How the Tooth Mouse Met the Tooth Fairy

by Lizzette de Vries
Cecile de Vries

Illustrations by Tul Suwannakit

With the guidance of
Mickey Emmons Wener, RDH, MEd
Once upon a time, on a farm in South Africa, there lived a happy family. And it was a smiling family as well, for that is what happy does:

It smiles.
Like Bobby and his sisters, Lizzette was born in South Africa—one of the most beautiful countries on Earth. From the time she was a little girl, she wanted to grow up to teach children. Lizzette was lucky enough to do just this as a primary schoolteacher. She also had the good fortune to meet and marry Dean Johann de Vries, a dentist who shares her passion for education. Together they began teaching underprivileged African children and their mothers the importance of good oral health. Later, they had the opportunity to live (with their three children) in Canada and Australia, where they continued doing what they most love to do: help kids make and keep their smiles bright and happy. During their travels, they have found Max the Tooth Mouse to be a great ambassador to children of all cultural traditions, and they hope this story will help to inspire many more children to take care of their smiles.

Cecile de Vries, the proud daughter of Lizzette de Vries, was born in South Africa, where she grew up writing letters to the Tooth Mouse. She then moved with her family to Canada, where she completed her tertiary education and first read tales of the Tooth Fairy to the neighbors’ children. Cecile was also introduced to the joy of writing while earning her Transformative Writing Certificate at the Hearthspace Writing School. She now lives in Sydney, Australia, where she is a registered psychologist and a PhD candidate in coaching psychology at the University of Sydney. For Cecile—the daughter of a dentist, sister of an aspiring dentist, and instructor of a psychology course for the University of Sydney’s Faculty of Dentistry—dentistry and dental health are an everyday part of life.
Mickey Emmons Wener is a senior instructor in the School of Dental Hygiene and Faculty of Dentistry at the University of Manitoba in Canada, where her teaching has focused on community health and patient-centered communication. Mickey has a passion for reaching out to those in need and at risk for oral diseases, from the very young to the very old, and has received many outreach and teaching awards for her efforts. An avid reader who loved reading to her daughter when she was young, Mickey is enthusiastic about sharing important oral health messages through the tale of the international adventures of the Tooth Mouse and the Tooth Fairy.

Tul Suwannakit spent his childhood in Singapore. The enthusiasm he had for art as a child led him to move to the United States to pursue his education at the Savannah College of Art and Design in Georgia, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree with honors. An award-winning children’s book author and illustrator, Tul also works as a full-time elementary school art teacher and provides training courses for art teachers in Thailand, where he lives with his wife, Shalom, and their dog, Ses.
Bobby is about to lose his first baby tooth, and he can hardly wait to leave it for Max the Tooth Mouse. But before the wobbly tooth actually falls out, Bobby’s parents announce that the family is moving from South Africa to Canada! Will Max be able to find Bobby’s tooth all the way in Canada? Learn what happens when Max goes to Canada and comes face to face with Fia, the Tooth Fairy.

This charming story entertains as it teaches children the importance of brushing at least twice a day.