

The Sharpest Tool

in the Shed



by David Michael Slater
illustrated by Brandon Reibeling

For Max — DMS

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ISBN 978-1-62249-532-0

Printed in the United States.

Text by David Michael Slater
Illustrations by Brandon Reibeling
Edited by Stephanie Hedlund
Interior layout and design by Becky Daum
Cover design by Brandon Reibeling

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

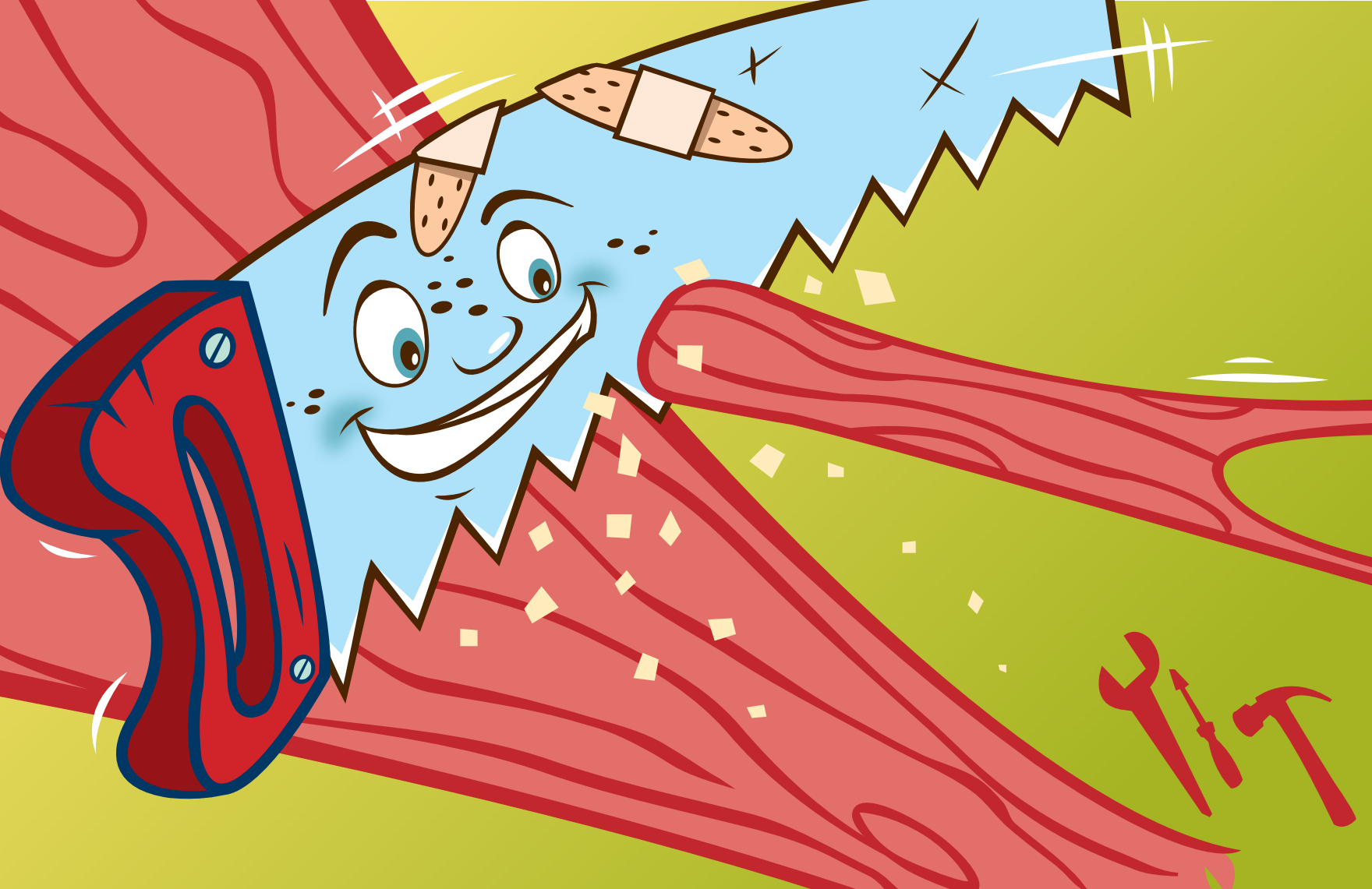
Slater, David Michael.

The sharpest tool in the shed / by David Michael Slater ; illustrated by Brandon Reibeling.
p. cm.

Summary: Nick the handsaw wants to be accepted by the other tools in the shed, but it takes his heroic rescue during a fire for that to happen.

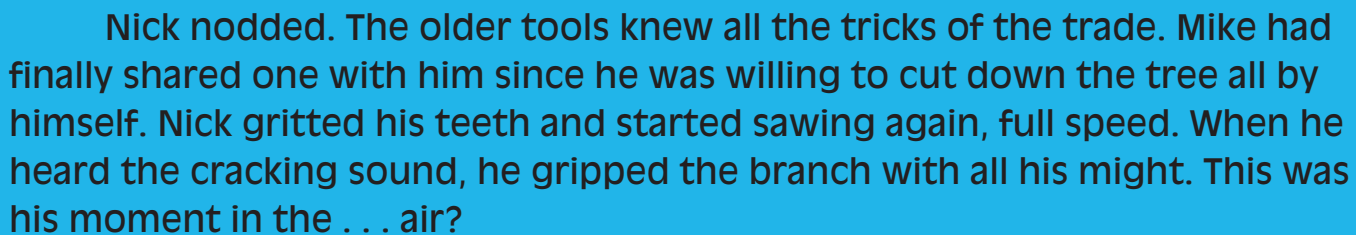
[1. Tools—Fiction. 2. Interpersonal relations—Fiction.] I. Reibeling, Brandon, ill. II. Title.
PZ7.S62898Sh 2007
IE1—dc22

2007003797



"Never forget what you **SAW** here today!" Nick called out. He was exhausted, but just about to score major points with the older tools. Some of them were looking up at him, and they were even grinning at his joke!

"Just remember to hold the branch tight when the tree falls over!" Mike Hammer hollered.



"Ahhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh!"



The branch swung down, bashing Nick against the tree. He let go and went crashing to the ground.

"What a tool!" Mike Hammer hooted. "You got worked!" All the tools were looking down on him and laughing hysterically.

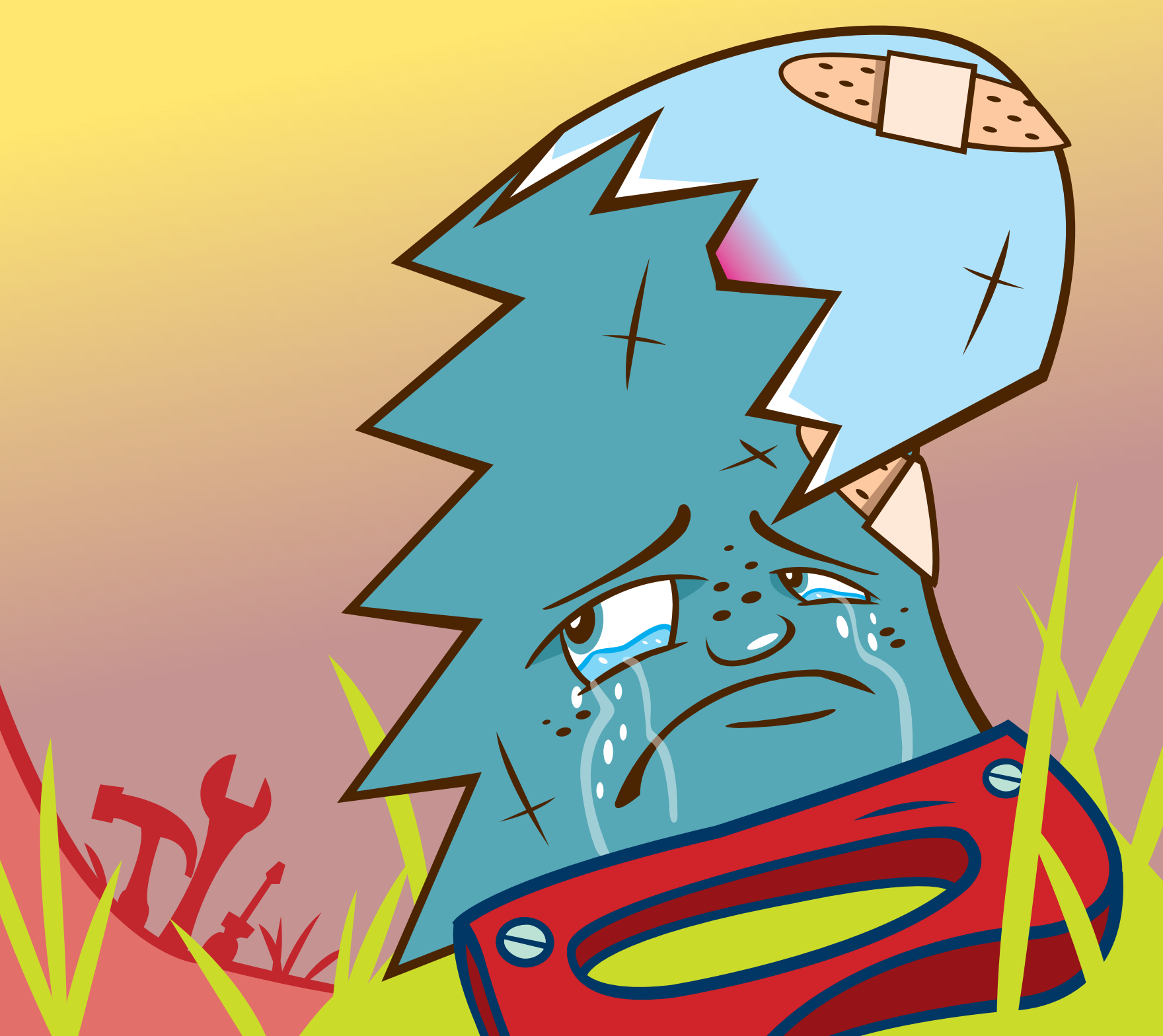
"But don't worry," Pick Tracy cackled, "we'll never forget what we just SAW! Ha Ha Ha!"

Nick should've known he'd be the one cut down. He was the youngest, so it always wound up that way. And, of course, he'd cracked another tooth. Nick shuffled home with his teeth still rattling.

"Not the sharpest tool in the shed, are ya?" sneered Don Hoe, who'd seen what had happened from the window. It was an awfully cutting remark.

"You hit me on the head with that one!" joked a nail. "He actually thought he could cut down a tree! Har!"

"Nick can't even cut the cheese!" added a shovel, shoveling it on.





There was no stopping the tools once they got started working on him. Nick figured if he couldn't beat 'em, maybe he should join 'em. "I...I can't even cut in line!" he tried.

No one laughed.