

Eugene Bear's

First Christmas

Story By: Brad Chmielewski & Maeve Price
Illustrated By: Jake Williams & Brad Chmielewski



Deep in the Sierra Nevada mountains,
in a peaceful forest, lives Eugene Bear.

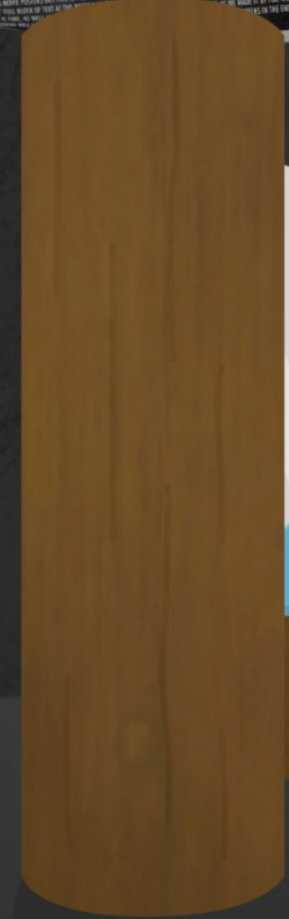
Every year is the same for Eugene Bear.



He plays with all of his friends
during the summer,



but during the winter he hibernates.



Come spring time, he gets up



and all he hears about are the great gifts
that Santa brought his friends.



But Santa skips over Eugene
because he's hibernating.



And every year Eugene
misses Christmas.





But this year is different.

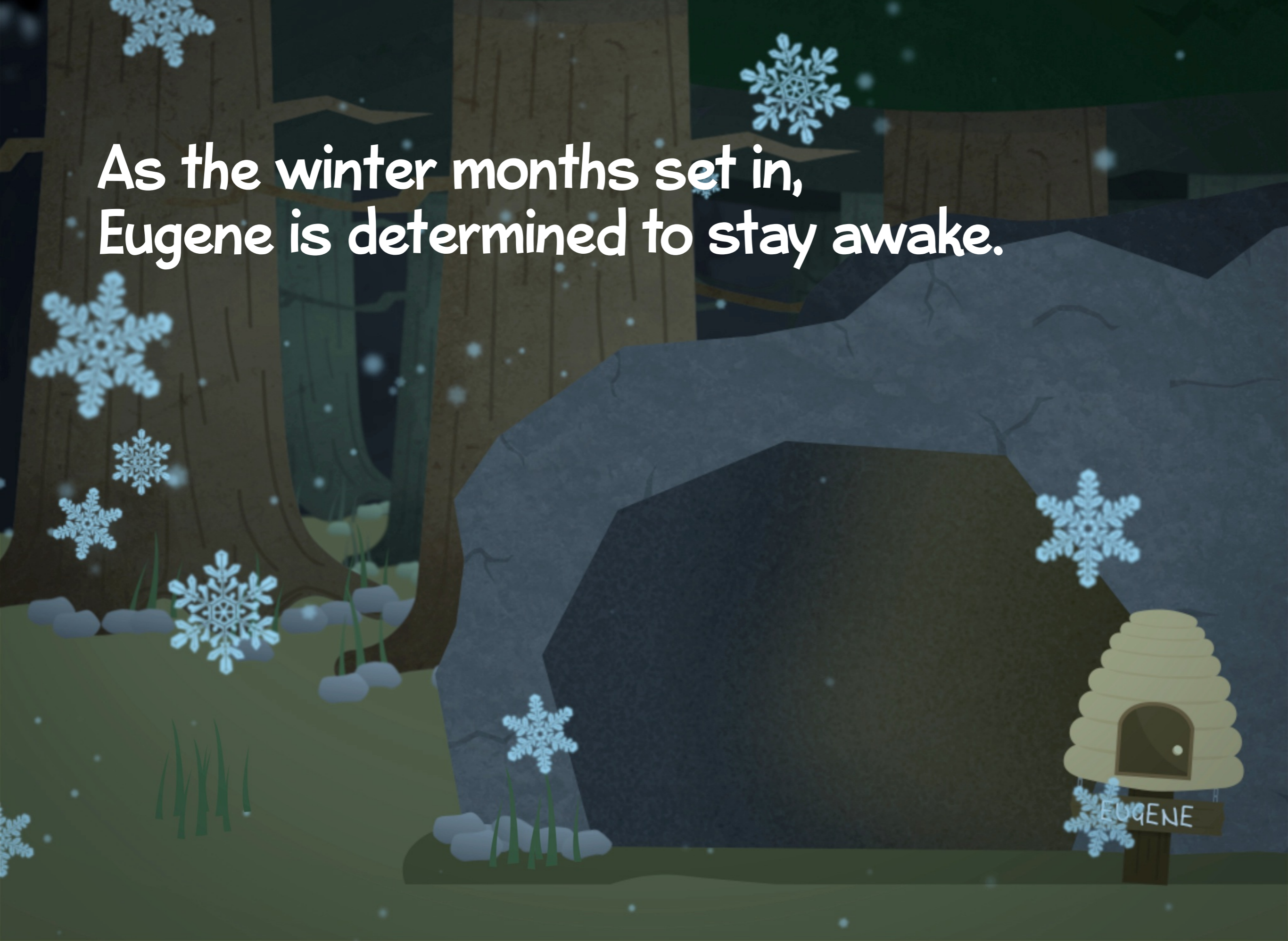
**This bear won't miss
another Christmas.**



Eugene decides he's not going to hibernate,
he'll stay awake all winter
and wait for Santa.



As the winter months set in,
Eugene is determined to stay awake.





He sets every alarm he has

and makes many, many,
many pots of coffee.



He even has his friends there to wake him if he falls asleep.





As Christmas approaches,



**a snow storm
passes over the forest**

A winter-themed illustration of a snowy landscape. In the foreground, there are patches of snow on a green lawn. A string of colorful Christmas lights hangs across the middle ground. In the background, there are snow-covered hills and a dark, snow-filled cave entrance. A beehive sits on a wooden post in the lower right, with a sign that says "EUGENE" below it. The scene is filled with falling snow and several large, stylized snowflakes.

making the power go out
in Eugene's den.

EUGENE

All of Eugene's friends are home
in their beds





waiting for Santa



and it's getting
harder for him to stay up.



Eugene decides to take his blankets
and hot cocoa



and sit down in front of his den
to wait for Santa.



As the night grows darker,
Eugene's eyes get heavier;



he can't stay awake any longer



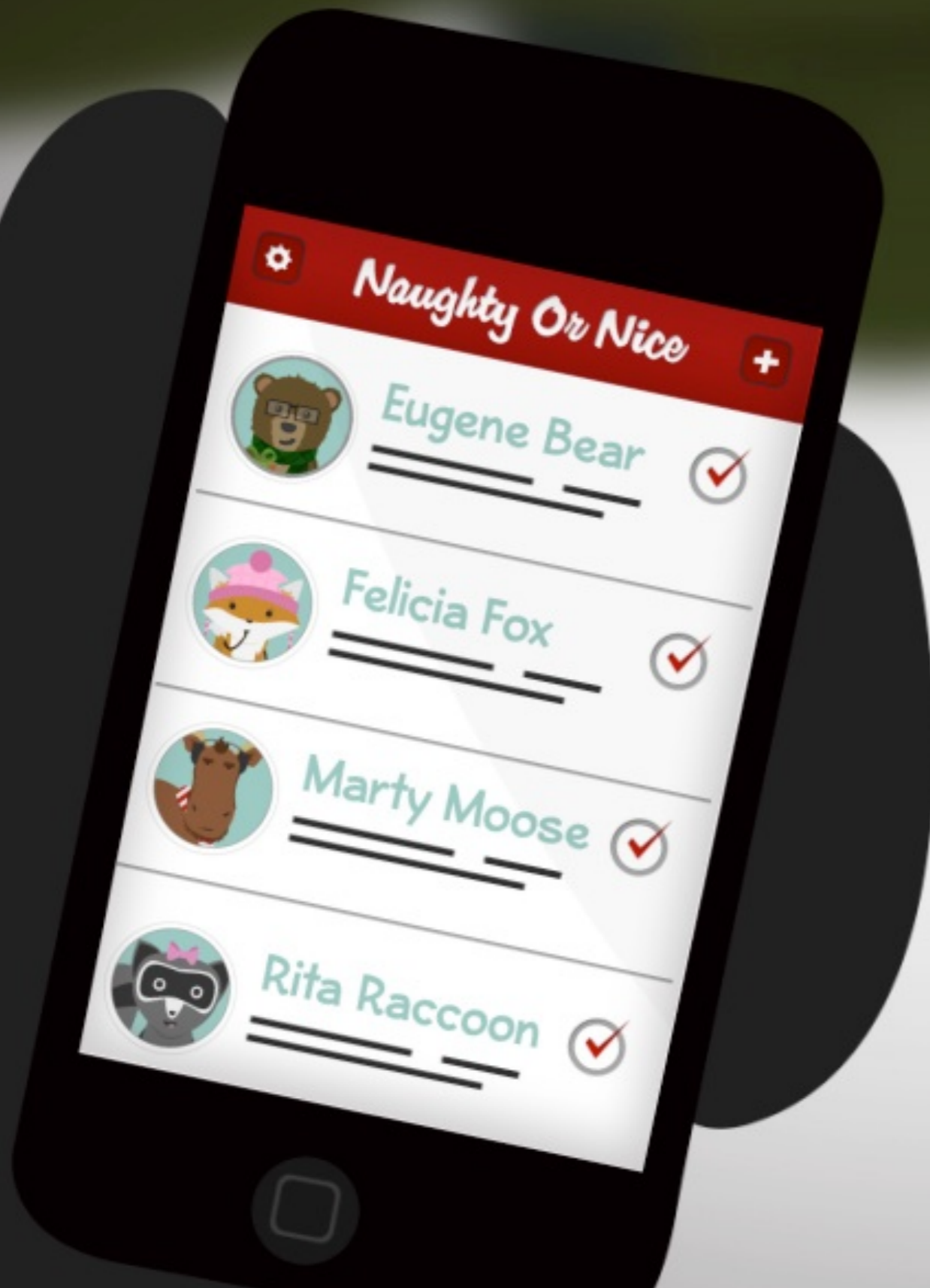


and falls asleep.



Just before midnight,
Santa arrives in the forest
ready to deliver presents.

Santa heard how much Eugene has been looking forward to his first Christmas.



A winter scene with a bear and a person in a red and white outfit. The background shows a snowy landscape with a wooden fence, a string of colorful lights, and a large, dark, textured shape that looks like a bear's head or a large shadow. The text is overlaid on a red circular shape.

**Knowing that bears
need their sleep in the winter**

and get very angry if you wake them,
he quietly sets down a gift next to Eugene.



Then takes off to deliver the rest of the gifts before Christmas Morning.



Spring arrives in the peaceful forest.



The snow melts and like all bears,
Eugene wakes up.



Once again he has
slept through Christmas.



But there next to him he notices
the perfectly wrapped gift from Santa.





He came, he came!

Eugene wasn't forgotten.



Finally, Eugene Bear had his first Christmas.



The End

