



Christmas
BEST



www.brightbearbooks.com

© 2016 Diana Kizlauskas
All Rights Reserved.

No part of this publication
may be reproduced
in any form or by any means
without prior written permission
of the copyright holder.

ISBN: 978-0-9915233-4-4

Christmas BEST

Written
and Illustrated by
DIANA KIZLAUSKAS



BRIGHT BEAR BOOKS

*"Do small things
with great love."
— Mother Teresa*

*To Dalia and Andy —
my Christmas Best*

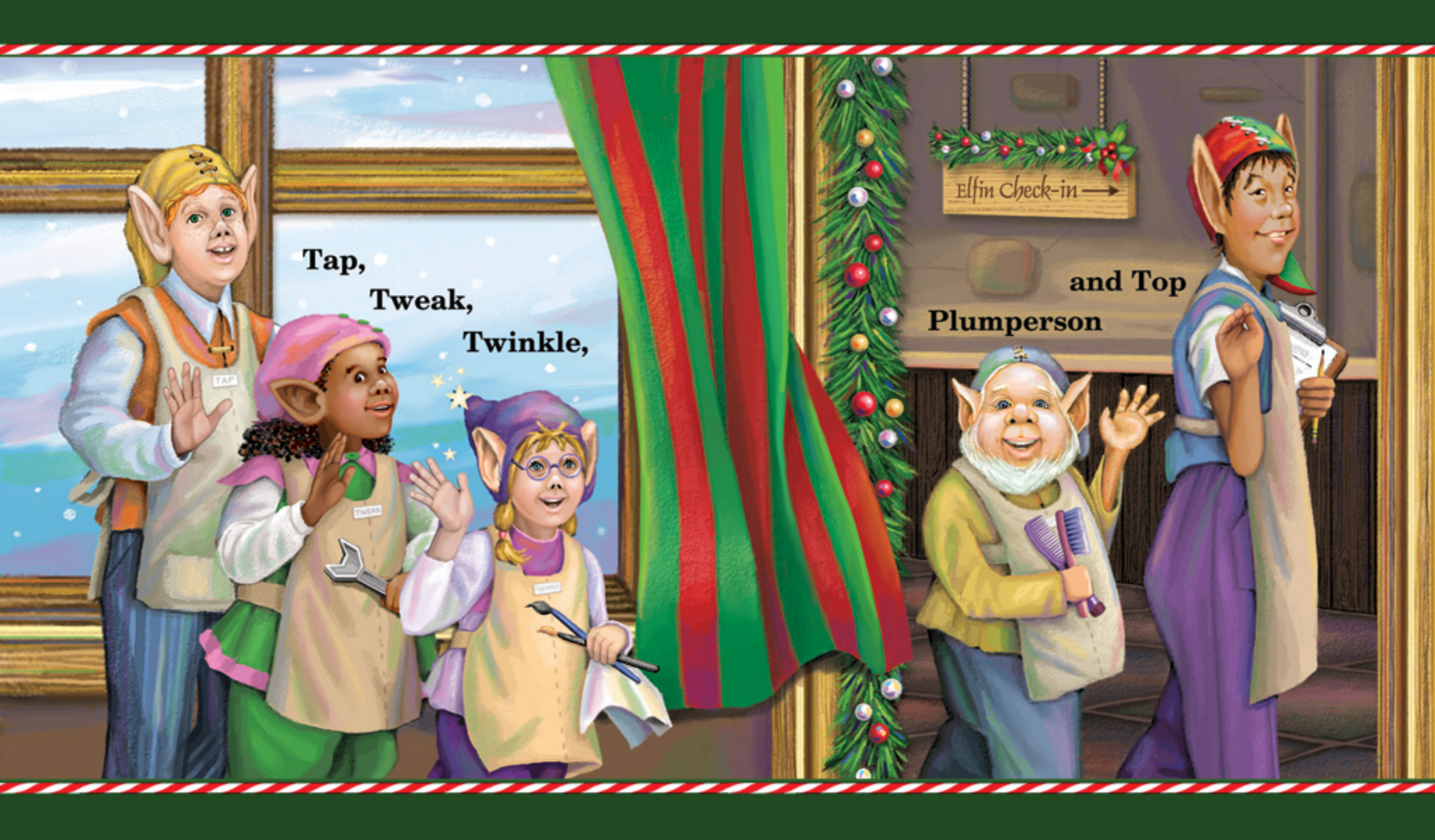
TINSEL

GARLAND

LIGHTS

ORNAMENTS





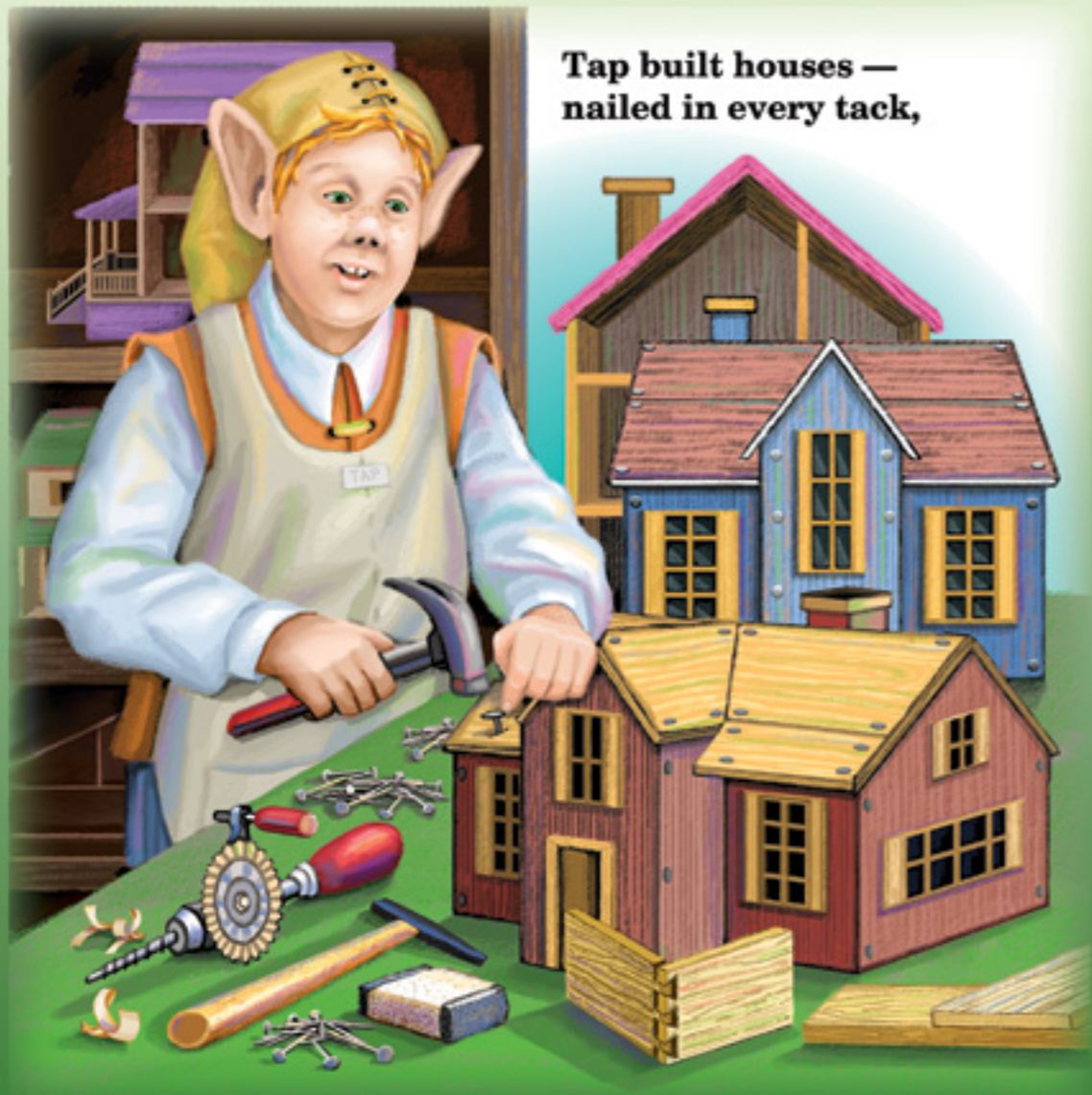
**Tap,
Tweak,
Twinkle,**

**and Top
Plumperson**

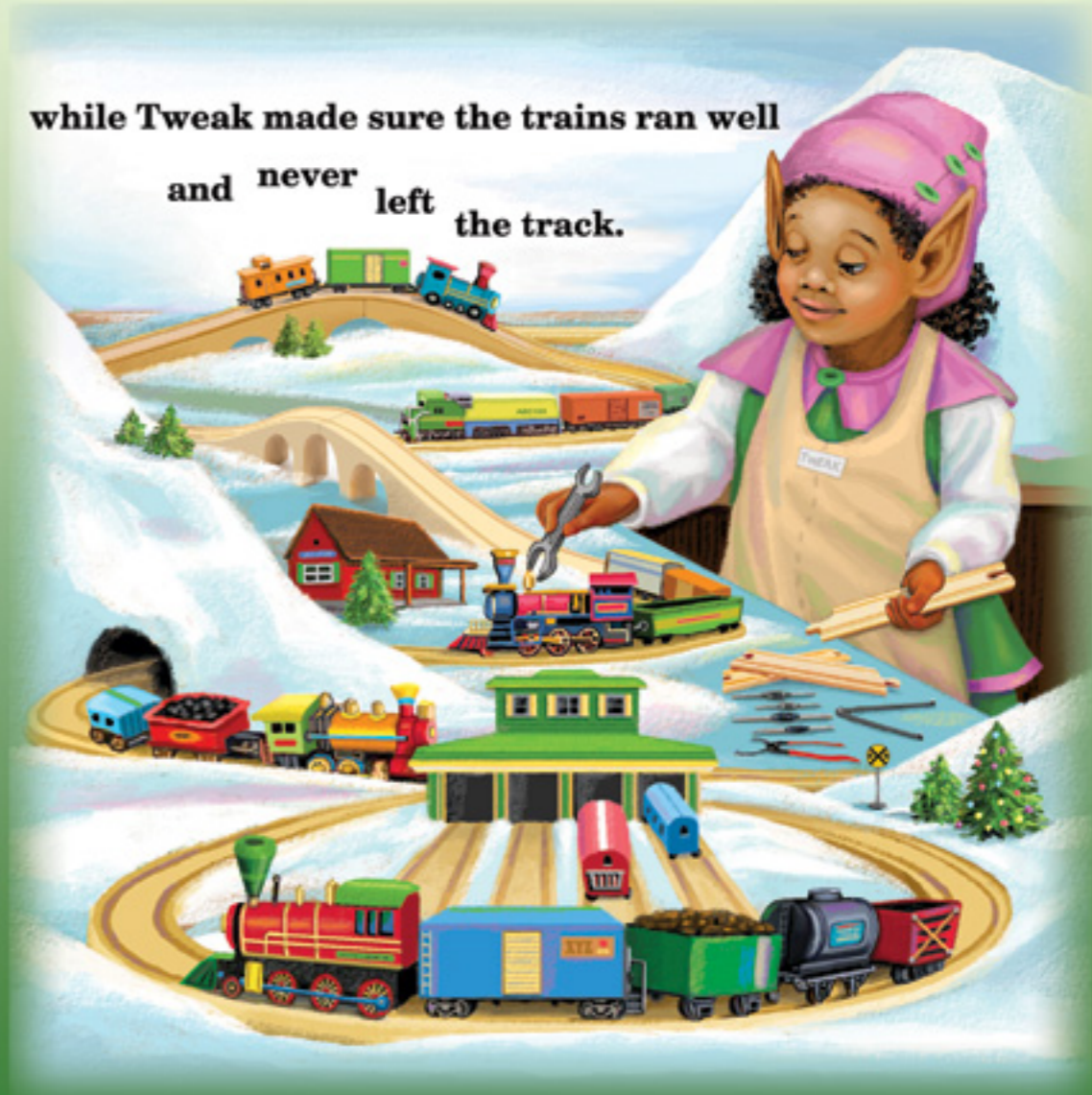
Elfin Check-in →

made Christmas toys for girls and boys
in Santa's busy shop.





Tap built houses —
nailed in every tack,

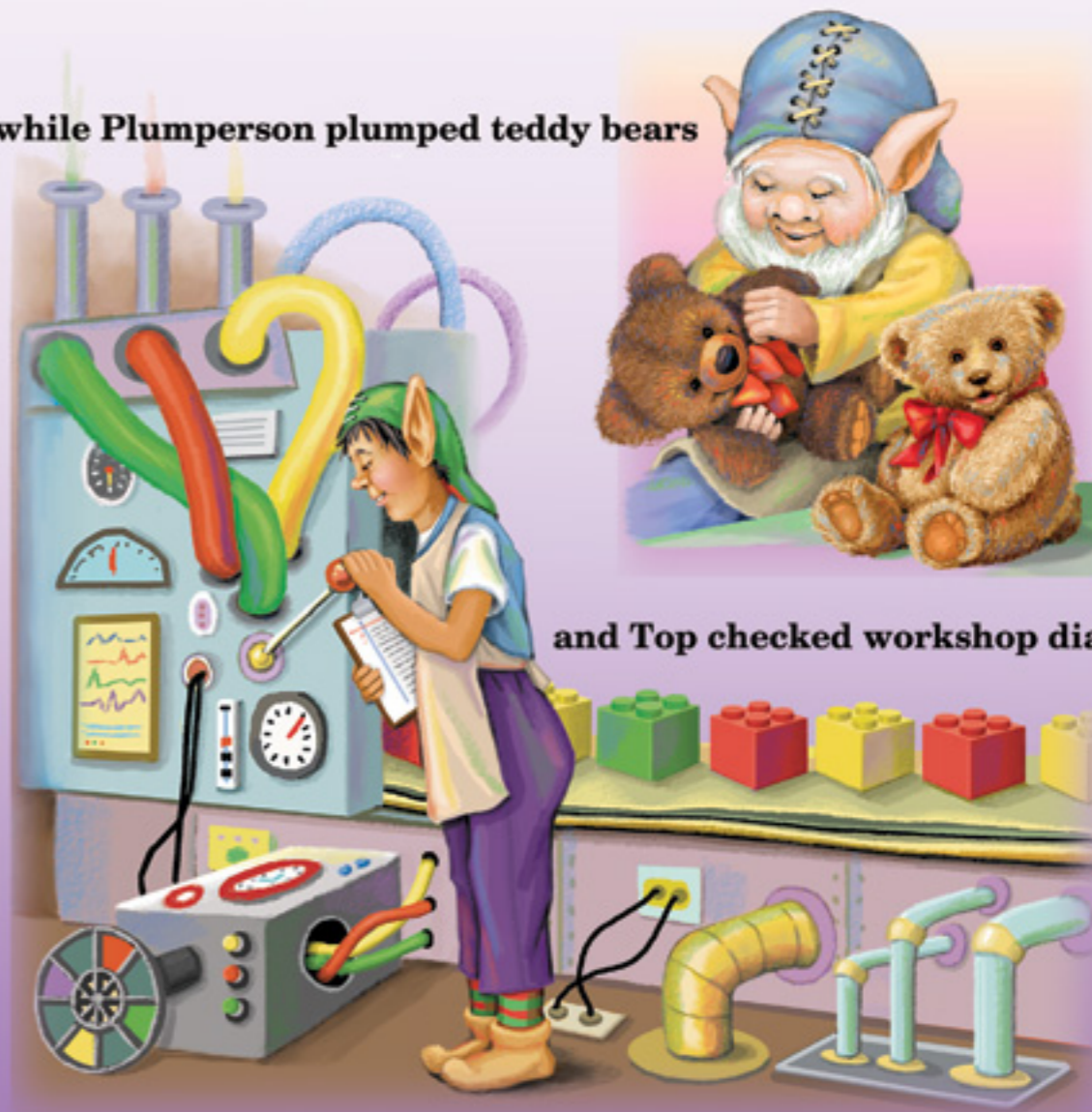


while Tweak made sure the trains ran well
and never left the track.

**Dolls, clowns, ponies —
Twinkle gave them smiles,**



while Plumperson plumped teddy bears



and Top checked workshop dials.

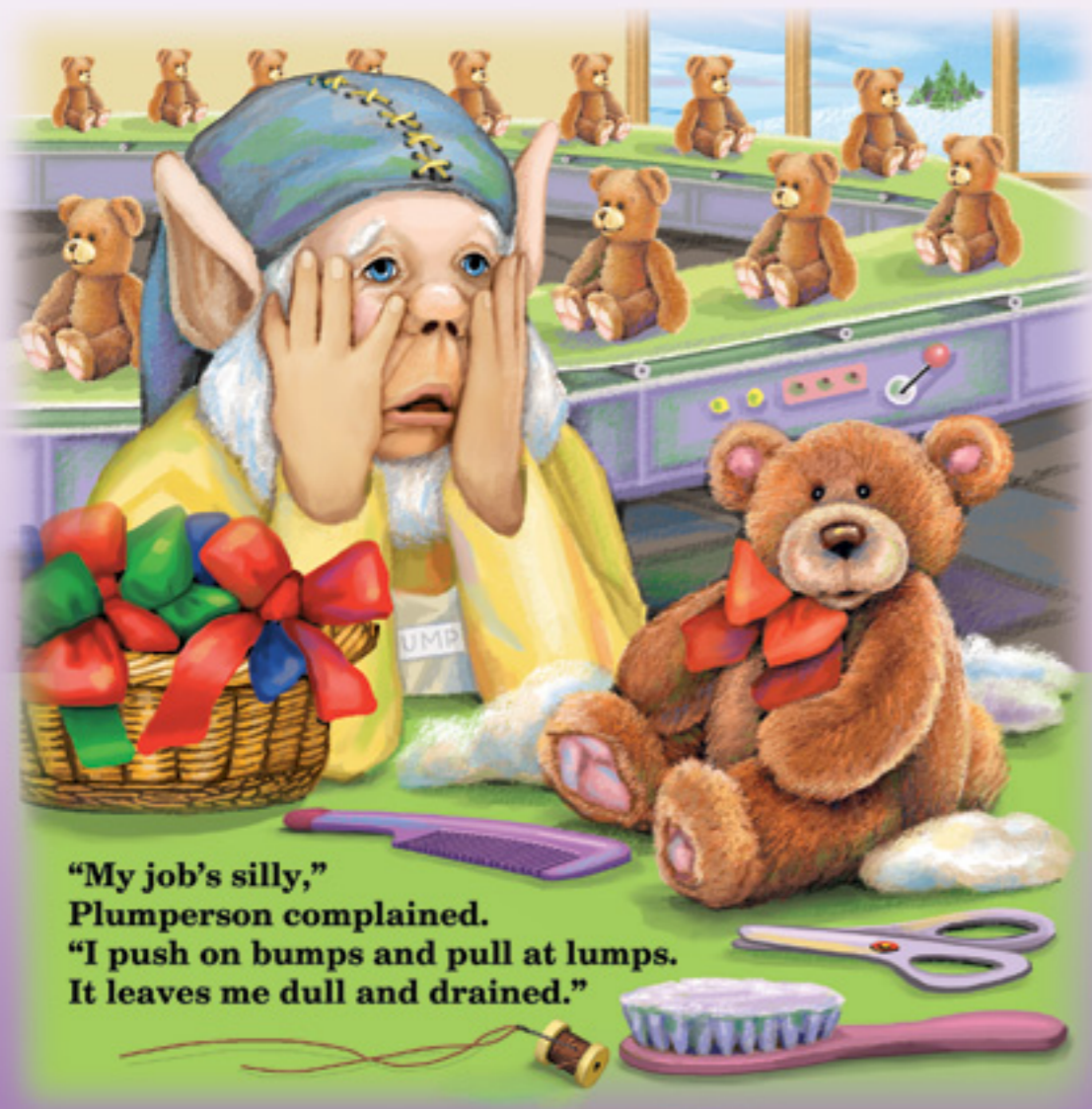
Then one morning,
Tap began to frown.
“My work is plain and small,” he grumped.
He put his hammer down.

“I’m so little
and my job is, too!
That’s it, I quit. I’m going to find
IMPORTANT work to do!”



Tweak nudged Twinkle,
“Let’s go out and see
if there is bigger Christmas work
for Tap and you and me.”





“My job’s silly,”
Plumperson complained.
“I push on bumps and pull at lumps.
It leaves me dull and drained.”

Top stopped checking.
Thoughts raced through his head.
He spun around and tapped his feet
then raised his arms and said:

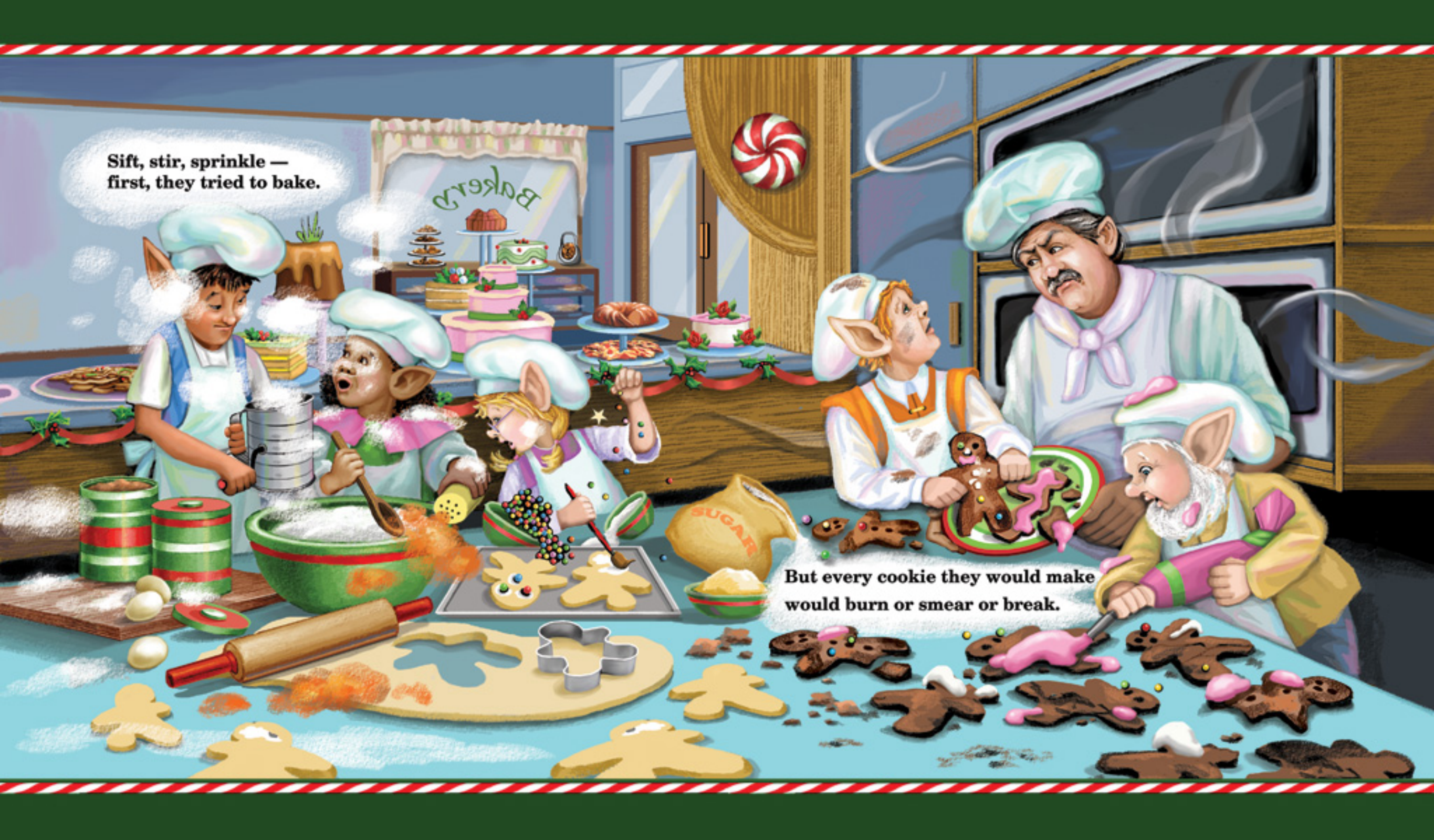


“Fine, fresh, flashy —
not like knobs and gears!
Let’s venture out and find ourselves
new holiday careers!”



Tap, Tweak, Twinkle,
Plumperson and Top
packed up their things, put on their coats
and left a startled shop.

Bright, bold, bouncy —
they could hardly wait
to do whatever *other* work
would make them grand and GREAT!



Sift, stir, sprinkle —
first, they tried to bake.

But every cookie they would make
would burn or smear or break.

**Santa's helpers
learned what Santa knew:
their best would always make them great
and bless the whole world, too!**



DIANA KIZLAUSKAS

is a Chicago area artist whose children's illustrations have been published by nationally and internationally known companies including Harcourt Achieve; Macmillan McGraw-Hill; Pearson Education/Scott Foresman; Compass/Seed Media; Pauline Books and Media; EDCO/Ireland and others. Most recently, she has both written and illustrated *LETTUCE!* and *Christmas Best*, published independently under the imprint of Bright Bear Books.

She is a member of The Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators.

Visit Diana at her website:
www.dianakizlauskas.com



*"... a lovely message wrapped in a bright package.
The story is sure to empower its audience, knowing that even
the littlest things done with care can change the world."*

– BlueInk Review