



**Penny and Polly's
Christmas**

Penny the Penguin waddled across the frozen lake and wondered what to get her friend, Polly the Polar Bear, as a gift for Christmas. She felt upset because it was Christmas Eve, and she still didn't know what Polly would like.



Polly wandered by the lake, looking for Penny. She had a present she wanted to give her, but Penny was nowhere to be found. "I hope she likes the present I bought," Polly thought.



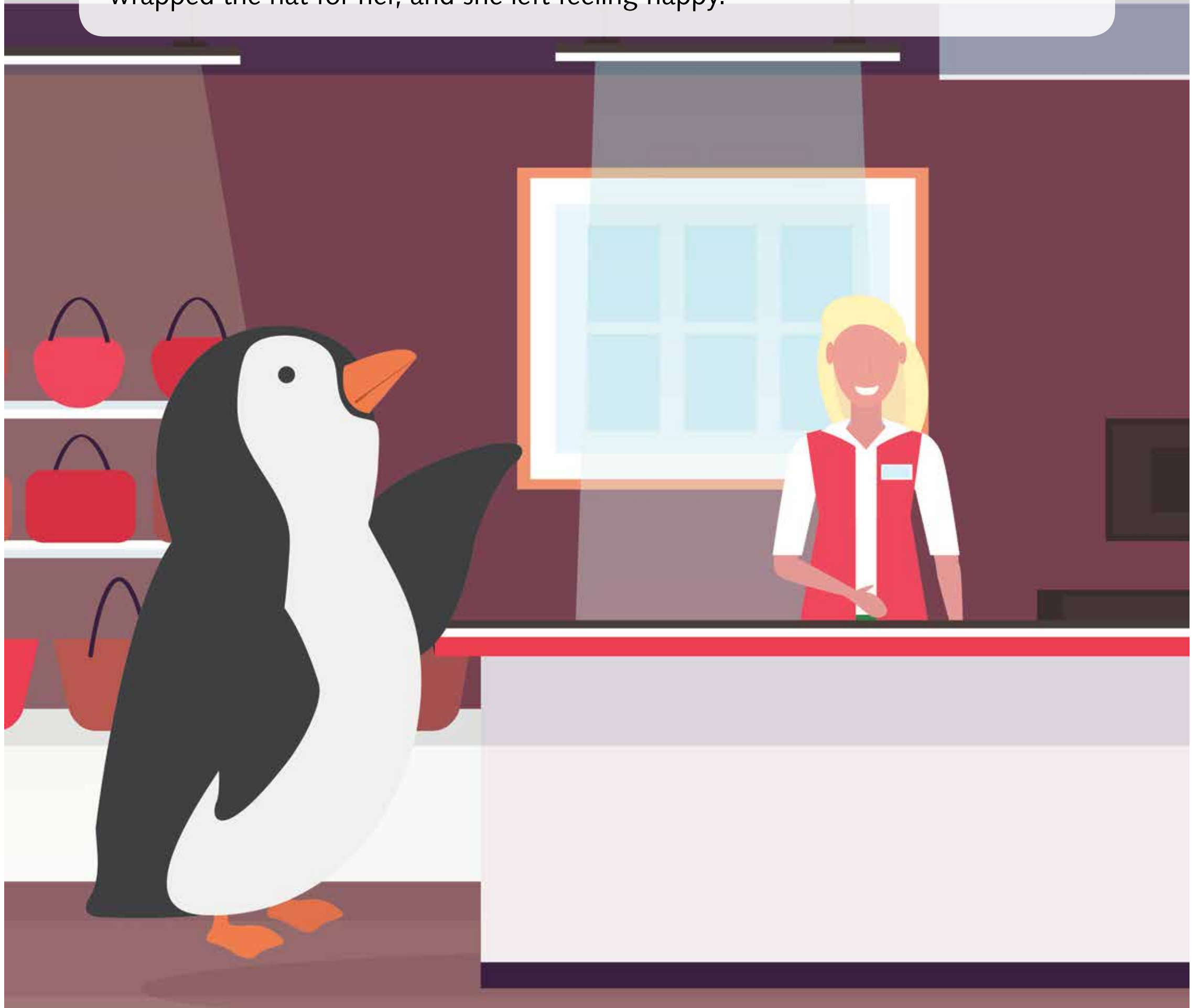
Penny knew Polly likes sweets, so she went to the mall looking for cookies. Penny searched everywhere, but she didn't find any. She couldn't give up, though, so she looked for a different present.



Polly walked through the mall because Penny shopped there a lot, but still, she couldn't find her friend. She didn't know where else to look, and she began to lose hope.



Penny went to her favorite clothing store in the mall. She saw a beautiful blue hat and loved it so much that she immediately bought it for Polly. The storekeeper wrapped the hat for her, and she left feeling happy.



Polly went into Penny's favorite clothing store hoping to find her friend, but again, she wasn't there. Polly held the present sadly in her paws. She still hadn't given Penny her present.



Polly felt too sad to continue searching for Penny, so she laid down on the snowy ground for a nap. Right then, Penny walked past the bench and saw Polly. The penguin cheerfully called out, "Hey!"



Polly woke up with a start, but she was glad to see her friend because now she could give Penny her gift. The two friends excitedly exchanged presents, each wondering what the other had gotten them. Polly held her gift gratefully and asked, "Do you want to go on a walk?" Penny nodded her head.



As they walked down the street together, both friends wondered what the other had gotten. Penny said, "I spent the entire day looking for the perfect gift for you."

"Well, I spent all day looking for you," Polly responded. They smiled, but neither one knew how close they had been to running into each other that day.



Christmas morning came around, and Penny and Polly opened their presents expecting something amazing. To their surprise, they both opened identical blue hats. Out of all the presents in the world, they picked the same thing!



Polly visited Penny's house that night, wearing her new hat. Penny saw the hat and started laughing because she was wearing hers, too. They both giggled about how silly they looked, but it didn't matter because they were just happy to be spending time together. And they remembered Christmas isn't about presents. It's about family, friends and happy memories.

