

The title 'TOP ELF' is rendered in large, white, 3D block letters with a dark grey shadow. The letters are arranged in two rows: 'TOP' on top and 'ELF' below. A string of small, white, teardrop-shaped lights is draped across the letters, with some lights appearing to glow. The background consists of thin, parallel diagonal lines in a light grey color.

TOP ELF

By Caleb Zane Huett

SCHOLASTIC PRESS
NEW YORK

Text copyright © 2017 by Caleb Zane Huett
Illustrations copyright © 2017 by Doug Holgate

All rights reserved. Published by Scholastic Press, an imprint of Scholastic Inc., *Publishers since 1920*. SCHOLASTIC, SCHOLASTIC PRESS, and associated logos are trademarks and/or registered trademarks of Scholastic Inc.

The publisher does not have any control over and does not assume any responsibility for author or third-party websites or their content.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without written permission of the publisher. For information regarding permission, write to Scholastic Inc., Attention: Permissions Department, 557 Broadway, New York, NY 10012.

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are either the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously, and any resemblance to actual persons, living or dead, business establishments, events, or locales is entirely coincidental.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data available

ISBN 978-1-338-05212-1

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 17 18 19 20 21

Printed in the U.S.A. 23
First edition, October 2017

Book design by Mary Claire Cruz



Chapter 1

-29° Fahrenheit is the best temperature in the world. I know this *for a fact* because -29° Fahrenheit is the temperature on the most perfect day in the world (Christmas) at the most perfect place in the world (the North Pole).

That's where I live. (At 11 Pipers Piping Drive.)

It's also where I work. (In the Games & Puzzles department of The Workshop.)

AND it's where I eat my dad's homemade ice-cream sundaes. (He's an ice-cream designer, so I try a lot of experimental flavors. Say "yes" to Pine Nut, "no" to Pine-*Sol*, and probably don't try Pining for a Lost Love. It tastes like chocolate, but also like tissues.)

I've got brown hair with a little bit of red, and blue eyes with a little bit of green, so my parents say I've always had a little bit of Christmas in me. My skin would *maybe* be as white as snow if I didn't have so many freckles. Oh, and I'm an elf! Elves come in all shapes, sizes, and colors, because elves come from everywhere. Yes, we're a little shorter than humans (okay, about two feet shorter, fine—*why are you so worried about how tall I am?*), but we're just as good at most things and better at some. The only reason we *seem* like we can't get things off of shelves is because humans build their