

Corduroy's Christmas Adventure

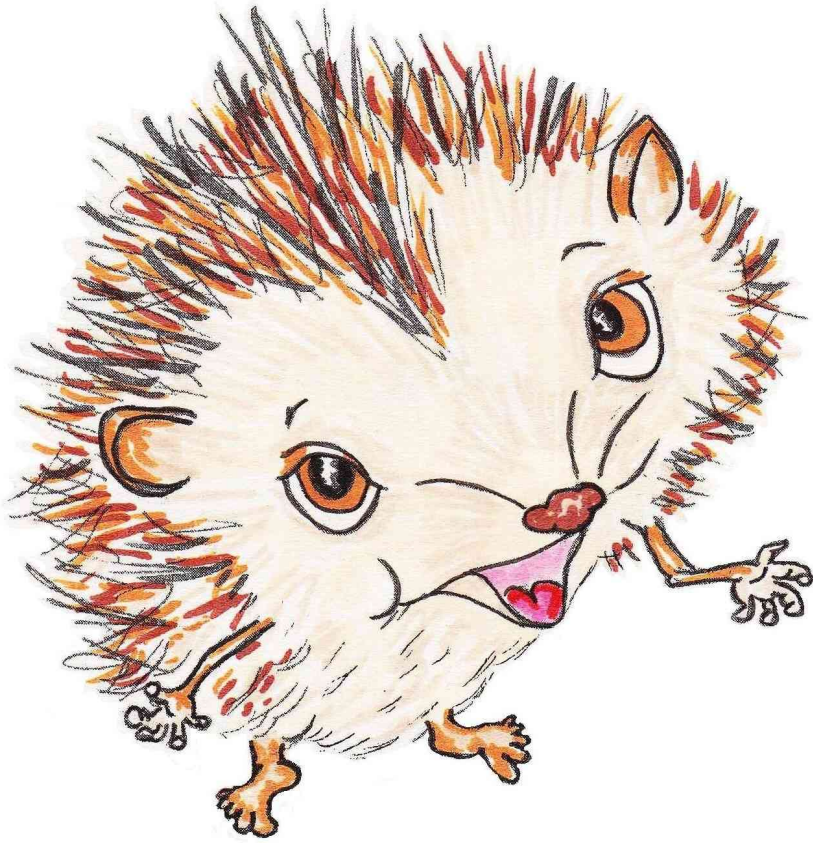


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Free online books for 21st Century Kids

By Samantha & Diana Shaul

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Chapter 1

Waking up in Winter

I'm Corduroy Spike-Prickles, and I've a story to tell.
It's about me and my mum, Velvet, as well.



We're hedgehogs, in case you were not sure,
and in winter, we can be...well, quite a bore.

You see, when it's freezing cold outside
we like to find somewhere safe to hide,
and we go to sleep for a long, long time,
and wake up in spring when the weather is fine.



Well, I was tucked in, asleep in my bed,
when I was awakened by bright lights overhead.



When I first woke up I could hardly see,
but, yes, there were twinkling lights in our tree:

lights in the tree under which we rest,
curled up in balls, in our little nest.
Right back to sleep I knew I should go,
but instead, I ventured out into the snow.



The lights were so pretty, and I knew it must be
Christmas and that's why they'd lit up our tree.
Being asleep at Christmas is no fun at all.
If you're asleep you miss out on it all!



You have no decorations, no carols to sing,
no Christmas lunch: not one special thing.
I decided right then that this must change,
that a special Christmas I would arrange.

Mum was fast asleep in her bed,
and over her, my little blanket I spread.



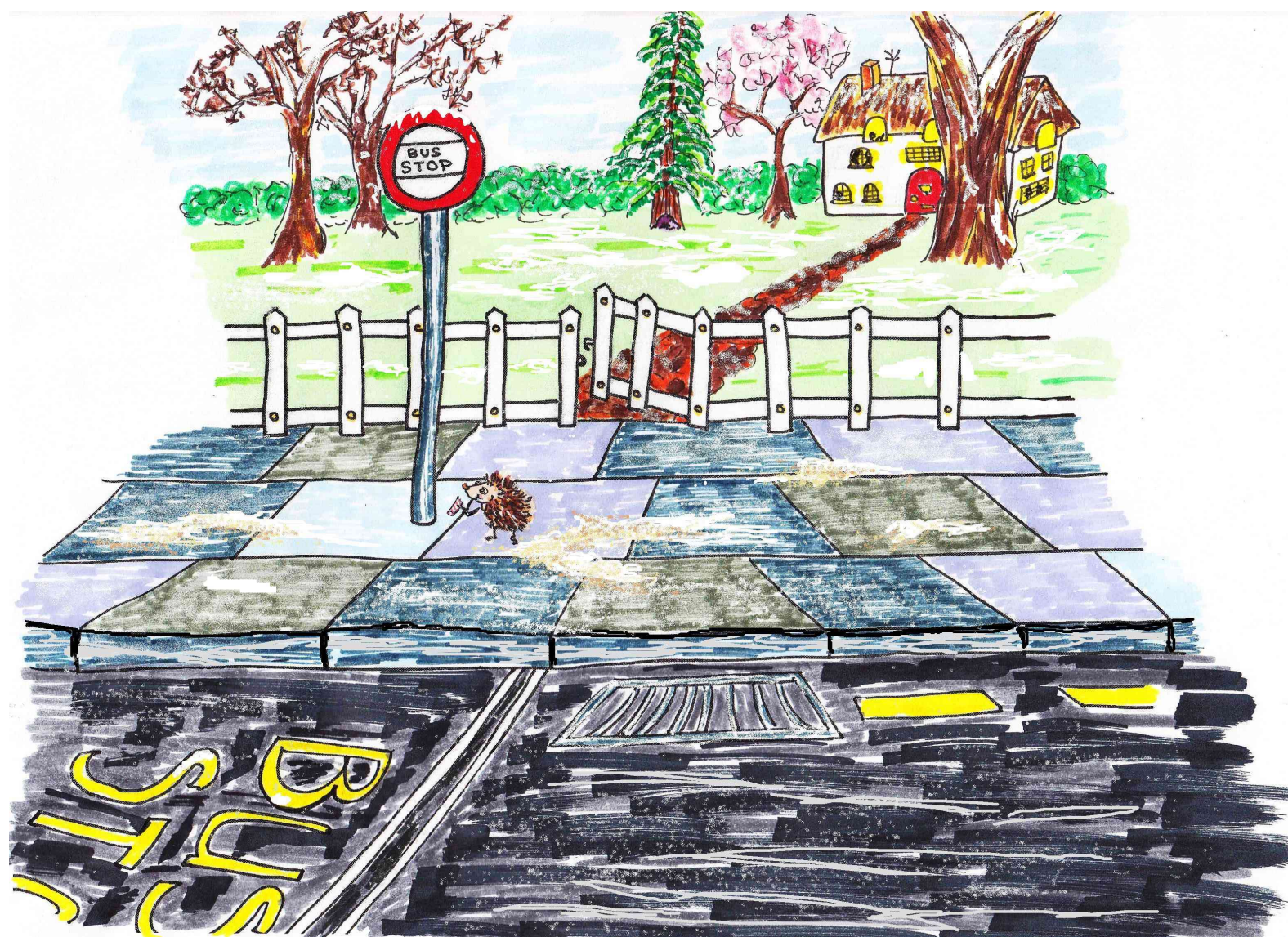
Mum's own blanket was tatty and old,
so it didn't really keep out the cold.

What Mum needed, I thought, was a blanket, brand new,
and that's when I knew what I wanted to do.

What a lovely gift a new blanket would be,
wrapped up for Mum under our Christmas tree.



I waited until the light of day,
and to the front of the garden I made my way.
I walked through the snow, out of the gate,
and by the bus stop I started to wait.



Whilst I waited, I munched on a snack,
and on the pavement I stood well back,
far away from the cars that were coming and going,
and I was a bit cold, because it was snowing.

Some people arrived to the bus stop and waited,
and one woman shook her coat as she stated,
"Look at my coat! It's in such a mess.
It's covered in glitter and so is my dress!



I spilled a lot of glitter, you see,
when I made decorations for my Christmas tree."

Just then the bus drew up to the stop,
but the step was so high I could not hop
quite high enough to get inside,
and I was awfully afraid I would miss my ride.



A man pointed at me and said, "Look over there,"
and the woman turned round and began to stare.



She said, "Fancy that, a little clothes brush,"
and she picked me up, in a great rush.

Now, I wasn't too pleased to be picked up by force,
and I'm not a clothes brush but a hedgehog, of course,



but she did jump on to the bus, I must say,
and she took me with her: I was on my way.



Chapter 2

On the Bus

Before she could use me to brush her clothes down, she asked if the bus was headed to town.



The driver said, "Yes, we are going there," and she reached into her purse to pay her fare.

As she rummaged around, I took a fall,
and I was so frightened, as I am so small.



Lucky for me, I fell on to a seat,
a seat with a lovely soft cushion...sweet!



I peeked out of the window at each bus stop, looking, of course, for a blanket shop. There was a shop selling food, and one selling hardware, and a shop selling...well, they sell lots of things there.



I had seen a big shop, its sign written in red; 'Department Store' was what the sign said. I thought that if they sold blankets in there, they might have a nice, soft, new one to spare.

From my seat, the floor was a long way down,
and as I leaned over, I started to frown.

It looked like a very long way to fall,
and a fall for a hedgehog is no good at all.



I needed to think of a way off this bus,
without taking a fall or making a fuss.



Just then, the girl on the seat next to mine
opened her bag, and I thought I'd be fine.
If I jumped into her bag, you see,
when she got off the bus, she'd take me.

From the bag I peeked out, looking round the store,
but all I could see were bottles galore.



I sniffed and could smell perfumes of all types,
and I knew I was going to sneeze! Yikes!

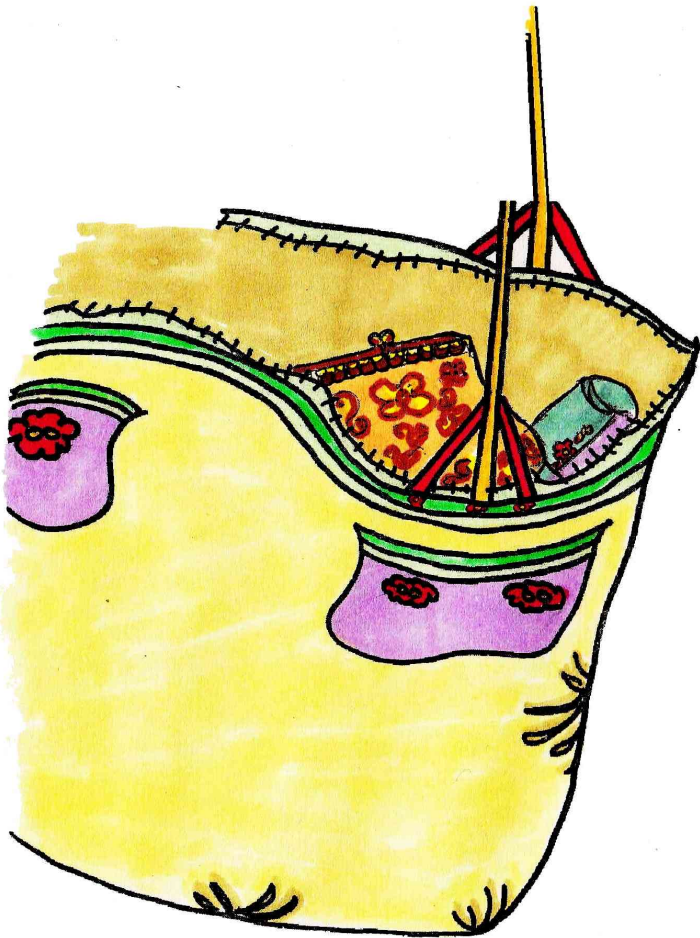


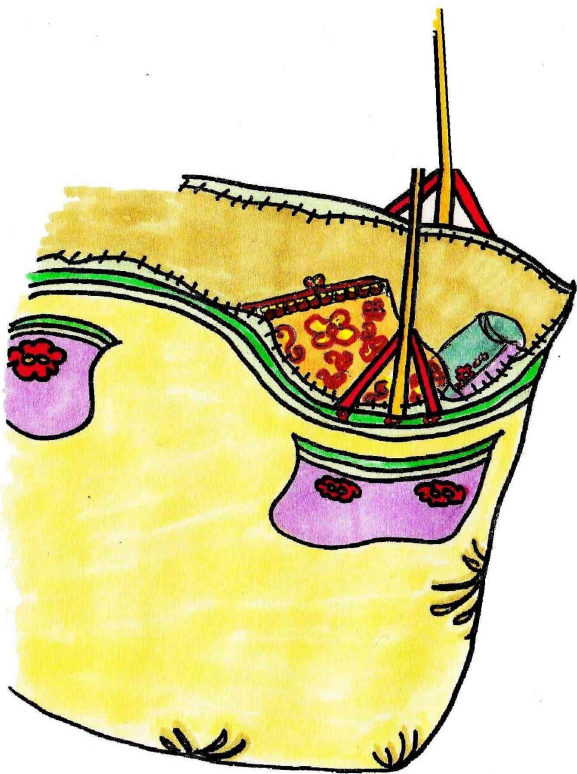


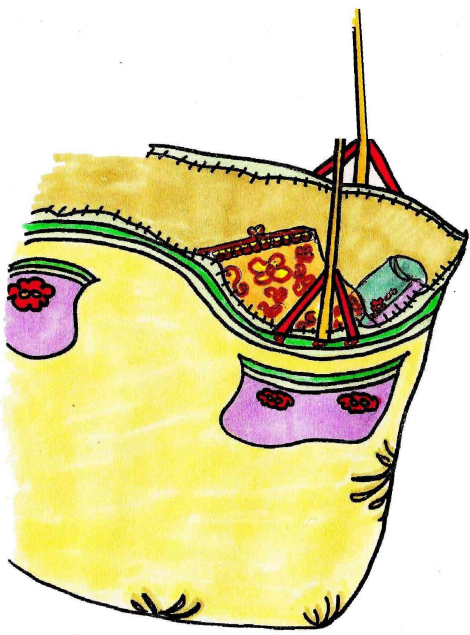
Chapter 3

In the Department Store

Out of the bag I tumbled and fell,
having sneezed very hard, on account of the smell.







Quickly I curled up into a ball:
so frightened was I, because of my fall,



but I landed on top of a pile of soft toys,
which Santa was giving to girls and boys.

I got to my feet and checked I was fine,



and then I decided to join the line



to meet Santa Claus, to tell him, you see,
just what I thought Mum's present should be.

Well, Santa gave me a blanket for Mum,
and a small gift for me...oh, it would be fun



to put that under our tree at home:
a Christmas present of my very own!

Well, all day I had been out and about,
and I must say I felt completely worn out.



I thought that on top of the toys I could sleep,
so I climbed to the very top of the heap.

Curled up in a ball on top of the toys,
I was awakened by a loud noise.



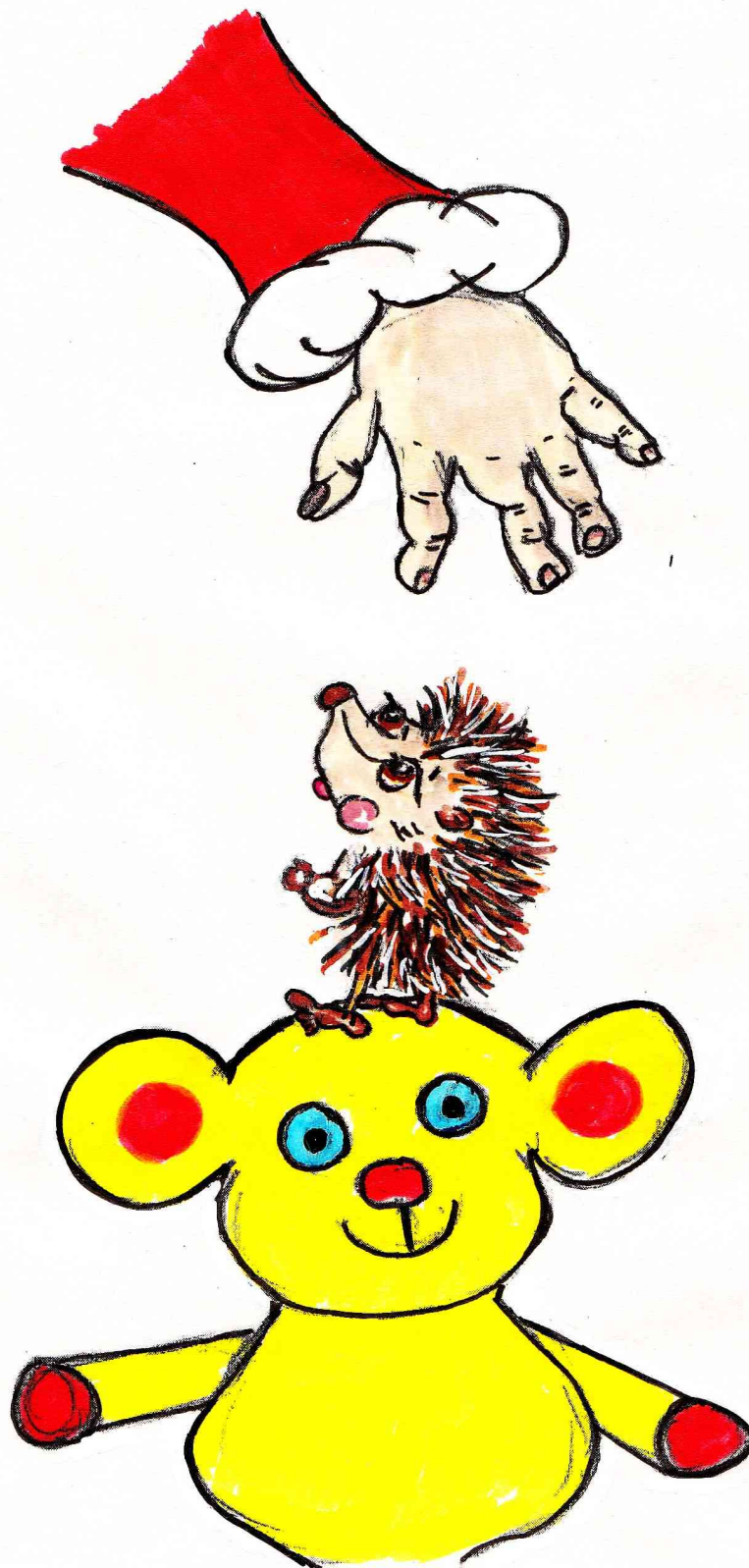
I opened my eyes and peeked out to see
what might have awakened me.

It was Santa's voice that I heard loud and clear.
He said, "Yes, I have seen a hedgehog round here.



Of course I'll have a look round, my dear,
but where he is now, I have no idea.

Let me just give you a toy from this pile,
something soft and cuddly to make you smile."



With that, I felt Santa's hand around me,
and I was afraid, so I tried to get free.



I wasn't too pleased to be picked up by force,
and I'm not a toy but a hedgehog, of course.
I could not let Santa give me away:
I had to get home for Christmas Day.



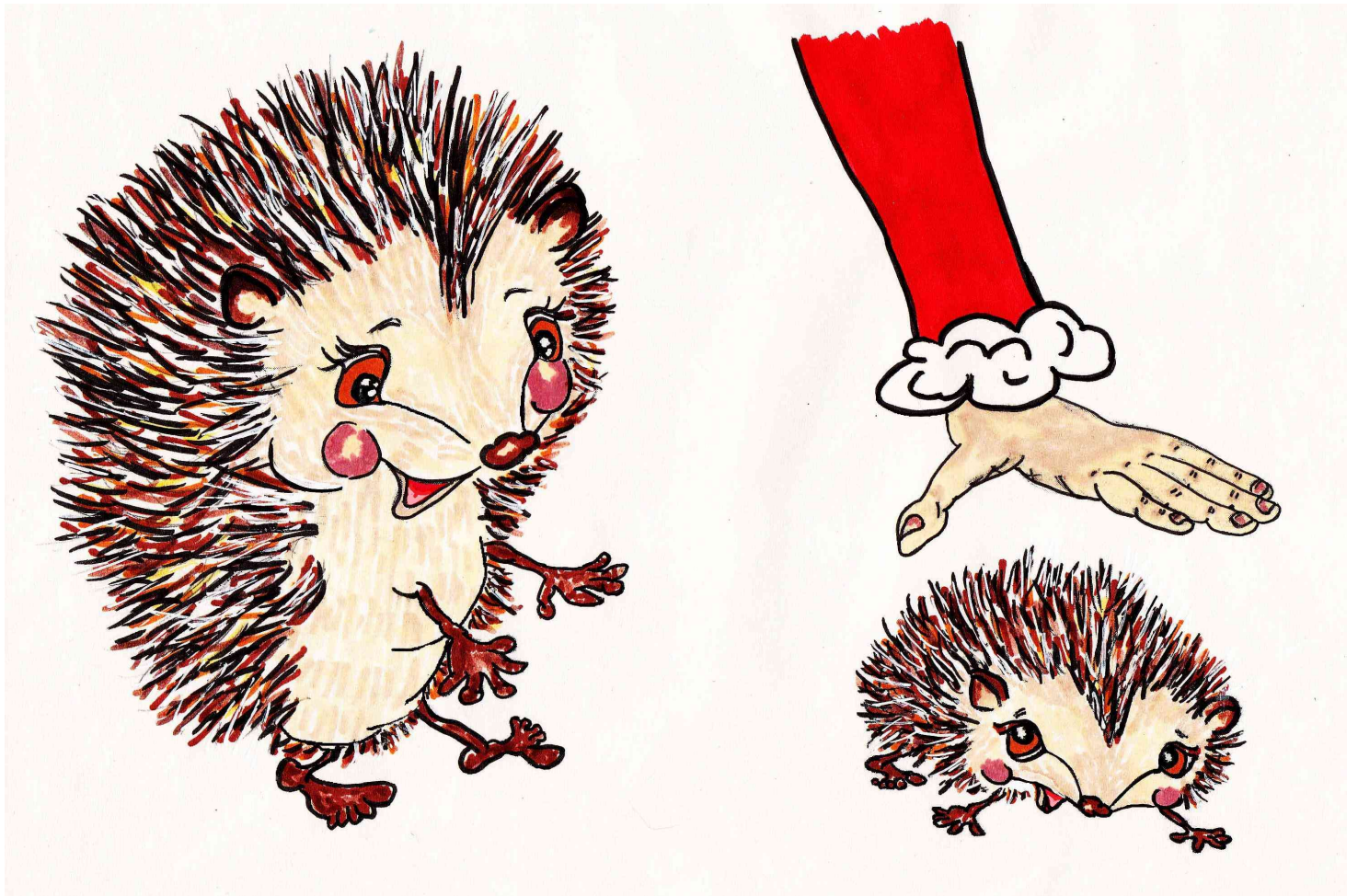
Chapter 4

The Best Christmas Ever!

Santa cried, "Ouch! This one's got prickles;
he's moving around, and that really tickles!"



He set me down gently on the ground,
shouting, "Look, oh look what I have found!"
"Oh, thank you, Santa, you've found my boy.
That is my little Corduroy!"



Why, Santa was talking to Mum, you see.
She had come to the store looking for me.
She had woken to find herself all alone,
and had set out to look for me all on her own.

She had walked to the department store,
and she'd looked and looked and looked some more.



Well, Mum was so happy that I had been found,
so happy that I was safe and sound,
but she was a little bit angry with me,
as we returned to our nest and our tree.



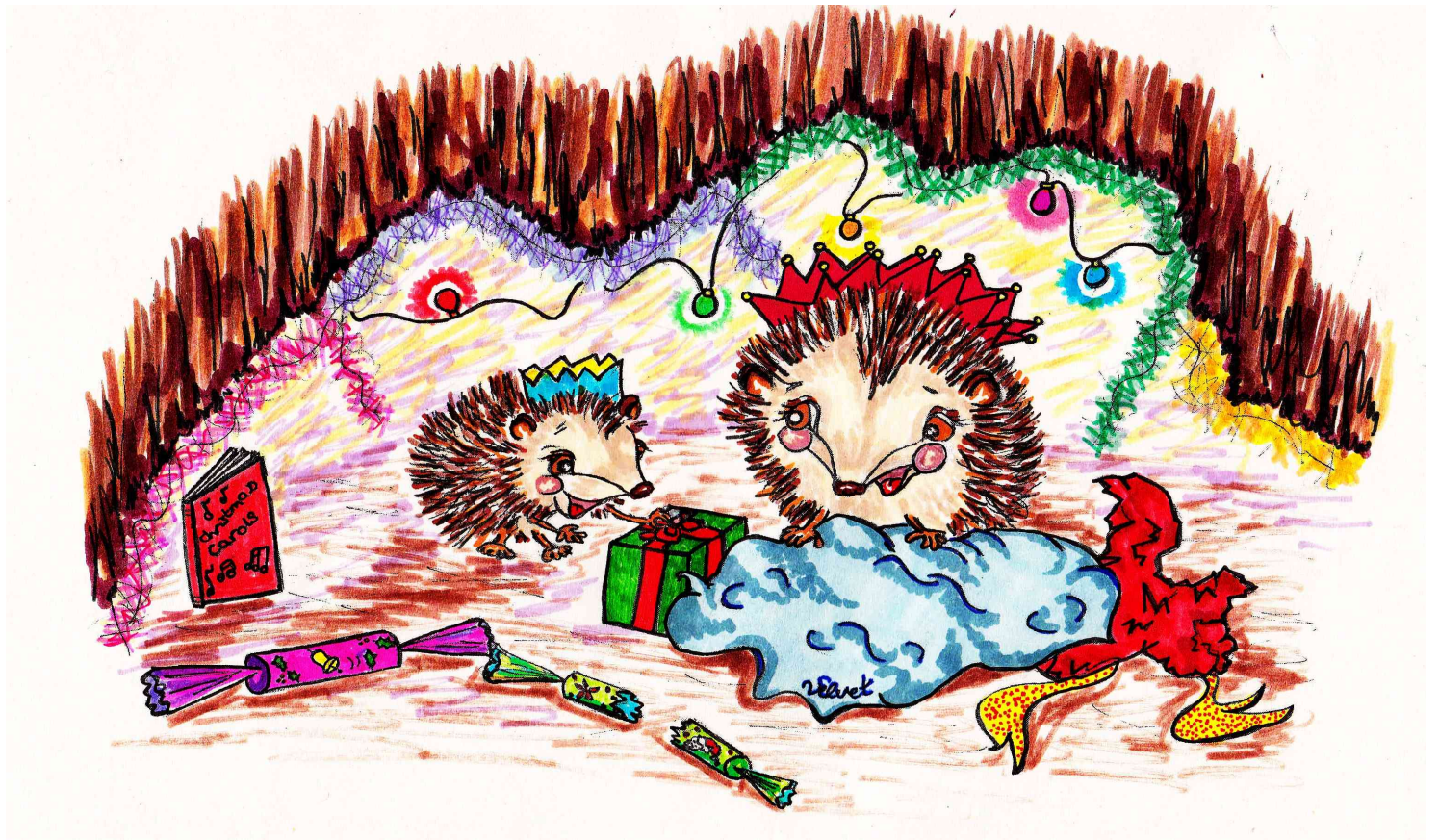
She said, "You should not have left our home,
or gone out into the road on your own."

I said, "Mum, all I wanted to do
was have a lovely Christmas with you.
Outside on my own I won't again venture.
I hadn't expected such an adventure.



I just didn't want to miss Christmas, you know,
and that's why I went out into the snow."

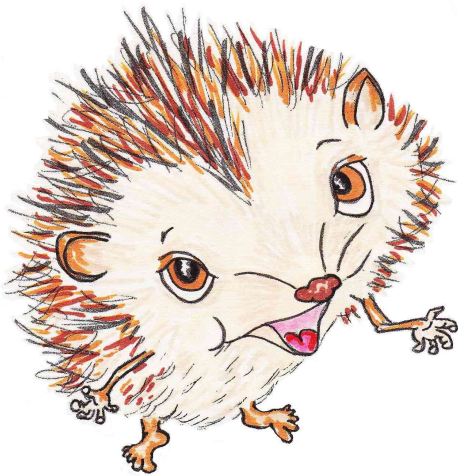
Mum said, "Well, since we are awake,
a fine Christmas lunch I just might make."



With tinsel, we decorated our nest,
and carols we sung...you can guess the rest.

It was the best Christmas that we'd ever had,
and Mum and I were so very glad
that we were awake, despite the cold weather,
and that we could celebrate Christmas together.





We wish you
a
merry
Christmas

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