My Friend Pookie

Written by: Russell Norris
Art by: David Frankum

My name is Jack and my best friend is Pookie.

Mum and Dad and Sarah say he is not real.

But he is real I can see him and he looks sort of like this.

Pookie makes my planes fly.

And he makes my hair stick up.
[PANEL 1: A lightning bolt is striking down onto the ground and a ginger cat is jumping away from it, looking terrified and a bit frazzled.]

KIDDIE SCRAWL
We like to frighten Bugsy.

CAT’S SPEECH BUBBLE
Meeow!

[PANEL 2: We are looking at the looping arcs of overlapping circles. Each one is a different size and drawn in a different colour. Coloured dots are spaced randomly along these arcs. The idea is that it’s a simple Spirograph drawing but it’s also a representation of an unfamiliar solar system.]

KIDDIE SCRAWL
And draw cool things with Spirograph.

[PANEL 3: The stick-boy is sitting on the floor, looking up at Pookie with a confused expression on his face. Pookie is floating above him, displaying a speech bubble.]

KIDDIE SCRAWL
But sometimes Pookie talks too much.

POOKIE’S SPEECH BUBBLE
mumble mumble mumble

[PANEL 4: We see three suns, drawn in typical kiddie fashion with rays of light emanating from them. Each sun is red at the edges, then yellow nearer the middle and finally white at the very centre.]

KIDDIE SCRAWL
About three suns that are too hot.

[PANEL 5: We see some simple stars, drawn in “Star of David” fashion. Linking them all together are lengths of curling, hose-like tubes that look like earthworms. These are meant to be a kid’s conception of “wormholes” in the universe.]

KIDDIE SCRAWL
And giant worms that wriggle through stars.

[PANEL 6: We see the stick-boy’s big, round face. It is a sad face.]

KIDDIE SCRAWL
I don’t understand but he keeps on talking.
[PANEL 7: Pookie is at the centre of this panel. Above him are three symbols. The first is a yellow pyramid; the second is the “Monkey” from the Nazca Lines (I will supply an image of this). The third is a handprint that looks like a cave painting.]

KIDDIE SCRAWL
He says he likes it here. He has been here before.

[PANEL 8: We see a childish drawing of a house. It is on fire and smoke is billowing away from it.]

KIDDIE SCRAWL
His home is burned up and his family needs a new one.

PAGE 3

[PANEL 1: A close-up of Pookie, focusing on the eyes. The blue/purple scribbles fill the panel and the text appears at the bottom. Please make the words “can I have yours?” bigger and in a different colour.]

KIDDIE SCRAWL
He said can I have yours?

[PANEL 2: The stick-boy stands facing Pookie, who floats in front of him. The first line of text should appear at the top of the panel. The second line of text should be at the bottom of the panel. Please make the words “I am your mummy and your daddy” bigger and in a different colour.]

KIDDIE SCRAWL
I said it belongs to mummy and daddy.
He said I am your mummy and daddy.

[PANEL 3: The stick-boy has clenched his fists and screwed up his eyes. His mouth is open and he is shouting. Maybe his cheeks have turned red. A jagged speech bubble is next to his head.]

KIDDIE SCRAWL
I got angry and shouted.

SPEECH BUBBLE
No you’re not!

[PANEL 4: We see the sort of comic-book explosion that normally accompanies the word BANG! It is full of colour, almost psychedelic.]

KIDDIE SCRAWL
Pookie made a funny noise and went away.
[PANEL 5: The stick-boy is standing up and crying, with his hands over his eyes. Big tears drop down from his face to form a big blue puddle at his feet.]

KIDDIE SCRAWL
I think he has found a new friend. I am sorry. I did not mean it.

SFX
Sniff! Sniff!

[PANEL 6: We’re looking at a childish drawing of planet Earth. Perched on top of the planet is a little house. An arrow points to it, ending in a message that says: “Jack’s House”. Some stars are dotted about in the background.]

KIDDIE SCRAWL
Come back Pookie. You can have my home.