



Jada's
dream



Jada can't wait to get back to Camp Ooch. What will be her first adventure? She can't wait to smell the forest, hug her old friends, and make new ones.

But her heart falls just a bit. She loves everything about Camp. And even though there is always someone to help, she worries she won't be able to walk down to the Camphitheatre and waterfront on her own. Since her amputation, rough terrain and uneven paths can make walking alone more difficult.



FINALLY! After her long trip north, Jada makes her way off the bus, excited to be at Camp. The smells of the forest! The sounds of laughter! The music and singing!

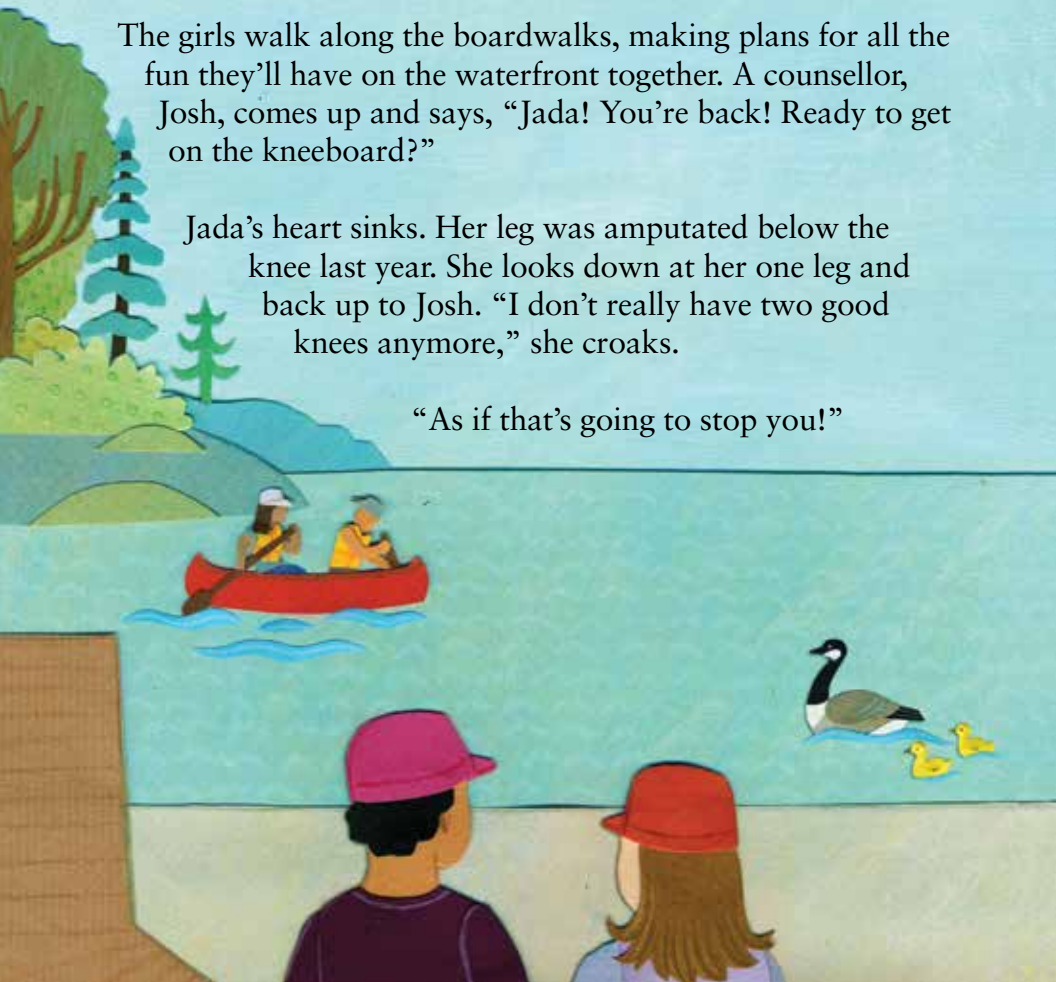


Jada sees Ella and her heart shines. *Ella can help me get down to the Amphitheatre and water right away*, she thinks. Jada and Ella link arms and start to walk, and with every step Jada realizes that something is different. This is easy and the path ahead is clear! Jada can see that the waterfront has been updated! Completely accessible for crutches, walkers, even wheelchairs! She can get down here on her own. But she keeps arms linked with Ella, because it feels so good to be together again.

The girls walk along the boardwalks, making plans for all the fun they'll have on the waterfront together. A counsellor, Josh, comes up and says, "Jada! You're back! Ready to get on the kneeboard?"

Jada's heart sinks. Her leg was amputated below the knee last year. She looks down at her one leg and back up to Josh. "I don't really have two good knees anymore," she croaks.

"As if that's going to stop you!"





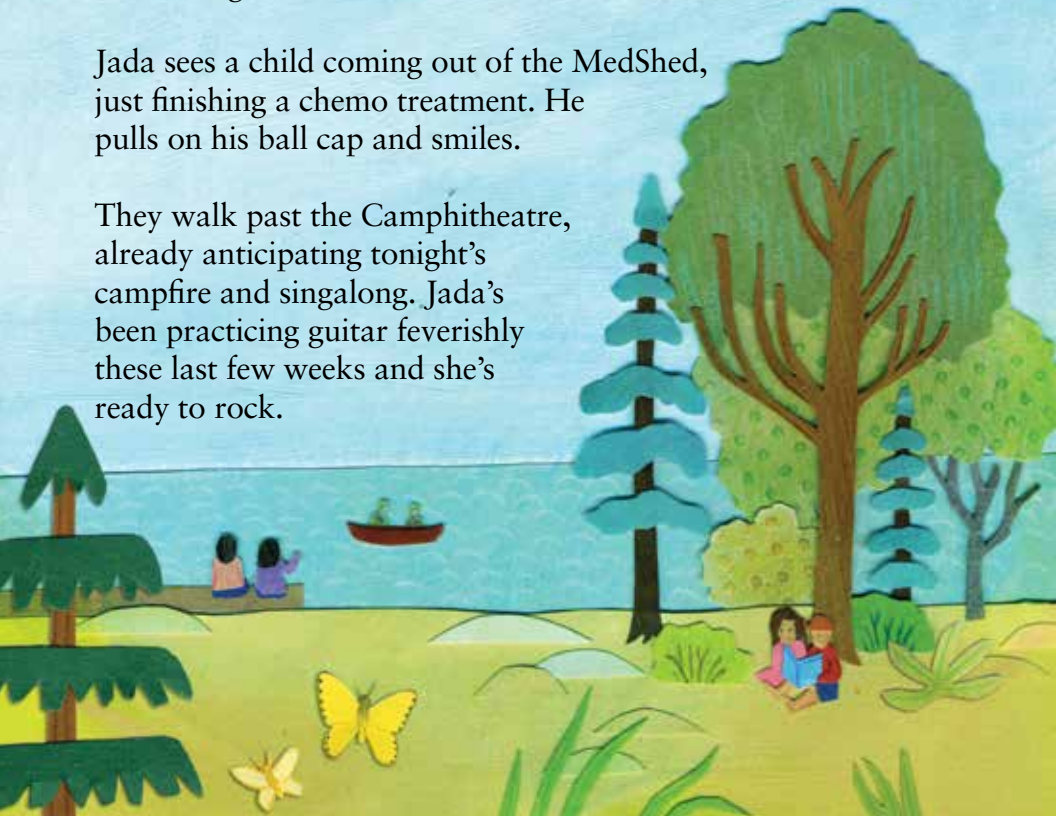
Kneeboarding is Jada's favourite Camp activity. She knows it will be different now, with one leg, but she knows she can do it. Once Jada gets out on the water, she dumps a few times but soon she's up and she pumps her fist in the air.

Jada looks up the hill towards the heart of Camp. She's not worried about walking by herself all the way back up anymore. The new paths and railings mean she can do it all, all by herself. Tears of joy sting her eyes but she wipes them away. She wants to stay at the waterfront now with Ella and her friends.

They watch a couple of kids with their shoes and socks off, dipping their toes in the water. A bit further down the dock a couple of kids are sharing a book.

Jada sees a child coming out of the MedShed, just finishing a chemo treatment. He pulls on his ball cap and smiles.

They walk past the Camphitheatre, already anticipating tonight's campfire and singalong. Jada's been practicing guitar feverishly these last few weeks and she's ready to rock.





It's a little thing to be able to completely navigate Camp on her own. But her heart soars with pride—and with gratitude to the amazing and generous donors who made this possible for her. The Magic of Ooch, in some ways, is about the little things that are really big things.