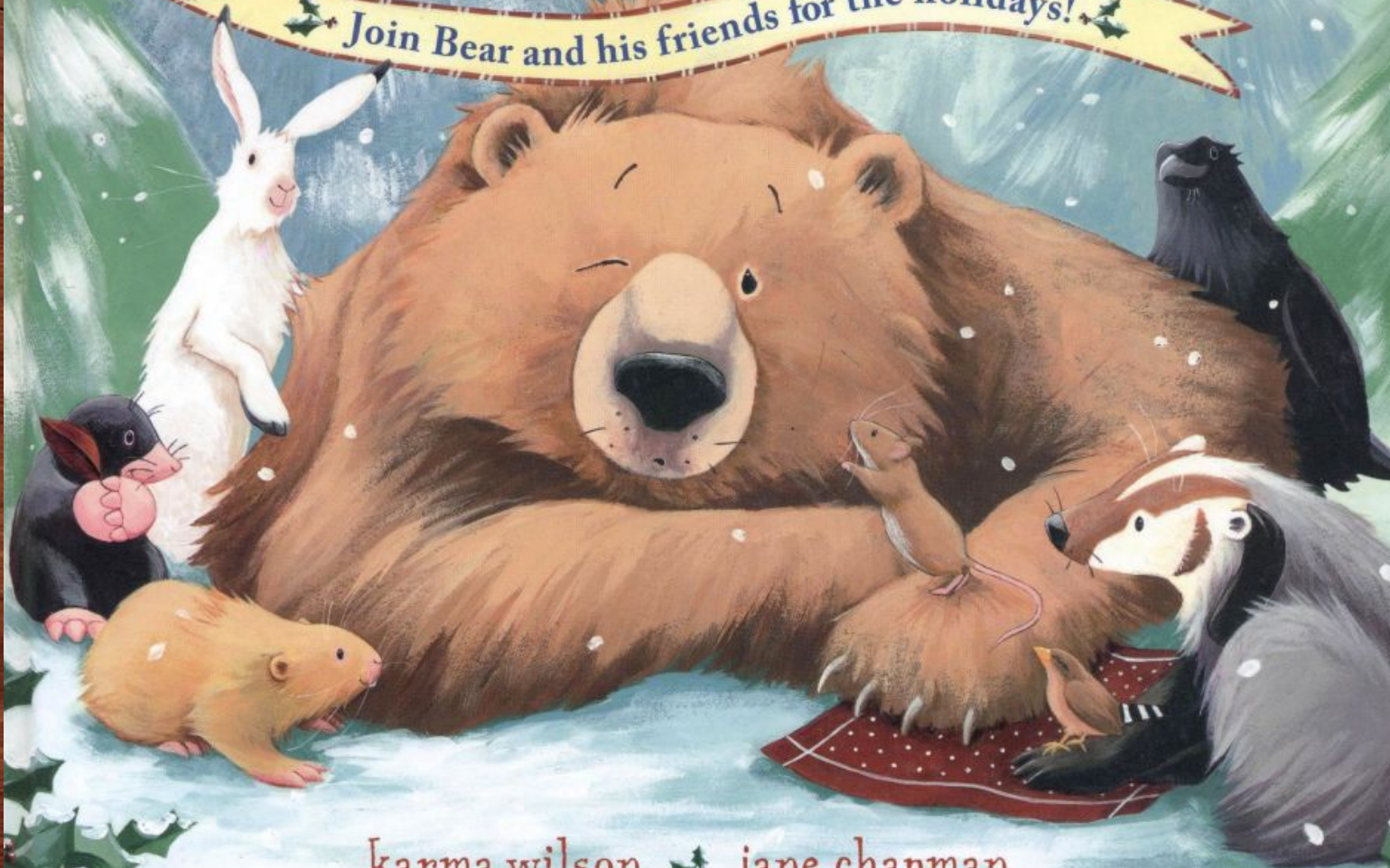


Join Bear and his friends for the holidays!



karma wilson jane chapman

# Bear Stays Up

FOR CHRISTMAS

START







The 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.”

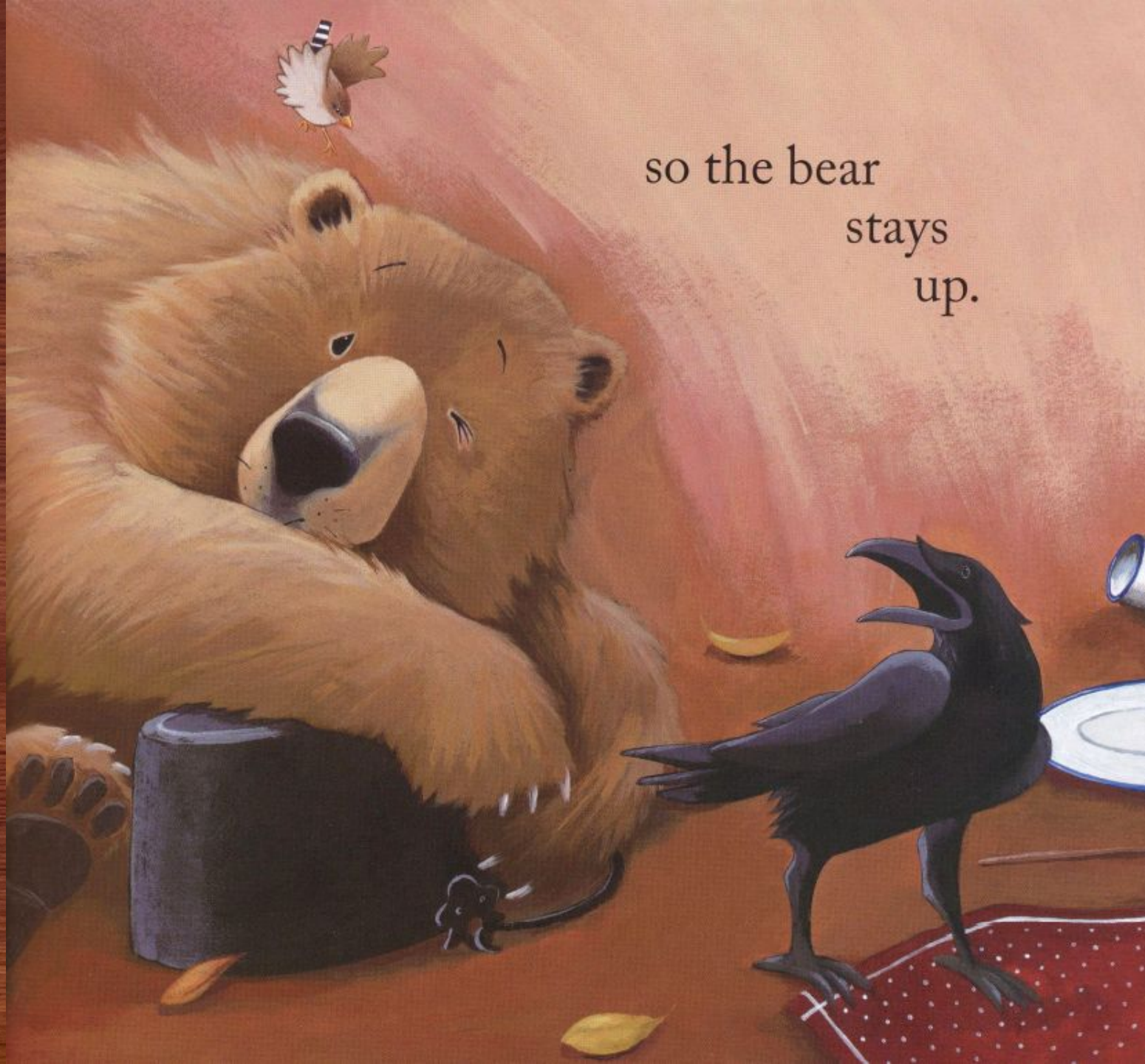


He tries to lie down,  
but his friends all frown . . .





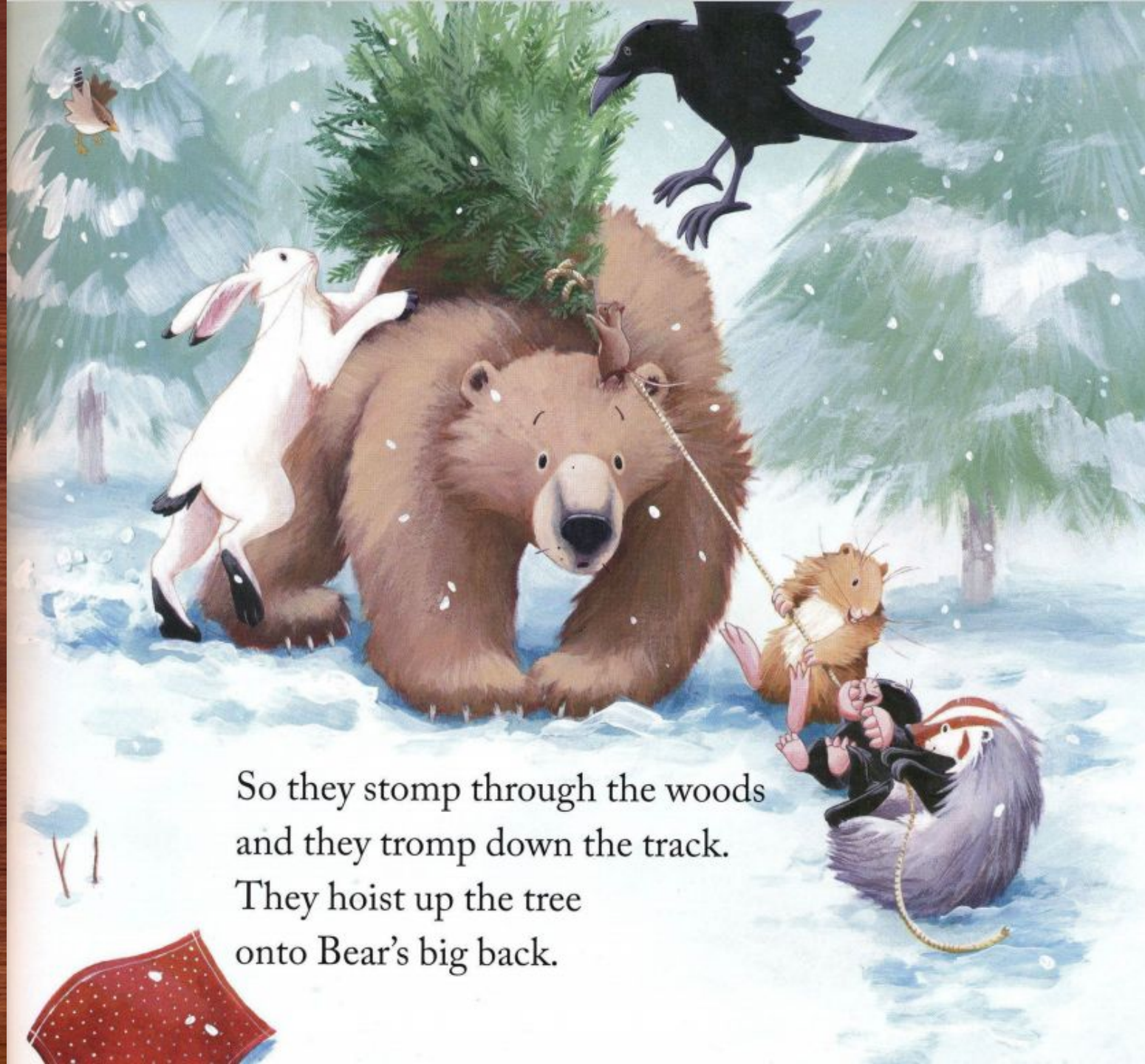
so the bear  
stays  
up.





“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.



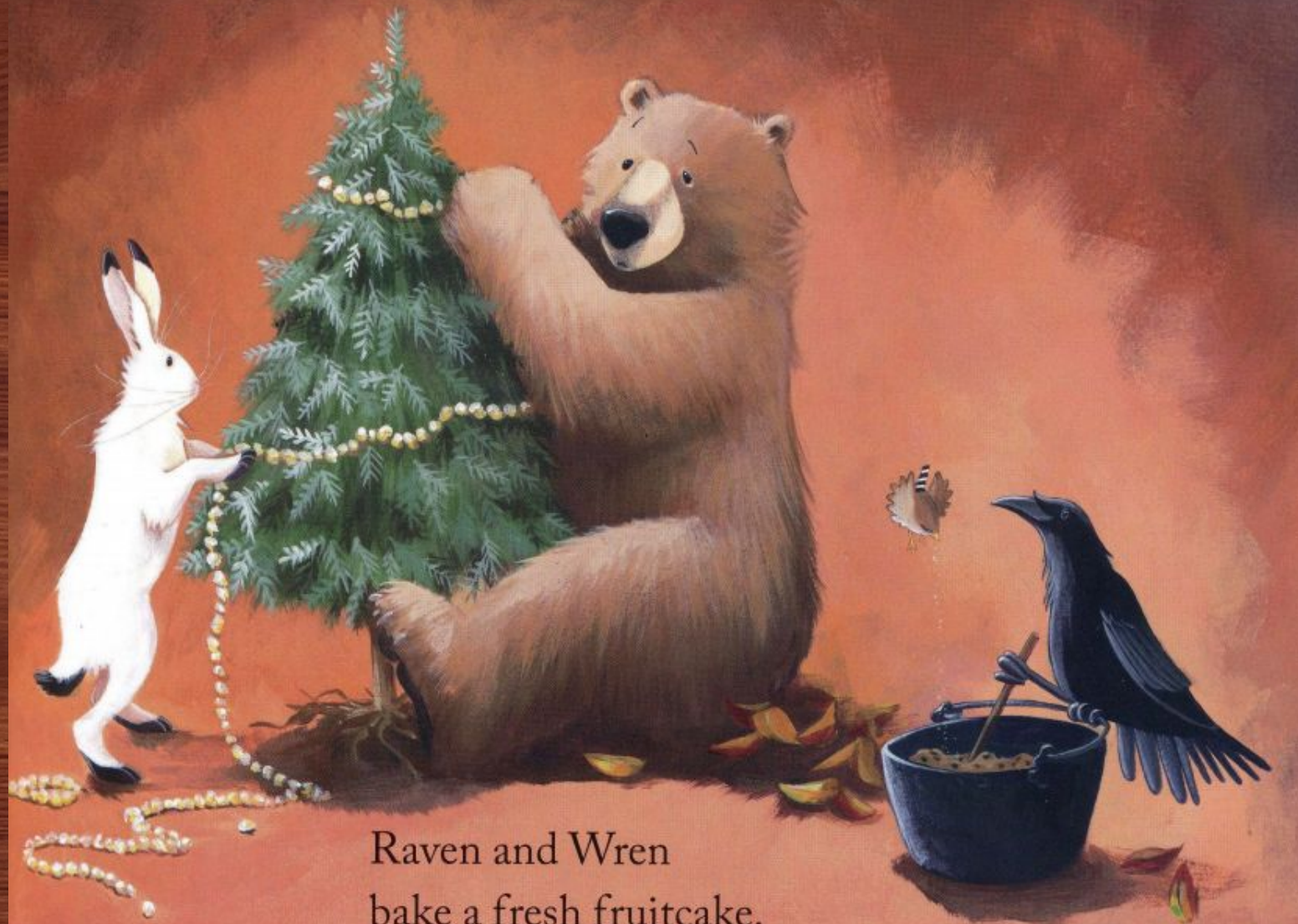


He plods very slow  
as they trudge through the snow.



But  
the bear  
stays up.

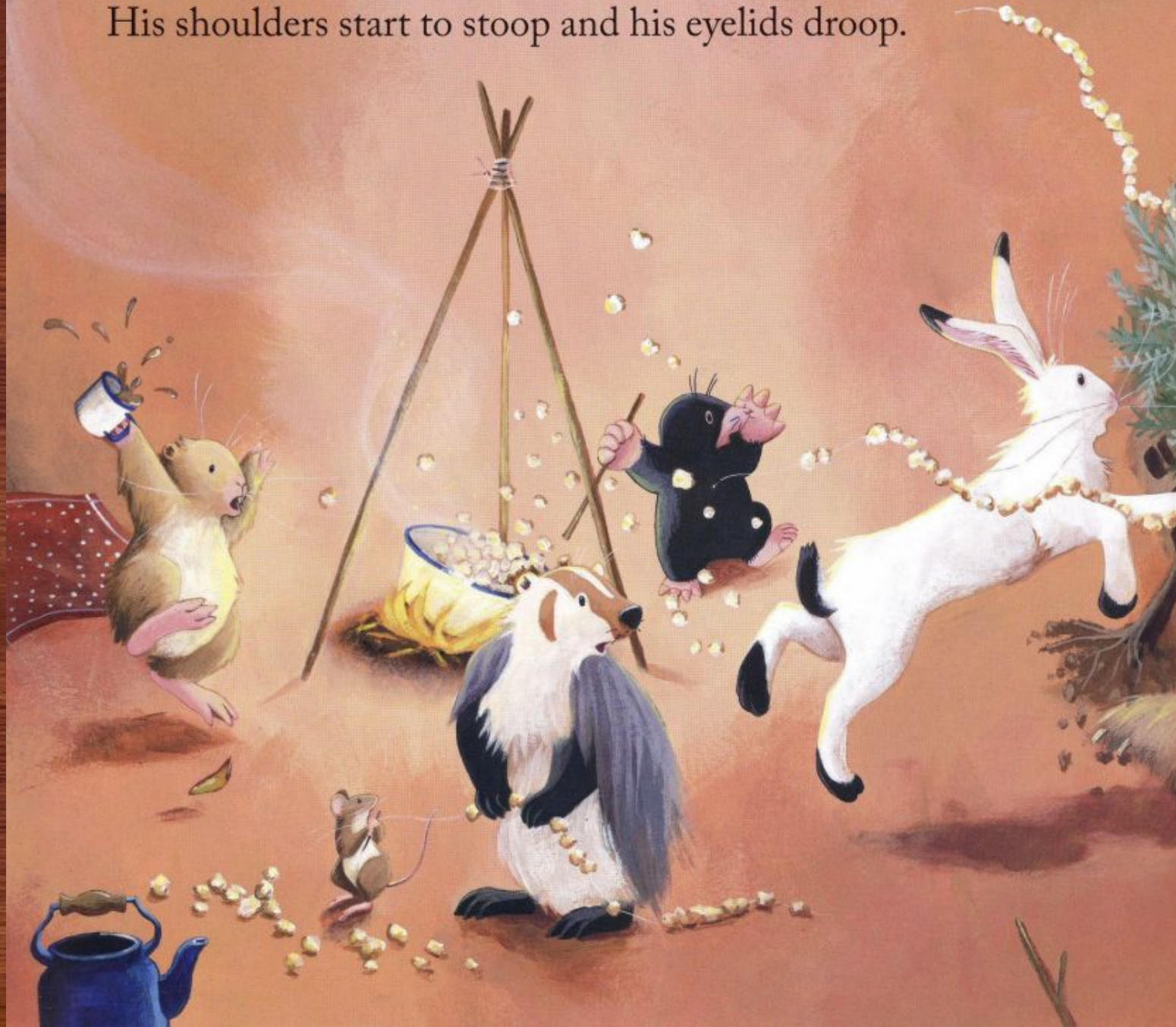




Raven and Wren  
bake a fresh fruitcake.  
The friends do their best  
to keep Bear awake.



His shoulders start to stoop and his eyelids droop.

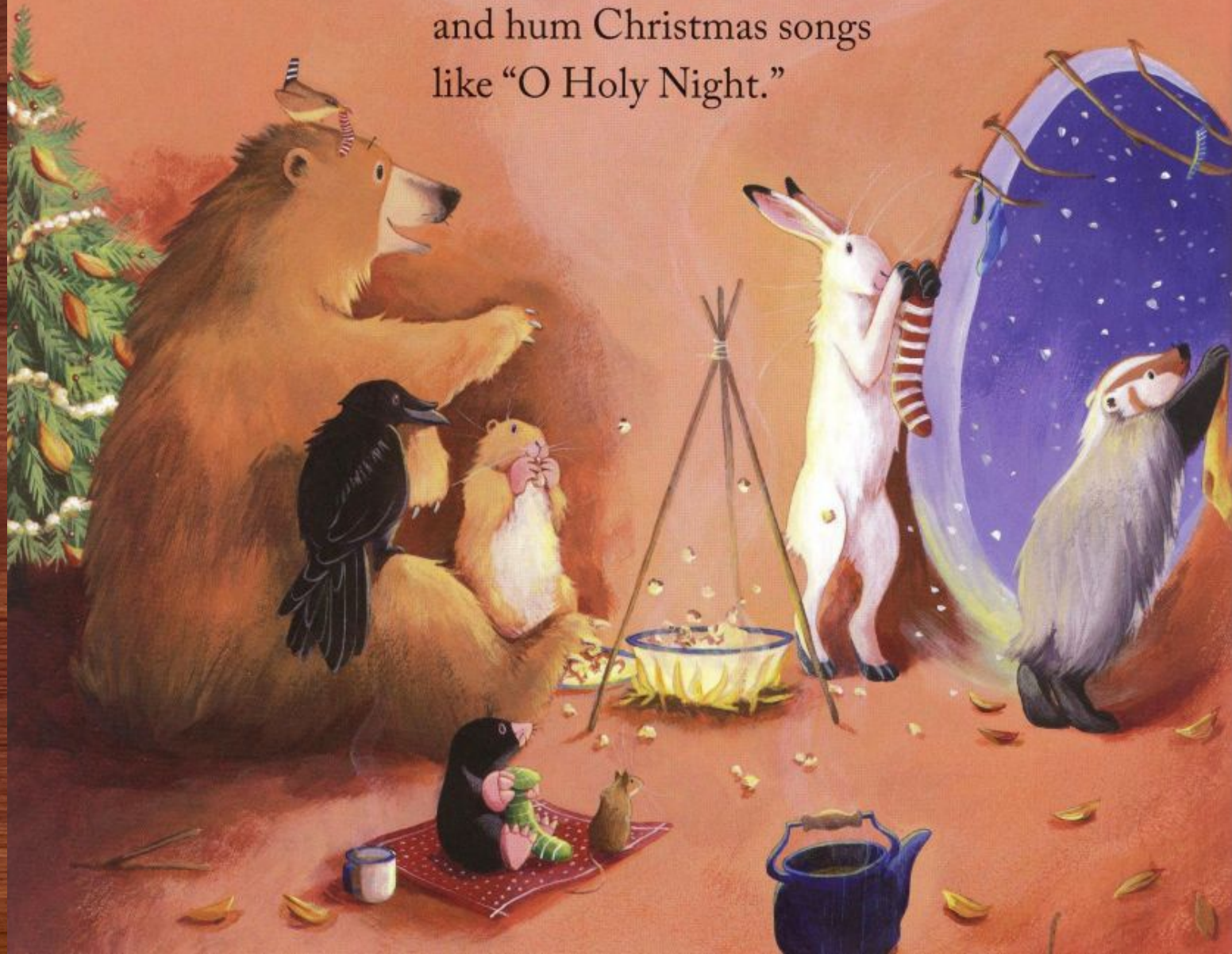


But the bear  
stays  
up.





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



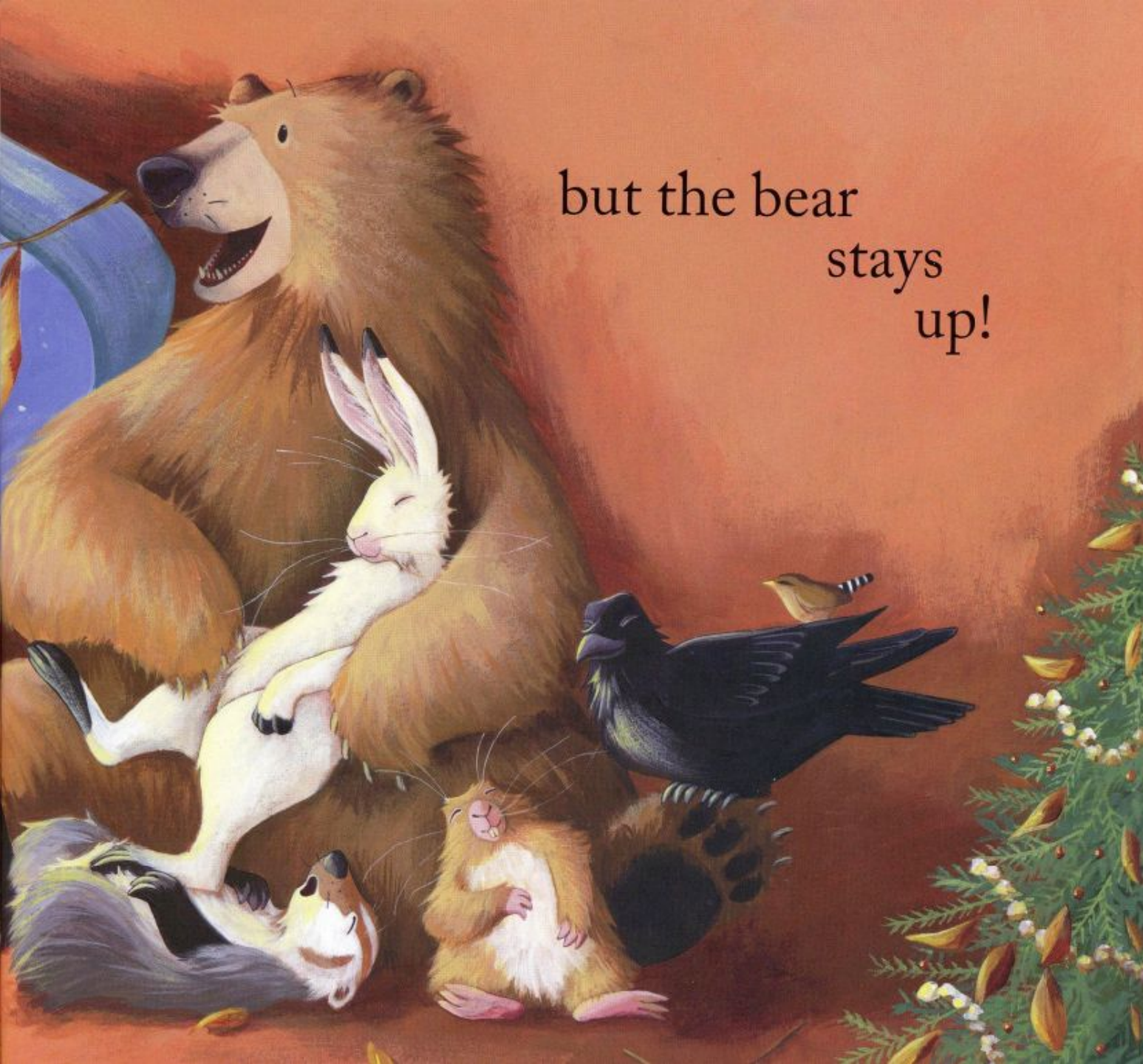


They cuddle and sing  
as they wait for the sun. . . .



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.

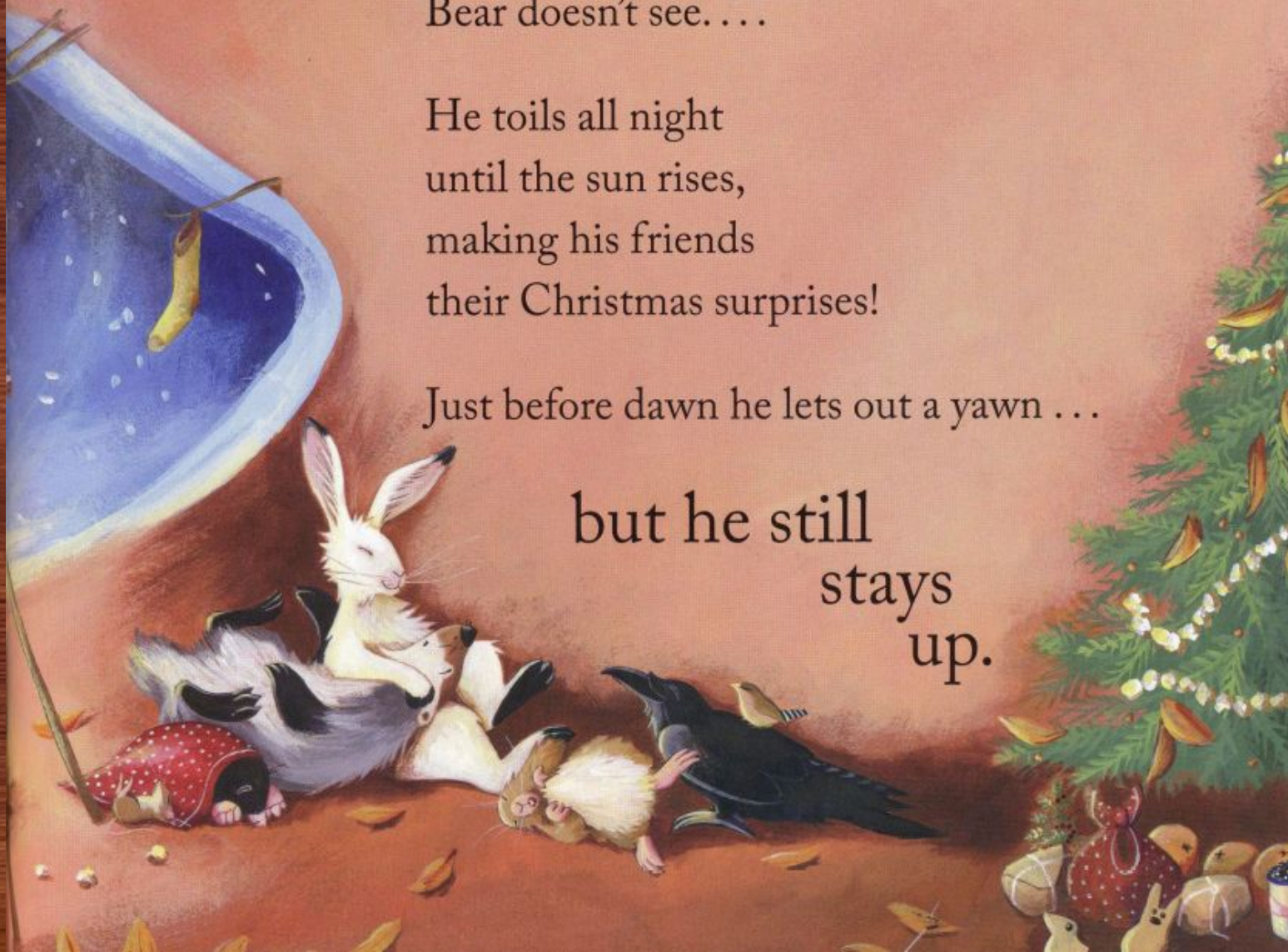
But who's at the doorway?

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."







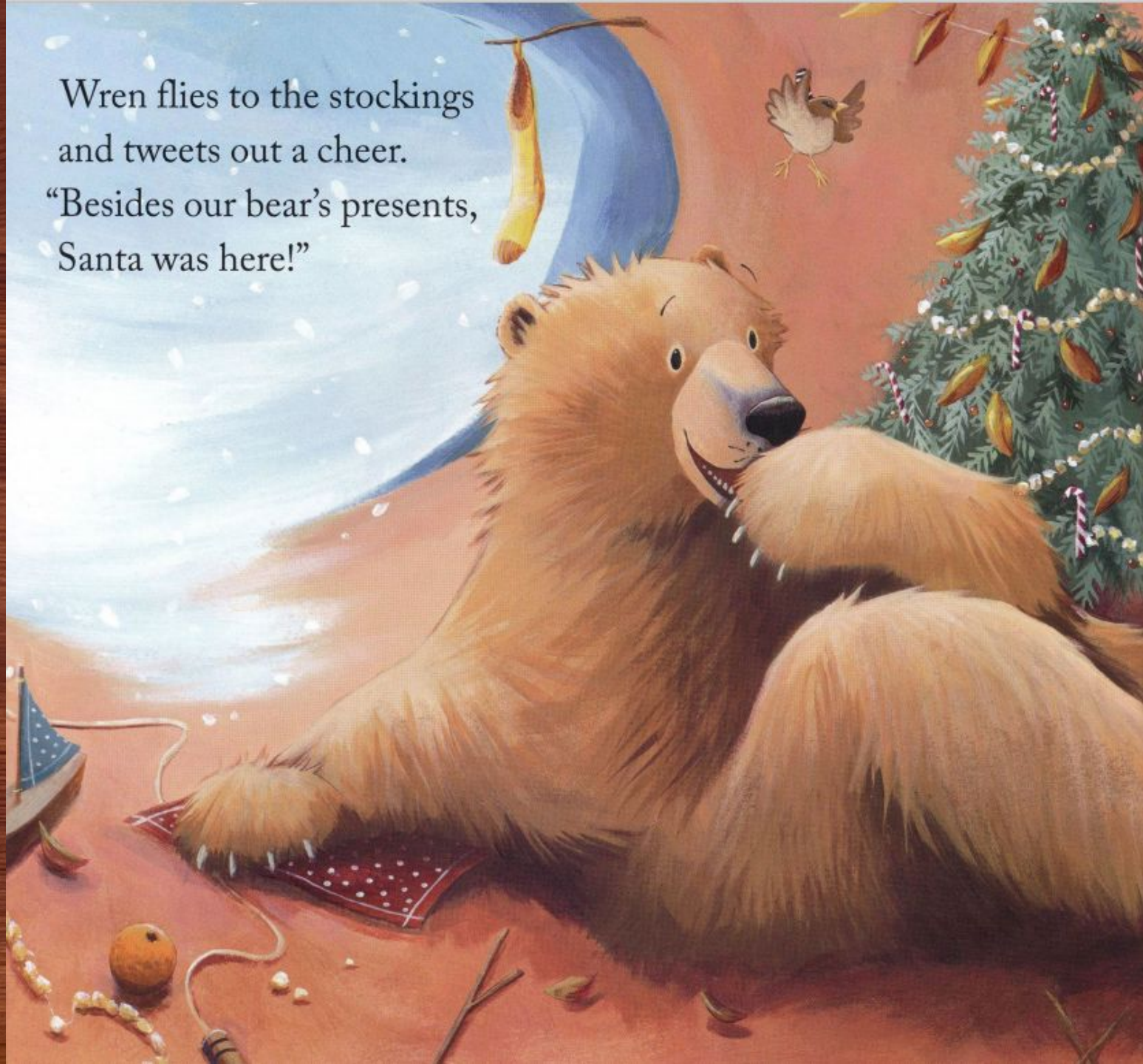


As his friends shout with glee, Bear lies by the tree . . .

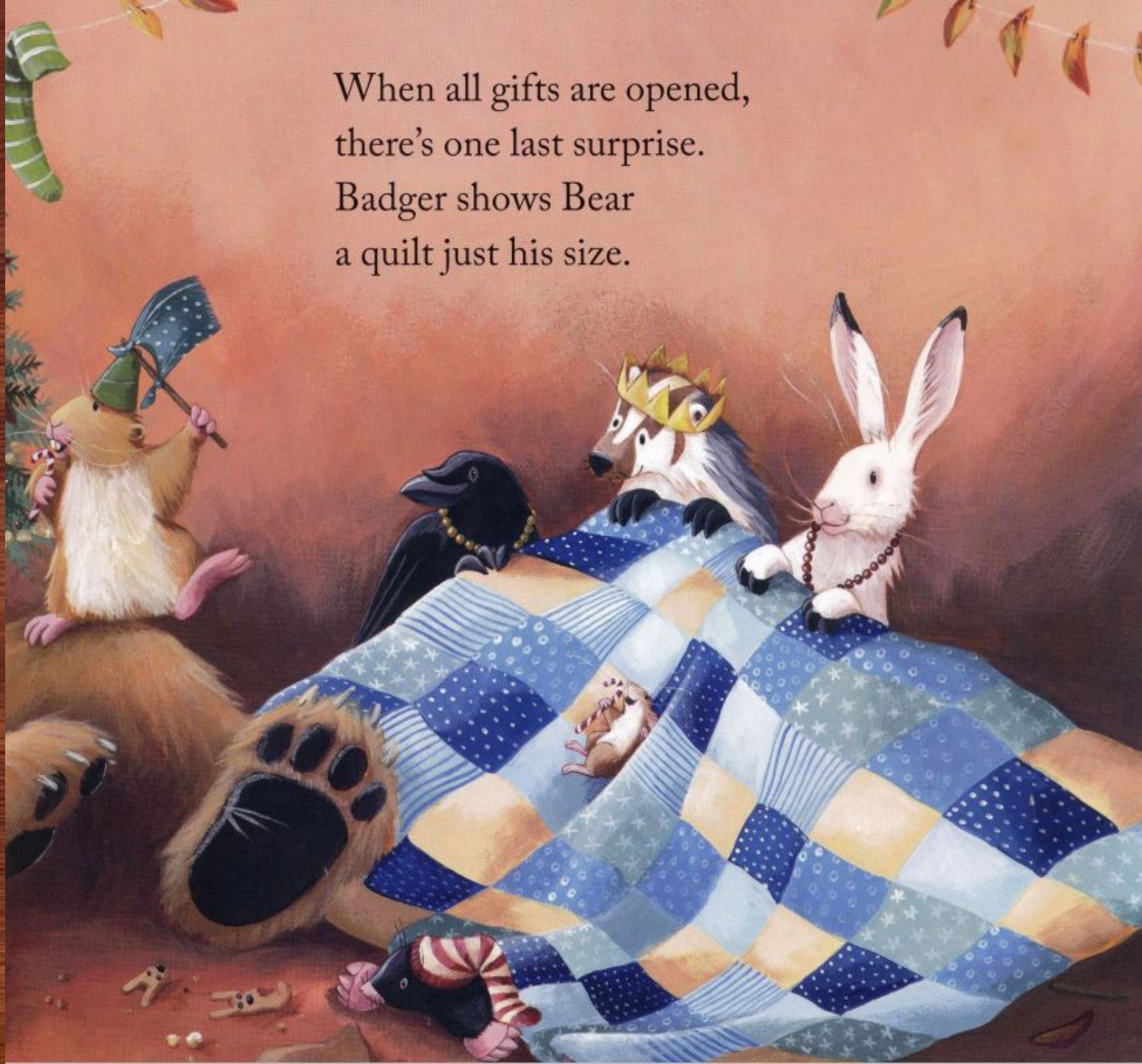
but he still  
stays  
up.



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

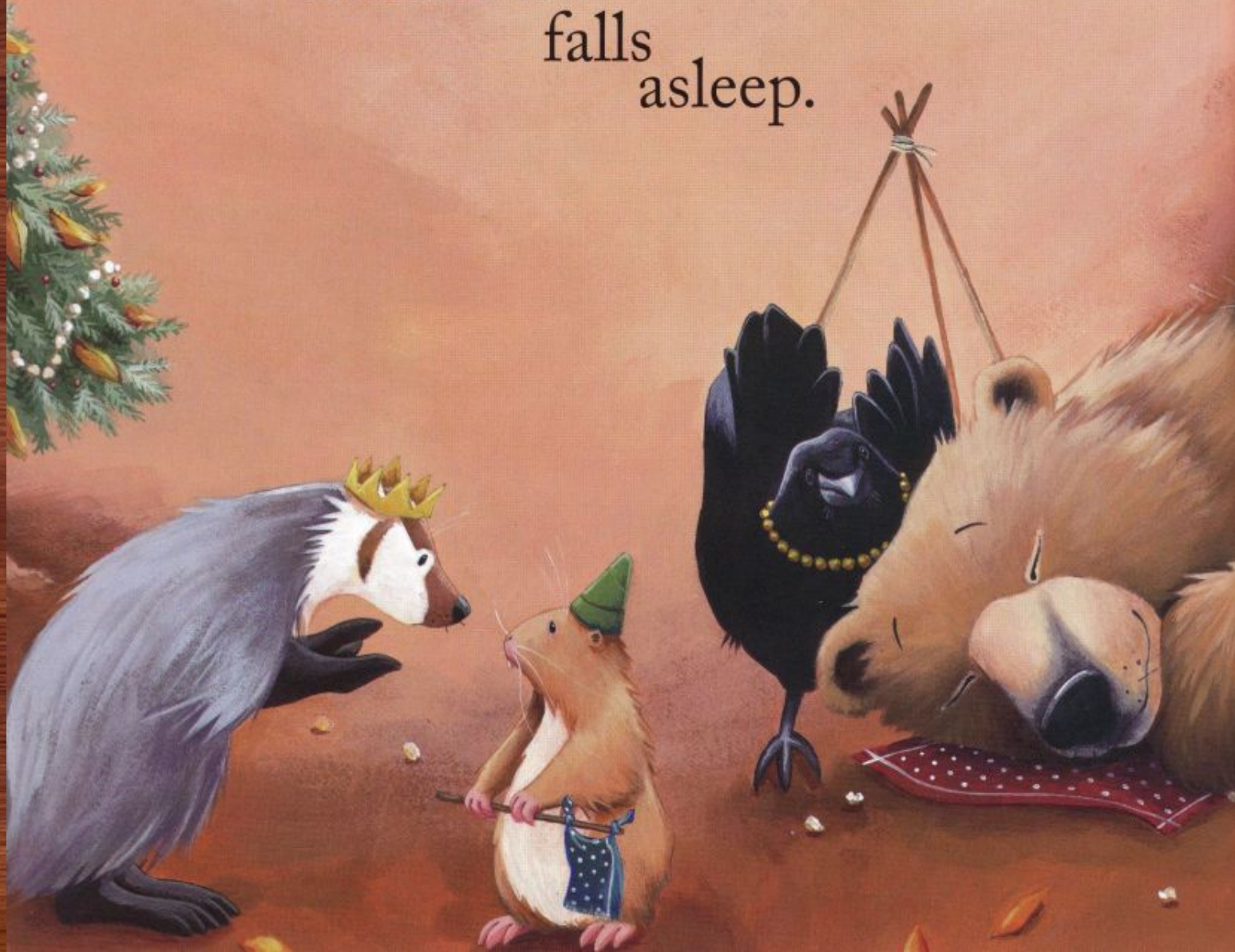


When all gifts are opened,  
there's one last surprise.  
Badger shows Bear  
a quilt just his size.




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."

