

# LEMMING'S FIRST CHRISTMAS



by Jamesie Fournier  
illustrated by Tim Mack

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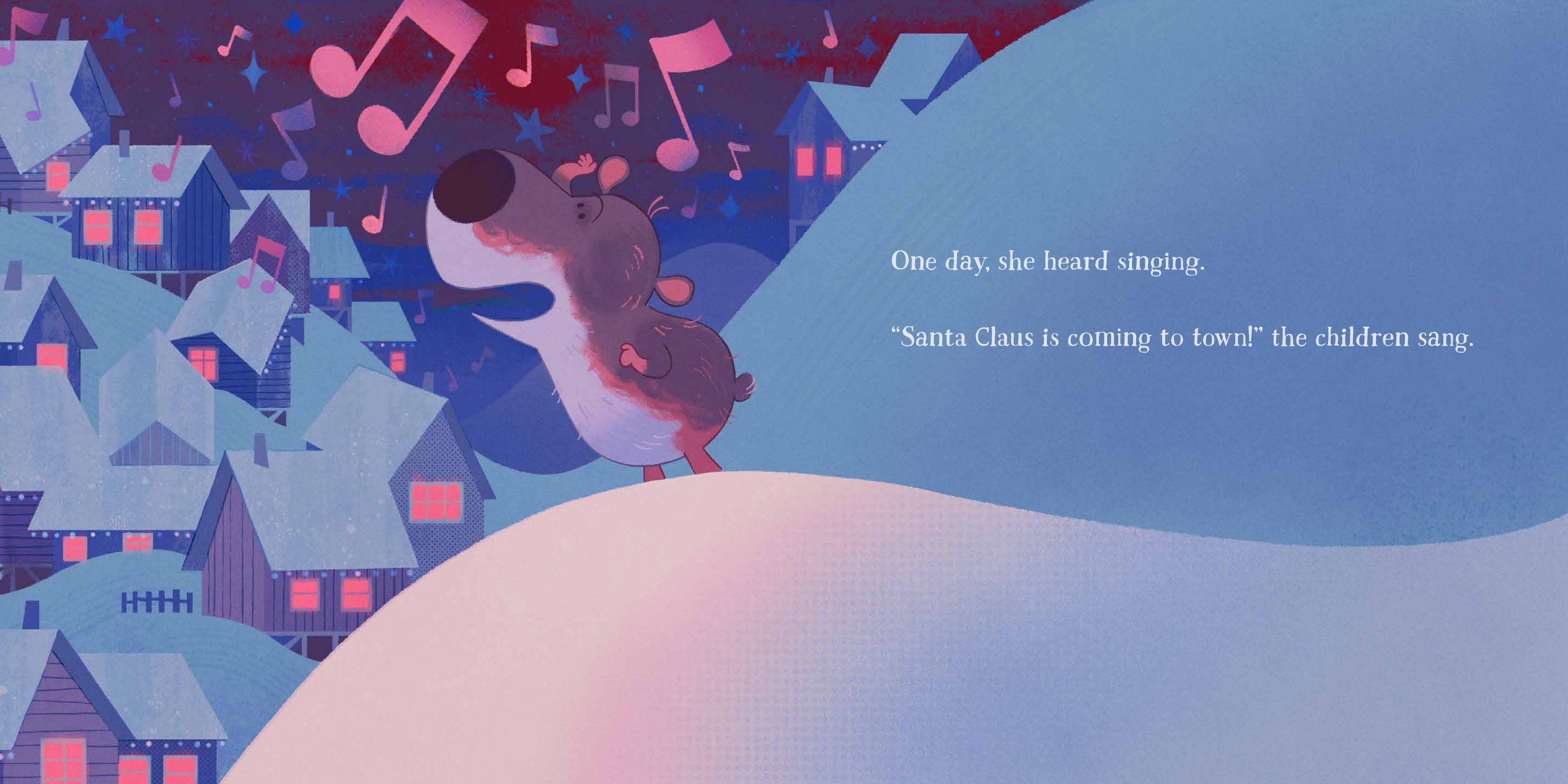
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**T**here once was a lemming who lived under a house.







One day, she heard singing.

“Santa Claus is coming to town!” the children sang.

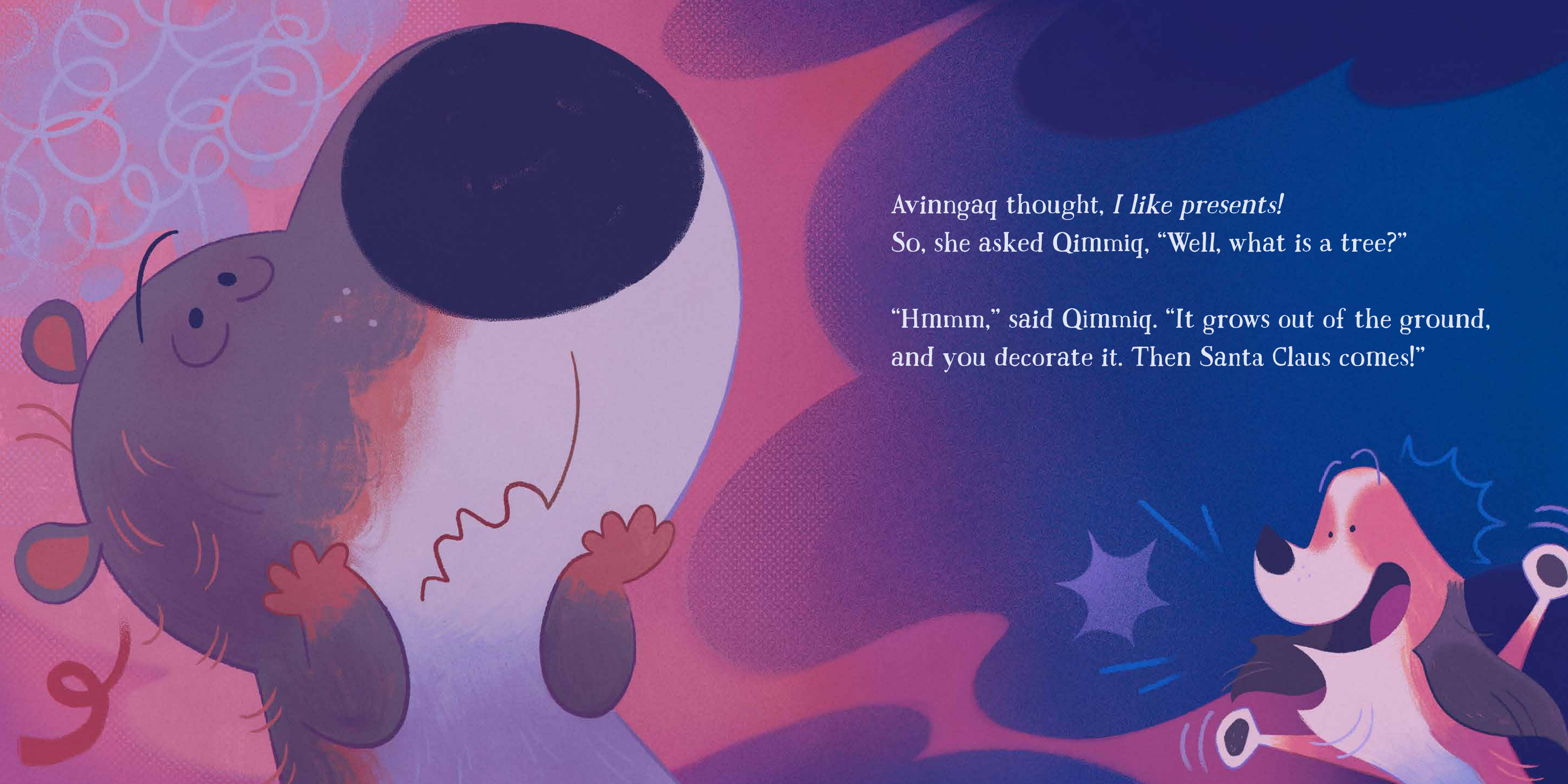


Avinngaq asked her friend Qimmiq, “Who is Santa Claus?”

“Santa Claus puts presents under your tree,” said Qimmiq.







Avinngaq thought, *I like presents!*  
So, she asked Qimmiq, “Well, what is a tree?”

“Hmmm,” said Qimmiq. “It grows out of the ground,  
and you decorate it. Then Santa Claus comes!”



Since Avinngaq did not know what a tree was, she asked the Arctic animals, “Can you help me find a tree?”







Seal brought some seaweed.

“Is this a tree?” he asked.

“No, Seal,” said Qimmiq. “That is not a tree.”



Tuktu brought some flowers.

“Is this a tree?” she asked.

“No, Tuktu,” said Qimmiq. “That is not a tree.”







Tiriganiaq brought some berries.

“Are these trees?” he asked.

“No, Tiriganiaq,” said Qimmiq. “That is not a tree.”



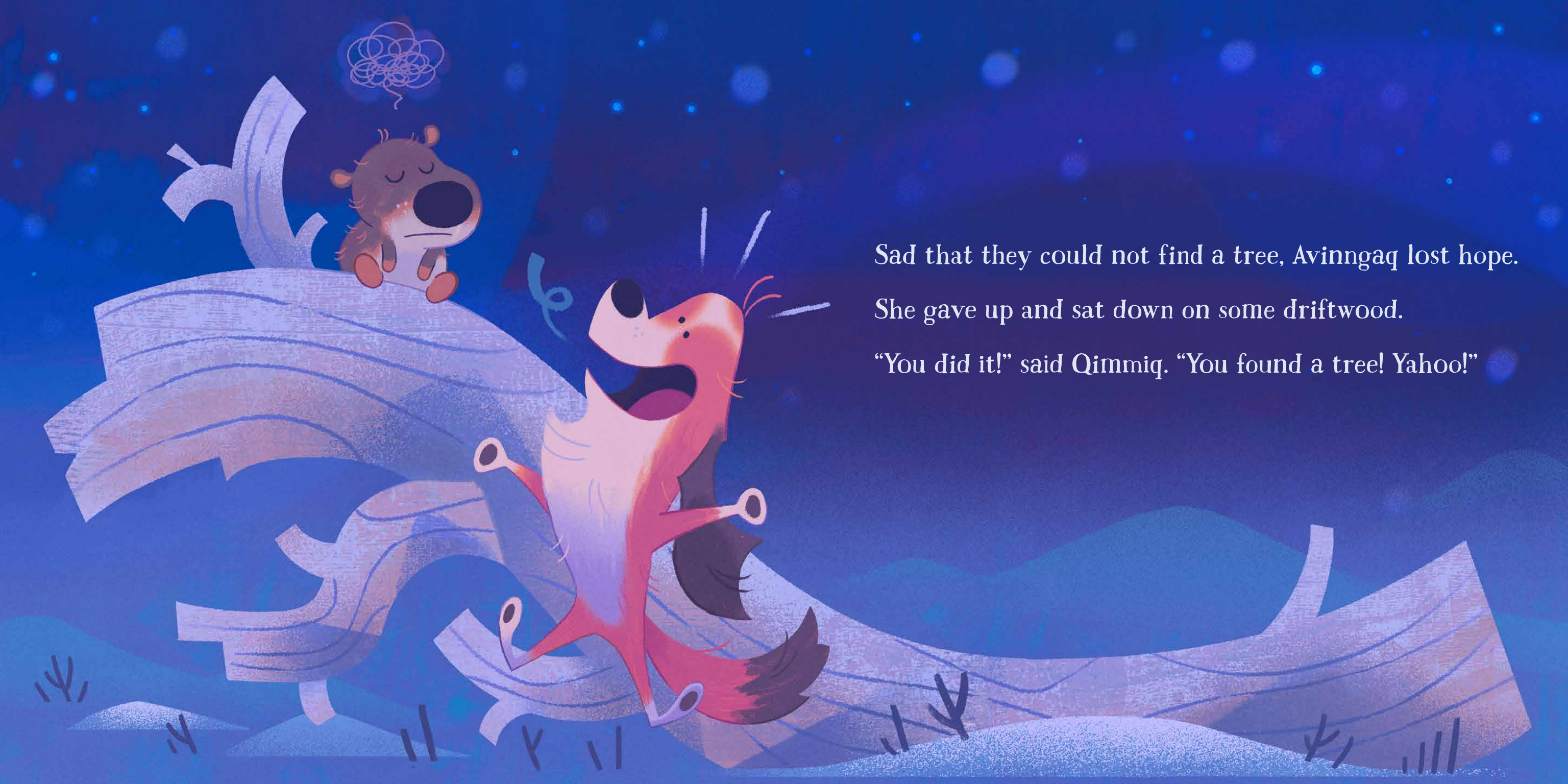
Ukaliq found some Arctic Willow.

“Is this a tree?” she asked.

“No, Ukaliq,” said Qimmiq. “That is not a tree.”







Sad that they could not find a tree, Avinngaq lost hope.  
She gave up and sat down on some driftwood.  
“You did it!” said Qimmiq. “You found a tree! Yahoo!”

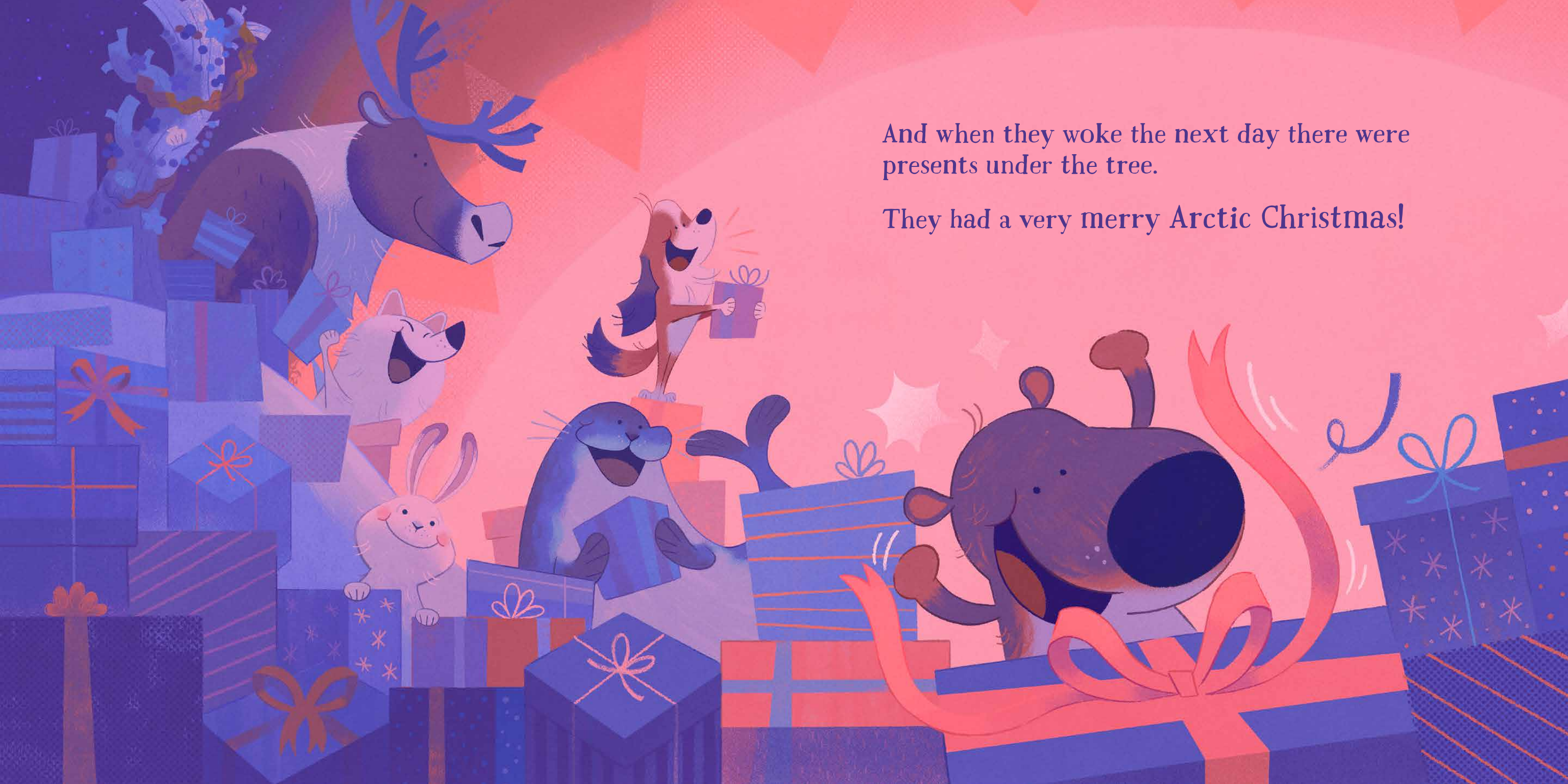


Overjoyed, the animals decorated the tree with all the Arctic decorations they had found.

That night they danced around the tree and sang, "Santa Claus is coming to town!"







And when they woke the next day there were presents under the tree.

They had a very merry Arctic Christmas!





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