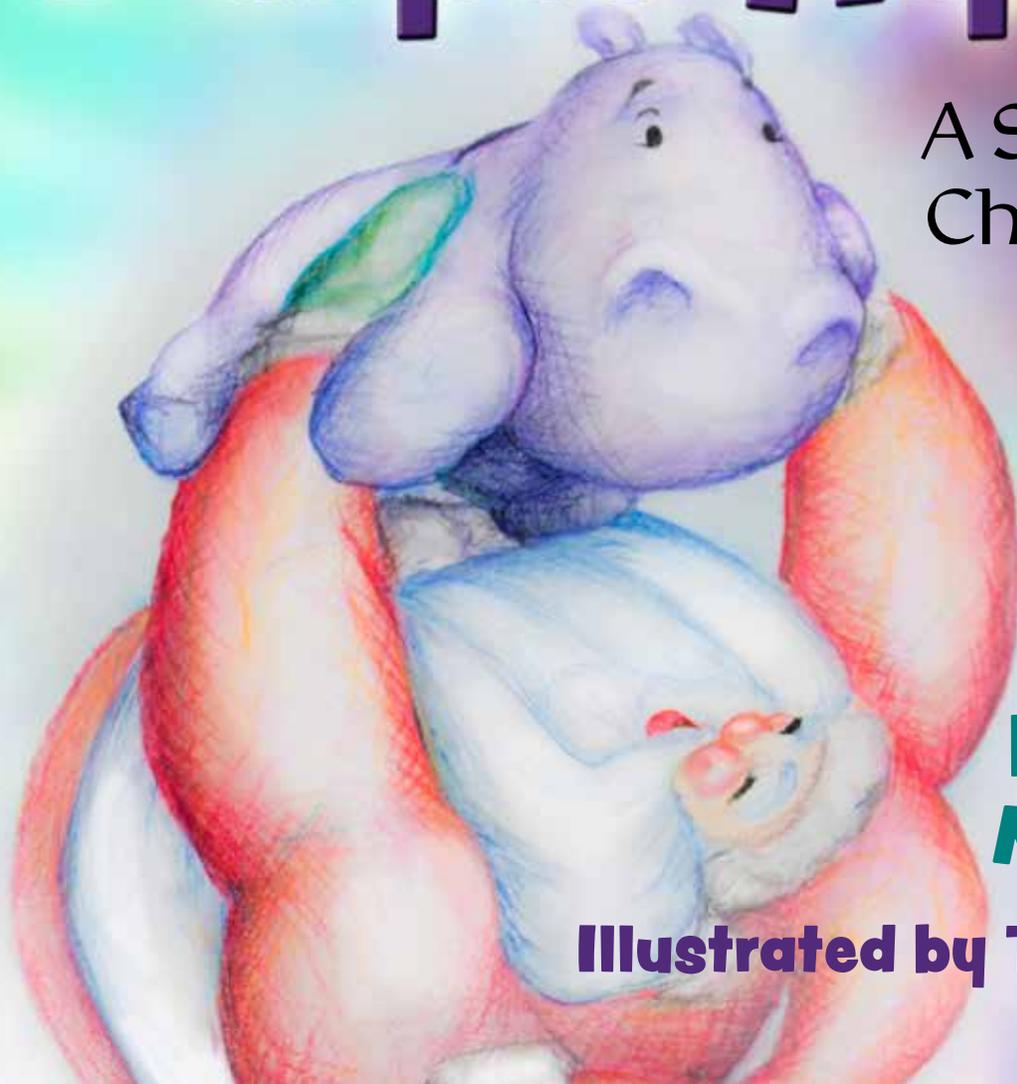


The Powers of Pippo the Purple Hippo

A Spiritual
Christmas
Story



by **Maria
Marzitelli**

Illustrated by Taylor Goris

"Pippo the Purple Hippo" copyright 2019 by Maria Marzitelli.

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced in any form whatsoever, by photography or xerography or by any other means, by broadcast or transmission, by translation into any kind of language, nor by recording electronically or otherwise, without permission in writing from the author, except by a reviewer, who may quote brief passages in critical articles or reviews.

Illustrated by Taylor Goris.

ISBN:

Library of Congress Catalog Number:

Printed in the United States

First Printing: 2019

23 22 21 20 19 5 4 3 2 1

Cover and interior design by Darcy Bell-Myers



Beaver's Pond Press, Inc.
7108 Ohms Lane
Edina, MN 55439-2129
(952) 829-8818
www.BeaversPondPress.com

To order, visit www.ItascaBooks.com
or call (800)-901-3480.
Reseller discounts available.

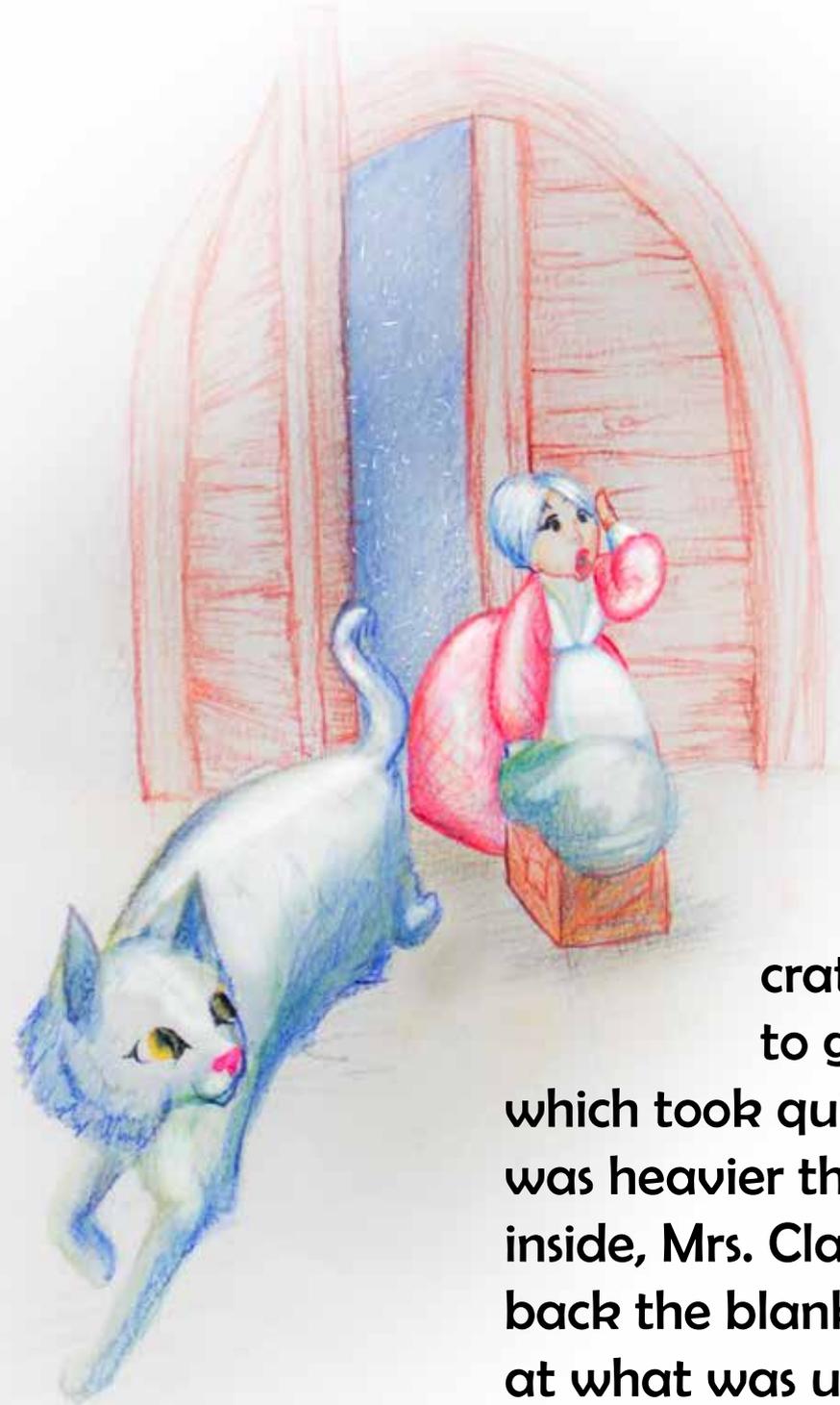
Dedication:

First and foremost, I'd like to thank my number one son, Patrick who gave me this enlightened, spiritual story when I needed it the most. Our special bond is fueled by the power of love, and it's stronger than ever.

To my husband, John who has never wavered in his belief that the story of Pippo will touch everyone, children and adults alike. To my son, Jake who put in so much time, creating Patrick's Foundation website. To my son, Jordan, who was willing to take pictures of the rainbow bracelets that I never used but appreciate, non-the-less. To my youngest son, Matthew who patiently tolerated the sound of my sewing machine, as I assembled Pippo's every weekend for months on end.



One sunny, crisp winter day at the North Pole, Mrs. Claus opened the front door to let out Zelda, her gray tabby cat. It was December 26th, the morning after Christmas, and everyone had slept in after a very busy holiday. As Zelda ran through the open door, Mrs. Claus noticed a wooden crate perched on the front step. At the top of the crate, she could see something big and round all wrapped up in a furry blanket.



She pulled the crate inside the house to get out of the cold, which took quite a bit of effort. It was heavier than it looked! Once inside, Mrs. Claus slowly pulled back the blanket to take a peek at what was underneath.

“Oh, my!” she said in surprise. Wrapped in the blanket was a baby hippo - a *purple* baby hippo. The hippo looked up at Mrs. Claus with big, round, black eyes. He was as surprised as she was. It was at this moment that Mrs. Claus noticed a note pinned to the inside of the furry blanket. She opened it and read:

Dear Santa and Mrs. Claus,

Please take care of this baby hippo. We can't keep him because he is purple, and we only know how to take care of gray hippos.

Sincerely,

The North Pole Zoo.



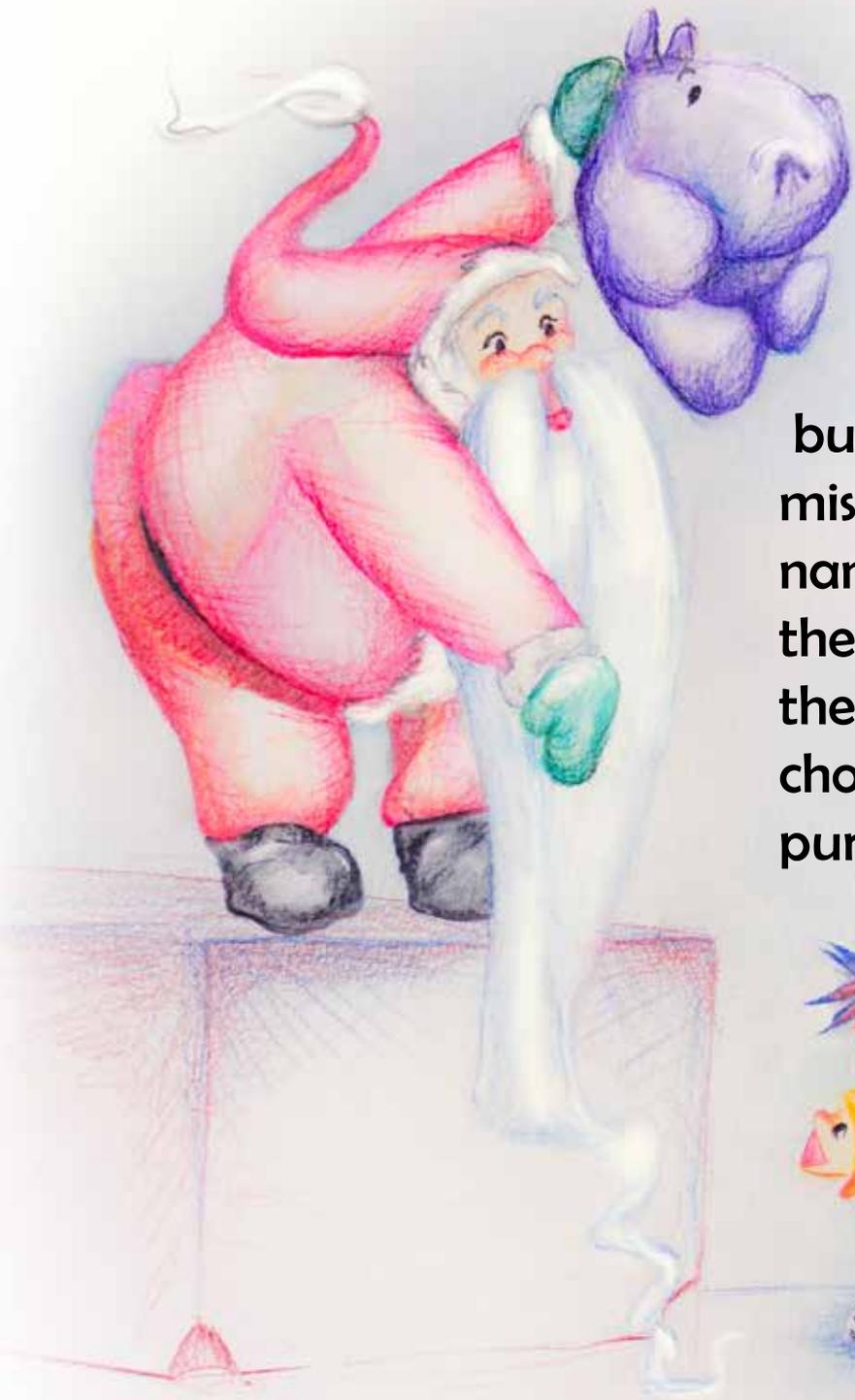
Mrs. Claus read the note one more time and called out to Santa who was just waking up, “Santa! Come here and see what was left at our front door.”



Santa quickly walked to where Mrs. Claus was waiting, looked at the purple baby hippo, and read the note. He rubbed his hand down the length of his long white beard for a sad moment, feeling sorry for the little fellow.



Then, his eyes lit up with delight and he said, “Well, of course we will take him in! Who wouldn’t want to take care of a purple hippo? This is a wonderful surprise!”



The purple baby hippo was immediately welcomed into the Claus home, but something was missing. He needed a name. Santa called all the elves together from the workshop to help choose a name for the purple hippo.

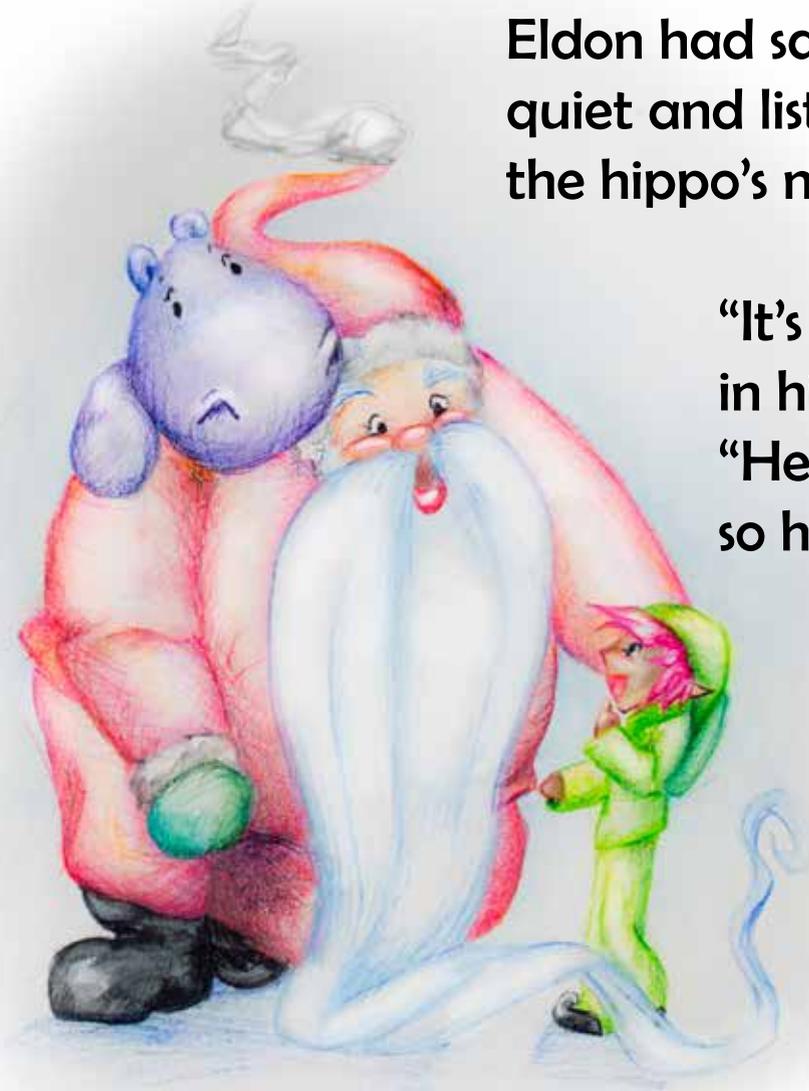


The elves were excited to help choose a name for their new family member. They began to shout out suggestions, each one trying to be heard over the other. As the chaos built, Santa noticed the smallest of the elves standing quietly off to the side, holding his hand high up in the air with an eager look on his tiny face. His name was Eldon.

“Quiet down, please!” Santa yelled out in his booming Santa voice. “Quiet down and let Eldon speak.”



Eldon, who has a very small, quiet voice, took one step forward towards Santa and said, "I know his name." Santa, who has excellent hearing, repeated to the other elves what Eldon had said. "Let's all be quiet and listen, Eldon knows the hippo's name."



"It's Pippo." Eldon said in his tiny little voice. "He's a purple hippo, so his name is Pippo."



"Excellent choice!" Santa shouted. "Eldon says his name is Pippo and so it shall be!"

Pippo was given to the Claus family as a baby, but like most animals, Pippo grew very quickly. He grew so big that, soon, he could no longer live in the house with Santa and Mrs. Claus, so he moved into the workshop with the elves.



Pippo loved all the elves, especially little Eldon. They were his family and they were special.





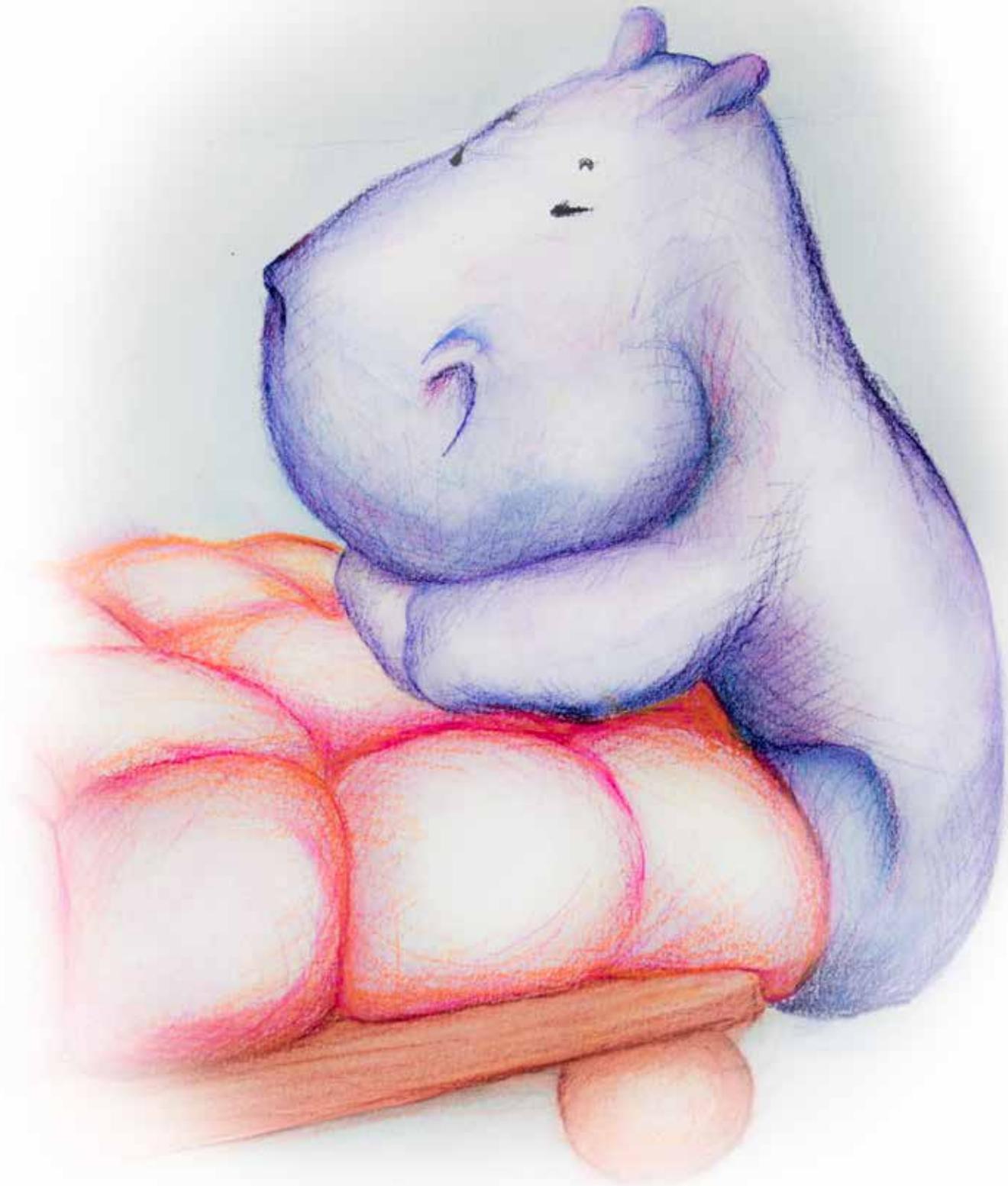
Pippo watched the elves with wonder as they worked on the toys in the workshop. They were small but fast. They were able to move around the workshop at top speed without bumping into boxes or knocking toys over. They had tiny hands with nimble fingers and could create and assemble a toy at a record pace. Pippo was neither fast nor nimble. He was big and slow and didn't have any fingers at all, only wide, chunky, flat feet.

Pippo saw the elves' magical powers and wished he had been blessed like them. He did not like being a big, boring, purple hippo. Although Pippo wished to be like the magical elves, he never let his feelings effect how he treated others. He was always friendly and helpful to everyone. Pippo could easily see all of the things that made others special, but he wasn't able to see those things in himself.



Mrs. Claus, Santa, and the elves, however, could easily see the things that made Pippo special. They saw Pippo's wide smile as he pushed the heavy lunch carts into the workshop so the elves could take a break in the middle of the day. They watched Pippo as he carried all the tired elves to bed on his back at the end of a long day making toys.



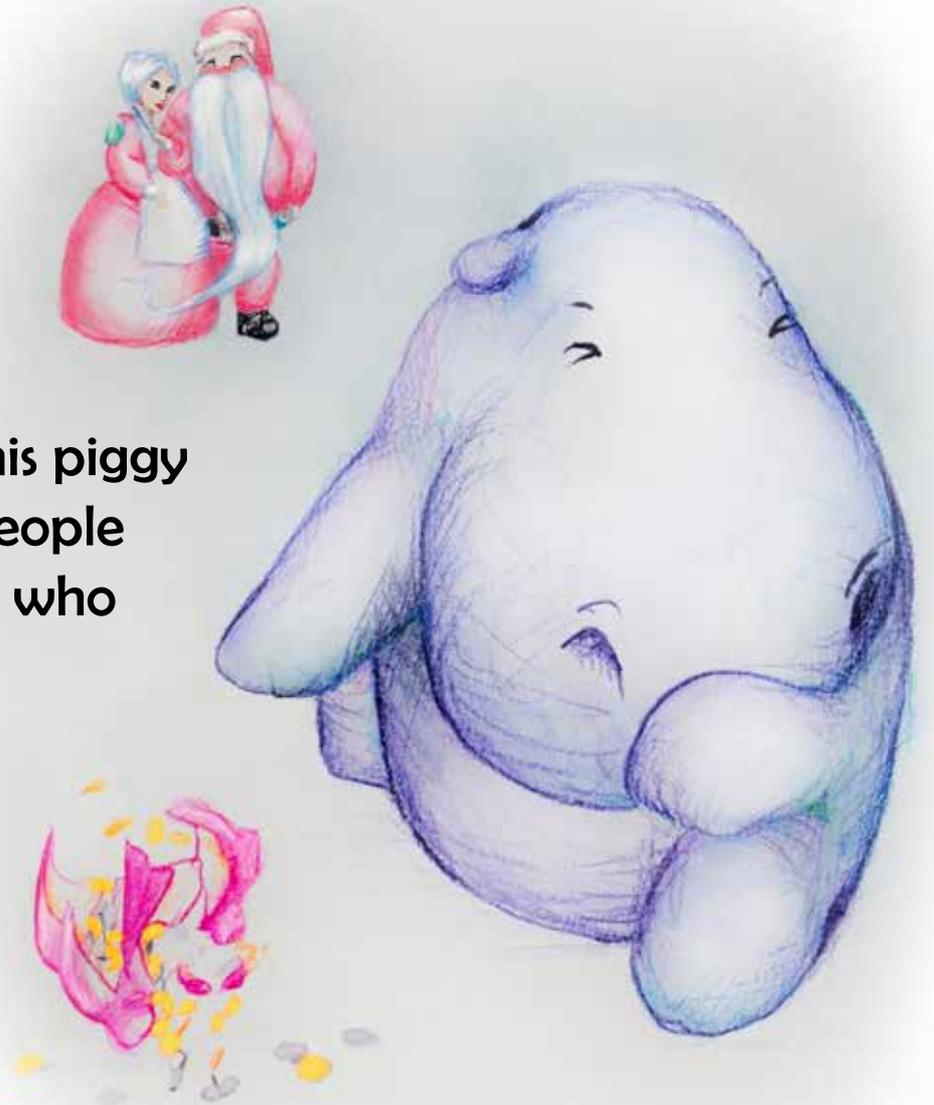


They noticed how Pippo was always the last one into bed because he wanted to mention every one of the elves in his prayers. Pippo believed they were all members of his family and he wanted God to keep them safe. Once his prayers were finished, Pippo read for at least an hour every night, knowing that learning brings us closer to God.

Everyone was amazed by how easily Pippo forgave anyone who wronged him when they were truly sorry for what they did. Pippo was kind to everyone no matter how big or small they were, how young or old they were, how wide or thin, or how ever white, black, brown, or purple they happened to be.



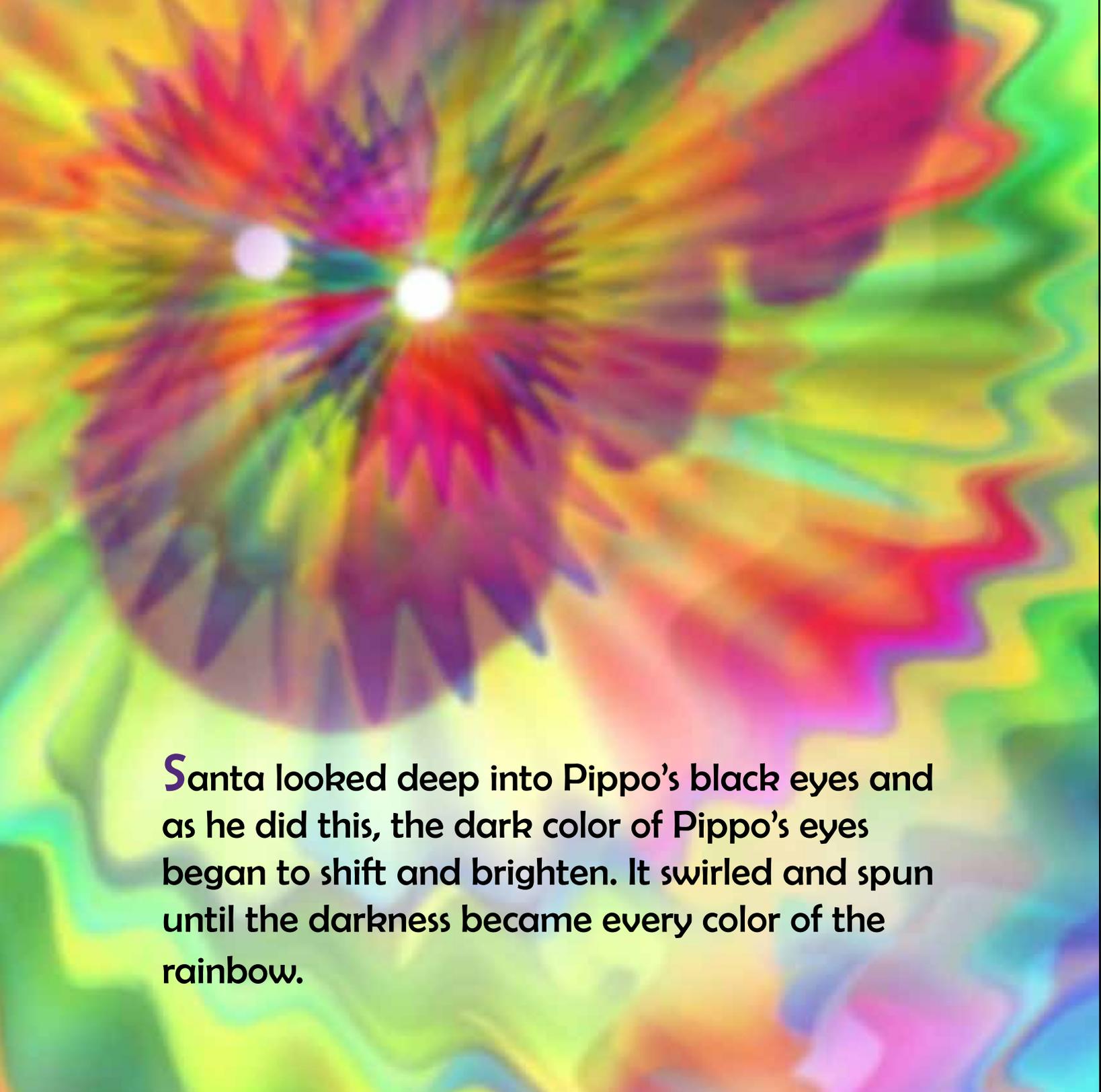
Pippo's kindness didn't stop there: he would save up his allowance and brake open his piggy bank to give to people in the community who needed money, because he also considered them as a part of his family. Pippo was blessed with knowing what really matters in life.



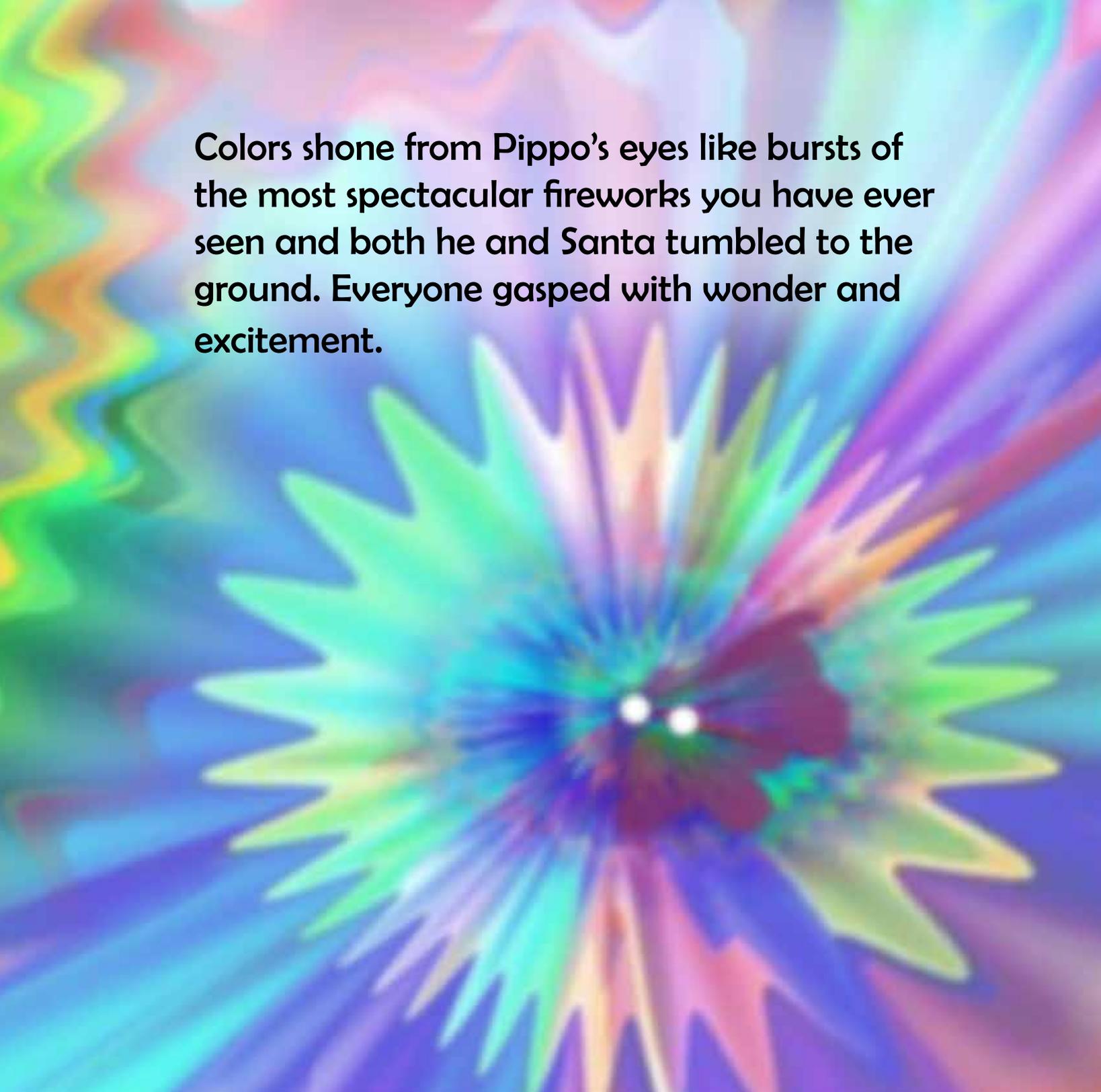
Time passed and it was suddenly Christmas Eve, the day everyone had worked so hard to prepare for. Santa's sleigh was all packed up with toys. The reindeer pranced about, excited for the long flight, but Santa had one more thing he needed to do before they took off into the magical night air.

"Could you come here, Pippo?" Santa asked. The elves stopped their work and watched as Pippo stood before Santa, wondering what this was all about.





Santa looked deep into Pippo's black eyes and as he did this, the dark color of Pippo's eyes began to shift and brighten. It swirled and spun until the darkness became every color of the rainbow.

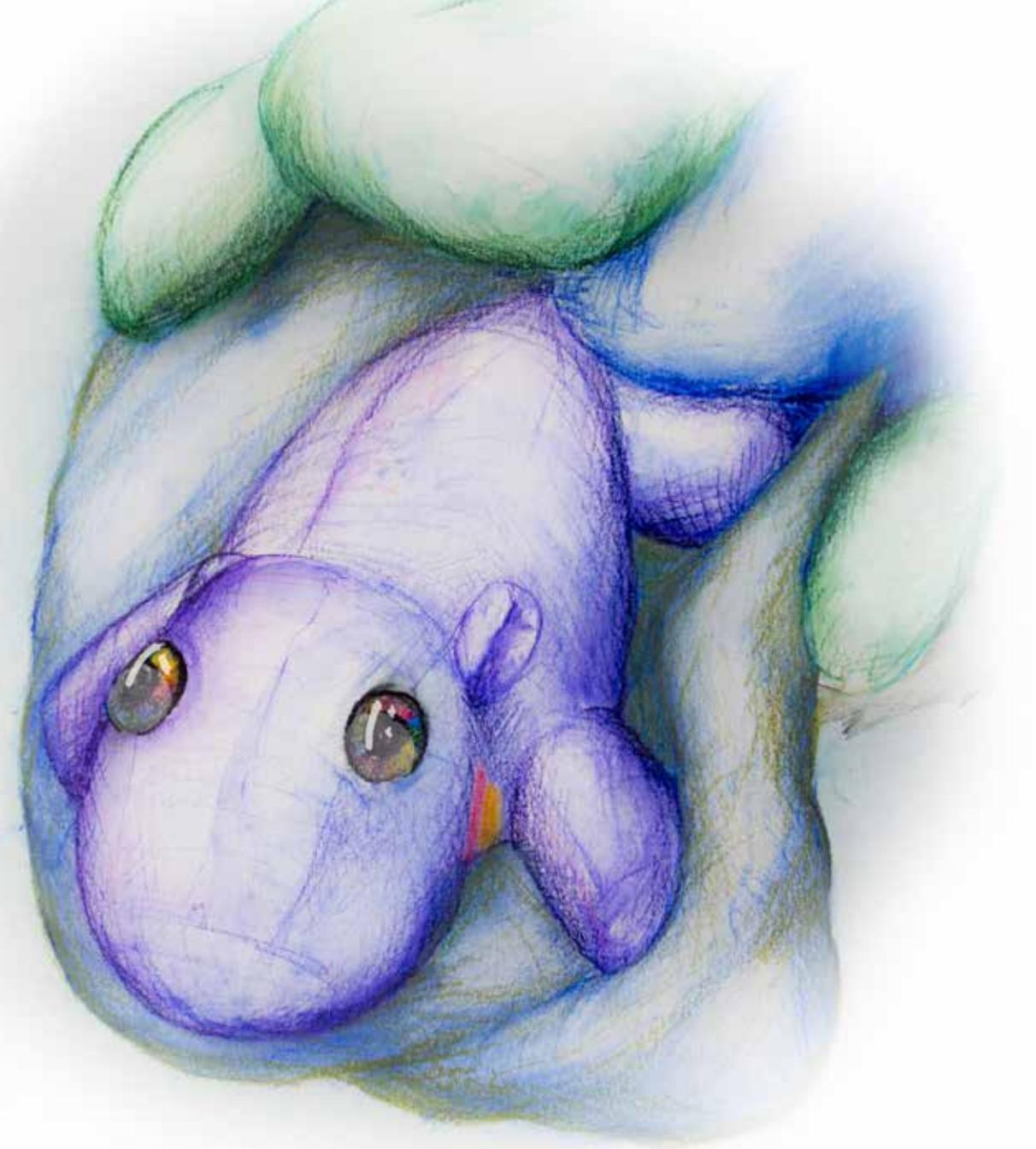


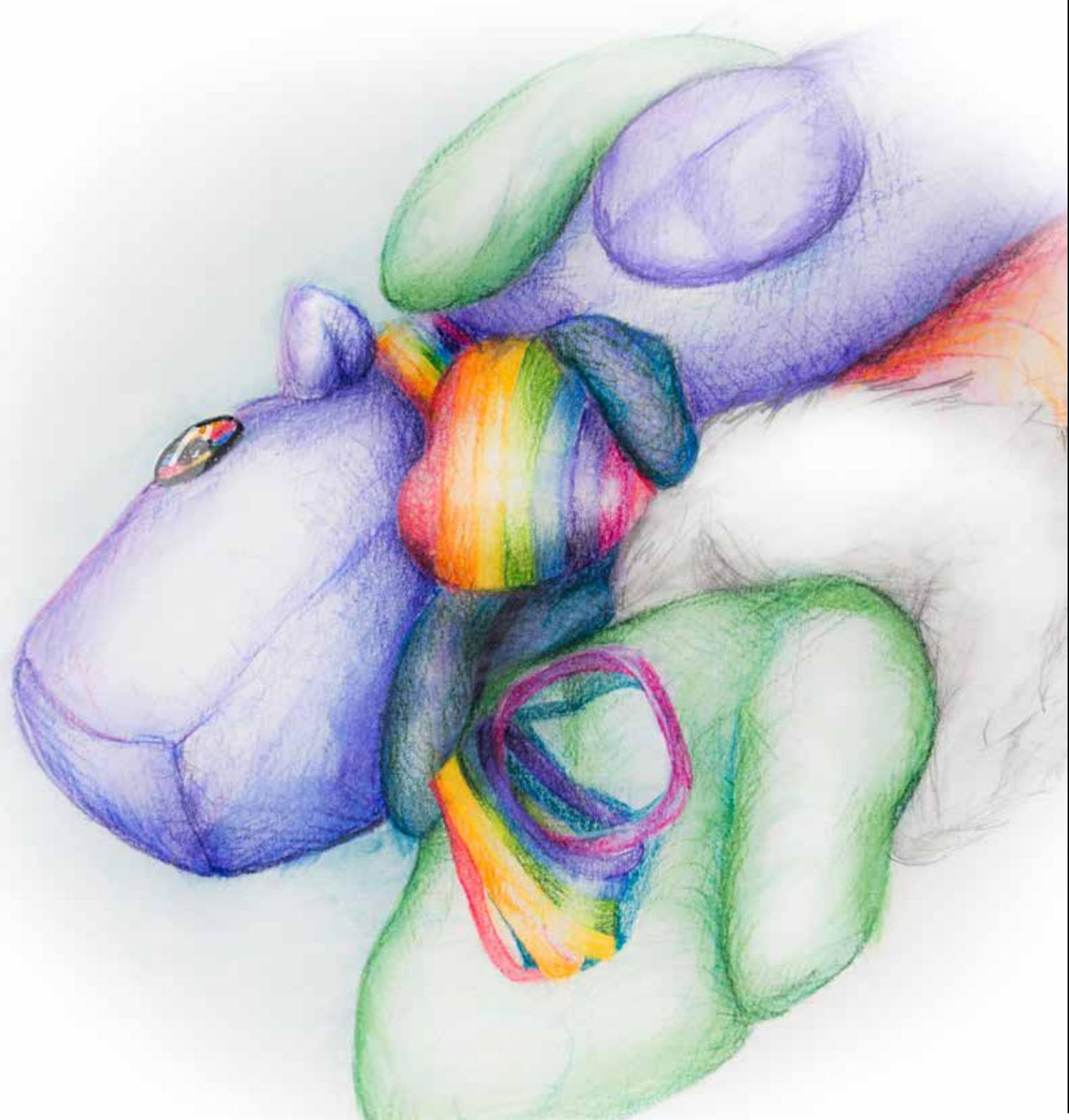
Colors shone from Pippo's eyes like bursts of the most spectacular fireworks you have ever seen and both he and Santa tumbled to the ground. Everyone gasped with wonder and excitement.

When the colors finally dimmed and faded away, Santa picked himself up, but he held something new and bright in his hand.



Pippo looked and said, "It's me! It's a toy that looks like me! But why?"





“Why?” Santa chuckled. “Because you are special, Pippo. You have powers given to you by God and now, you will be able to share those gifts of goodness with every boy and girl who finds this special toy.” Santa showed Pippo an secret pocket in the toy hippo and pulled from it seven bracelets. “Each bracelet names a power of goodness we all see in you.” Santa explained. “When a child wears one of these bracelets, they will set this power free within themselves. God gave us all the same amazing powers. We just need reminders that they are there.” Santa handed the toy hippo over to Pippo and Pippo smiled.

Gazing at the magical toy, Pippo knew how he could remember the seven powers...The seven colors of the bracelets made up a rainbow. He would match one power to one color!

The Power of Love (Red)

The Power of Forgiveness (Orange)

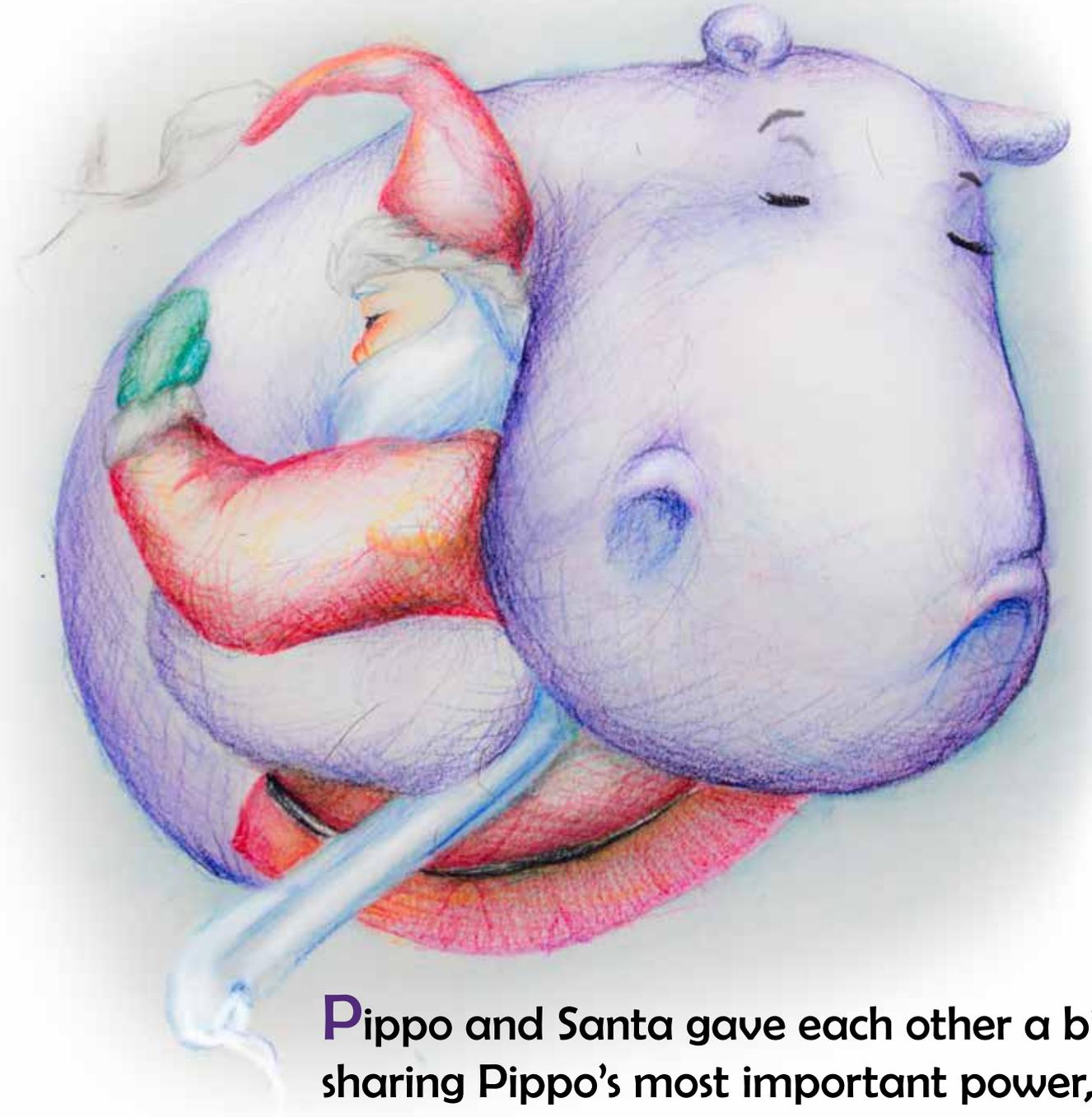
The Power of Kindness (Yellow)

The Power of Giving (Green)

The Power of Learning or Knowledge (Blue)

The Power of Faith or Believing (Purple)

The Power of Compassion or Caring (Indigo)



Pippo and Santa gave each other a big hug, sharing Pippo's most important power, ***the power of love.***

How to Play with Pippo

If you have the toy Pippo, you can play the Pippo Hot, Pippo Warm or Pippo Cold game. Have someone who is not playing the game hide the Pippo toy. Then, give clues to the players where Pippo is hidden by saying: Pippo Hot, Pippo Warm, or Pippo Cold to direct the players to the hiding place. The player who finds Pippo gets to pick a bracelet. Match the color of the bracelet to the power listed in the book. The game ends when all the bracelets are gone. To order a toy Pippo, go to Patrick's foundation website: pmaviation.org. The proceeds of the Pippo book and toy will go to Patrick's foundation.

If you don't have a toy Pippo. Have your child think of a color. It can be their favorite color, or it can be random. Look inside the book and match the color to the Pippo Power.

This is a craft project you can do with your child. You can make a color wheel with the colors of the rainbow. You can find detailed directions on the internet. Find a craft store in your area and buy a plastic arrow set. Make the color wheel out of white cardstock. Use the seven colors of the rainbow to color the sections of the wheel. Push the arrow into the middle of the wheel and secure the back. Have your child give it a spin. Match the color the arrow lands on to the Pippo Power in the book.

About the Author:

Maria Marzitelli lives in White Bear Township, Minnesota with her husband, youngest son, three cats and a dog.