



# BIG BOOMS

## and Bright Colors

*"Why doesn't Heavenly Father make the loud noises go away?" Charlotte asked.*

**By Heather Sullivan**

(Based on a true story)

*This story happened in the USA.*

Charlotte hated loud noises! She didn't like the way sounds pounded in her ears or echoed in her head. Even when she knew she was safe, she still felt tense when cars screeched, crowds cheered, or drums boomed.

And Charlotte *really* did not like fireworks!

Her family tried lots of things to comfort her when there were loud noises. Dad bought her special earmuffs to help block the noise. When there was thunder, Mom snuggled with her under the covers. Charlotte also prayed for help to not be scared.

All of these things helped. But loud noises still made her feel afraid.

"We are going to a special fireworks show at the park tonight," Mom told Charlotte. "Do you want to come?"

Charlotte frowned. "But fireworks are so loud."

"Now that you're older, fireworks might be more fun to watch," Mom said. "All of your friends will be there. We can even bring your special earmuffs. Do you think you can give it a try?"

Charlotte sighed. "OK. I guess I'll try."

The fireworks show at the park started off perfectly. Charlotte and her friends ran around on the grass, sharing treats and playing games. Soon the sky grew dark. Charlotte sat down and pulled on her earmuffs as she looked nervously at the sky.

**BOOM! BOOM! CRACK!**

Charlotte's heart beat faster, and her chest felt tight. She jumped up and tried to get away from the booming all around her.

Mom ran after Charlotte and scooped her up. They sat back down, and Mom hugged her close. Tears fell down Charlotte's face.

"I'm sorry that scared you," Mom said. "I'm right here. Let's focus on the colors so you don't notice the sound so much. What do you see with your eyes?"

Charlotte took a big breath. "I see gold, and red, and green."

"Now use your nose," Mom said. "What do you smell?"

"I can smell the smoke and the grass," said Charlotte. "And popcorn!"

"What other senses can you use right now?"

Charlotte closed her eyes. "I can feel them. When the fireworks explode, I can feel the shaking in my chest."

"Can you taste anything?" Mom asked.

Charlotte stuck out her tongue. "I can't taste the fireworks." She laughed.

All of this made Charlotte curious. *How do people make the different colors?* she wondered. *Why do fireworks explode? How do they make different shapes?* Fireworks didn't seem so scary now.

"Mom, fireworks are amazing!" Charlotte said.

As Mom tucked Charlotte into bed that night, Charlotte asked, "Why doesn't Heavenly Father answer my prayers when I ask Him to make the loud noises go away?"

Mom thought for a moment. "Heavenly Father doesn't always take away scary things," she said. "But sometimes He helps us see things a different way or gives us people who help comfort us."

"Like how He helped me tonight!" said Charlotte.

"That's right!" Mom smiled. "You went to the fireworks show even though you were scared. Then Heavenly Father helped you calm your fears. He also helped you see the beauty of the fireworks by using your other senses."

Charlotte thought of the bright colors in the sky and smiled. She still didn't like loud noises. They still scared her. But she knew Heavenly Father could always help her to be brave. ●

*"Fear thou not; for I am with thee"*  
(Isaiah 41:10).