

I'm Gonna Stay Up Alllllll Night!
By Alan William Harris

My daddy just read me my favorite book. My mommy just sang me her special song.

[Art Note: We are in a 3-year-old Girl's room (which is a little bit quirky like her), as her Dad and Mom sit with her on her bed doing their goodnight routine.]

And they both said their goodnights as they gently put me down to sleep.

[Art Note: The Parents wave as they close the door, leaving our hero in her bed tucked in with her eyes closed.]

But that is NOT gonna happen.

[Art Note: The Girl suddenly opens one eye.]

Because... I'm gonna stay up alllllll night!

[Art Note: Our hero stands in her bed wide-awake!]

First, I'm gonna walk around my bed. Walk walk walk. My plan is working perfectly. I've never felt so alive! Walk walk walk. Walk walk walk. Wow. I'm dizzy.

I think I'll sit down for a minute. But I can sit down and still stay up alllllll night.

Sit sit sit. Sit sit sit. Funny, I don't remember having this many stuffed animals. I wonder how many. I know! I'll count them. That'll keep me awake! 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8. Eight stuffed animals.

[Art Note: Like her room, the Girl's stuffed animals are a little bit quirky.]

Still awake. Yes! Since I'm awake, maybe I'll cuddle with my favorite stuffed animal, Brownie Bear. Brownie Bear, you and I are going to stay up alllllll night.

[Art Note: Brownie Bear is an odd stuffed Teddy Bear that looks well-used.]

Hey, Brownie Bear. You know what this cuddle party needs? Some music. Let's

sing a song about staying up all night. “Gonna stay up. Gonna stay up, yeah. Gonna stay up... alllllll night!”

Is it just me, or do these sheets feel softer than normal? You’re just as soft, Brownie Bear, but maybe we should lie down on these just for a second. People lie down on the couch or at the beach and still stay awake. It’s no problem lying down and still staying up alllllll night.

Lay lay lay. Borrrring. I know. Why don’t I think about my entire day? That should take at least alllllll night!

First, I woke up and played Spaceman with daddy. Then I went to daycare where I made a spider out of pipe cleaners. When I got home, mommy made me cheesy pasta for dinner, and daddy gave me a bath. And then they tried to put me to sleep. Only I’m not going to sleep. Because I’m staying up alllllll night!!

[Art Note: Perhaps our hero is looking up on the ceiling and the shadows on the ceiling resemble some of her day’s routine, or perhaps she is reenacting her routine with her stuffed animals.]

It’s chilly in here. Good. That should keep me awake. But that blanket over there sure looks cozy. A little too cozy. I shouldn’t. It’s way too dangerous.

[Art Note: A blanket lies in the corner of her bed.]

Maybe I’ll just pull it up over my feet. That’s better. Well, maybe just a little higher up over my tush. Ahhh. Okay, up to my neck, but that’s as high as it goes.

Sooooo cozy. And why shouldn’t I be? I mean, there’s no reason I shouldn’t be comfy cozy while I still stay up alllllll night!

Yaaaawn. Oh, no! A yawn. Not a yawn. Anything but a yawn. I’m not gonna open my mouth again until the sun comes up.

[Art Note: Our hero tries to hold her breath.]

Yaaaaawwn. Starting... now. Yaaaaaawwn. Starting... now. Yaaaaaaaaawwwwn.

