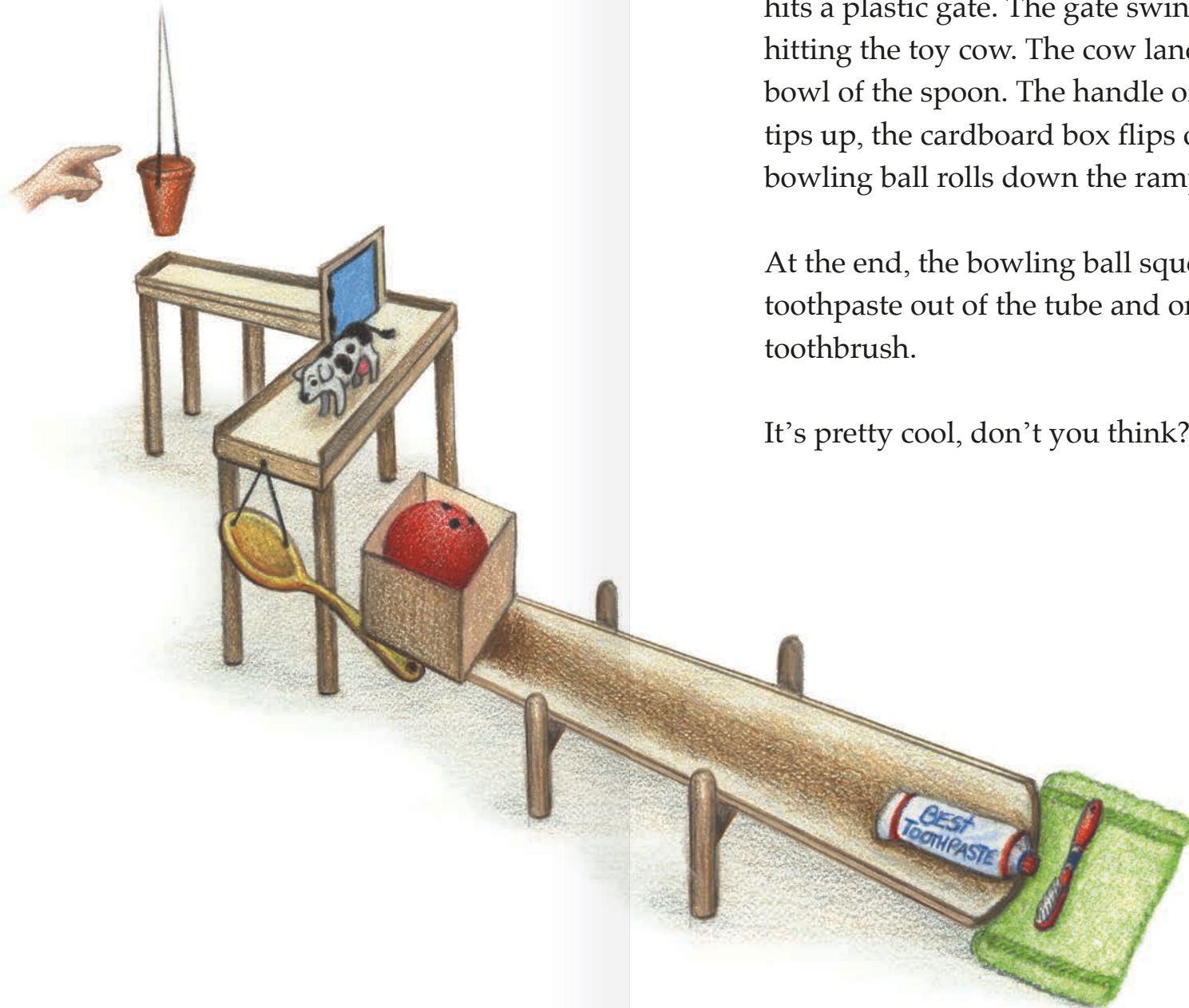


I keep misplacing things. I can't help it! The problem is that every time I start to clean my room, I get distracted by something and never finish. Oh! I just found a slice of cake from yesterday!



Hm. Maybe it *would* be better to clean my room just a bit. Stuff spills out of the closet every time I open the door. I have to push things back in there all the time. It's a never-ending task!

I may be messy, but I'm pretty smart, too!
See what I made for the county fair? I call
it the Tube Squeezer. It works by a domino
effect.



You start by putting a marble in the top
funnel. The marble rolls out of the funnel
and down a plank. From there, the marble
hits a plastic gate. The gate swings open,
hitting the toy cow. The cow lands in the
bowl of the spoon. The handle of the spoon
tips up, the cardboard box flips over, and the
bowling ball rolls down the ramp.

At the end, the bowling ball squeezes
toothpaste out of the tube and onto my
toothbrush.

It's pretty cool, don't you think?

There is one problem: I lost the green marble that starts off the domino effect. I have other marbles, but this marble is the only one that will do.



I'm sure it's in my room somewhere. But I don't see it anywhere in this mess—do you?

You might think that a lost marble isn't a big deal, but it is! The county fair is tomorrow, and if I don't find the marble by then, I can't enter my Tube Squeezer. I won't get a ribbon or bragging rights. I'll be so dismayed!

My sister refrained from saying "I told you so," but she still said that this never would have happened if I'd just kept my room clean to begin with.

I'm going to hunt nonstop for the marble until I find it. I'm worried that this could take years—or at least past midnight!

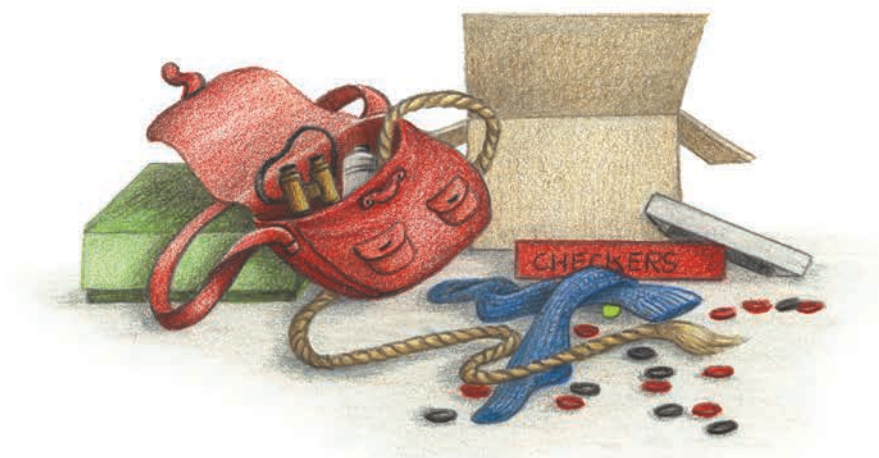


Hey, I've made some progress! My room is getting cleaner. I still have a long way to go, but so far I've found my retainer, my stopwatch, my earbuds, and my left hiking boot. But not the marble!



I still have a lot of work to do. Could you come in and help me?

Don't take a misstep! You could fall and sprain an ankle! That bag is from camp back in June. I haven't had time to unpack it yet.



I'm going to move some of this stuff into a box. Maybe you could sweep now that we can see the floor. Don't mind me—I'm just going to stuff some of this random junk back into the closet.

Do you see the marble yet? If you find it, tell me where it is.

You found it! You're the best! You saved the day!



It seems like it might be helpful to have a clean room. Maybe I should keep it clean all the time. My sister has been telling me this for years.

Maybe I've reformed!

What do you think?

Let's test the Tube Squeezer. Would you like to put the marble in the top funnel?



It works! This is so cool.



Now I can enter my Tube Squeezer in the county fair. Thanks for helping me!

Here's the latest update:

The Tube Squeezer won a blue ribbon at the county fair! I'd show you where I hung the ribbon, but I don't think you want to see my room right now.

I think my closet exploded overnight.



The End





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