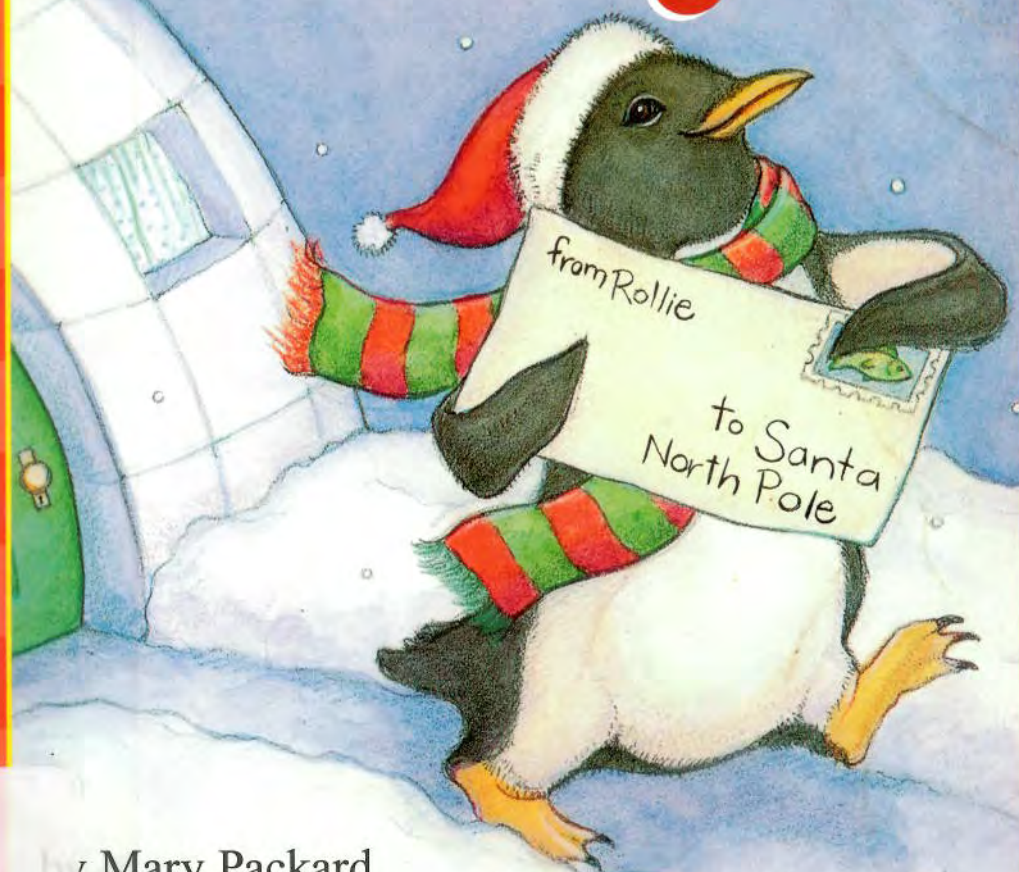


# The CHRISTMAS Penguin



by Mary Packard  
illustrated by Teri Weidner



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Scholastic Reader — Level 1



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“Dear Santa,” wrote Rollie,  
“I know penguins don’t fly.  
But I sure wish that I  
could give it a try.”



For Christmas I don’t want  
a train or a bear.  
But I’d like to be able  
to fly through the air.”

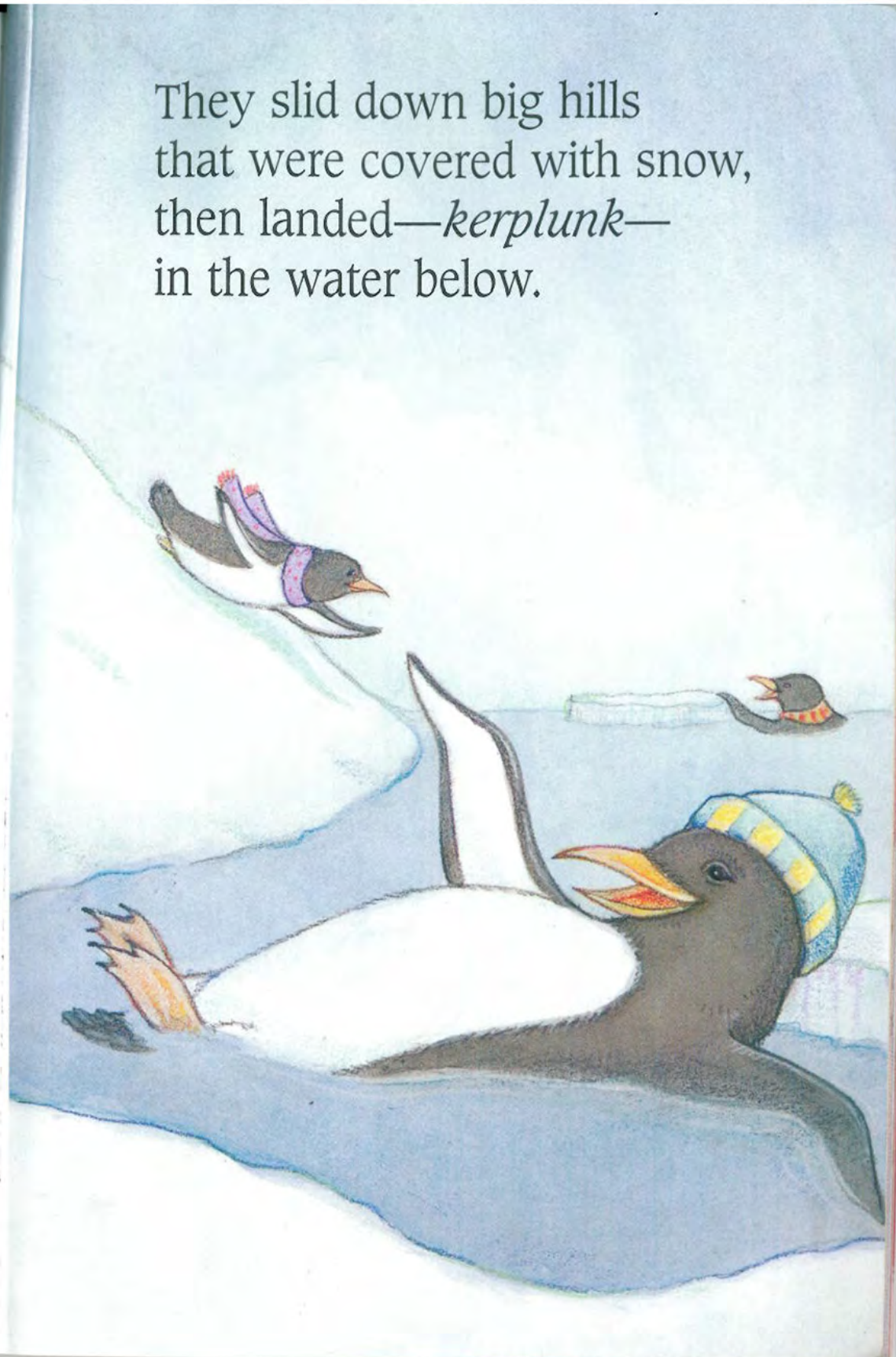


Rollie finished his letter  
and mailed it that day.  
He called all his friends  
and went off to play.





They slid down big hills  
that were covered with snow,  
then landed—*kerplunk*—  
in the water below.

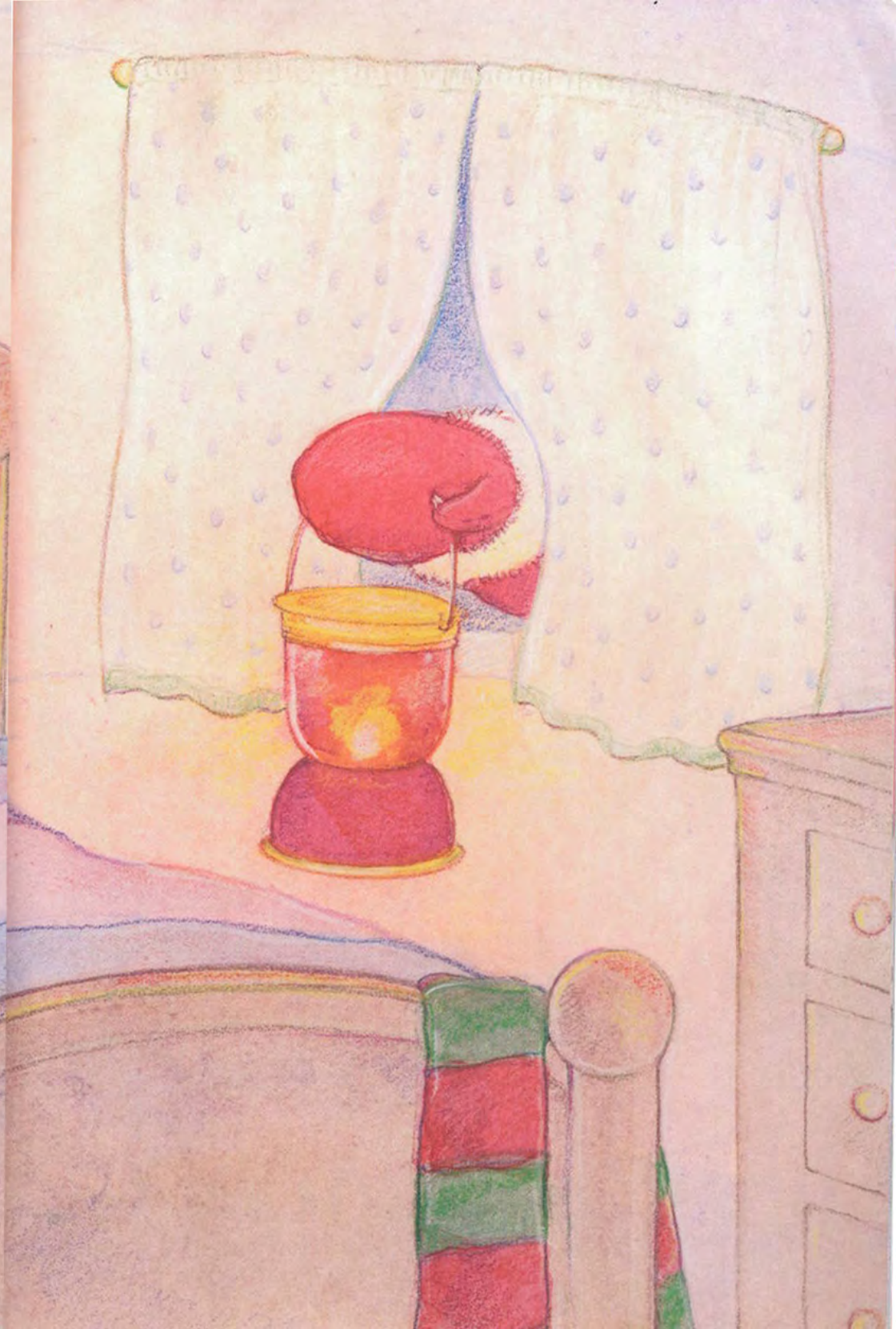




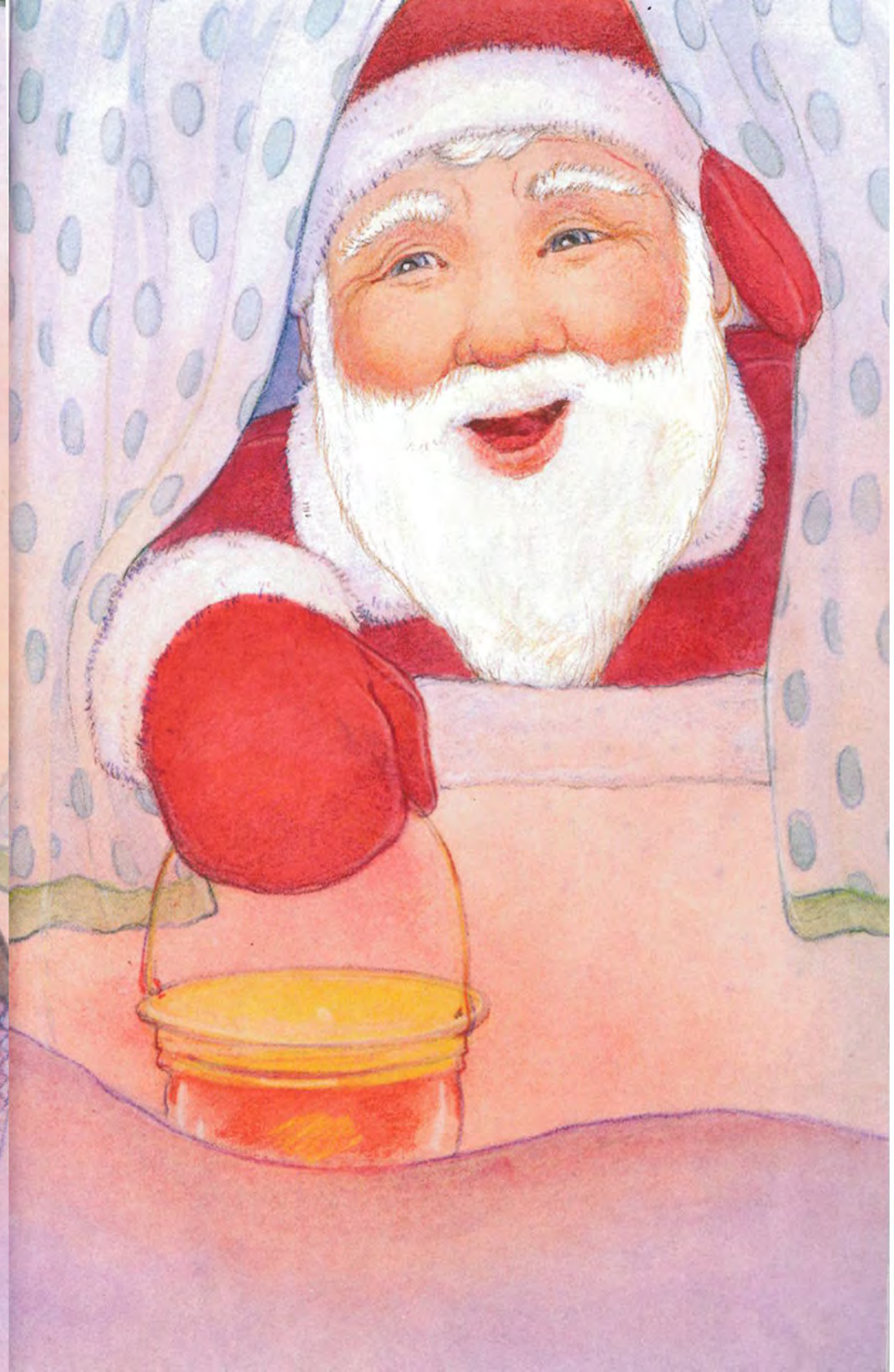
Rollie's wings were like fins—  
he could swim anywhere.  
But try as he might,  
they would not work in air.



Then late Christmas Eve,  
Rollie slept in his bed.  
But a flashing light turned  
his bedroom bright red.



A voice woke him up.  
"Rise and shine!" it cried.  
Rollie rubbed his eyes  
and saw Santa outside!



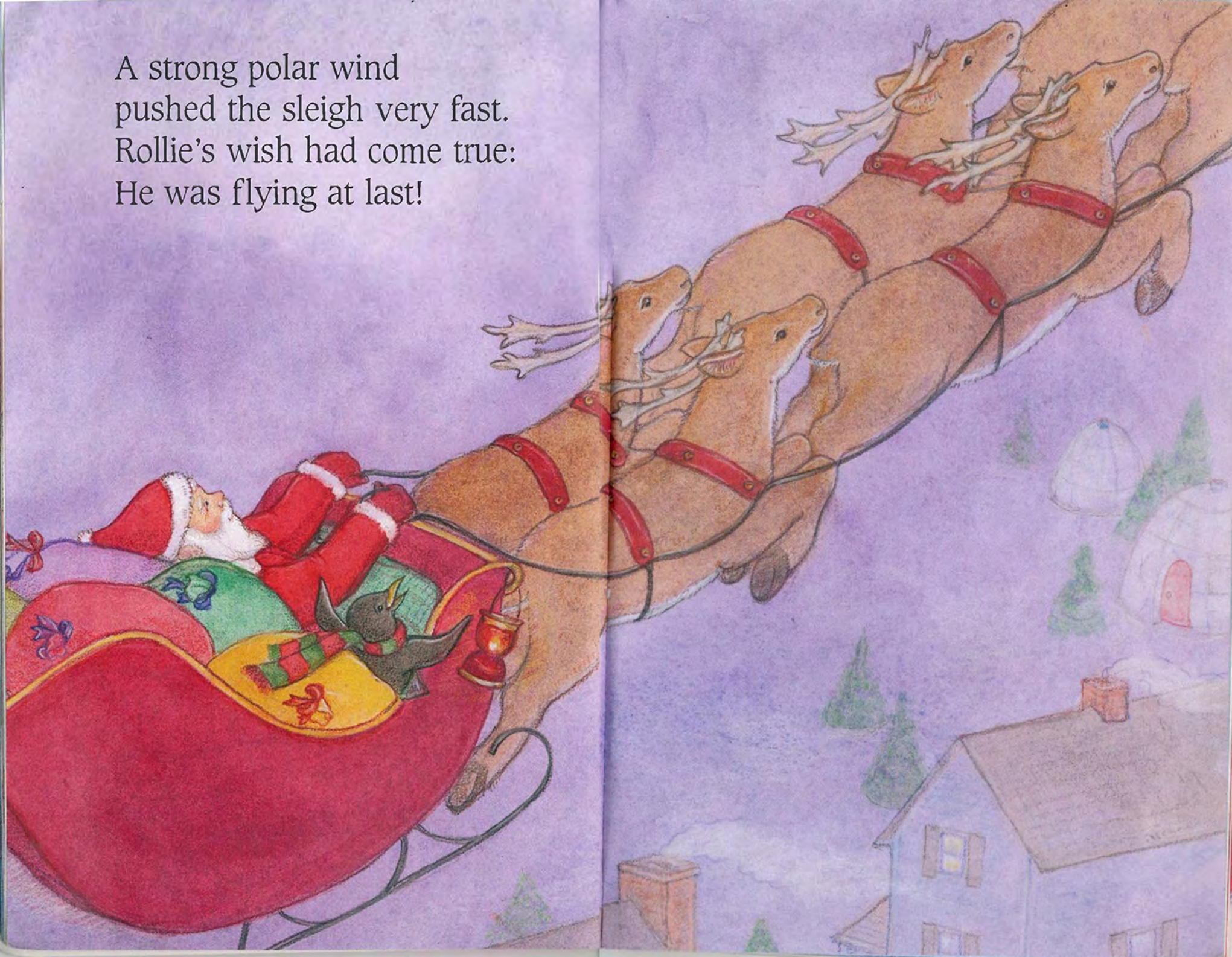


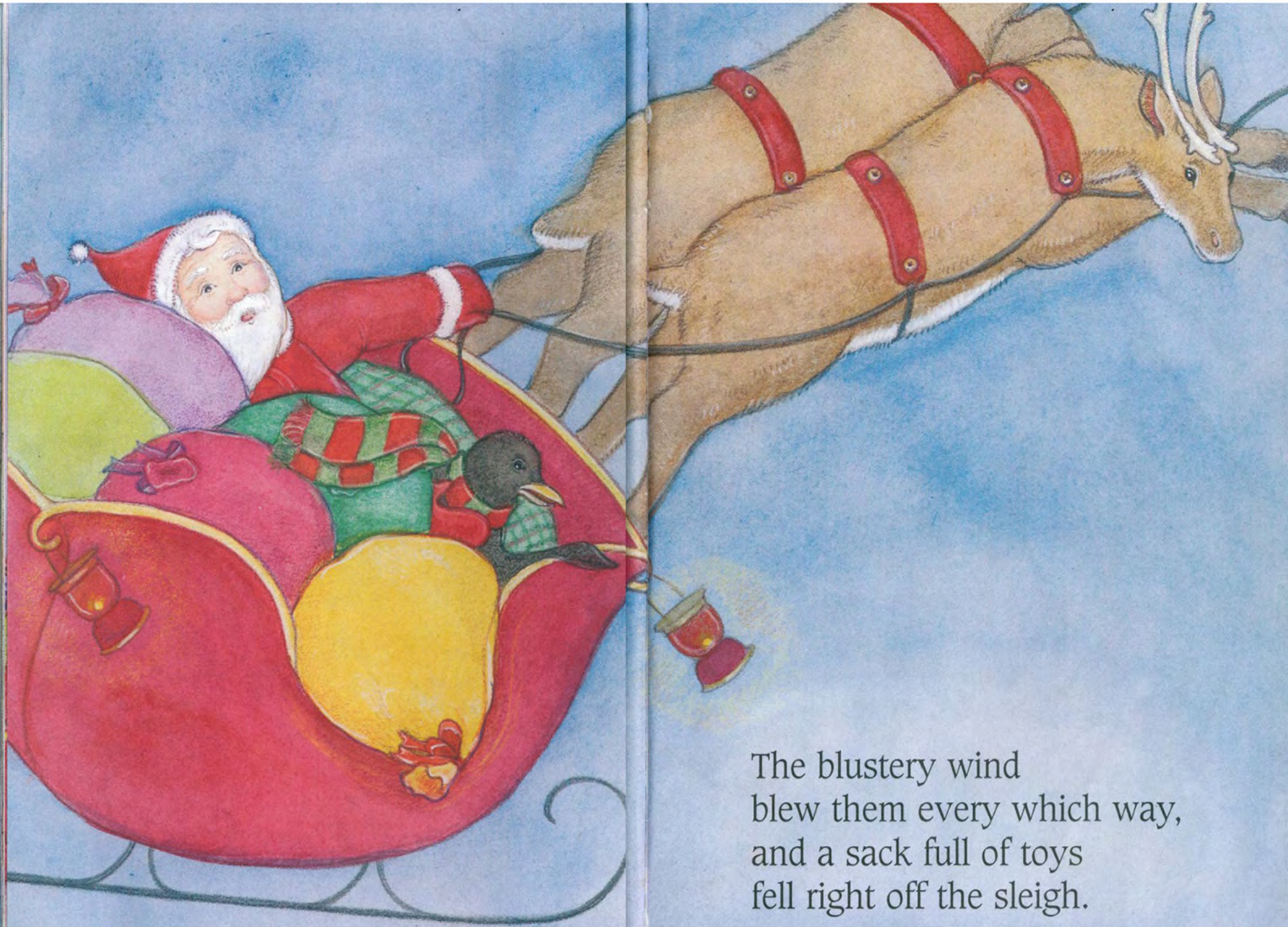


Rollie climbed through the window  
into Santa's big sleigh.  
Before Rollie knew it,  
they were both on their way.



A strong polar wind  
pushed the sleigh very fast.  
Rollie's wish had come true:  
He was flying at last!





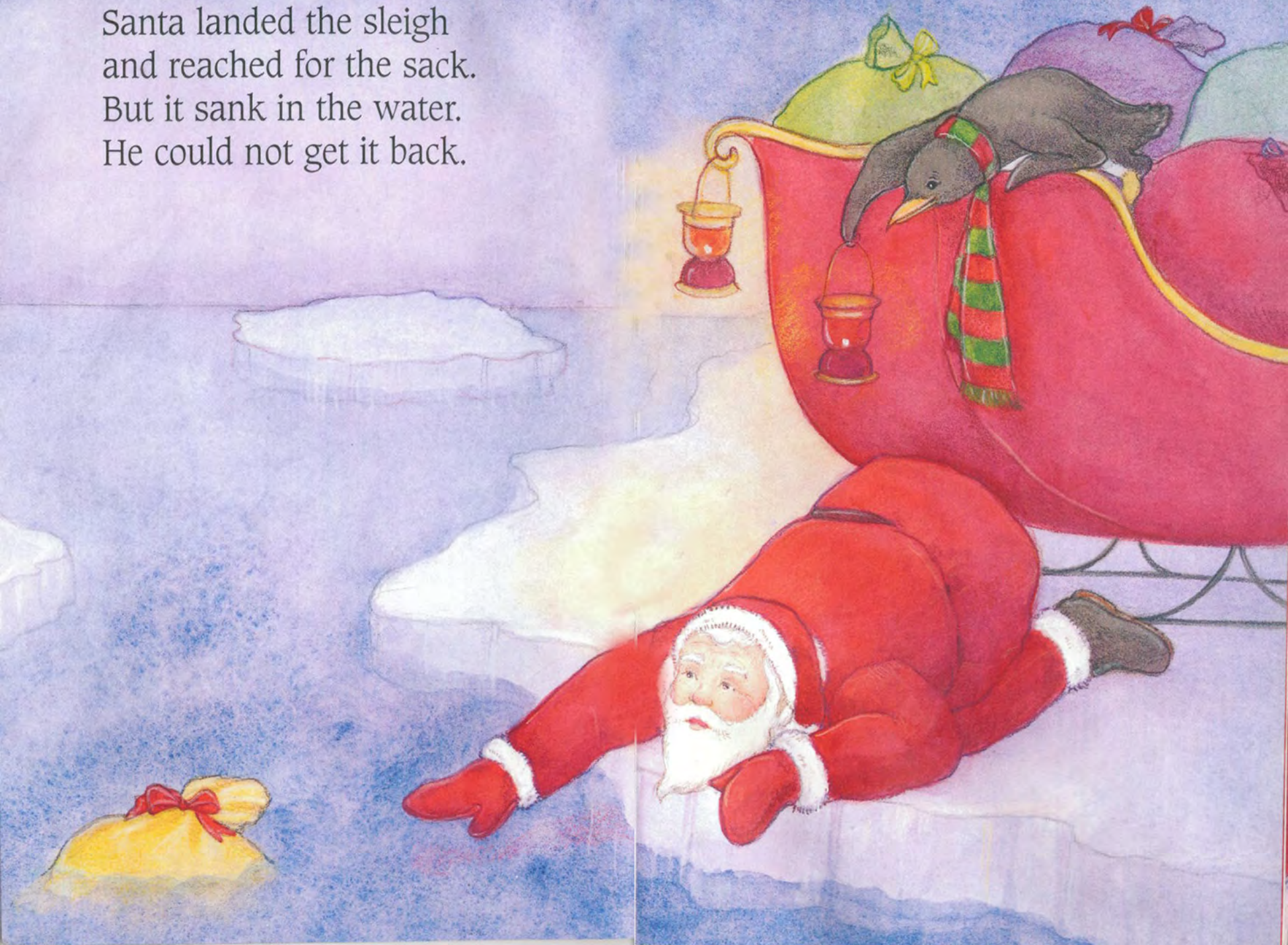
The blustery wind  
blew them every which way,  
and a sack full of toys  
fell right off the sleigh.



Santa tried to catch it—  
but he was too slow.  
They watched the sack fall  
to the water below.

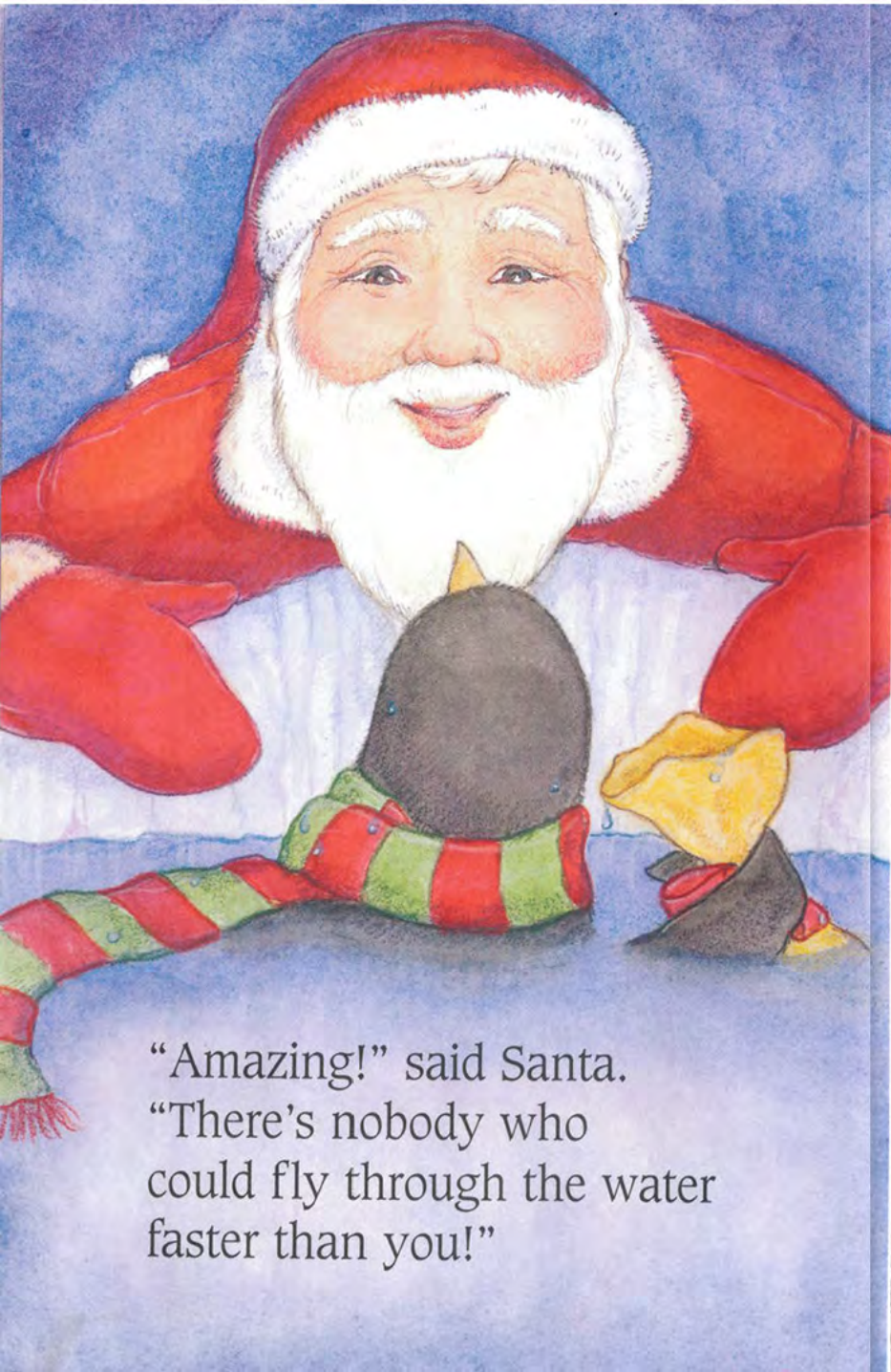


Santa landed the sleigh  
and reached for the sack.  
But it sank in the water.  
He could not get it back.



“I’ll find it!” cried Rollie.  
He dived in with a splash.  
He swam to the bottom  
and was back in a flash.



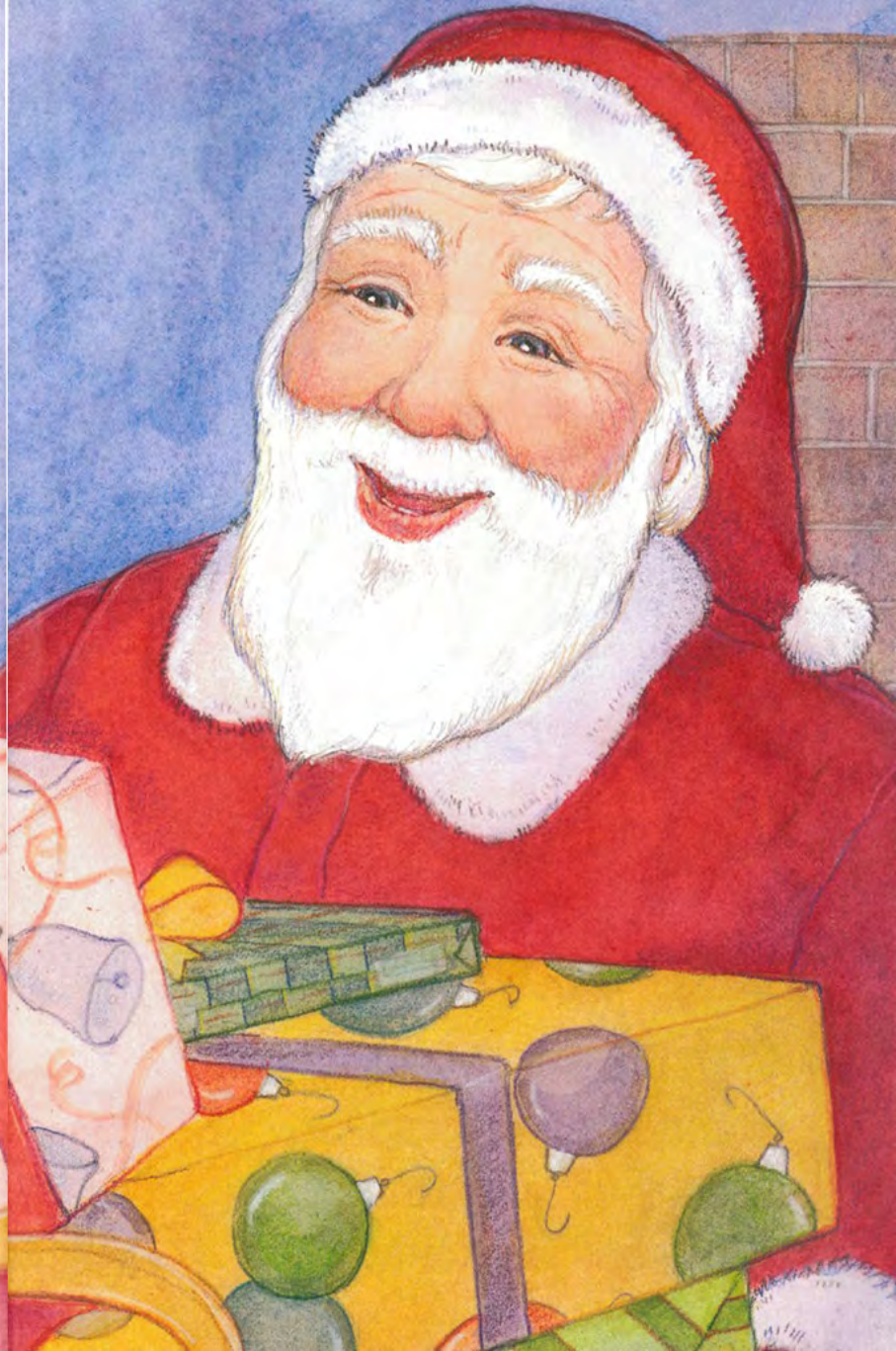


“Amazing!” said Santa.  
“There’s nobody who  
could fly through the water  
faster than you!”

“It’s true!” Rollie cried.  
“I guess you could say  
we penguins *do* fly—  
in our own special way.”



Then Rollie helped Santa  
deliver the toys  
all over the world  
to good girls and boys.







“Thank you,” called Santa.  
“You’re my special elf.  
So always remember:  
Be proud of yourself!”