For Harriet ~ M P T

To my mum, my dad and my brother,
for giving me the best childhood
I could ever have ~ H G

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THE CHRISTMAS DEPARTMENT STORE

Maudie Powell-Tuck

Hoang Giang

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Benji's gran had always said,
"Magic happens on Christmas Eve."

This Christmas needed some magic. There wasn't enough money for a tree or even a turkey, and everyone felt a little sad.

Benji passed dazzling shops and excited shoppers. "I wish I could buy my family spectacular presents," he sighed. "That might make them smile again."

But Benji's gran was right about Christmas Eve, because when he turned to go home . . .

. . . he was bowled over by
a gigantic polar bear.
"Sorry, sorry! I'm late
for work!"

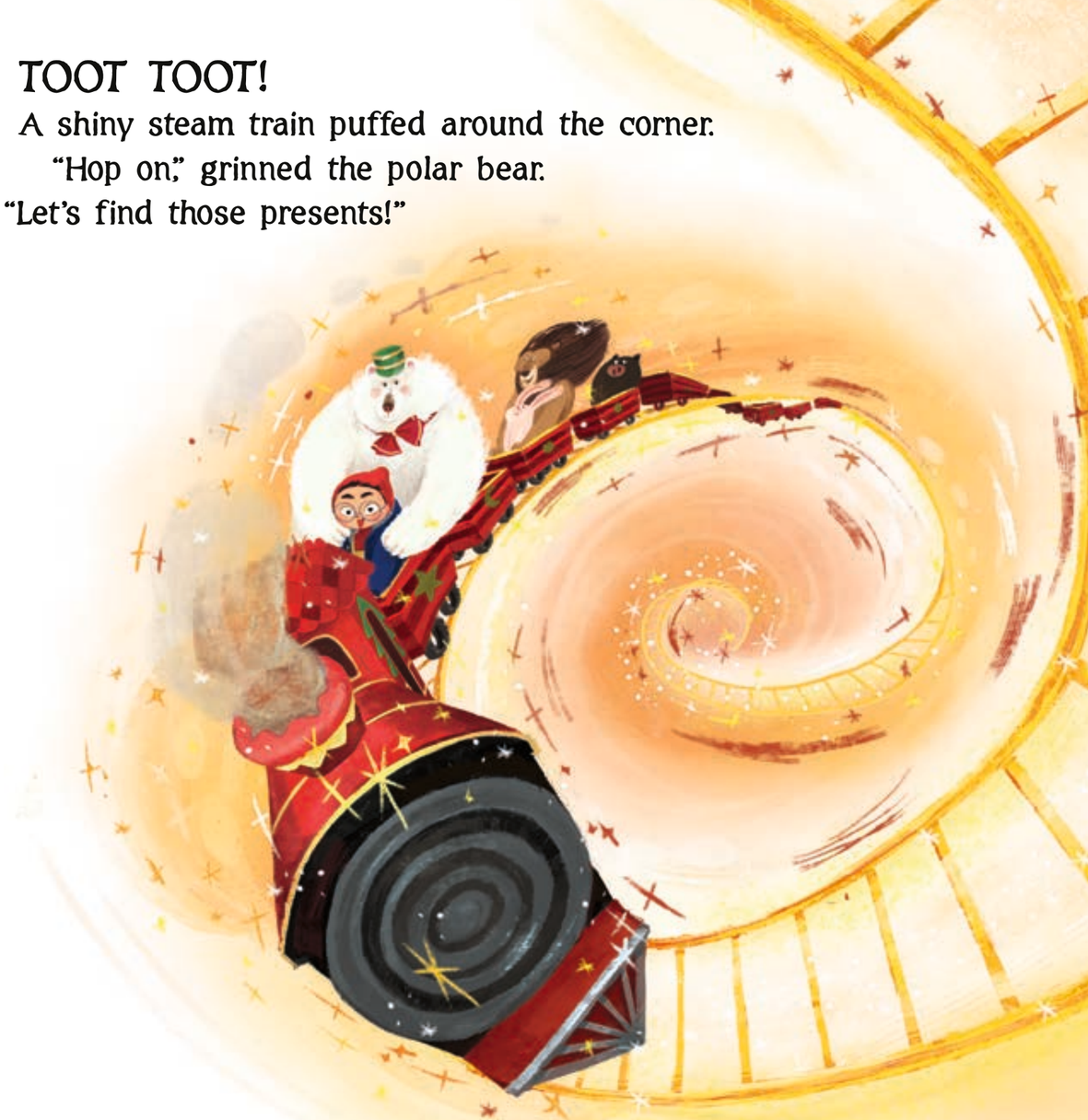
Benji scrambled to
his feet and gasped . . .

A huge, glamorous department store had
appeared, shimmering in the frosty air.
"This way, sir," said penguin doormen, tipping their hats.

Benji blinked
at the sky-high
Christmas tree,
the snow falling
lightly from the
ceiling . . .

"It's real magic!" he marvelled.
And for the first time that Christmas,
Benji fizzed with excitement.

TOOT TOOT!
A shiny steam train puffed around the corner.
"Hop on," grinned the polar bear.
"Let's find those presents!"



They raced along a golden track, spiralling higher and higher! Benji's head spun with candy canes, lights and sparkly baubles.