







But little did they know that hidden away in a corner of the shop, behind a mysterious door, stood a mysterious workshop.



And if they snuck inside that mysterious workshop, they would find Uncle Hanz making the toys, Uncle Louis checking them, and Uncle Levi adding the... Oh, what's the scientific term for it? Ah, yes. *Magic*. Uncle Levi would be adding the magic.







Because every toy made by the Claus Brothers had a special sparkle that meant it would find the child it was perfect for.

That was why every child in the city wanted one!



But, of course, not every child could have a toy.





Every so often, Nicky noticed another group of children outside the shop window.



Nicky would invite them inside, but they would always just run away.

One day, the Toy Shop shut early. It was Christmas Eve and everyone was going home to get ready. But instead of going home with his uncles, Nicky decided to follow the children.



They disappeared into a mysterious hole in a wall that led to a tunnel. The way was lit by hundreds of jars with buzzing fireflies inside them.







Eventually, Nicky came to a large room...

## For Katie, Benny, George and Maggie May. —D.L.





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First published in 2022 by Frances Lincoln Children's Books, an imprint of The Quarto Group.

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A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

ISBN 978-0-7112-6293-5

The illustrations were created digitally
Set in Granjon LT and KG Midnight Memories
Published by Peter Marley
Designed by Andrew Watson
Edited by Katie Cotton
Production by Dawn Cameron

Printed in Guangdong, China TT072022

135798642