

Helping your children choose books they will love



Lovereading4kids.co.uk is a book website
created for parents and children to make
choosing books easy and fun

Opening extract from
The Best Christmas Present Ever!

Written by
Ben Mantle

Published by
Macmillan Children's Books

All Text is Copyright © of the Author and/or Illustrator

Please print off and read at your leisure.







For Lucy, who makes every Christmas the best one ever.



First published 2015 by Macmillan Children’s Books
an imprint of Pan Macmillan,
a division of Macmillan Publishers International Limited
20 New Wharf Road, London N1 9RR
Associated companies throughout the world
www.panmacmillan.com

ISBN: 978-1-4472-8399-7 (HB)
ISBN: 978-1-4472-8400-0 (PB)

Text and illustrations copyright © Ben Mantle 2015
Moral rights asserted.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in or introduced into a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form, or by any means (electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise) without the prior written permission of the publisher. Any person who does any unauthorised act in relation to this publication may be liable to criminal prosecution and civil claims for damages.

1 3 5 7 9 8 6 4 2

A CIP catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

Printed in China

The Best Christmas Present Ever!



Ben Mantle

MACMILLAN CHILDREN’S BOOKS

Bear had a funny feeling he had forgotten something.



He'd already washed
behind his ears,



and shampooed and
styled his fur.



He just couldn't remember what it was. Maybe a walk would help.

Bear had just left his house when he bumped into his best friend Squirrel.

“FOUR SLEEPS TILL CHRISTMAS!” shouted Squirrel excitedly. “I’ve got you such a great gift, Bear. I can’t wait to give it to you!”



Oh no! Bear had forgotten to get Squirrel a present.

“There must be something amazing in that big box,” thought Bear.
“I’ll have to think of an extra special present for Squirrel.”

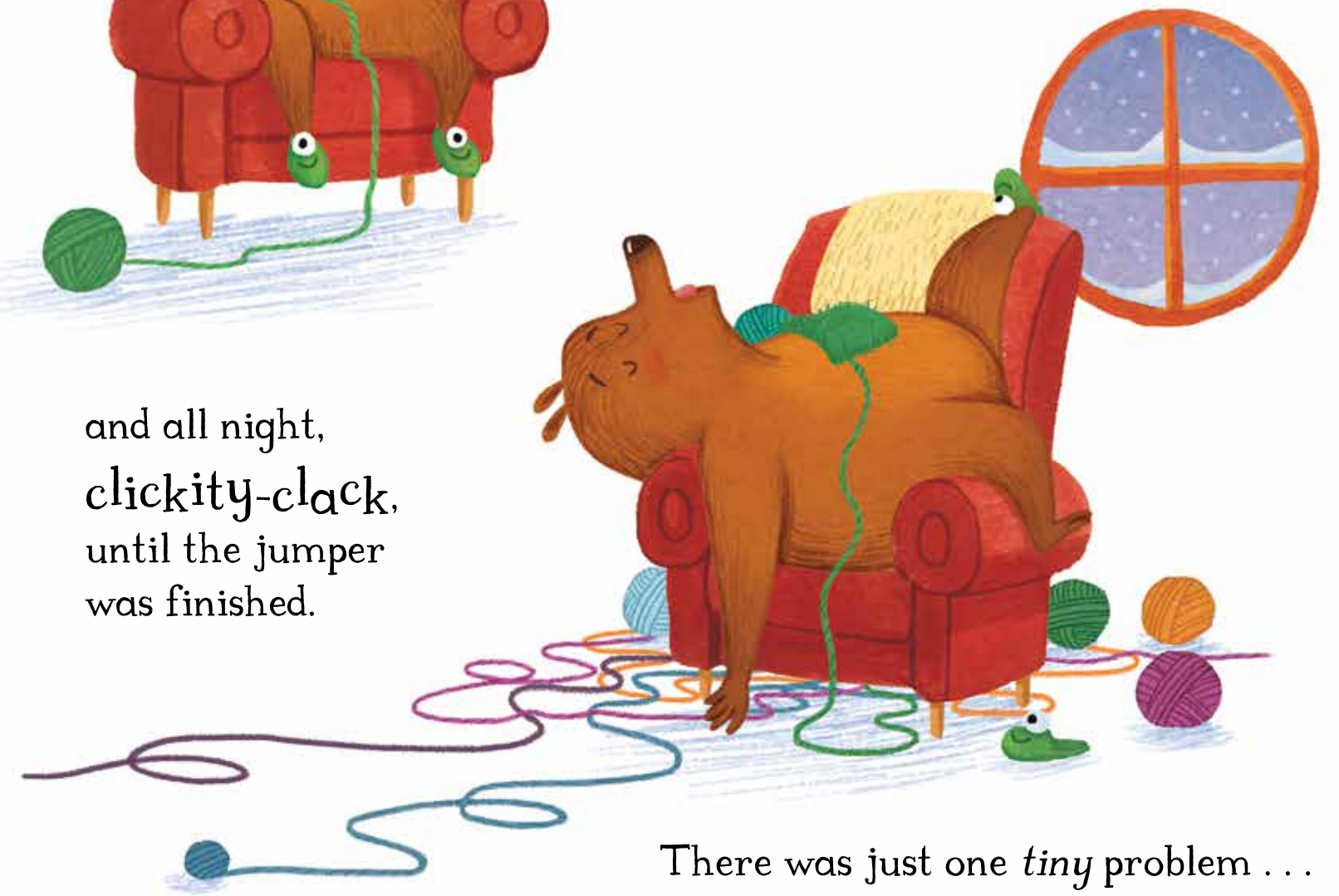


Bear looked at the cold snow. “That’s it!” he thought.
“I’ll knit Squirrel a Christmas jumper.”



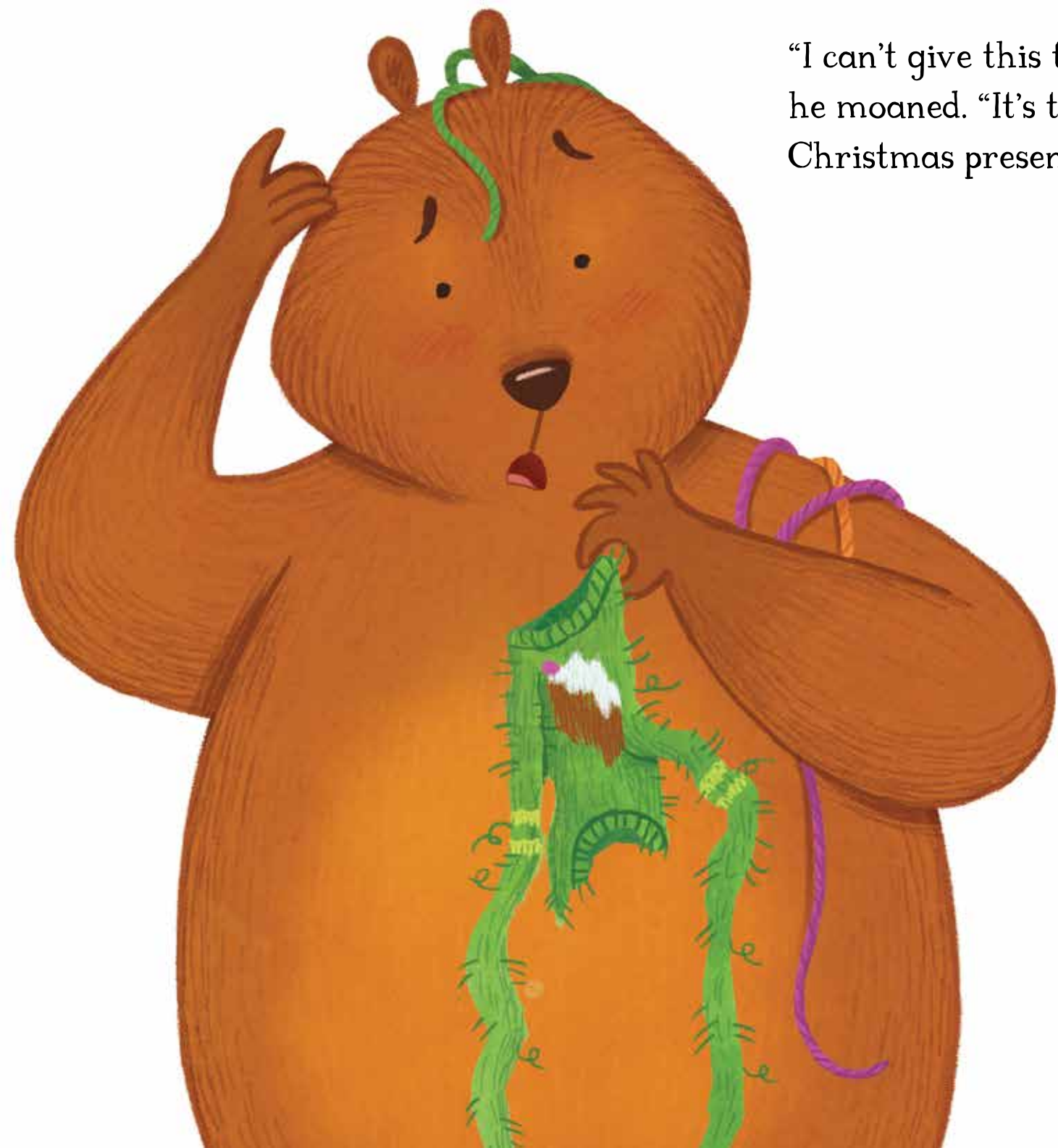
He knitted all day,
clickity-click,

and all night,
clickity-clack,
until the jumper
was finished.



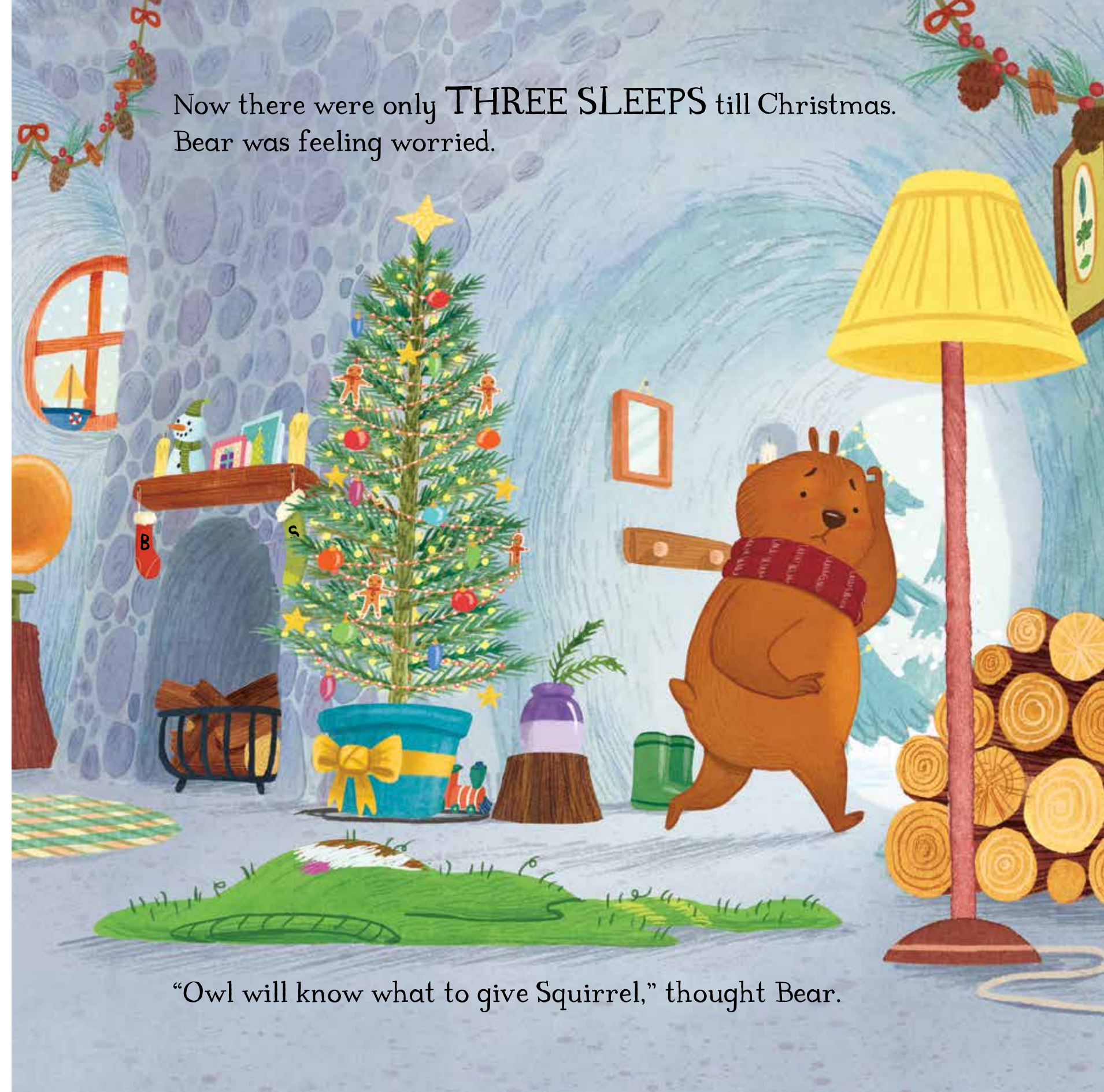
There was just one *tiny* problem . . .

Bear was not very good at knitting.



“I can’t give this to Squirrel,” he moaned. “It’s the *worst* Christmas present ever!”

Now there were only **THREE SLEEPS** till Christmas. Bear was feeling worried.



“Owl will know what to give Squirrel,” thought Bear.