

# The Unseen Hero of CHRISTMAS





## Greetings from the North Pole!

I'll bet you've heard of Santa. Saint Nick? Mr. Claus? The happy, chubby guy in red who goes down chimneys, drops off gifts, and eats cookies with some milk? I'm also sure you've heard of his wife, Mrs. Claus, the lady who helps Santa keep things running smoothly around the North Pole. But I can almost guarantee that you haven't heard of me.

I'm their daughter, Holly, who helps the elves by testing out new toys.



I know you might be thinking, "Wow, she's lucky!" But it actually might just be the most dangerous job on EARTH! When kids request new toys, we create a sample in the workshop to make sure it's safe. Some toys are cool in theory, but hazardous in reality.





One time, a kid named Kyle asked for shoes with springs on the bottom. A trampoline wherever you went! What's wrong with that? Well, the springs were unreliable and I was bouncing off the walls. Literally! I still have some bruises to prove it.



Another kid named Antonio asked for a laser gun. The workshop went up in flames. Luckily, we had a lot of water guns which all worked really well except, of course, for mine. It was broken and drenched me instead of the fire.





Oh, and that hippopotamus that one kid sings about every Christmas season? Hippos are crazy. Let's just leave it at that.



Julie wanted a living stuffed animal. More specifically, a lion she could cuddle with at night. If he wasn't already stuffed, I would have been his dinner.





We've all wanted a flying carpet at some point in our childhood. It would open up "A Whole New World." BUT, these rugs have a mind of their own and wouldn't let anyone buckle up before they took off!

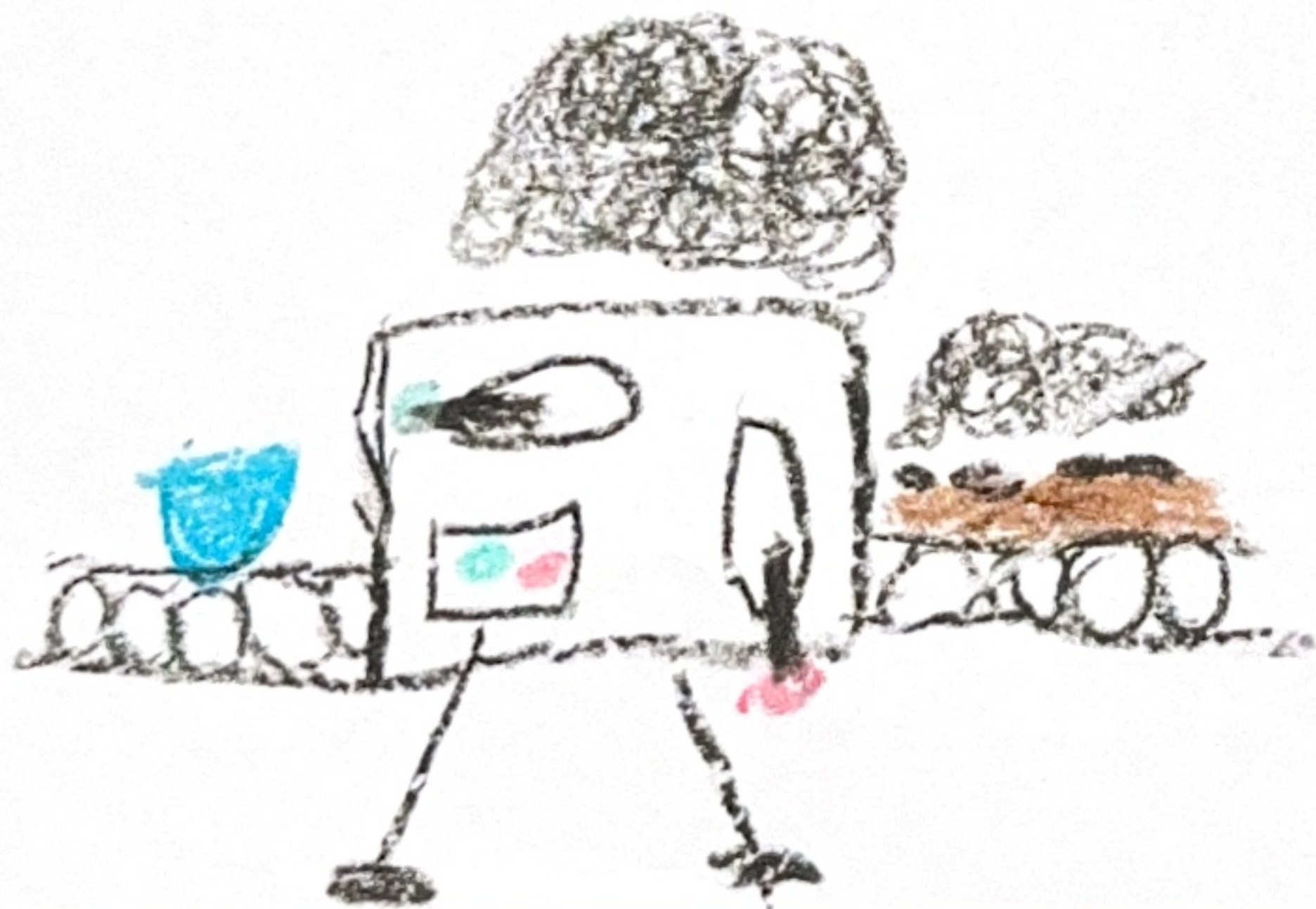


A time machine was requested from George, but the lever wouldn't lock, so you never could pick where and when it sent you to. I got sent to the Ice Age! You would think that I'd be prepared for that, growing up in the North Pole, but I wasn't. It was COLDER than cold. No wonder the dinosaurs didn't survive!





Sofia was really into cookies and wanted a machine that would bake them instantly. The machine got overheated and the results were burnt cookies and an almost burnt-down kitchen. My dad was heartbroken, as I'm sure you'd guess.



Claire was hoping for a magic wand after reading some wizarding books. I have to say, that one was a favorite of mine. It was fun! But Mrs. Claus rejected that model when the workshop turned into its own version of Old MacDonald's farm thanks to a reindeer's idea that all the elves would be better as animals.





This job really keeps me on my toes, and I love bringing your imagination to life, but PLEASE, for my sake: When you're making your Christmas lists this year, think TWICE (or maybe even thrice) before bringing it up to Santa. All he wants is to make kids happy. All I really want is to live through this season.



Sincerely Yours,

Holly