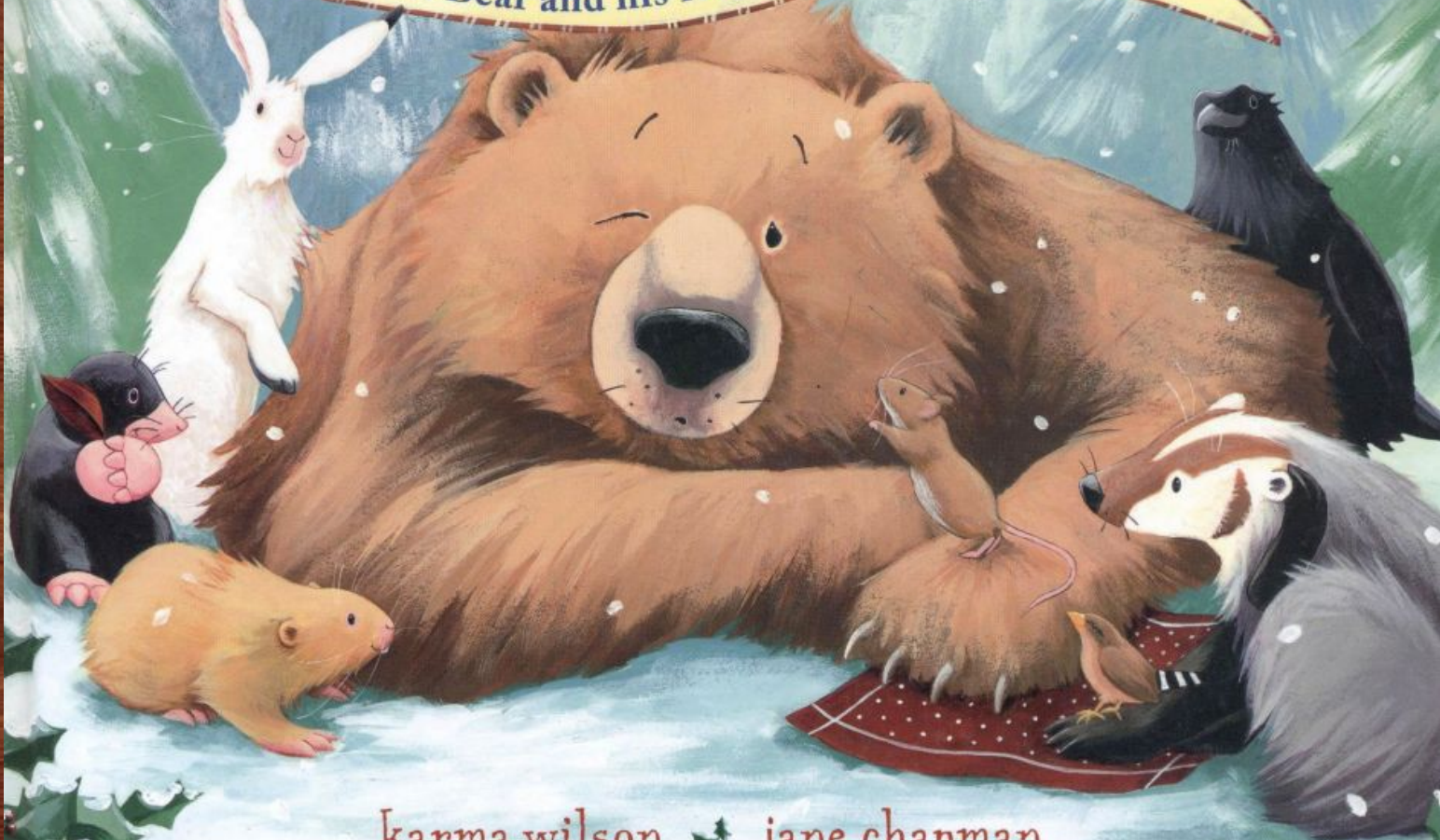


Join Bear and his friends for the holidays!



karma wilson jane chapman

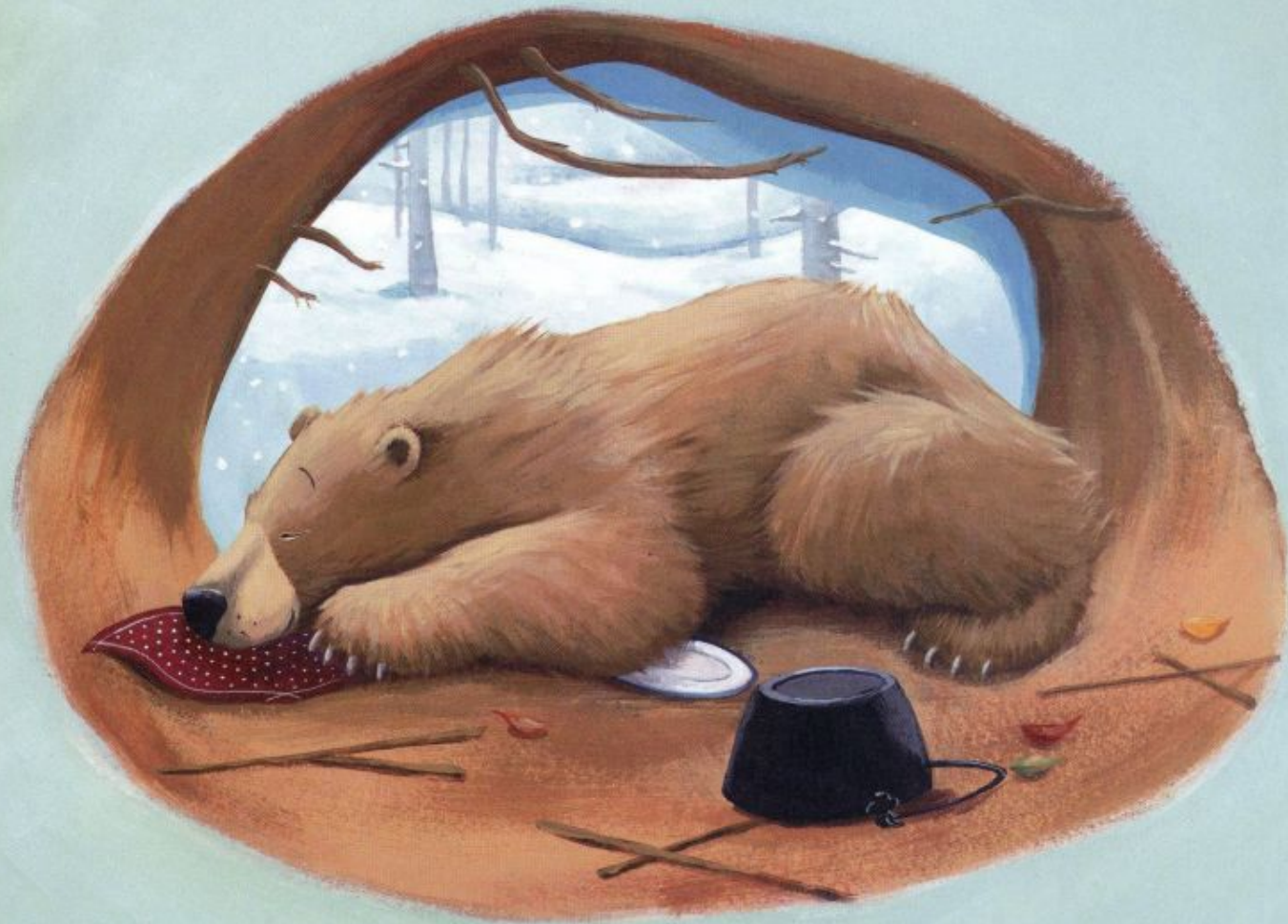
Bear Stays Up

FOR CHRISTMAS

START







*T*he day before Christmas,
snuggled on his floor,
Bear sleeps soundly
with a great big snore.





“Dear Bear, GET UP!”
Mouse shouts in his ear.
“We won’t let you sleep
through Christmas this year.”





His friends are all there, gathered in his lair . . .

and the bear
wakes
up.





He stands with a stretch
and a great big sigh.
“I hope I can make it.
I do want to try.”





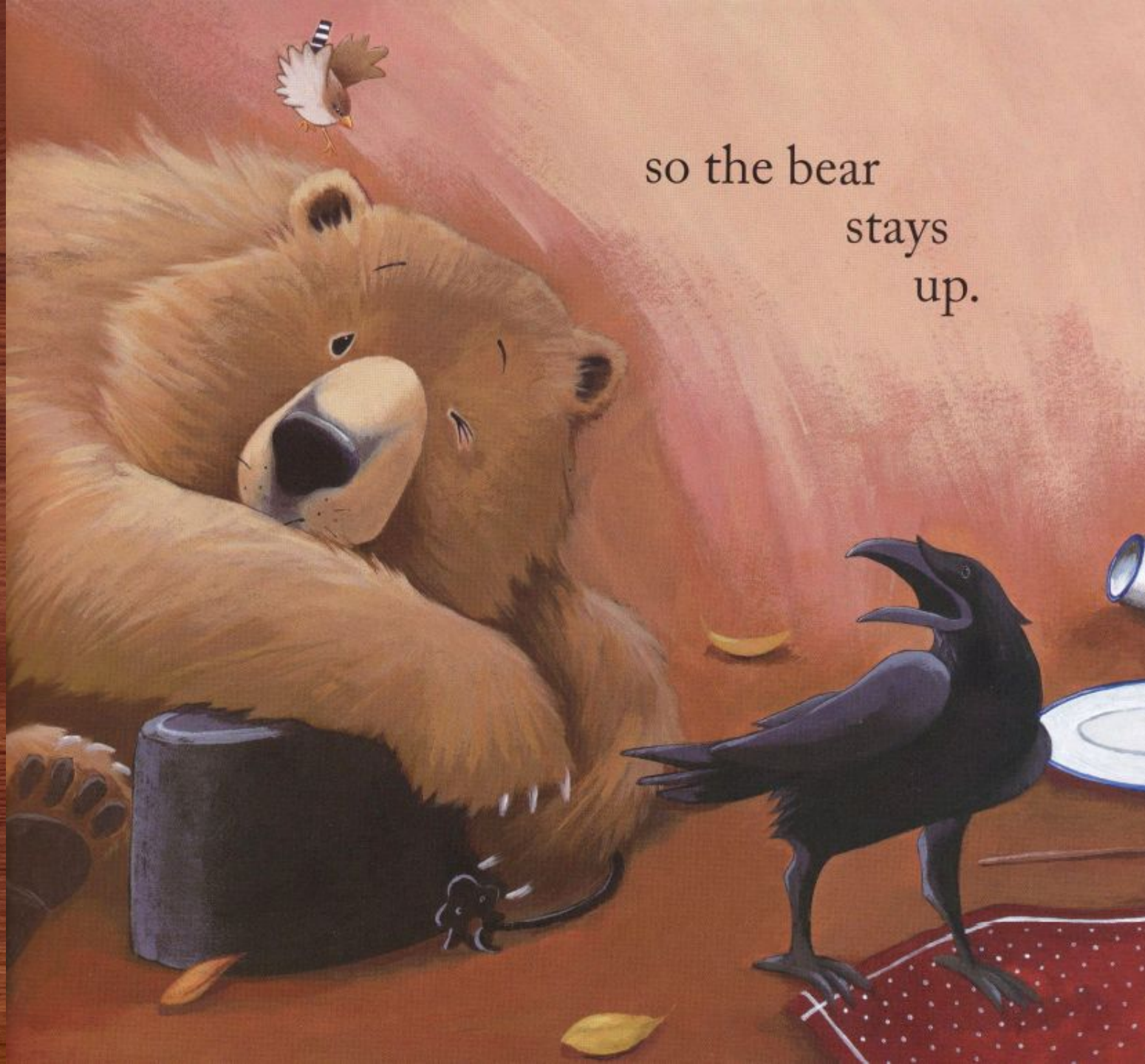
“Don’t worry,” squeaks Mouse.
Hare says, “It’s all right.
We’ll keep you busy
all day and all night.”



He tries to lie down,
but his friends all frown ...



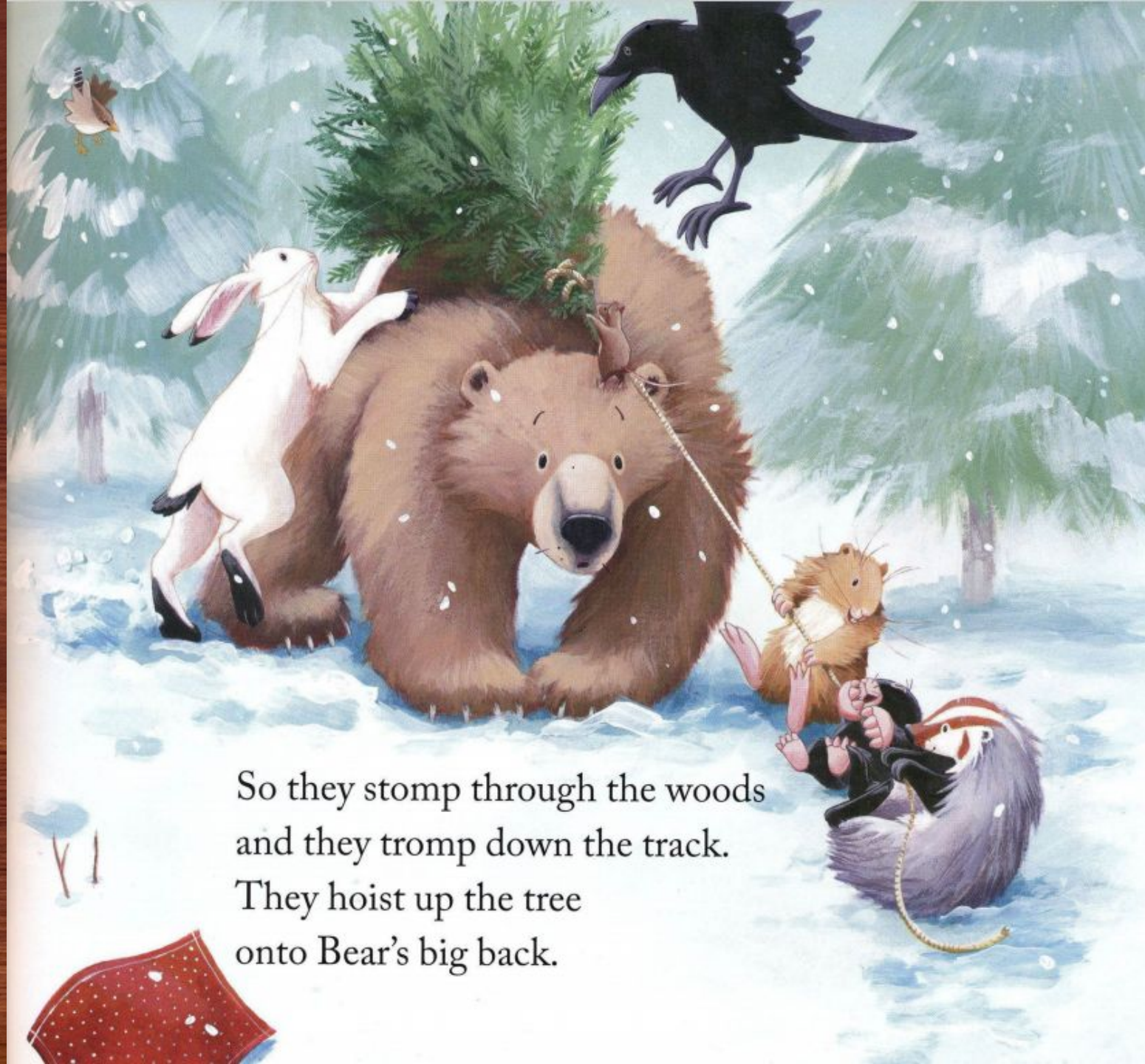
so the bear
stays
up.





“Come on,” says Badger,
“time to follow me.
In Pine Grove Glen
there’s a fine Christmas tree.”





So they stomp through the woods
and they tromp down the track.
They hoist up the tree
onto Bear's big back.





He plods very slow
as they trudge through the snow.



But
the bear
stays up.

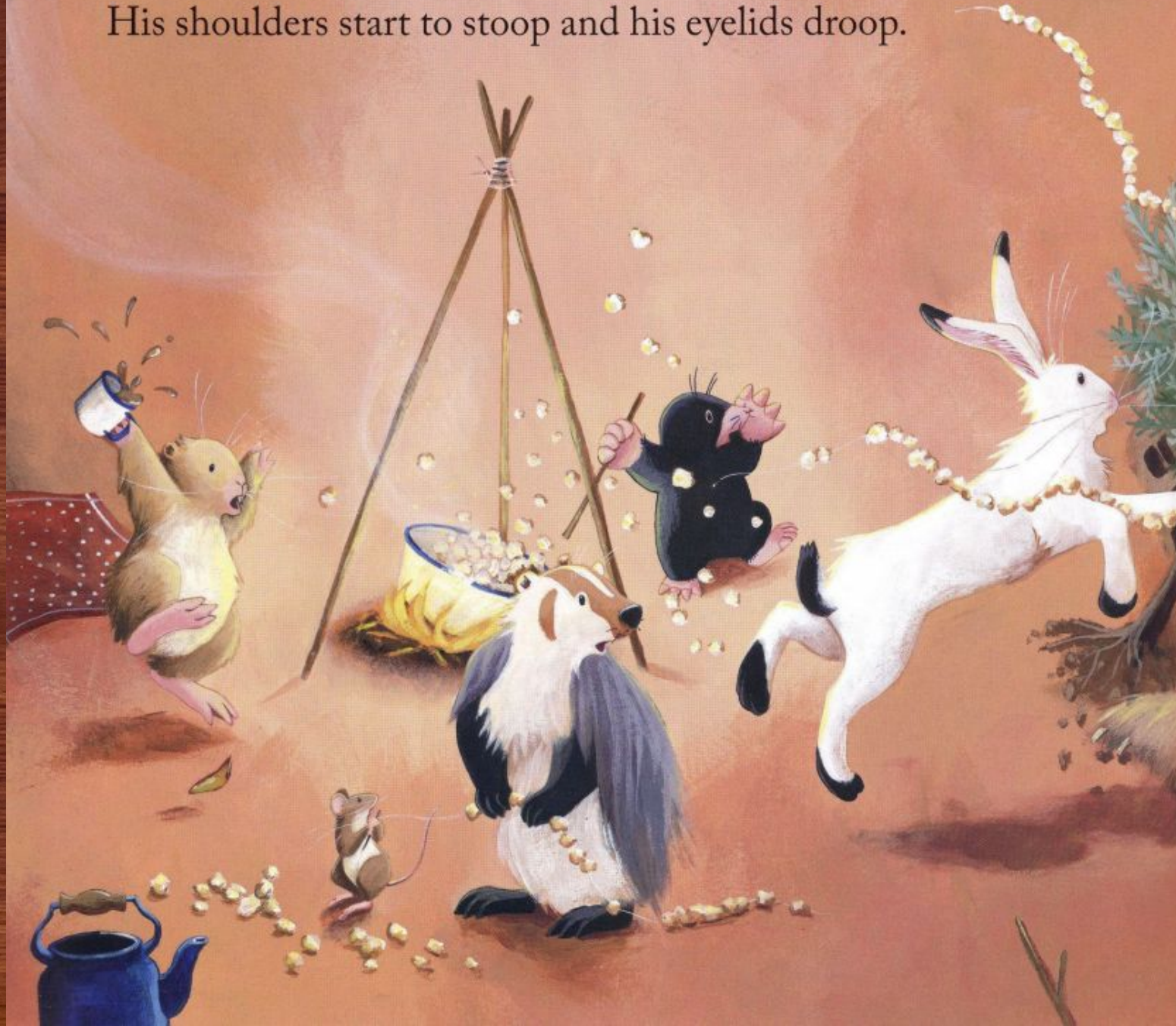




Raven and Wren
bake a fresh fruitcake.
The friends do their best
to keep Bear awake.



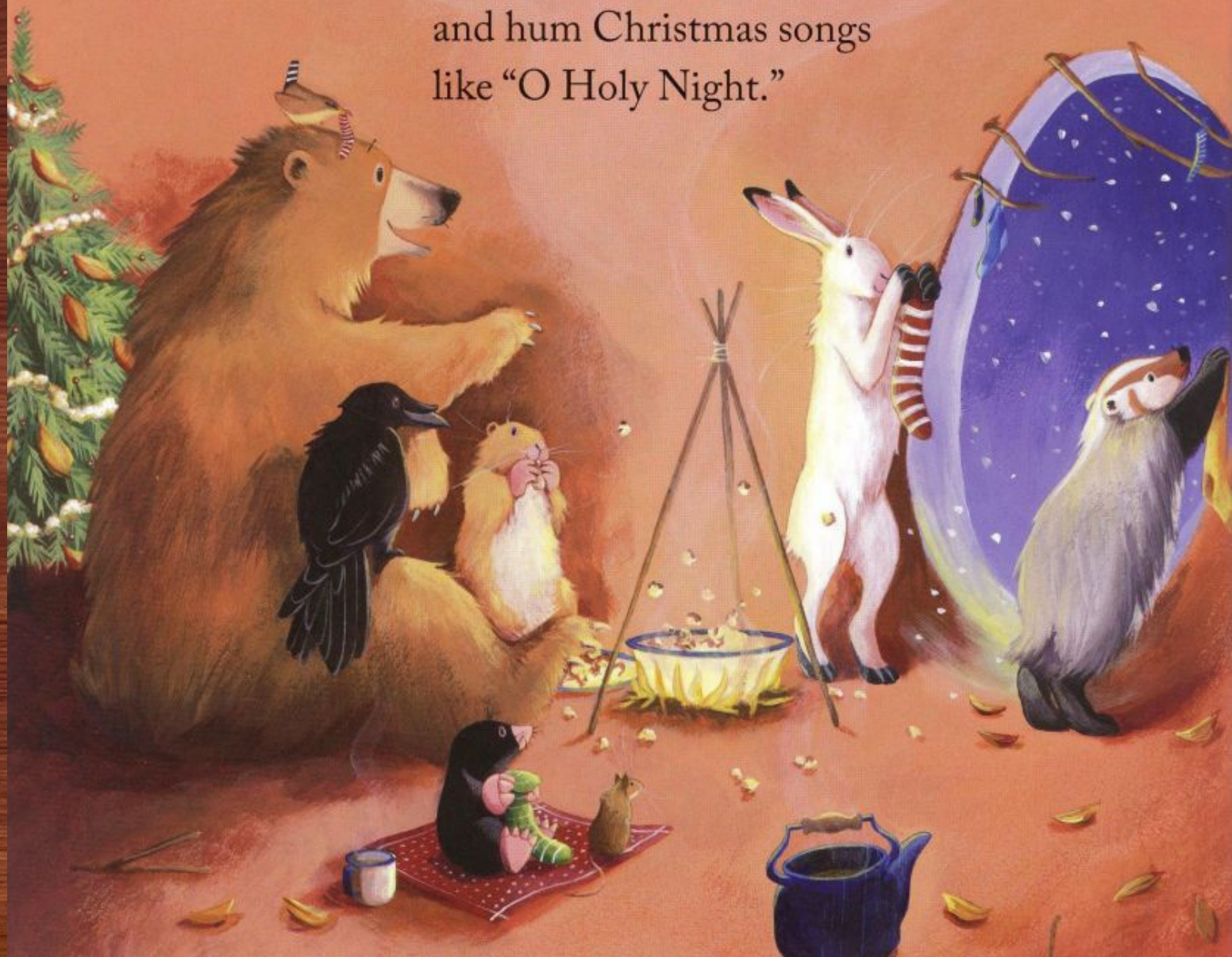
His shoulders start to stoop and his eyelids droop.



But the bear
stays
up.



They hang up their stockings
by warm firelight
and hum Christmas songs
like "O Holy Night."

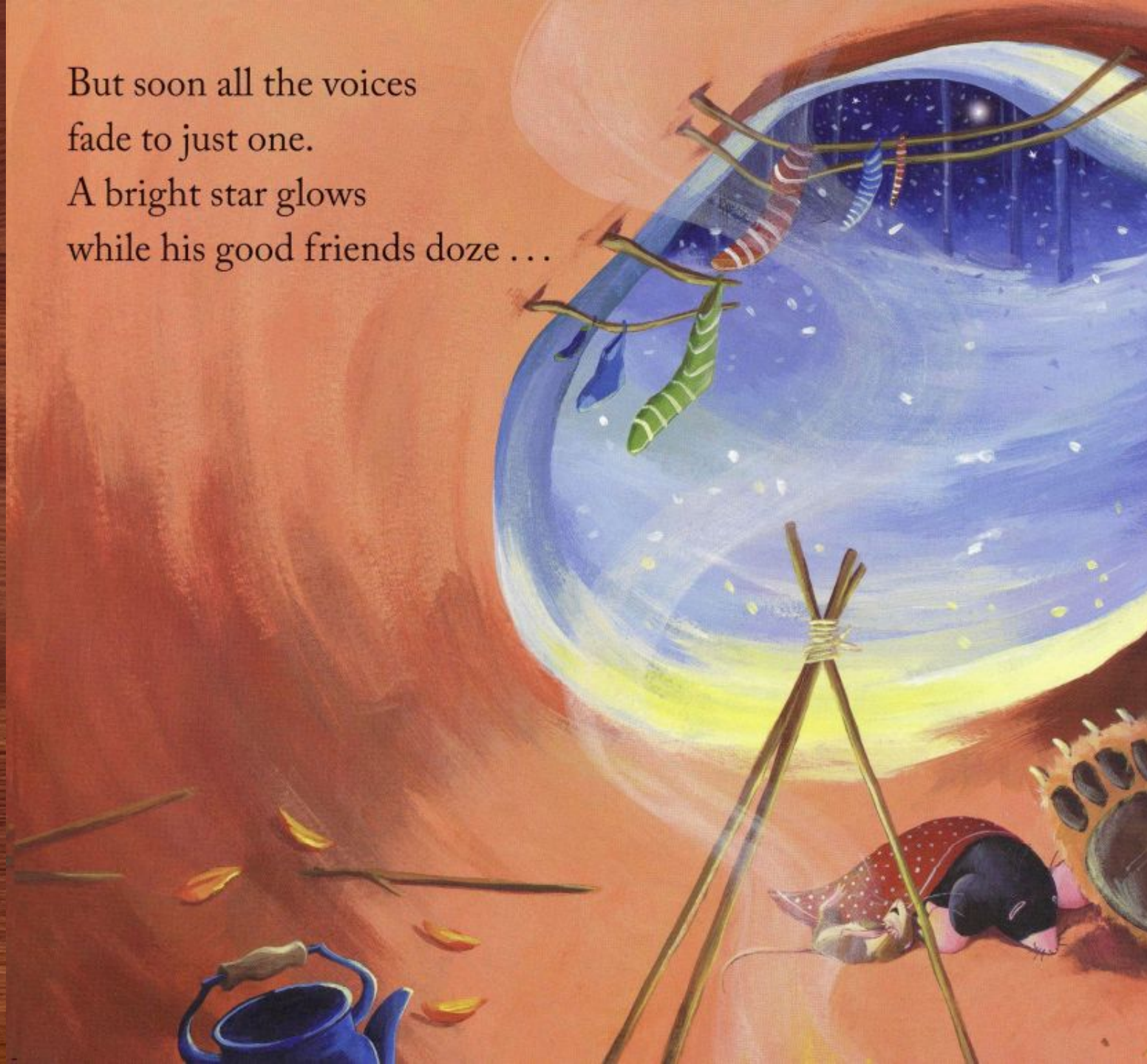




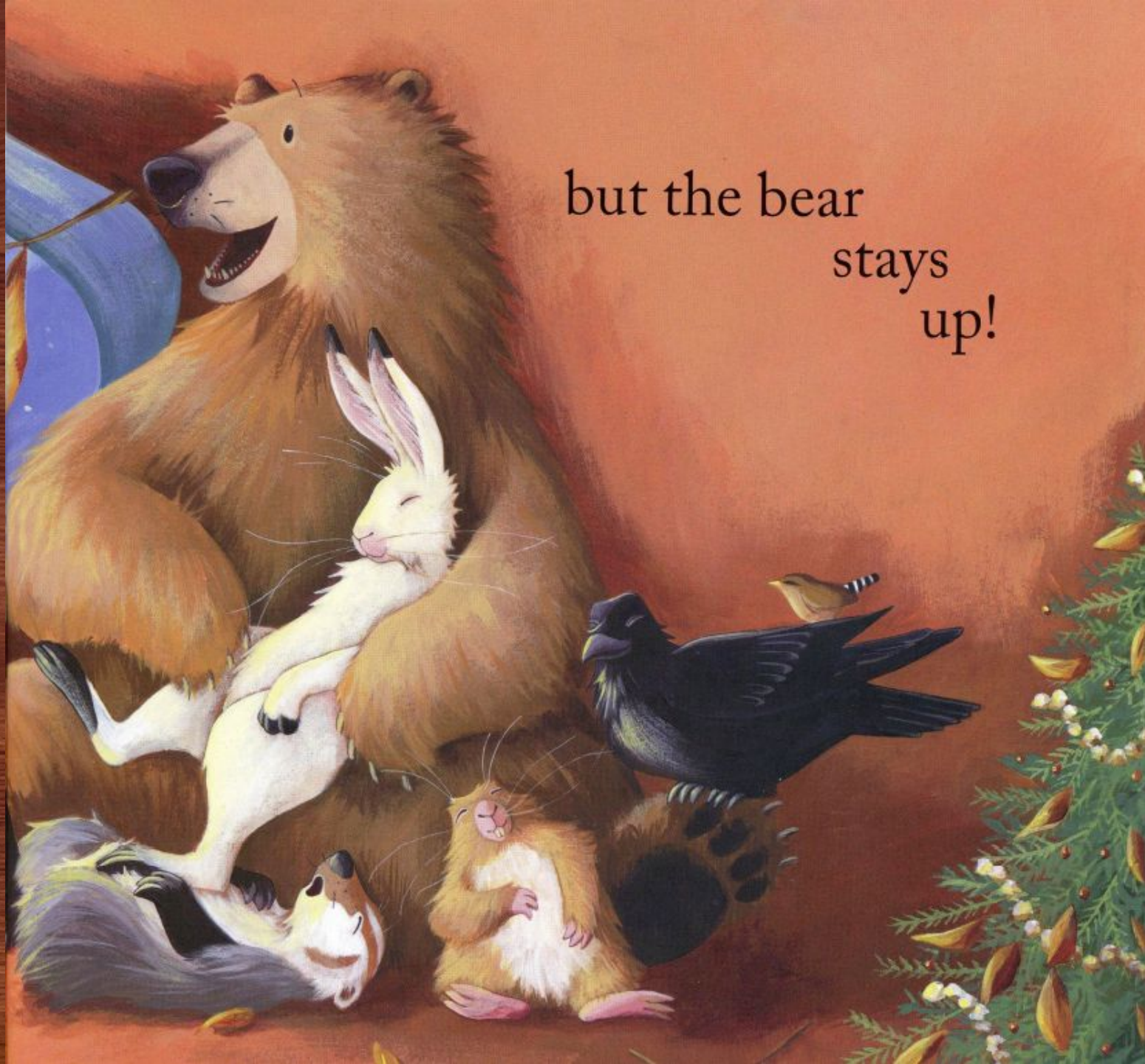
They cuddle and sing
as they wait for the sun. . . .



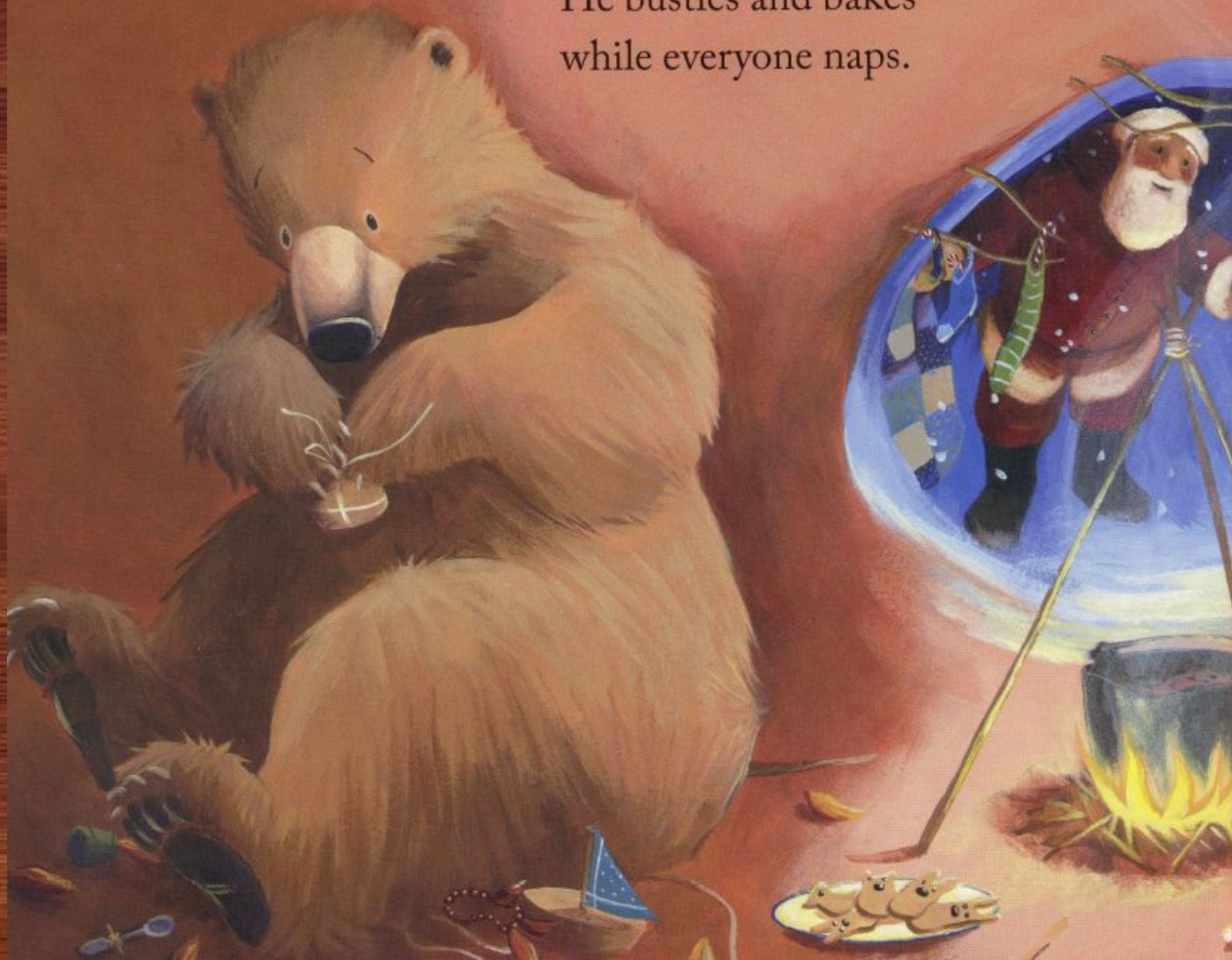
But soon all the voices
fade to just one.
A bright star glows
while his good friends doze ...



but the bear
stays
up!



Bear giggles and grins.
He works and he wraps.
He bustles and bakes
while everyone naps.

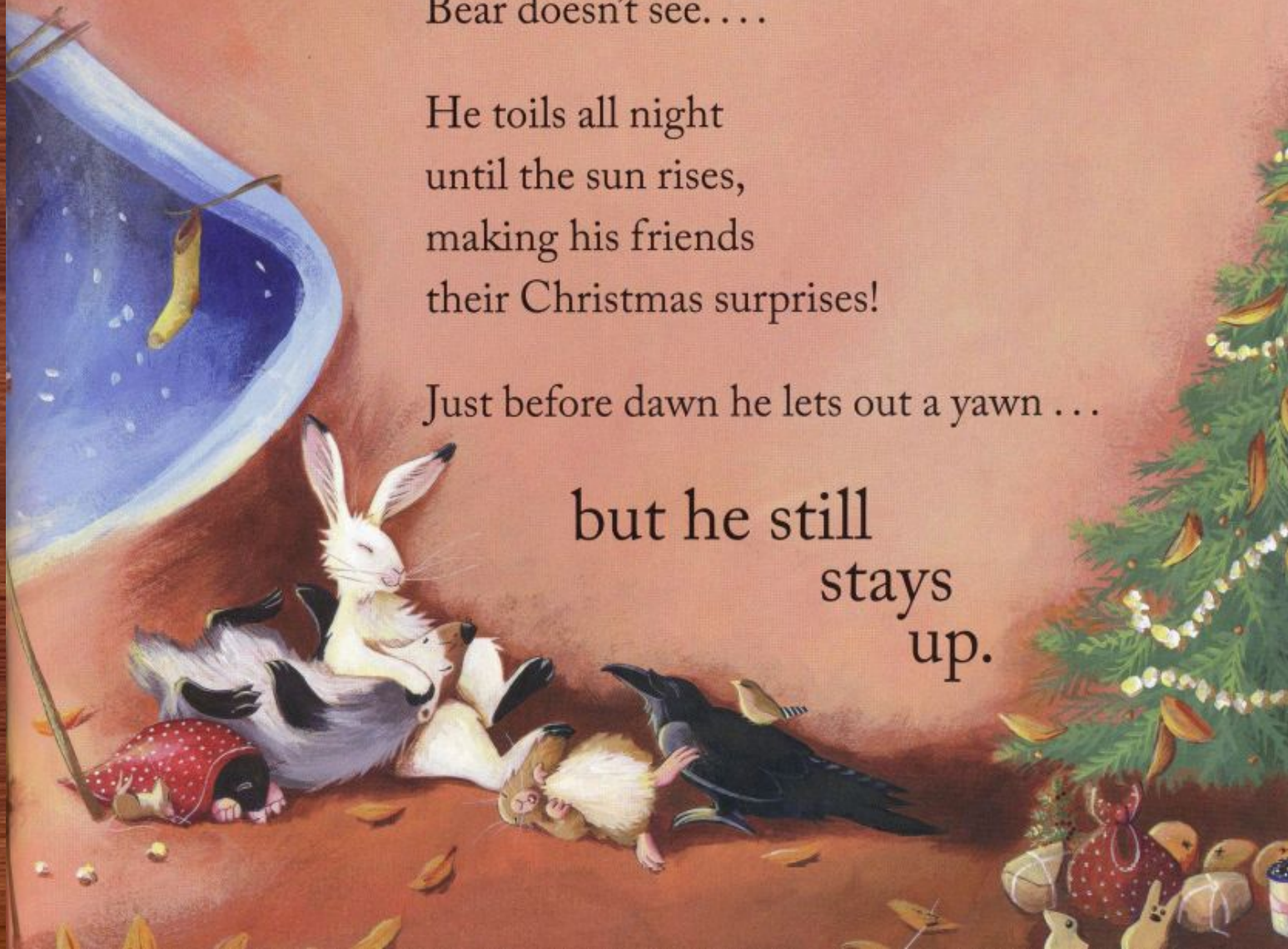


He piles up presents
under the tree.
But who's at the doorway?
Bear doesn't see. . . .

He toils all night
until the sun rises,
making his friends
their Christmas surprises!

Just before dawn he lets out a yawn . . .

but he still
stays
up.



When Christmas arrives,
so lovely and white,
Bear's friends awake
to a glorious sight.

Presents and goodies
are piled up tall.
"I stayed up," says Bear,
"just to share with you all."





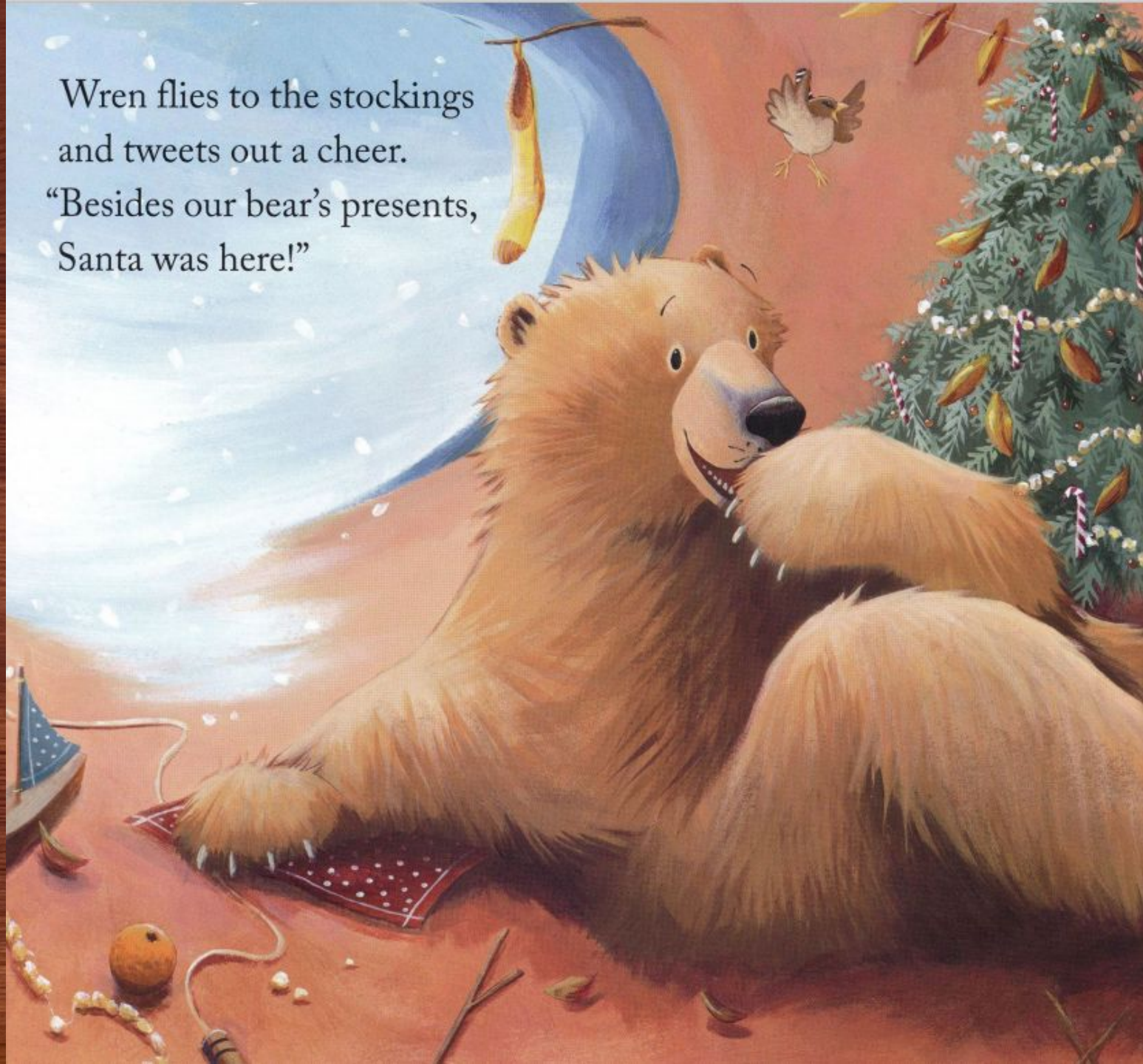


As his friends shout with glee, Bear lies by the tree . . .

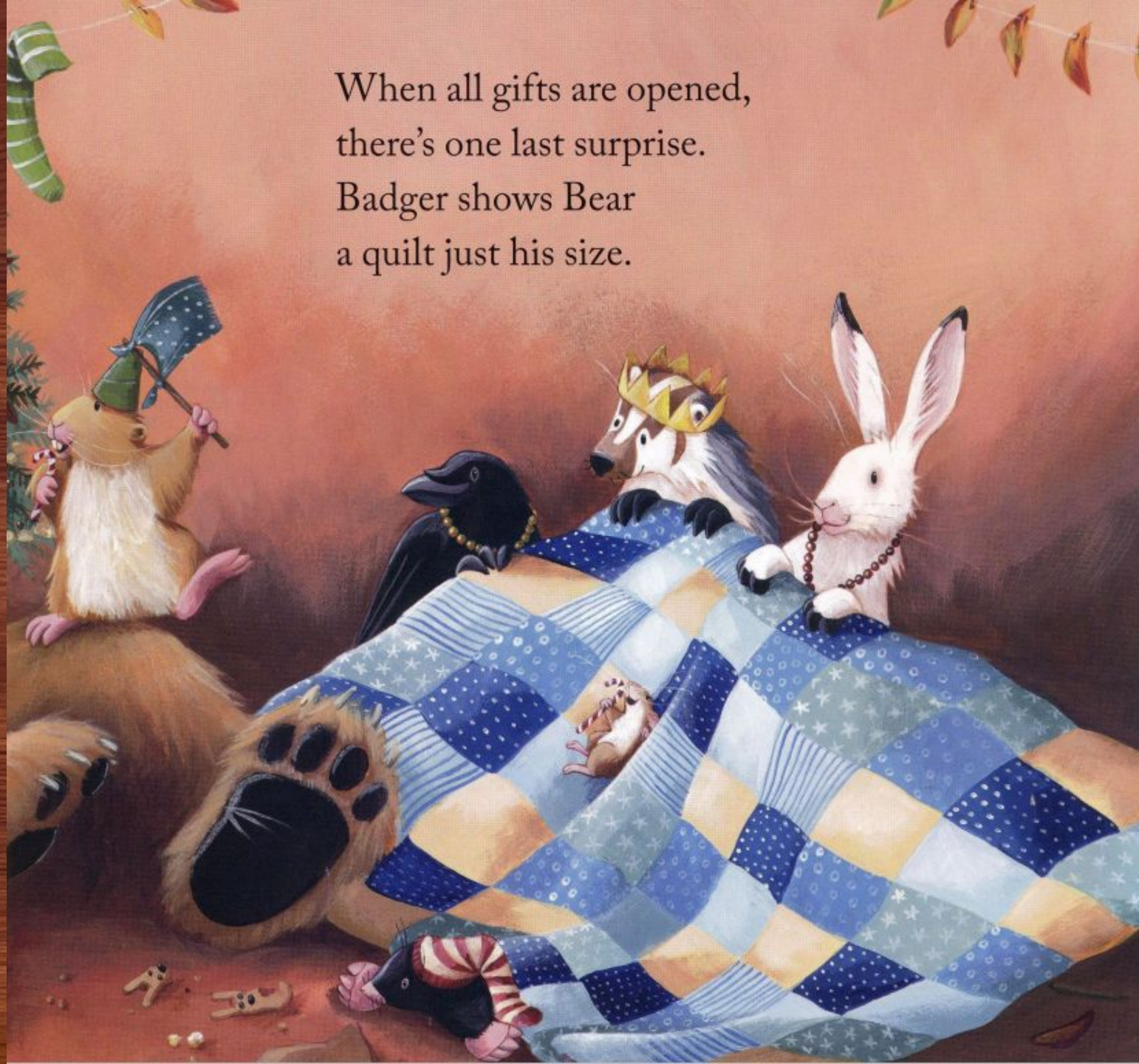
but he still
stays
up.



Wren flies to the stockings
and tweets out a cheer.
“Besides our bear’s presents,
Santa was here!”

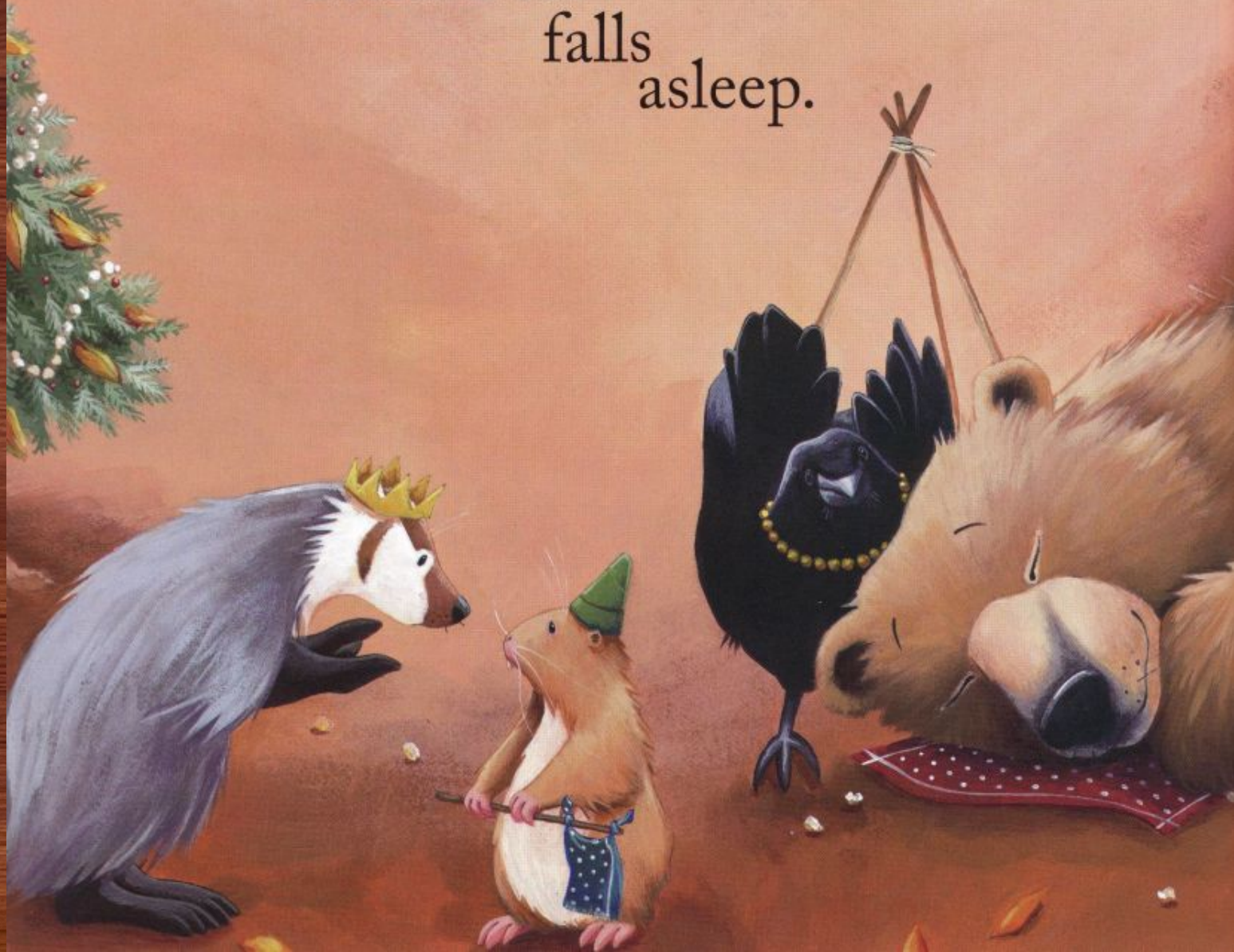


When all gifts are opened,
there's one last surprise.
Badger shows Bear
a quilt just his size.



Bear snuggles up tight and mutters, "Good night . . ."

Then Bear
falls
asleep.





His friends tidy up
and slip from the lair.
They whisper, "Sweet dreams.
Merry Christmas, dear Bear."

