



TUNDRA FRIENDS



Natti Wants to Play



Published by Arvaaq Press Inc.

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Printed in Canada.

ISBN: 978-1-77450-830-5



Natti Wants to Play



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It is a nice winter day. There is a fresh layer of snow. Natti's friends are all outside having fun. They are making snow animals and throwing snowballs.

Natti wants to play too.





*“Ataata**, can I go outside and play?” Natti asks her father.

“Yes, but first you need to shovel the driveway,” Ataata says.

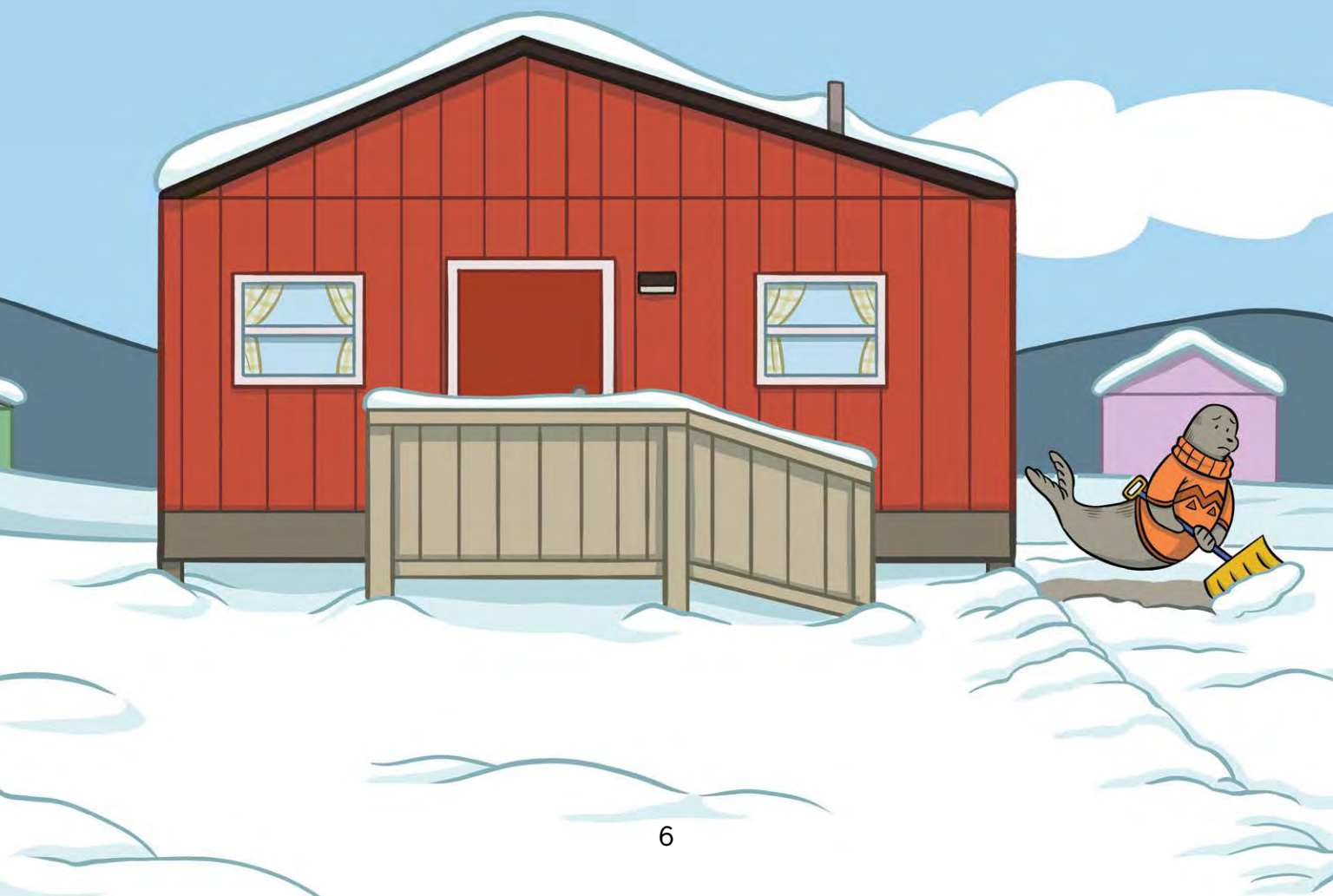
Natti groans. “But that will take so long! All my friends are already playing,” she says.

*ataata (ah-TAH-tah): father

“You can join your friends as soon as the driveway is shovelled,” Ataata says.

Natti sighs. She knows her ataata won't change his mind. She goes outside and starts shovelling.

Maybe some of my friends will offer to help me,
Natti thinks.







Soon, Natti's friend Taqu comes over to say hello.

"Hi, Natti! Come play with us! We're about to start a snowball fight," says Taqu.

Natti sighs. "I can't play until I'm done shovelling all this snow," she says.

Taqu looks at all the snow. "Wow, you still have a lot to do!" says Taqu.

"I know. You're lucky you get to play," says Natti.

"Well, join us when you're done!" says Taqu, running back to the group.

Natti is annoyed. She continues shovelling.





Later, Uka comes over to Natti.

“How’s your shovelling going?” asks Uka.

“I still have a lot to do. It’s taking a long time because I’m doing it alone,” says Natti.

“Well, finish quickly! We’re going to make a huge snow animal!” says Uka.



Natti is getting frustrated. "I'll probably be too tired to play when I'm done all this work," she says.

"Oh...," says Uka. "Well, I hope not!"

"Maybe I wouldn't be if I had some *help*," Natti mumbles as Uka hops away.





Natti is almost halfway through shovelling the driveway. She sees her friends laughing and playing. It makes her feel angry. *Why aren't they offering to help?* she thinks.

She grows angrier and angrier as she keeps shovelling.

Taqu and Uka come back to check on Natti.

“Are you done yet?” asks Taqu.

“Does it look like I’m done?” Natti says angrily.

Taqu and Uka look surprised. They weren’t expecting Natti to be angry.





“What’s wrong, Natti?” asks Uka. “Are you mad at us?”

“No, I’m not mad at you. Go back to playing. I have a lot of work to do,” says Natti. She keeps shovelling.



Taqu and Uka don't know how to respond. Natti says she isn't angry, but she seems angry.

"Are you sure you're not angry?" says Taqu.

Natti stops shovelling and thinks for a moment. "Well, I guess I am angry," says Natti.





“I just want to play, but I have all this work to do. It’s taking forever because I’m doing it alone,” says Natti.

“Do you...want some help?” asks Uka.

“Yeah, it will go faster if we work together,” says Taqu.

Natti starts to smile. "You would really help, even though I was angry with you?" she asks.

"Sure!" says Uka.

"You just need to ask!" says Taqu.

Natti starts to feel bad for getting angry at her friends.





“I was hoping you would offer when you saw all the work I had to do,” says Natti. “I should have asked you for help instead of getting angry.”

“Yeah, we didn’t know you wanted help,” says Uka.

Taqu and Uka grab some shovels and start helping Natti. Together they finish shovelling in no time!

They all look proudly at the freshly shovelled driveway. Suddenly, a snowball hits Natti from behind. Uka had thrown it when Natti wasn't looking.





Natti smiles and grabs some snow. "I'll get you!" she calls to Uka as he hops away laughing.

Natti is glad Uka and Taqu helped her so she could play. Next time, she will ask for help when she needs it.





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Natti can't wait to play outside with her friends, but first she must shovel her driveway. Natti shovels and shovels. Her friends are having so much fun without her! *If they offered to help, the shovelling would already be done*, Natti thinks. The more Natti shovels, the angrier she gets. Can Natti learn to ask her friends for help?



ISBN 978-1-77450-830-5



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