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PERCY & PAM

Treasure
in the
Christmas
Log Cake



**RUTH
WAN-LAU**

ILLUSTRATED BY
ELIZ ONG

PERCY & PAM

Treasure
in the
Christmas
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For my mum who still reads for hours every day.

R. W.

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Illustrations by Eliz Ong

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BY RUTH WAN-LAU

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Chapter 1

“Percy, could you pass me the sticky tape, please?”

“Percy?” Pam looked up. Percy was nowhere to be found.

Pam’s best friend had been sitting right next to her, but he was not there any more.

“**BOO!**” Percy jumped out from the bathroom.

“Did you see that?” the young polar bear asked.

“See what?” Pam said, reaching for the sticky tape.

Percy drew a breath and spread out his large furry arms, like he was performing on a stage.

“I made myself disappear!” he declared.

“Really?” Pam said with a cheeky smile. “I thought you just stepped into the bathroom and then jumped back out.”

Percy had recently taken an interest in performing magic. He had

been reading a new book called, *Sir Edmund’s 101 Magic Tricks*, and had been practising new tricks all day.

“Maybe I read the instructions wrongly,” Percy mumbled, as he scratched his head and leafed through his book.



“Percy, maybe you could do a magic trick that would help me wrap all these Christmas presents!” Pam said.

Pam was sitting on the floor surrounded by boxes, wrapping paper, ribbons, tape and scissors.

The Tan family was having a large Christmas party that evening, and as usual, Pam was in charge of wrapping the presents.

Pam had asked Percy to help her and, at first, he helped out enthusiastically. However, the clumsy polar bear soon got sticky tape and

ribbons around his paws, stomach and even his legs.

Instead of helping, Percy had managed to wrap *himself* up!

“Oh, Percy!” Pam sighed. “I think I’ll do the wrapping while you



concentrate on your magic tricks.”

As Pam wrapped the presents, she recalled the first time she had met this adorable polar bear in the middle of Ang Mo Kio.

Percy had swum all the way from the North Pole because he had found the weather there too cold.

(Percy had always been a rather strange polar bear. He found Singapore’s weather perfect for him!)

Pam had invited Percy to stay with her, and they had been best friends ever since.

Pam especially liked it that

Percy loved local Singaporean food. Kaya butter toast, prata, fishball noodles, chicken rice, pandan chiffon cake and ice kacang – this greedy polar bear could eat all of the above in one meal!

(Pam never questioned why Percy liked local food so much. After all, best friends accept each other the way they are. And that’s how it was with Percy and Pam.)

“I’m going to make myself disappear again,” announced Percy. “And this time, it’s actually going to work!”

Pam looked up. Percy the Magician stood poised with a large blanket. He held the blanket up so that it covered his body, exposing only his head.

“This should be interesting,” Pam giggled.

Percy raised the blanket while shaking it back and forth for dramatic effect.

From behind the blanket, Percy bellowed, **“A-BRA-CA-DA-BRA, A-BRA-CA-DA-...”**”



DING DONG!

“Cake delivery!” yelled a voice from outside.

Percy immediately dropped the blanket and rushed to the door.

“Percy! You’ve disappeared indeed,” Pam laughed. “Come back here, you silly bear!”



Chapter 2

“Pam! Percy! Look what’s just arrived!” Pam’s mum, Mrs Tan, held up a large box with a ribbon on it.

Percy sniffed the air and knew exactly what it was. After all, polar bears have a keen sense of smell and, where food was involved, Percy’s sense of smell was exceptional.

“What’s inside the box?” Pam

Ruth Wan-Lau



Ruth grew up in Toa Payoh, one of the oldest neighbourhoods in Singapore. She was fortunate to live 30 steps away from a huge library and practically grew up among its shelves. These days, Ruth writes because her three book-loving children keep feeding her story ideas. She still visits the library in Toa Payoh, and always gets a kick out of finding her own books there now. She is the best-selling author of the *Timmy & Tammy* series.

Eliz Ong

Eliz's favourite subject at school was Art. Even when she wasn't in Art class she would be doodling pictures of animals and plants all over her exercise books. She went on to study Fine Art at Nanyang Academy and now has a job where she gets paid to doodle all day long. Eliz lives with her husband and son at home in Singapore where she also likes to grow her own vegetables.



“A thoroughly enjoyable read.”

Pauline Loh, author of *Not in the Stars*

It's Christmas and chocolate-guzzling Percy the polar bear and his best friend, Pam, are preparing to tuck into all the delicious food that the festive season brings.



But when Percy greedily sneaks himself a slice of the Christmas log cake, he doesn't expect to bite into something hard and shiny hidden inside. And so the adventure begins for the clever duo who set off to unravel the mystery behind the chocolate-buried treasure.

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