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Opening extract from

The Best Christmas Present Ever!

Written by

Ben Mantle

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



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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.

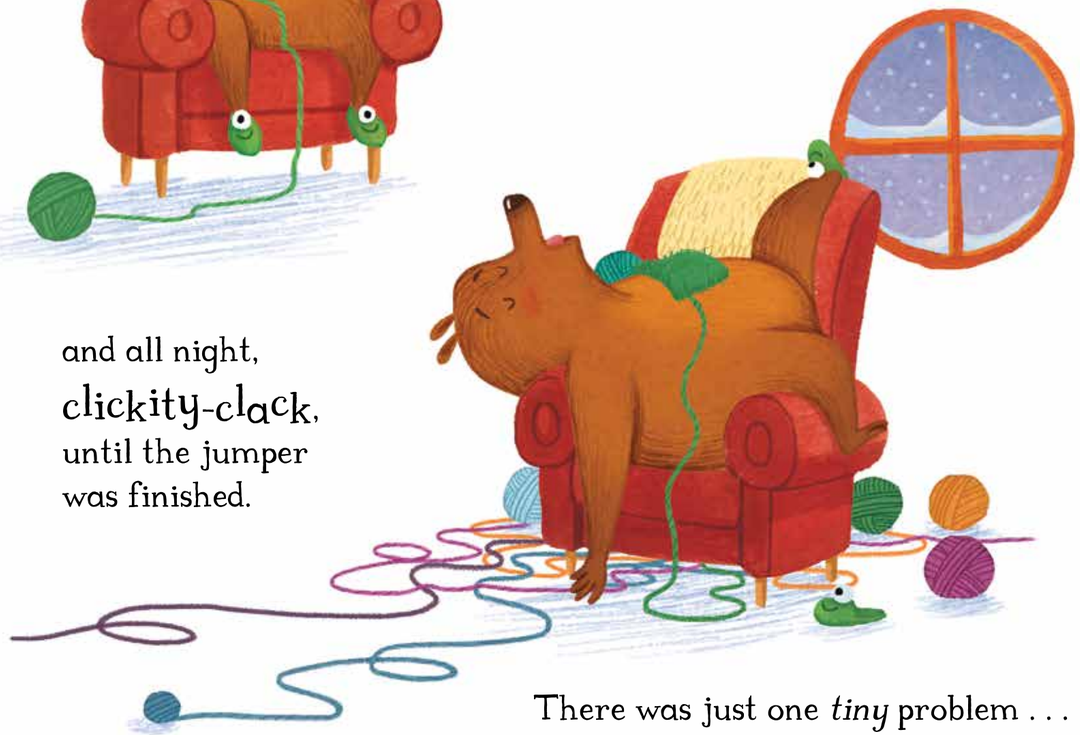
"There must be something amazing in that big box," thought Bear.
"I'll have to think of an extra special present for Squirrel."

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



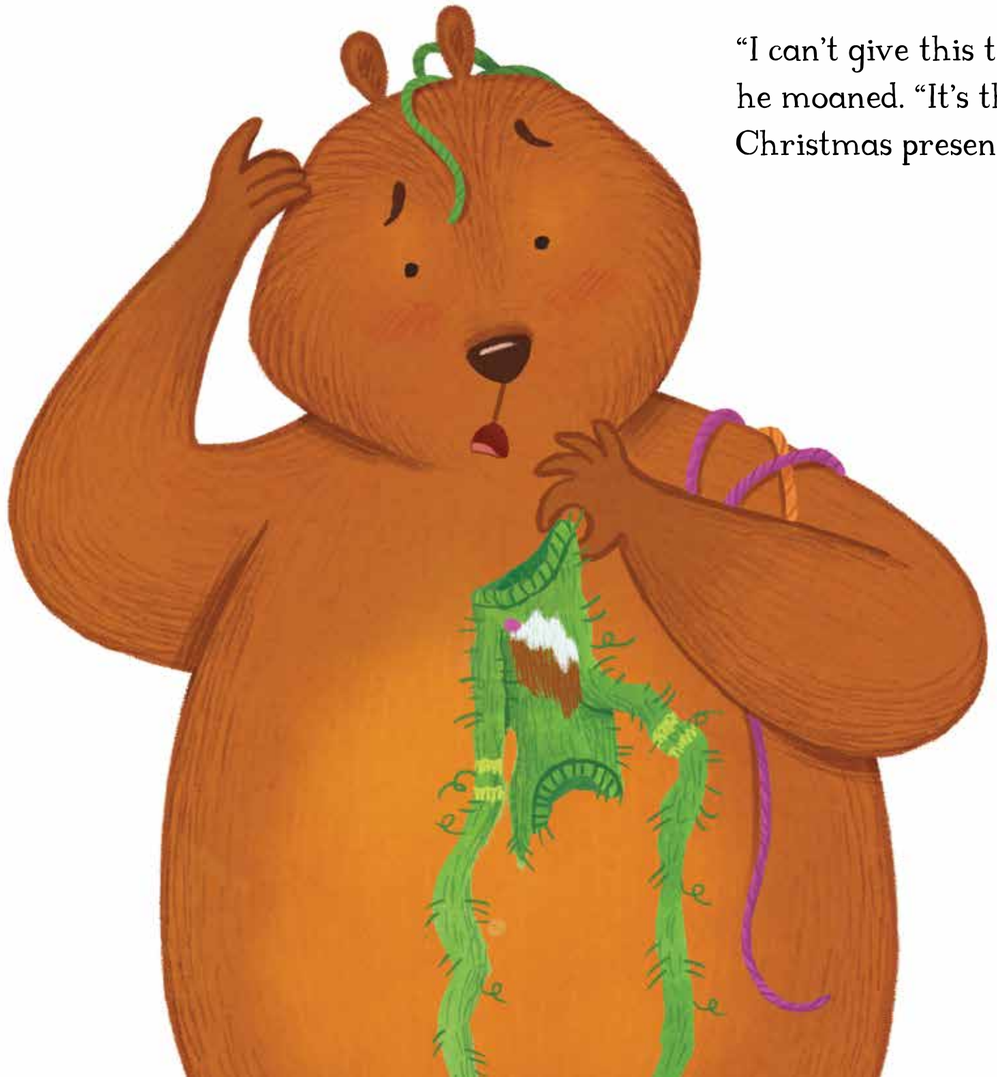
He knitted all day,
clickity-click,

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.