The Christmas
RUSH

**An Illustrated
Children's Story**

There were only 10 days until Christmas Eve, and the North Pole was buzzing with activity. Muffin the Elf was eager to help, so he pulled out his to-do list and got to work.

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The first thing on Muffin's list was putting up the Christmas tree, of course. The busiest time of year at Santa's workshop can't start without all the trees decked out with lights and ornaments.

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Getting the North Pole completely in the holiday spirit takes a lot of work, so Muffin spent the next day putting on the finishing touches. Holly, tinsel and ornaments keep all the elves in a happy mood as they work and sing.

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The next day was an important one at the North Pole: the annual wrapping extravaganza. All the elves stop what they're doing and work together to wrap gifts that Santa will deliver all over the world in just one week.

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Muffin strapped on his skates for an important job the next day. All the wrapped gifts have to be delivered across the North Pole at lightning speed, so Muffin joined the Elf Ice Express team to get the job done.

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Because there are millions of good boys and girls who get gifts each year, Santa needs the packages sorted in the perfect order for efficient delivery on Christmas Eve. Muffin helped in the sorting center to get all the presents where they belong.

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Gift mixups can be embarrassing for Santa, so Muffin spent the next day helping in quality control. Double-checking the names, addresses and gifts makes things run smoother for Santa.

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After all their hard work, the elves make sure to take a break for fun during the Christmas rush. Muffin spent the next day singing carols with the North Pole Elf Chorus.

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With Christmas right around the corner, Muffin's next job was preparing treats for Christmas. Candies, cakes, cookies and more are all part of the holiday tradition at the North Pole — and all around the world.

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The next day, Muffin did last-minute shopping for a few changes on Santa's list. He helped find just the right presents for children in Sweden, Japan, Australia and the United States.

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Finally came the big day, Christmas Eve, when it was time to load the sleigh for Santa's epic trip. Getting the weight and balance just right for the all-night, reindeer-powered trip around the world takes a special touch … and Muffin was glad to play a part in it.

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