

A Wrench in the Works

by David Michael Slater
illustrated by Andrés Martínez Ricci



For Kayla & Tyler—DMS

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Printed in the United States.

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Edited by Stephanie Hedlund and Rochelle Baltzer
Interior layout and design by Becky Daum
Cover design by Becky Daum

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Slater, David Michael.

A wrench in the works / by David Michael Slater ; illustrated by Andres Martinez Ricci.

p. cm.

Summary: Handy the wrench is sick of Nick being admired by all the other tools, but his attempts to detract from Nick's heroics do more harm than was intended.

ISBN 978-1-62249-538-2

[1. Tools—Fiction. 2. Jealousy—Fiction. 3. Conduct of life—Fiction.] I. Martínez Ricci, Andrés, ill. II. Title.

PZ7.S62898Wr 2009

[E]—dc22

2008055344



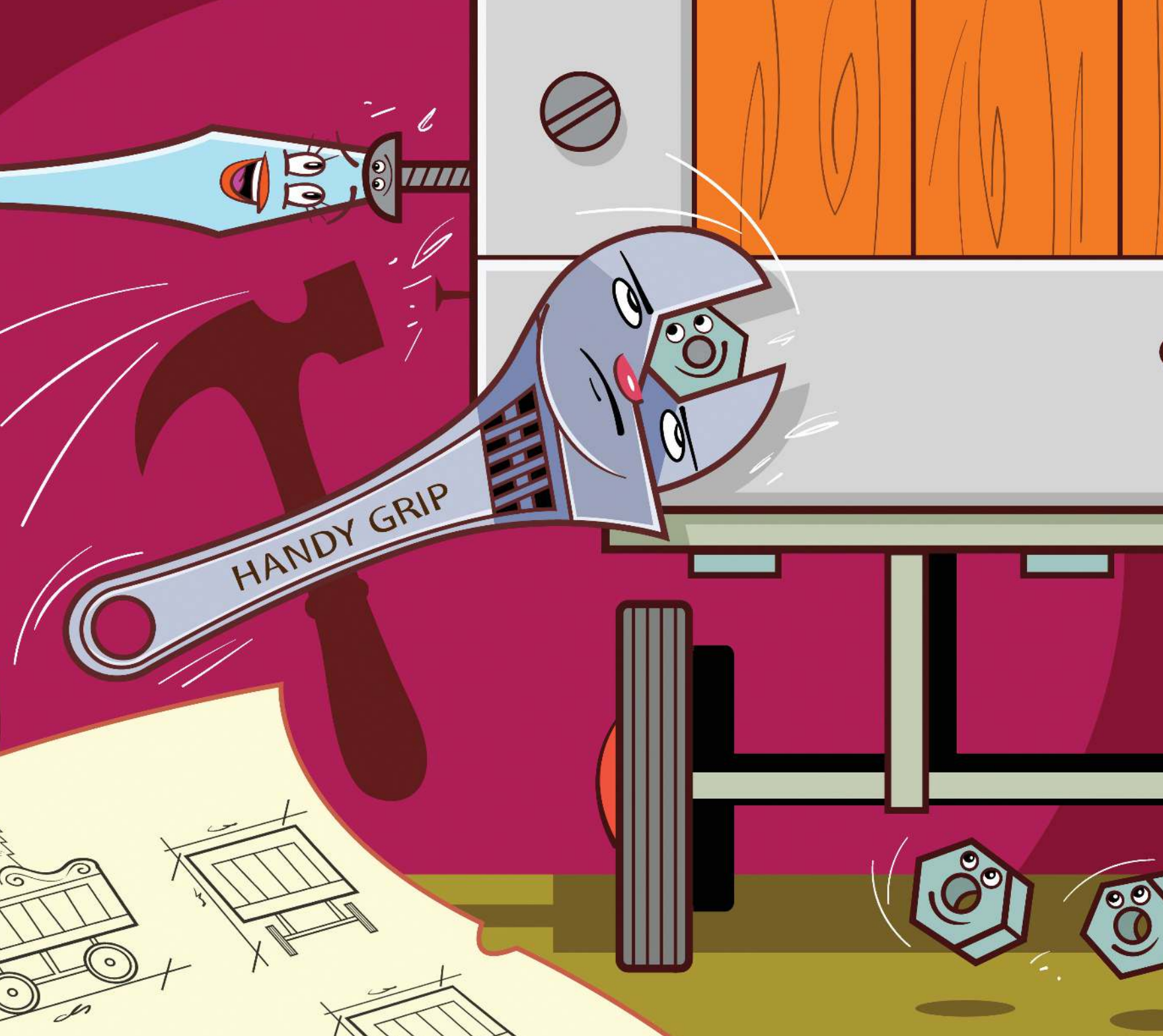
“Nick! Nick! Nick!” the tools all cheered. All the tools but Handy. Nick was a hero, it was true. He’d saved the kids from a fire, and that was great. But no one had been talking about anything else for weeks! All day every day it was, “Lookin’ sharp, Nick!” or “You cut a fine figure, Nick!”

Handy was sick of Nick. "Next thing you know we'll be throwing him a parade," Nick muttered.

"What a great idea!" Mini Screwdriver cried.

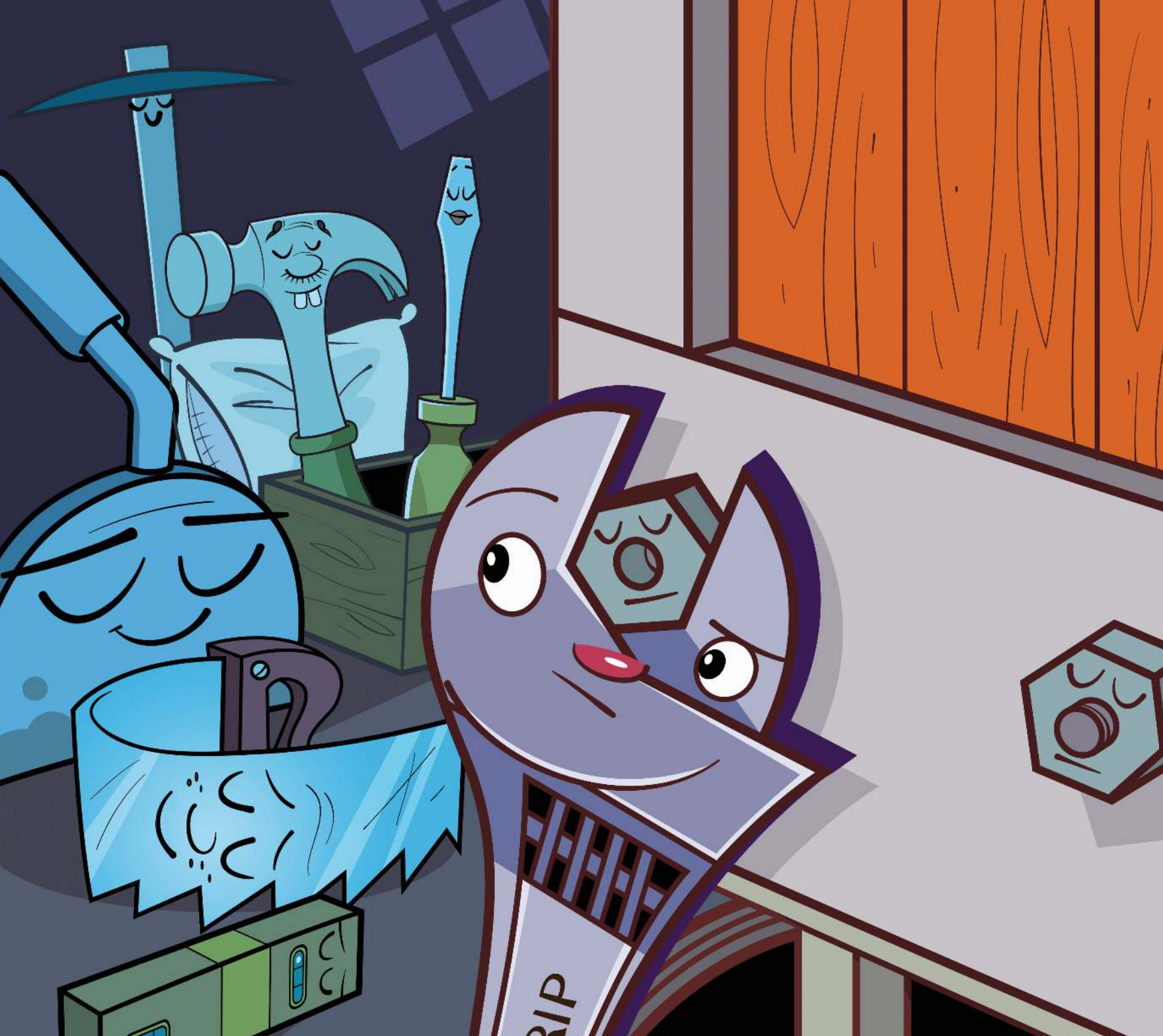
And that's how Handy found himself working on a parade wagon. He should have kept his big mouth shut.





Late into the night, Handy was still steaming. He couldn't sleep, so he got up.

I'll fix his wagon, Handy thought, creeping out of the shed. All the bolts on the wagon were asleep. Handy carefully loosened them, one at a time. When he was done, he slipped back into the shed.





In the morning, everyone gathered for the parade.

“You first, Nick!” Handy suggested. Nick climbed in the wagon. For a second, Handy didn’t think anything was going to happen.